

2. RESEARCH & GROWER SERVICES

The Research & Grower Services Division was established in April 2003 with the amalgamation of the Coffee Research Institute and Extension Services Division. It is one of the two divisions of CIC. The division is currently headed by a General Manager with two managers namely the Chief Scientist and the Manager - Farmer Training and Extension.

The major activities of the division are to:

- Conduct adaptive research based on farmers needs, and
- Conduct Farmer Training through new extension approach based on farmers needs.

Coffee Research

The Chief Scientist heads a multidisciplinary team of research scientists. All research activities will involve two or more scientists and encompass different disciplines addressing a problem.

In the new research approach, most research would be based



Maprik farmers with the newly released Robusta cuttings namely Omuru 1 at a mini show in the East Sepik province.

on farmer needs and aspirations and market demands. Research must embrace recent consumer demands and its trends and facts. Market intelligence and interaction of PNG coffee in the market place will be monitored. This is necessary



Coffee farmers at a Field Day.

to ensure PNG remains in the forefront of premium coffee markets.

All research activities would be farmer driven which means that farmers needs and aspirations would be considered when new research are proposed and conducted. More trials would be conducted on farmers' coffee gardens thus become model gardens for farmers in the vicinity. This in a way makes it easier for demonstrations and farmer training.

Farmer Training & Extension

It is headed by a Manager - Farmer Training & Extension and leads a team of farmer trainers and extensionists. The operations cover:

- Farmer training
- Coffee credit scheme and co-operative associations
- Freight subsidy
- Coffee blocks & plantation rehabilitation

The Provincial Farmer Training and Extension Co-ordinators will operate as salesman for the CIC in the provinces. There is also a mobile unit of extension officers who would be based in the provinces to assist in the delivery of farmer trainings and carry out CIC's mandate.

Scientific Liaison

It undertakes publications, library service and public relation duties such as attending field days, shows etc. It exists as a 'link' between research and extension and liaise with the industry and other service providers.



Coffee is reported to have been first introduced to the country by the British Administration who administered the Papuan side of the country.

Between 1889 and 1890, the plant was reportedly grown in British Papua in the botanical gardens outside government house. Between 1892 and 1893 it was recorded that coffee was thriving in the Rigo area. Between 1898 and 1899, 20 000 Arabica coffee plants had been planted on Variarata plantation on the Sogeri plateau behind Port Moresby.

On the New Guinea side, the coffee plant was introduced under German Administration where it was grown on mission and agricultural stations. In 1928 the first plantation was started by the New Guinea Department of Agriculture in Wau.

Before the Second World War, coffee plants were introduced



CIC main office complex, Airport Road, Goroka in the Eastern Highlands province.



Research & Grower Services, a division of the Corporation is based in Aiyura, Eastern Highlands Province.

to the Highlands by Lutheran Missionaries where the tipped Bourbon Arabica coffee was first planted at Ogelbeng outside Mt Hagen and then Asaroka outside of Goroka.

Smallholder plantings began in 1952 in the Asaro Valley of the Eastern Highlands and there was a rapid expansion in all areas in the following years.

The Coffee Marketing Board was established in 1963 and commenced operations in 1964. It became the Coffee Industry Board in 1976 and in August 1991, the Coffee Industry Corporation (Statutory Powers and Functions) Act was passed by Paliament, paving the way for the amalgamation of the former Coffee Industry Board, Coffee Development Agency and Coffee Research Institute into one entity, the Coffee Industry Corporation (CIC) Ltd.

In a major restructure in April 2003, the operations of the CIC was downsized to be cost effective and efficient in delivering services to all stakeholders in PNG.

Prior to that, it had four divisions but now only two divisions exists. They are;

- Industry Operations Division (IOD) and,
- Research & Grower Services Division (R&GSD)

The CIC board consists of six smallholder representatives, and one each is represented from exporters, processors/ plantations and the blockholders.

The Government is represented from Trade & Industry, Agriculture & Livestock, and the Treasury Departments.

The CIC has wide powers to buy and sell coffee, set prices and monitor export of coffee. However, to date it has concentrated on it's regulatory functions, leaving the marketing of coffee in the hands of private companies licensed by the CIC.

The CIC has it's Head Office located in Goroka, which is central for most coffee growing areas in Papua New Guinea.

The Chief Executive's office and the IOD are based in Goroka, whilst R&GSD main office is at Aiyura, with 2 research stations - Western Highlands Substation and Omuru in Madang, plus 12 Provincial Farmer Training & Extension Co-ordinators looking after 15 coffee growing provinces. The IOD export office is based in Lae.

Some of the main responsibilities of the CIC are the control of coffee dealing activities, registration of coffee exporters and processing facilities, quality control, control of exports and promotions of sale and consumption of PNG coffee at home and abroad.

The CIC is also responsible for safeguarding the coffee



Participants of a coffee quality workshop cup tasting coffee samples.

industry against pests and diseases which would affect production and the life cycle of the coffee tree. It's research section in Aiyura is fully responsible for this.

After the formation of the CIC, current funding arrangement is intended to come jointly from the industry, the National Government and from internal CIC sources, with the Government's contribution being high in times of low coffee prices.

Role and functions of the two divisions of the CIC in the new restructure

1. Industry Operations

This division came into existence when former Industry Affairs and Corporate Services divisions were amalgamated. The division is headed by a General Manager with managers for Finance & Administration, Economics and Export & Licensing. It's major functions are:-

- financial management, accounting, budgets, audits, procurement, motor vehicle fleet management
- property and real agent management, and insurance
- human resource management and printing services
- Economic studies
- Formulation of stabilisation policies
- Market reports and price monitoring
- Collection, collation and dissemination of industry statistics
- Quality control
- Monitoring and control of exports

The division's three main operating sections are;

- Finance & administration
- Economics
- Inspection, licensing, export & quality control.

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CIC website

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