



COFFEE INDUSTRY CORPORATION LTD

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CBB bio-control under field trial

Also inside this issue:

- * K20m boost for coffee exports office**
- * Policies for nationals to export: Maru**
- * Call to service rural roads**
- * Crater farmers in dire need of road access**

MISSION STATEMENT

To increase financial returns, productivity, production and market access for female and male coffee farmers and others along the value chain, with motivated, competent and continuously learning actors.

We acknowledge the project management unit (PMU) of Coffee Industry Corporation's Productive Partnerships in Agriculture Project (CIC-PPAP) for financing the printing of this quarterly edition.

COVER PHOTO:

CIC General Manager Steven Tumaie spraying a CBB-infested garden on the release of the bio-control agent in Asaro, Eastern Highlands Province.

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Bio-control for borer pest

WITH continued effort and resources put into addressing the coffee berry borer incursion in the country, the Coffee Industry Corporation (CIC) has announced.

CIC Chief Executive Officer Charles Dambui said it had taken a while for CIC to come up with the bio-control agent as its scientists have been working around the clock to identify local biological control agents of coffee berry borer. A local strain of *Beauveria* fungus was identified in September 2017 infecting CBB in the Asaro valley.

"We are culturing and mass propagating *Beauveria bassiana*, a local bio-control agent," he said. "This is positive news. This local fungus is acclimatised and can be able to adapt to our surroundings."

Mr Dambui said at this point in time, CIC will not encourage importation of any biological control agents without field trials.

He said the first application of *B. bassiana* in Jiwaka in 2017 demonstrated a positive result, and is spreading out covering both CBB infected and non-infected coffee plots.

The local strain of *B. bassiana* was identified in mid-2017 at the Roka plantation in the Asaro valley of Eastern Highlands Province, and was then isolated and cultured in the CIC laboratory in Aiyura.

From the preliminary results, it can be concluded that the identified strain of *B. bassiana* has the potential to significantly reduce CBB infestation level, disturb CBB life cycles and reduce CBB population.

Mr Dambui said the application of *B. bassiana* fungus is part of the integrated pest management (IPM) strategy to combat the CBB. The fungus is widely used against coffee berry borer and other crop pests around the world and has the potential to attack other crop pests.

Other ongoing efforts in terms of internal quarantine, sanitation practises, recycle pruning, spraying of chemicals, and cherry stripping will continue with regular field and lab tests evaluation on the fungus.

Propagation and multiplication of *B. bassiana*

LOCAL strain of *Beauveria bassiana* was identified in mid last year at the Roka plantation in the Asaro valley of Eastern Highlands Province. The local strain was then isolated and cultured in Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA) media.

An inoculation loop was sterilised over the flames of burnsen burner for 3 seconds, 2% bleach in 3 seconds, and rinsed in distilled water. Then the loop was gently scraped from the infected beans and CBB containing mycelium of fungi were inoculated by spreading it over the prepared PDA media in the petri dish and left for 4-5 days for the growth of *B. bassiana* spores under laboratory conditions.

One-eighth of spores in the petri dish composition from the solid media were scraped off using a sterilised scalpel blade and displaced into Peptone Dextrose Agar Yeast (PDAY) as liquid media or nutrient broth. The composition of the liquid media or nutrient broth in a litre of water includes 20g dextrose, 5g peptone water, 20g agar granules, 5g yeast with an addition of 0.5mls chloropenical dissolved in 10ml of 70% ethanol and left on the electric shaker for 7 days shaking at 150 revolutions per minute.

Twelve plastics containing 500g each of jasmine rice were placed into autoclavable plastics and autoclaved for 15 minutes at 121 degrees at an average pressure of 100-150 kilopascals and left overnight for cooling. Then 10ml of prepared nutrient broth liquid media was poured into 500g autoclaved rice and left for 5 to 7 days for the spores to grow and multiply.

Application

100g of rice containing *B. bassiana* spores was weighed and poured into 1 litre of water on the magnetic stirrer and the rice grain was strained allowing water containing spores to be collected in 1 litre containers.

9.2 x 10⁹ spores per millilitre per litre was calculated in 100g rice. A stock solution of 100ml of spore suspension was determined to be 6 x 10⁷ spores per millilitre for 15L knapsack sprayer. A suspensions of 200ml of 6 x 10⁷ spores per millilitre was displaced in 15L water knapsack and sprayed. The CBB infested coffee gardens were inundated with *B. bassiana* spores allowing the inoculum to establish and spread into neighbouring coffee gardens.



Mass propagation of *B. bassiana* using rice medium.



Cultured *B. bassiana* in Potato Dextrose Agar media in the lamina flow.

K20m boost for coffee exports office

THE Minister for National Planning and Monitoring, Honourable Richard Maru, has announced a funding of K20m towards the construction of a new coffee exports office in Lae, Morobe Province.

Minister Maru made this known following a recent visit to the Coffee Industry Corporation (CIC) exports and quality control office in Lae.

During his visit, Maru challenged the CIC to re-strategize its plans so that it could enhance and strengthen value-adding opportunities, and hopefully lead to downstream processing in the near future.

He further said that it was important that economic corridors or road links could be identified immediately, and pointed out so that assistance could be provided to where it is rightfully needed.

CIC Chief Executive Officer Charles Dambui, in thanking Mr Maru for his visit, said that coffee exporting is a major contributor to foreign exchange earnings, and a vital source of income for the country, traders and producers.

He said the assistance was timely as the current exports office in Lae is more than 30 years old.

"It is the one stop office that certifies coffee quality before it leaves the shores of PNG. The office is serving its purpose but the building is run-down, and we are grateful for the O'Neill/ Abel government to come to our aid through the Department of National Planning."

At the industry level, coffee export earnings in 2017 was K450 million falling mid-level within the usual yearly revenues range of K400 million to K500 million.

The exports and quality control office was put in place by CIC to primarily safeguard PNG coffee industry's image overseas.

The office oversees operations under close scrutiny in the areas of contract registration, shipment notification, contract verification, physical coffee inspection, sampling, recording/logging, quality analysis, certification for export and movement of coffee to wharf for shipment.

Maru said that it was important the office be pulled down and for the government to support under the Public Investment Program (PIP) funding.

In 2017, through the PIP funding, CIC received K5m for the new office development, and an additional K4m funding is imminent.

He said that over the next 3 years, the government will provide funding assistance to ensure the new building is erected for the coffee industry.

The new office complex will need K13m for the construction and K7m for the lab and interior materials.

Meanwhile, CIC has screened 11 bidders for the office construction and a bidder has been identified.

CIC General Manager and tenders technical evaluation committee chairman, Steven Tumae, said bidders for the project have been shortlisted and documents are now with the Central Supplies Tenders Board (CSTB), awaiting NEC approval.

He said once this is done, the recommended contractor is expected to begin soon.



From left: CIC Board Chairman Patrick Komba, General Manager Steven Tumae, Planning Minister Richard Maru and CEO Charles Dambui at the Lae Exports Office.

Policies for nationals to export: Maru

THE government is prioritising its plans to economically involve and empower Papua New Guineans to fully participate in the exports value chain to gain maximum benefits.

In a recent visit to the Coffee Industry Corporation (CIC) office in Lae, Minister for National Planning and Monitoring, Richard Maru, highlighted the need for nationals to fully participate in the coffee export value chain.

He said 80 percent of coffee is currently being exported by foreign companies, and there is a need to review policies to increase local participation from the current 20 percent to 50 percent.

Minister Maru challenged the CIC Board and management to review policies that can attract foreign investors to set up infrastructure to engage in downstream processing of coffee.

He said it was about time more investment is put into downstream processing so that finished coffee products could be exported to other countries including our neighbours in other Pacific Island countries.

The Minister added that the industry faced the challenge of ensuring a consistent supply of quality coffee to established markets.

“When coffee prices are good, people fully participate and keep a consistent coffee supply in the market. That is the driving factor, and one way is to process coffee into final product in PNG to increase prices farmers receive.”

He said PNG is exporting raw materials overseas, hence, creating jobs, for other countries, when it can create employment opportunities by engaging in downstream processing.

Mr Maru said the government wants to see increase in coffee production, bio-security issues addressed adequately, and policies to address value-adding opportunities for the country.

Meanwhile, the CIC has been directed to identify high impact coffee roads and main airstrips that would be factored in the currently designed 2018-2022 Third Medium Term Development Plan.

Call to service rural economic roads

The PNG Coffee Industry Corporation (CIC) welcomes the backing by the government through the Department of National Planning and Monitoring to service rural economic corridors.

CIC Board chairman, Patrick Komba, applauded the invitation by Planning Minister Richard Maru to identify and recommend economic roads to the government for support.

“The invitation by Minister Maru to identify these economic roads and put forward for consideration is commended,” said Komba.

“This initiative should complement sector growth and is of great support to the industry and the agriculture sector.”

During the visit, the minister announced a funding of K20m towards the construction of a new coffee exports office in Lae, Morobe Province.

The new export office once completed, would accommodate other partners such as coffee freight forwarders and customs agents, a marketing section, cupping and laboratory section, and would provide one stop shop service to its stakeholders.

Mr Komba said coffee exporting is a major contributor to foreign exchange earnings, and a vital source of income for the country, traders and producers.

“The assistance is timely as the current exports office in Lae is more than 30 years old,” he said.

“It is the one stop office that certifies coffee quality before it leaves the shores of PNG.”

The current office oversees operations under close scrutiny in the areas of contract registration, shipment notification, contract verification, physical coffee inspection, sampling, recording/logging, quality analysis, certification for export and movement of coffee to the Lae wharf for shipment.

Crater growers in dire need of road access

THE people of Crater Mountain in the Unavi LLG of Lufa District, Eastern Highlands Province, are in dire need of a serviceable road to sell their coffee and to access social services.

The area is accessible only by light one-engine Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) and Adventist Aviation Services (AAS) planes from the township of Goroka.

There was a 50 km road access in colonial days from Lufa station to Unavi via Gouno. However it is inaccessible by vehicles for many many years due to neglect by those in positions of authority. Eastern Highlands Provincial Government and Lufa DDA are urged to consider rehabilitating at least 5 to 10 km per year over the next years.

Crater Mountain is a tri-border area, where the EHP, Simbu and Gulf provincial borders meet.

At present mothers and young women carry coffee bags and walk for hours to Wara (River) Wamu located close to Lufa Station to sell to roadside buyers.

"We just want some money to buy some necessities and walk back to the village so we do not get a chance to negotiate a fair price for our parchment coffee," says a mother in Tok Pisin.

Over 300 growers gathered at Ubaigubi Village for a gender training and shared this concern to a team of officers from Coffee Industry Corporation's Productive Partnerships in Agriculture Project (CIC-PPAP) in June.

Apart from peanut, coffee is the major source of income for the remote people of Crater who are scattered in several villages in the mountains.

Lack of road access is a major obstacle depriving the growers to return to their gardens. Consequently they have neglected their coffee trees, but are now reviving some gardens thanks to the CIC's rehabilitation project.

"Without coffee we're nothing. We do not have the money to get our coffee bags onto MAF and SDA charter flights to Goroka," says Mathew Falau Chairman of Crater Coffee Farmers when welcoming the CIC-PPAP team at Ubaigubi Village on Monday 7 May.

"Ol meri em ol transport blong mipela ya. Ol save helpim mipela long karim kofi go olgeta long Wamu. Pls sori long ol mama na bikpela pikinini meri blong mipela" (Our women are our transport. They help us to carry coffee all the way to Wara Wamu. Please help our mothers and elder daughters), says Mr Falau.

The Research Conservation Foundation (RCF) a non-governmental organization based in Goroka is the lead partner under a public-private alliance or partnership arrangement with CIC-PPAP carrying out coffee improvement work in Crater Mountain.

The lead partner has been distributing coffee pulping machines and other basic tools to 611 growers in three villages namely Mengino, Maimafu and Ubaigubi.

Extension officers working for the lead partner are training and working with the growers to prune coffee trees that have been neglected for years.

Schools, aid posts, agriculture extension programs and other Government services came to a complete stop several years ago as public servants, including teachers and community health workers stopped going to Unavi due to terrible road conditions.

The CIC-PPAP team observed that the Crater Mountain villages including Unavi LLG has a population of over 20,000 and a lot of coffee can come out of the area as long as a reliable road is in place.

The CIC-PPAP manager Potaisa Hombunaka says one way for farmers to sell their coffee is through group marketing which the lead partner is working on.

Mr Hombunaka also called on the provincial administration and Lufa District Development Authority (DDA) to write to the Department of National Planning & Monitoring to factor this road in the currently designed 2018-2022 Third Medium Term Development Plan.

The coffee rehabilitation is a PNG Government (Department of Agriculture and Livestock) initiative supported by World Bank and IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) through loan financing. It is implemented by the Coffee Industry Corporation through a Project Management Unit known as PPAP-Coffee Component.

Milne Bay govt assist airfreight coffee

WHERE there are limited resources and the need to assist rural farmers is inevitable, partnership plays a significant role in moving work for all concerned.

Coffee Industry Corporation (CIC) Chief Executive Officer Charles Dambui made this remarks following a successful airfreighting of 7,993 kg (7.9 tonnes) of parchment coffee from Agaun, Daga LLG to Alotau on a recent SIL charter.

The coffee belonged to 250 coffee farmers in the Daga LLG, Milne Bay Province.

CIC's Alotau based Extension Coordinator Dickson Kenas said since 2014, a total of 616 farmers from the Daga LLG have benefited through the CIC Freight Subsidy Scheme in partnership with the Milne Bay Provincial Administration.

He said one charter per year freights out most of the coffees from the Daga LLG, the only area that produces Arabica coffee. In 2016, the province moved 120 tonnes of parchment coffee out of the area, recording the highest airfreighted coffee for the province.

Late harvests are usually carried out in June to August whereas the months of October to December sees freight and logistic organised to bring coffee to Alotau.

Mr Kenas said that based on current production and marketing trends, the province has an annual production capacity of 200 tonnes.

"In Milne Bay, we have an excellent team of stakeholders that we partner with to deliver on coffee issues," said Mr Kenas.

He said the Milne Bay Provincial Administration through Division of Agriculture & Livestock (DAL) has been an active partner that has contributed towards coffee development in the province since 2012.

Through this partnership, a "commodity produce market" was initiated where all parchment coffees are bought off by DAL in Alotau and sells to exporters in Lae.

"We have purchased and freighted more than 500 tonnes to date and continue regardless of financial issues."

The last lot of 2017 Daga coffee was airfreighted over on May 07 - 10th, 2018 by the Milne Bay Provincial Administration coffee charter.

From the recent coffee charter, farmers were paid K3.50 per kilogram for their coffee, an arrangement to get all coffee off from farmers, and Milne Bay Provincial Administration takes care of the export end in Lae.

The sale from the coffee then generates revenue for the administration to continue the initiative.

CIC Chief Executive Officer Charles Dambui said CIC values such partnerships and commends the continued efforts the Milne Bay Provincial Administration puts into ensuring farmers' coffees are taken care of at the first instance through this arrangement.



Left: CIC- Provincial Farmer, Training & Extension Coordinator Dickson Kenas with casual workers at Gurney Airport with coffee bags from Agaun.

Coffee businessman yet to pay CIC-PPAP

THE Coffee Industry Corporation (CIC) is pursuing legal proceedings to recoup K85,000 from a local businessman in Goroka who failed to repay as directed by a National Court in Goroka last year.

Mr Yambo Goso, General Manager of Gerame Alenumpa Coffee appeared before Justice Joseph Yagi on December 6, 2017 and ordered to pay back in 6 months the money he misused or serve a suspended sentence of 4 years, 6 months with hard labour at Bihute prison.

The money was intended to service smallholder coffee growers to rehabilitate their gardens under the World Bank financed Productive Partnerships in Agriculture Project of CIC.

The 6 months period ended June 6, 2018.

The CIC legal division is pursuing the matter to have it return to the court as ruled by Justice Joseph Yagi. "The matter will be recalled after six months and if there is no payment then the court will enforce the term of imprisonment".

Mr Yambo was convicted under the criminal code for misappropriating a sum of K85,241.01 in 7 months between the period July 23, 2013 and February 28, 2014.

The court established that the businessman used his skills and expertise "to the disadvantage of the group" by misusing the money intended for coffee rehabilitation project to service smallholder growers in Goroka District.

The court also found that since the discovery of the misappropriation in February 2014 to December 2017, a period of roughly 3 years, "at no point in time that you (Yambo Goso) made any effort to repay the money".

Following were the conditions issued by Justice Yagi:

* To repay the total amount of K85,241.01 within 6 months to the Productive Partnerships in Agriculture Project or CIC;

* The payment shall be made witnessed by Mr Goso's lawyer Ms Toidalema of the Public Solicitor's Office in Goroka or Ms Cecilia Yombai of the Community Based Corrections Office in Goroka or Detective Senior Constable Rex Dala who is the arresting officer in the case at the Goroka Police Station.

* Anyone who witness the occasion or payment within 7 days must file in court an affidavit confirming payment being made.

The aggravating factors considered before the ruling were as follows:

Mr Goso was a highly educated person with a tertiary education and qualification in accountancy from the University of Technology in Lae and have worked in a number of places both in the government and the private sector.

"I find that because of your background, training, qualification, experience, knowledge and all that expertise, you have used that to the disadvantage of the group that you worked for which is the Gerame Alenumpa Coffee."

"These are people who are from the local community who are basically grassroots, small scale holders who are trying to make a living in which the purpose of the project was to assist them."

"... you breached the trust; and a substantial amount of money was misappropriated."

Judge Yagi also considered that Mr Goso's actions has deprived the farmers of essential farming services.

"You have done more damage to them than good. I want you to understand that."

"There is a repeat or multiple acts of dishonesty over a long period of time, the perpetrator has a sustained or confirmed state of minds as opposed to a person who committed a single act or one-off dishonesty act or at the spur of the moment."

"I take into account also the victim's rights and concern. You have done them bad in terms of them losing out of about K85,000. And K85,000 may not look that big to you but when you talk about small people from the village, K10 is a big amount of money."

"So when you deny them, deprive them of that very needy money in order for them to do their work, those moneys are used for paying for essential farming equipment and you know what I am talking about. These essential things to

help them grow in their business. You have done more damage than good to them.”

“I want to give you an opportunity to make good your wrongdoing. And I trust that you will respect those conditions and do what is right and just for you and also for the victims.”

Mr Goso was formally arrested by Goroka police on March 16, 2016 and charged for Misappropriation of Funds under the Criminal Code Act.

His arrest and initial court appearance follows a complaint of misappropriation by smallholder growers who were supposed to be recipients of the coffee development funds.

The funds were allocated to his firm under a coffee rehabilitation partnership agreement under first call for proposals to engage some 330 smallholder farmers in Goroka District.

The CIC-PPAP manager Potaisa Hombunaka said this case should send a strong signal to other lead partners to follow stringent guidelines as agreed in the application of funds to service the little growers.

“This is to put on notice our Lead Partners that we must be genuine and honest about our resolve to grow the industry by using the PPAP funds prudently.”

“This is not another NADP (National Agriculture Development Plan) for people to milk where so far no persons had been trialled and convicted for misuse of the failed NADP funds,” said Mr Hombunaka.

The objective of the partnership is to improve livelihoods of smallholder coffee producers through improved performance and foster sustainability through partnership development.

CIC-PPAP engages women in bee keeping

THE World Bank and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) funded coffee rehabilitation project continues to empower women in rural areas of the country.

A private sector firm Agro Dev Trade Ltd (ADTL) operating as the lead partner in this coffee project has come up with a brilliant initiative to involve mothers of Kinjibi Women Community Development Club of Rombanga Parandaka tribe in the Dei Council district of Western Highlands Province to deliver its bee keeping activity.

It was an exciting moment for the mothers who gathered at the village’s small arena on Tuesday May 22 to receive the lead partner Jacob Taru of ADTL and the project team headed by manager Potaisa Hombunaka to usher in this initiative.

“A door has opened for us the mothers. This is the first for such a help to come to the mothers in this community,” said Mrs Serah in Tok Pisin.

She added that the K15 per drum they earn from selling coffee cherries is meagre and insufficient to buy necessities for the house.

Members of the women’s group are from five clans making up the Parandaka Tribe and they are open for membership. An interim club executive is made up of two representatives from each clans. The club will be a member of Kinjibi Women’s Association which is made up of 10 council wards.

The Parandaka Women’s group will pilot this project which will later cover the eastern part of Dei district.

The lead partner has a budget to employ an extension officer for honey development including funds for all equipment to set up the honey project.

“We have a separate budget for gender and household resilient training program as well. All in all, this women’s program we see as critical for sustainability of coffee production and has a budget of K100,000.

“We thank God for this provision financed by the World Bank, IFAD and PNG Government,” said Mr Taru.

Mr Taru added that they will train women in coffee husbandry to join their husbands in the coffee rehabilitation exercise.

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"We will surprise the men folk. Our first training will be facilitated by the women's club.

"All the field workers and our 'master farmer trainers' will come with their wives. This will be history in the making.

"On my student trip to India I saw families living at Harihana Agriculture University getting training on campus. We will do it our way here," added Mr Taru.

Project Manager Potaisa Hombunaka praised Taru for the initiative.

"This is a brilliant initiative for the lead partner to involve women to take charge of the bee keeping program under this project.

"Honey will provide additional income for the mothers which will benefit everyone in the house."

Mr Hombunaka added that the bees contribute to effective pollination of coffee flowers plus other food crops and horticultural crops/fruits hence increase yields up to 30 per cent can be achieved. This was the rationale to include beekeeping as an activity in the coffee rehabilitation project plus extra income during non-coffee season.

ADTL is serving 605 households covering 330 hectares of blocks under the old plantation management system.

"There are 62 coffee blocks and plantations (about 2,000ha) in Dei District. There is no coffee processing factories in operation now. All plantations are run-down and not operating. We are the only private coffee extension service provided in Dei District," said Mr Taru.

"We have had several coffee plantations owners referred to us by government agencies in Waigani. We do not have the funds. The CIC-PPAP program only targets 5ha smallholder household families.

"We have 605 households covering 330ha. We are however reaching out to the greater community by using community group extension approach."

Over 100 mothers and young women gathered at Rombanga Village to welcome this initiative.

The gathering was different for many others in the area. This time mothers took the lead in the organising, speeches and they enjoyed every moment of it.

A young mother took the opportunity to say thank you to the wife of the lead partner.

"Before every successful man there is a woman. I want to acknowledge Mrs Miriam Taru for being a good wife and mother for standing behind the lead partner to bring this service to us," she said.

Also present at the gathering was Director of Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority Julie Bengi.

"I have organised the women here. We have training and sleeping facilities and any training the project wants to bring here we're ready," she said. Empowering of women in rural areas is an important part or component of the coffee improvement work undertaken in 10 coffee growing provinces.



Mothers happily receiving CIC-PPAP team.

Locals urged to drink own coffee

PAPUA New Guinea produces some of the world's best organic coffee but Papua New Guineans do not drink as much quality coffee, international coffee tasting specialist and industry expert Andrew Hetzel told coffee stakeholders in Port Moresby in a meeting in June.

And whatever is drunk of the popular brands in the country is generally of very low quality coffee products, said Hetzel.

Referring to one particular brand, he said it is barely coffee. "There is very little coffee in it and whatever is in it is of the lowest quality," he told amused stakeholder listeners.

According to Mr Hetzel, domestic consumption needs to be encouraged and Papua New Guineans need to enjoy and appreciate the finer qualities of high grade roast coffee blends.

In a PNG Coffee Market Study report launched at the same event, Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Program (PHAMA) reported that conditions are right for the development of a domestic consumer café culture.

According to the study, there are presently only a few locally roasted coffee brands and cafes meeting international standards in the country's urban cities.

The report stated that expansion of a domestic coffee industry with numerous outlets for consumers to enjoy high quality coffee will increase consumption.

"Increased domestic consumption adds value to the local industry, advances PNG's image as a high quality coffee producer and add new jobs in the coffee sector.

"It also attracts future leaders to the coffee industry as young patrons or baristas in trendy cafes," the study stated.

According to PHAMA, coffee is the single most important smallholder crop in PNG with one third of the population involved as smallholder farmers, buyers and parchment coffee producers and exporters.

PHAMA maintains that all coffee stakeholders in PNG from cultivation through export stand to profit from cooperative collaboration toward a common national goal of strengthening performance, profitability and sustainability of the industry.

"Value improvements to coffee production will come from increases in work productivity and quality.

"These require organization, process improvements and efficiency measures, traceability, gender equity and the support of women groups," the study asserts.

Source: Post Courier, June 18, 2018



Wayne Powae of FPDA and Sally Watson of New Guinea Fruits Company drinking locally brewed coffee during the APEC SOM 1 visits to Goroka early this year.



Oustpan donates school supplies

OUTSPAN Ltd (Coffee Division) has come to the aid of supplying much needed stationery supplies to a school near Goroka.

Kabiufa Secondary School was the recipient of more than K10, 000 worth of office items and stationery supplies by Outspan Ltd.

The items were presented to the school last Wednesday (23rd May, 2018) in the presence of the deputy Principal Mr Jeffery Inamuka, teachers and students, Coffee Industry Corporation (CIC) General Manager Industry Operations, Steven Tumae, and prominent coffee importers from Netherlands, Jan Luhmann and Judith de Boer.

Mr Tumae encouraged students to take self-reliance lessons seriously as this would be useful for life after school if the education system fails them.

He commended Outspan Ltd for investing in the future leaders of the province and urged students to take care of the items given.



Representatives from CIC, Kabiufa Adventist Secondary School, Outspan Ltd, coffee importers from Netherlands and Olam International during the presentation in May this year.

“The country is going through challenging economic times and such fruitful partnerships can achieve more for our communities.”

Outspan general manager Pritam Biswas said the company is committed to assisting coffee growing communities, and Kabiufa area is one where most of their coffee is sourced from.

Mr Biswas assured the school that the company will also assist with resource books for the school library and water supply system.

Deputy School Principle Mr Inamuka said the school was established in 1947, and improving important facilities such as the student science lab, water supply system, and library were some of the school’s dire needs.

He said 70 percent of the students are from the Highlands region, whose parents depend mostly on coffee to support them and it was no mistake for Outspan Ltd to assist the school.

“Kabiufa Secondary School places more emphasis on agriculture which has well established pineapple patches, banana plantation of more than 1,000 trees growing, and nearly 20 fish ponds accommodating up to 25, 000 fish, all farmed by the agriculture students.”

He said the vegetables are grown for the student mess whereas surplus is sold to generate income for our operations.

Mr Inamuka said the school was grateful for the wonderful and timely gift of school supplies by Outspan Ltd at a time when government funds were not forthcoming.

Preparations for coffee comp underway

THE PNG Coffee Industry Corporation (CIC) will be hosting the national coffee cupping competition this year after a year off the scene.

The then Acting CEO or General Manager, Steven Tumaë, said the national coffee competition is set to take place in September in Port Moresby.

"The competition has run for the last three years and was put off in 2017 due to the incursion of coffee berry borer, and also the 2017 elections."

He said the competition has seen an increase by 61% in group participation since the inaugural competition in 2014.

He said revenue received by participating groups during the competition period totalled more than K400, 000.

He said the competition was still in its infant stage however, lessons learnt in the past three years have paved the way to change its approach this year.

Mr Tumaë said that in previous years, an open invitation was given to farmer groups. For this year, strict guidelines will be applied and it will see a closed invitation to active groups only.



International coffee judges assessing coffee samples during the 2014 inaugural competition.

A total of three international judges have confirmed their participation at the national event.

The competition has created an avenue for cooperative groups to demonstrate and showcase their produce to international judging standards.

Reputable international judges from Indonesia, Australia, Costa Rica, Hong Kong and New Zealand have participated in the last three events.

The competition has been using the Specialty Coffee Association of America scoring system, which is universally accepted and practiced in the coffee industry.

Firm hopes to export to Japan

JAPAN's import of green bean coffee over the recent years has expanded to 450,000 tons per year. The number of countries exporting green coffee beans to Japan stretches out to over 40.

PNG is among other big producing countries, and currently exports only 8 percent of its annual production to the Japanese market.

In 2017, the Coffee Industry Corporation under a partnership agreement with MG Corporation of Japan entered on a deal to supply high quality coffee to the Japanese market.

CEO of MG Corporation Kamal Goundar said after the partnership agreement, projects such as solar pulper system was implemented and launched in Bena, Eastern Highlands. "The aim was to provide electricity to houses in a village, and at the same time use clean energy (solar energy) to process coffee.

He said MG also assisted in procurement of agro chemicals from Japan and marketing and promoting PNG coffee to give confidence to roasters in Japan.

A similar concept was also piloted in Jiwaka and the first shipment of coffee is expected by May 2018 for the Japanese market.

Mr Goundar said it will be a big achievement for their partnership projects in PNG, in promoting sustainable coffee production systems, designed with solar energy.

"MG Corporation targets to get 20 containers of PNG coffee to Japan as part of its continuous marketing and promotion to various roasters in Japan, and overtime develop a brand for PNG coffee in Japanese market".

Mr Goundar said there was already an evident interest and demand for PNG coffee and he challenged the PNG coffee industry to seize this opportunity.

"We are targeting whole of Japan as we have more than 50 key clients at present."

CIC Chief Executive Officer Charles Dambui alluded that getting into a new market was very challenging, but with the direction and support from MG Corporation, the next phase to sustaining this market looks promising.

Mr Goundar challenged CIC and the PNG government to invest more in research and development for agriculture and new technologies to upscale production.

"We need to understand how we develop our products, understand our resources, what they contain and start from the ground level up."



Japanese connoisseurs sampling PNG coffee during a recent visit, which was organised by MG Corporation.

Reconnecting Noru by air

Story and photos by Glenys Watson and Richie Axon of MAF-PNG

MAF PNG recently received this letter of appreciation, signed by Vitus and Helen Genai of remote Negabo in Karimui District, Simbu Province.

"MAF - SHARING GOD'S LOVE

It has been an emotional moment that Wednesday afternoon 13th June 2018. Most of our children under the age of 12 have never seen the 'Mama' (Mother) Bird P2 MFT before.

As the big bird glide gracefully to land of our strip at Noru to resume flights again, we stood alongside of the strip, laughter, smiles, shouts and dance of joy be seen and felt everywhere!

Some stood silent with tears rolling down their cheeks. One old man shouted ("Now Mama ba karim sol na sop ikam") "now mother will bring soap and salt" After reception and talks, the Mama Bird took off again into the skies, we watch the big bird until it flew out of sight. A sight and experience never to be forgotten.

MAF - truly cares and sharing God's Love.

MAF FLYING FOR LIFE at its best!

Thank you"

A bit of History

Holger Lasi, who has been flying the Twin Otter out of Goroka between 2007 and 2018, remembers:

"Tim Imbrock and I landed at Noru in 2007. The airstrip was dry and in very good condition. The SDA Aviation Department asked for an airstrip report and landed one week later. We didn't know that Noru had experienced significant rain during that week. The airstrip was so soft that the nose wheel and one main tyre sunk in on the SDA aircraft. They had a prop strike and one wingtip touched the ground. The aircraft was beyond repair. After that accident the airstrip was closed. It can change from a very good condition to being too soft to land in less than a week. Noru didn't have a radio and we could never get a strip report. We did a few landings afterwards. But because of the airstrip being in very marginal condition the Flight Operations Manager back then decided to keep it closed."

The Need for MAF to come back to Noru

In June this year, Telefomin based Twin Otter Captain Richie Axon spent a few weeks at Goroka helping to crew the Twin Otter there. He reports:

"A couple weeks before we went to Goroka to help out, our Flight Operations Manager, Brad Venter, told me that Adventist Aviation Services had landed at Noru and told him that it was in good condition. Brad had received requests for MAF to reopen it for our operations. In the past, Noru was known to be very draggy when wet. The community had not been very good at looking after their airstrip. Our Route and Aerodrome Guide states that we cannot operate there if there has been significant rain within the last three days. The week before we went to Goroka was very rainy and wet in that area so it obviously wasn't going to work then. We and the people of Noru would have to wait."



The Mama Bird, P2-MFT, at the parking bay at Noru, Karimui District in Simbu Province.

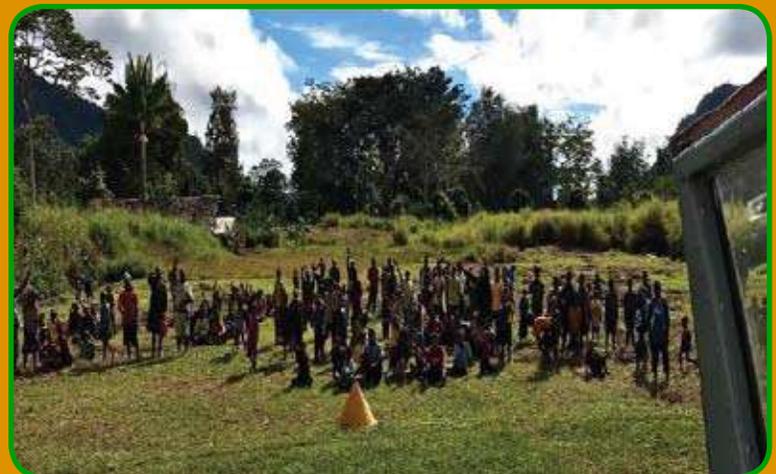
“The weather cleared by the middle of our second week in Goroka,” continues Richie. “We were able to plan a flight there. We would only have on a light load and would not plan to take a full load out to give us some extra margin for the unknown. My first impression was how good the condition the airstrip looked, as we flew over. The rugged limestone karst ridges on either side make a very picturesque valley. After a careful inspection of the surface I was satisfied that it was safe for operations and the landing went uneventfully.” Glenys Watson, First Officer on this flight, continues: “As we circled over the airstrip to inspect it, we could see plenty of people were out waiting to see what would happen. From the air it looked good.

The grass was cut short, and the wind was light. We made an approach to land. As we came into land, people lined the side of the airstrip, and all were clapping and cheering. We stopped and shutdown at the top of the airstrip where the majority of the community had gathered. We were met by men with bows and arrows dancing around the plane. As we climbed out, again the community clapped and cheered and hung flowers around our necks. The joy was obvious!”

“We spent about 30 minutes walking the airstrip,” Richie adds, “inspecting the surface and drains on either side, accompanied by a crowd the whole way. Overall, the airstrip was in good condition and I pointed out to the community what areas needed continued effort. Because of the very high rainfall and temperate climate the grass grows very fast. The biggest work for most communities with airstrips is to keep the drainage ditches at the sides clean and to keep the grass cut short.” Glenys continues: “Back at the parking bay, the community sat down while two of the leaders gave speeches thanking us for coming and landing. Over the 12 years the airstrip has been closed, many of the community had left their coffee trees untended as there was no way apart from an arduous walk uphill to the next airstrip to get their coffee out. Now they will be inspired to again look after their coffee gardens. Richie spoke in reply, telling them God had not forgotten them, reminding them of the importance of keeping their airstrip in good condition, and shared with the people the vision and purpose of MAF; that we are here to show God’s love and see isolated people transformed physically and spiritually.” “We were able to load four bags of coffee and some peanuts to take back to Goroka, including a bag of coffee for MAF in appreciation of our coming and reopening the airstrip to MAF’s operations. Over the next couple of weeks we returned again twice, carrying in store goods, and out loads of coffee and peanuts and the second time a plane full of teachers to attend a teacher convention.” Richie closes: “It was a blessing to be involved in reconnecting Noru by air.”



Overflying the valley in which Noru airstrip lies.



Waving hands by the people of Noru greeted the pilots when opening the cockpit door.



Glenys Watson standing next to the Noru MAF Agent who proudly presents the first load manifest for the return flight.