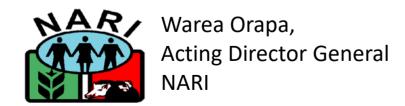
A Pacific Island View on Research Partnerships with CABI.

Re-engaging with CABI



- Papua New Guinea (PNG) is the largest Pacific Island country in the Pacific outside Australia in both landmass (643,000 sq km) and population (est. 8.9m).
 - Least Developing Country status.
 - oldest known evidence of agriculture in the world was 9000 years ago .
 - 3rd richest level of biological diversity and
 - 25% of the world's languages.
- PNG's large research organisation is the National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI) established in 1996.
- Amongst the developing Pacific Island countries, only PNG and the Solomon Islands are members of CABI;
- Collaborations have been ad-hoc and based on specific research projects or the odd referral of mycological and insect samples for taxonomic ID offered by CABI.
- Apart from NARI, PNG organisations which have had project-based partnerships with CABI in the past include: Coffee Industry Cooperation, Department of Agriculture & Livestock, Forest Research Institute, and Cocoa Coconut Institute (now abolished).
- No long-term or annual research partnerships with PNG.
 - Low visibility resulting in few PNG or Pacific islanders aware of CABI...
 - Perception that CABI is a UK based organisation with its focus on Africa, India and other regions only.
- PNG institutions cannot afford involving CABI scientists. The PNG Kina vs UK pound not in our favour



PNG NARI's Strategic Results Framework 2022-2031



Four (4) Key Result Areas:

- 1. Farming communities in PNG benefiting from improved agricultural crops and livestock and new products developed through research on value chains;
- More communities and farm ecosystems resilient to abiotic and biotic threats including climate change, invasive species including agricultural pests & diseases, unsustainable farming and natural resource management practises;
- Wide range of nutritious food types made available to farmers and consumers for a healthier PNG;
 and,
- 4. Better institutional management, international and national linkages for excellence in agricultural and scientific research for innovation.
 - 1. Maintain historical and current partnerships with international agencies (SPC, CTA, APAARI, ITPGR, IRRI, etc), donors (ACIAR, AusAid, EU, etc); and,
 - 2. Partnership with CABI on addressing food security and natural resources management through scientific solutions.

Invasive Species: Biological Control – national priority spp



- Fall Army Worm (Spodoptera frugiperda). spread rapidly since first detection in 2019.
- Cocoa pod borer (*Conopomorpha cramerella*). Widespread. Cultural control.
- Golden Apple Snail (Pomacea canaliculata) introduced since early 1990s. Increasingly serious pest for wetland areas including paddy rice.
- **Spiked pepper (***Piper aduncum***)** rapid invasion of disturbed forests, fallow areas, coffee plantations, cattle ranches, etc. late 1990s.
- African tulip (*Spathodea campanulata*) invasive. New Biocontrol agents
- 4 major grass weeds: Itch Grass (Rottboelia conchinchinensis), Johnson's grass (Sorghum halepense), Mollases (Melinis minutiflora) and Elephant Grass (Pennisetum purpureum).
- African Swine Fever. Detection in 2020; biosecurity containment operation is currently underway in 3 highlands provinces.