



Papua New Guinea Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Policy Support Program

In Papua New Guinea (PNG), more than 80 percent of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihoods, with a vast majority working as smallholder farmers. Recognizing the need to revitalize and transform its agriculture sector, PNG's government has set ambitious growth targets for agricultural exports and domestic agricultural production. It considers strategic investment in agricultural research and food security fundamental to overall economic growth and structural transformation.

The Papua New Guinea Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Policy Support Program (PNG-AFNP), supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Australian High Commission (AHC) in Port Moresby, and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), will support PNG's forward-looking strategy for economic growth and transformation through data-driven policy analysis, capability development, and strategic partnerships to inform policy dialogue and investment opportunities.

KEY PRIORITIES

The PNG-AFNP is organized around five key research themes to inform policy and support data-driven analysis. These research themes reflect the multifaceted approach needed to enhance agricultural productivity, ensure food and nutrition security, strengthen climate resilience, and support gender inclusiveness.

1 Agricultural growth and transformation

PNG's smallholder farmers experience lower levels of productivity than do farmers in neighboring countries. In addition, rural-urban linkages remain underdeveloped, contributing to less competitive and more expensive domestic and export agriculture markets. This research theme will collect and analyze rural household survey and agricultural productivity data to identify risks and opportunities for local farming systems. The data collected will provide the backbone for household-level economic analysis and inputs for micro- and macroeconomic modeling. The program will also evaluate targeted development interventions to inform policy dialogue and rural economic investment.

2 Climate-resilient agriculture

Climate change is expected to impact various sectors of the PNG economy, including agricultural production, labor productivity, energy generation and use, and road infrastructure. This theme aims to address gaps in climate change data in PNG through econometric and

remote-sensing analyses. Projects will analyze the full range of future climate projections for PNG in tandem with process-based crop, livestock, and river basin modeling to estimate impacts on diverse agricultural subsectors. The program will also evaluate future development pathways for PNG's energy and oil sectors under various climate policy scenarios, focusing on risk and trade-offs in transitioning to less carbon-intensive pathways.

3 Women's economic empowerment

Women in PNG are important actors in the agriculture sector and are critical to promoting a sustainable agricultural transformation within the country. An important component of this research theme will involve demonstrating the importance of women's work for household welfare and overall community well-being. In addition, this research theme will generate evidence on how to build opportunities for women to work in higher-value sectors, support women's agency in household decision-making, and amplify women's voices in public- and private-sector discourse.

4 Food security and nutrition
 PNG's diverse population and geographic terrain supports a variety of agroecological zones and livelihood strategies. This research theme will evaluate the variation in food and nonfood consumption baskets across agroecological zones to understand opportunities and challenges for securing a healthy diet for PNG households. Activities in this theme will focus on informing the progress of the country's food security and nutrition investments and policies by generating a body of evidence based on analysis of primary and secondary data sources. Further, it aims to determine effective strategies for improving food and nutrition security in PNG, with the goal of enhancing the design and implementation of nutrition programs and policies.

5 Enhancing agricultural value chains for domestic and export markets
 Increasing agricultural productivity on-farm will require an integrated approach that supports midstream and downstream value chain processes, as well as on-farm investments to increase yields. This research theme will evaluate the costs and benefits of investing in different agricultural value chains. Using a variety of analytical methods, including survey analysis, focus group discussions, and economic modeling tools, the PNG-AFNP will investigate the incentives for greater investment by different stakeholders within the value chain, and how different incentive structures support or impede producer output and consumer demand.

CAPABILITY STRENGTHENING

A central focus of the PNG-AFNP is to build local capability to design, analyze, and engage in evidence-based policy formulation. To do so, the program's research themes will emphasize:

- **Strengthening the evidence base** through diverse data collection exercises
- **Enhancing analytical capabilities** through ongoing economic analysis and modeling workshops
- **Promoting locally led development** through an in-country IFPRI program office that works closely with diverse stakeholders including university graduates, government analysts, and local development partners
- **Ensuring inclusivity and accessibility** of outreach activities to foster participation among women and individuals with disabilities

COMMUNICATING POLICY RESEARCH

The PNG-AFNP will use a variety of platforms to disseminate research findings and datasets generated from the program, including:

- **Working papers** that provide in-depth analysis of research topics
- **Policy notes** that offer research summaries to inform decision-makers
- **PNG-AFNP website** that allows users to download the data and tools necessary to replicate and expand upon diverse economic analyses
- **Fresh food price monitoring tool** to provide clear and accurate information on trends in fresh food prices for selected markets throughout PNG
- **Quarterly newsletters** with concise overviews of our research activities, events, publications, and other outputs

PNG-AFNP will also provide opportunities for researchers and analysts to present relevant work at conferences, workshops, and seminars, which will allow for greater feedback, given IFPRI's global reach.



The Papua New Guinea (PNG) Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Policy Support Program (PNG-AFNP) is managed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and is financially supported by the Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through the Australia High Commission (AHC) in Port Moresby and the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

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