



The Campus

This Week

ISSUE 101 | July 8, 2022

Vudal Farm implements biosecurity measures

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PNG UNRE Farm Operations is implementing biosecurity measures in alignment to the first ever national Biosecurity policy in PNG.

This policy was launched on the 24th of June 2022 in Port Moresby by the National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority (NAQIA) who are the national biosecurity authority.

Biosecurity is concerned with measures that countries take to prevent unwanted animals and plants as well as unwanted diseases and pests of animals and plants from entering a country. It is also concerned with preventing the spread of pests and diseases should they do gain entry to a country. This also covers the domestic movement of animals (and plants) within a country as well as on-farm quarantine measures.

The recent domestic movement of 20 goats, 5 sheep, 10 pigs and 5 horses from the Eastern Highlands and Morobe Province to the UNRE farm in Rabaul, East New Britain was conducted in strict conformity to standard biosecurity measures. These include;

- An initial health inspection of all livestock on the site of purchase in Goroka and Lae.

- Temporal storage and monitoring of all the livestock in Lae (Department of

Agriculture and Livestock Erap Estate) to ensure animals were free of pests and disease.

- A n i m a l health inspection by NAQIA Lae Office and issuance of animal movement permit or phytosanitary certification to UNRE.

- F i n a l inspection by NAQIA and UNRE team at the Lae wharf before the animals were loaded onto the ship bound for UNRE in Rabaul.

- There was prior inspection and preparation of various animal holding pens and enclosures at Vudal Farm

The following on-farm biosecurity and quarantine measures were implemented upon arrival of the animals at the farm in Vudal;

- Inspection of livestock upon arrival at UNRE Farm

- Moving livestock to new holding yard

- Administration of veterinary drugs to further eliminate the presence of any internal or external parasites

- 14 days isolation of the newly introduced livestock in the new holding yard



▲ **Mr Sinafa Robby (left) and Mr Alex Nugi.** Photo from Mr Nugi.

to ensure the animals are disease free and also allowing the animals to acclimatize at the farm after their stressful transportation from their points of origin.

Department of Animal Science staff Mr Sinafa Robby participated in the movement of the animals and ensured that the exercise conformed to standard biosecurity measures.

The animal movement team was led by UNRE Farm Operations Manager Mr Alex Nugi. Other members of animal movement team included Mr Stanley Eliuda, Mr Otto Tanda, Mr Tonny Kapakat, Mr Archie Yamb and Mr Abel Lam.

Mr Robby was full of praise for Mr Nugi and the dedicated team of staff that implemented the

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OUR VISION

Advancing Knowledge for Sustainable Development

OUR MISSION

To develop into a sustainable University through delivery of innovative research, quality teaching and learning, developing staff and students as alumni agents for positive change.

THE CAMPUS THIS WEEK

is the official news bulletin of Papua New Guinea University of Natural Resources and Environment.

Produced weekly by the University's Public Relations Office, it is the voice of the University to relevant stakeholders and the community on developments at the University.

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Congratulations



Silver Jubilee
ANNIVERSARY

1997 - 2022



LAVINIA TOVUE
National Facilitator

Pacific Horticultural and
Agricultural Market
Access (PHAMA Plus)
Program

2011 Graduate
Bachelor in Tropical
Agriculture, Vudal

"Congratulations to Papua New Guinea University of Natural Resources and Environment on its 25th Anniversary. Like many others before and after me, I am a proud graduate of PNGUNRE under the Bachelor of Tropical Agriculture Program and was a recipient of the New Zealand Women in Agriculture Scholarship.

Though I stumbled into PNGUNRE by chance, the experience was fulfilling and rewarding with a deeper appreciation for the agriculture sector and the people that depend on the sector. The program though broad, gave me a glance into the many opportunities and potential the sector has and its connectedness to many other fields of study and professions.

I've utilized the skills and knowledge from my studies in various roles including agriculture extension, stakeholder engagement, business management and leadership, and have gone on to obtain a Master of Agribusiness from the University of Queensland, Australia.

I currently work in the international development space on project management contributing to building sustainable market systems and agribusiness value chains. I am forever grateful for the learnings, skills and networks gained from here and wish PNGUNRE the best for the next phase of its growth."

Hundreds miss out



HUNDREDS from the University's Vudal Campus and surrounding local communities missed out from voting in this year's National General Election because their names were not on the Electoral Roll.

Polling was delayed by six hours as disgruntled students and staff pleaded with Polling Officials to allow them to vote using means other than the Electoral Roll, such as their NID Cards and Staff and Student lists. All their requests were denied.

There were 1,409 eligible voters for the whole University and surrounding communities.

This is only a fraction of the total population of these areas.

KNHS Appeal

KEREVAT National High School is in dire financial need.

The school is unable to pay its bills and unable to feed its students.

Currently, the students are on Term 3 holidays and all local students have been sent home, however, approximately 150 fly-in students are still on campus.

They are only having two meals a day - tea and buscuit in the morning and rice and greens in the afternoon - but the food will only last until the end of next week.

The principal is currently in Port Moresby to source urgent funding to save the school from closing.

PNG UNRE is coordinating a "Charity Food Drive" through the Centre for Self Education and Public Relations Office to help the school.

Donations from the campus community in the form of rice, sugar and tea can be dropped off at the PR Office on Wednesday July 13 to be presented to the school on July 14, 2022.

Bundles of greens can be dropped off on Thursday morning. Please help.

Robby commends Farm

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challenging exercise.

He commended the leadership that was provided by the Farm Manager in ensuring that the animal movement operation was a success from planning on the drawing board to execution.

Mr Robby is also grateful to the entire hardworking and cooperative farm teams who ensured that the new temporal holding yard, sheep and goat sheds were erected and ready before the arrival of the livestock.

The exercise would not have been possible without input from acting Head of Animal Sciences Department Mr. Freddy Gena, staff Mr Simon Kenas, Ms Kathleen Diapong and Mr Lam.

Speaking on behalf of the University, he also extended sincere gratitude to NAQIA staff in Lae, Regional Veterinary Officer Dr Ian Russel, Senior Animal Health Officer Mr Heni Nigani and Animal Health Officer Mr Sapon Sumang, who assisted the exercise by performing the animal health inspections.

The 'Vudal connection' also proved to be helpful in this endeavor.

The team is also extremely grateful for the wonderful hospitality of retired Animal Nutrition Lecturer Mr Ralph Solomon Yamb who was instrumental in sheltering the animals brought in from Goroka until they were able to travel on the ship to Rabaul.

Mr Robby, was also extremely proud of Mr Archie Yamb and Mr Gerald Enda, graduates from the pioneer class of the Certificate in Fundamentals of Para Veterinary Technology program who are recognized as competent in implementing biosecurity measures at the UNRE Farm.

The University Farm is expanding its collection of livestock and diversifying its farming enterprise whilst accommodating the university's academic research endeavors as a 'living laboratory' in various plant and animal research projects.



▲ (l-r) Mr Heni Nigani, Mr Nugi, Mr Robby and Dr Ian Rissell Enriqueze.

Para Vet graduate gives back to UNRE



◀ UNRE Laboratory Attendant Wendy Wanio (left) and one of the pioneer graduates of the University's Fundamentals of Para Veterinary Technology Program, invigilating a second year BSLP examination for Anatomy and Physiology of Farm Animals. A course she recently studied and passed in the Para Vet Training Program.

WENDY WANIO is employed as a Laboratory attendant at PNG UNRE.

She is a recent graduate of cohort 1 (2020-2021) of the newly developed Fundamentals of Para Veterinary Technology Certificate program.

The Para Vet program was delivered by the University's academic externalization agency the Centre for Self-Education (CFSE) between 2020 and 2021.

The program was initially designed as the University's strategic response to the increasing animal health and biosecurity threats to PNG given the global increase in trade and travel. Being developed in consultation with stakeholders in the animal health arena, it was especially targeted towards building the national capacity of animal health officers during the initial discovery of the African Swine Fever (ASF) in the Highlands of PNG in 2020.

UNRE students admitted to the conventional Bachelor in Sustainable Livestock Production (BSLP) program (offered by the Department of Animal Sciences) specializing in Para Veterinary Technology will also complete the eight (8) courses in this certificate program as part of the thirty-two (32) course curriculum over their four (4) years of study. This is to increase their understanding of real-world problems and their applicability of practical strategies to problem solving in the animal health and biosecurity sector.

Ms. Wanio said she enjoyed learning about the current challenges with regard to endemic and exotic animal diseases and strategies for identifying animal health problems as well as animal disease containment (quarantine strategies) and basic treatment methods.

She recalls a practical session conducted at the University's farm operations Piggery Unit where there was a simulation of an outbreak of ASF and the students were required to conduct an epidemiological investigation to identify clinical signs of the presence of the disease in the host animal and the environment.

Excited to make a professional connection with her experience in the indoor laboratory setting to the outdoor fast paced problem-solving world of animal health and biosecurity Ms. Wanio also enjoyed the course on Laboratory Disease Diagnostics that taught her sample collection, appropriate packaging and transportation to the laboratory and various laboratory testing techniques.

Ms. Wanio is available in the University Laboratory to assist with various academic practical sessions. She is especially looking forward to assisting in the practical sessions of the progressive cohorts of the Fundamentals of Para Veterinary Technology Program.

Ms. Wanio is setting her sights on a career as a veterinary para professional in the competency spheres of Laboratory Science or Biosafety, Biosecurity and Occupational Health and Safety however. regular life challenges are making sure that she has to complete paying for her Para veterinary training before she can consider any further self-sponsored training to achieve her dreams.

Programs delivered at UNRE's CFSE in the interest of internal capacity building allow for university staff to participate and pay their fees through fortnightly deductions.

A total of eight university staff participated in the first cohort of the Para Veterinary Technology training and have graduated. Their tuition fees are still being deducted fortnightly from their salaries.

FarmSMART is a new column in *The Campus This Week* that will feature activities and developments at the University's Farm.

Piglet dies from infectious pneumonia

AFTER all the excitement and cheerful reception of the new livestock, UNRE Farm, Manager Mr Alex Nugi reported the death of one female piglet brought in from Rumion Farm in Lae.

A postmortem conducted by Animal Health Lecturer Mr Sinafa Robby and his team revealed heavily infected lungs covered with watery mucous, abnormal decolorization and lesions in both lungs.

Clinical signs prior to death of the pig, observed were coughing, rapid breathing, dehydration, inappetence, discharges from the eyes – conjunctivitis, poor circulation, blue discoloration of the skin, loss of condition, huddling and fever.



▲ Mr Sinafa Robby (right) and other UNRE staff who are graduates of the Certificate in Para Veterinary Technology program, performing the postmortem examination.

The postmortem and clinical signs confirmed that the death of the piglet was caused by infectious pneumonia (*Mycoplasmal pneumonia*).

The postmortem also determined that the severity of the infection proved that initial infection in the piglet took place some two-weeks before its

death.

The matter has been reported to NAQIA Kokopo and the team is in the process of sending blood and infected tissue samples (from the lungs) collected during the post mortem to NAQIA laboratory in Port Moresby for further confirmatory testing.

The death of the piglet was also reported to the Rumion Farm management and it was agreed that the infection was contracted in Lae and not in Vudal or during transportation.

Fortunately, Rumion Farm has graciously offered to replace the pig that died and other sick pigs in the event they die due to the same cause.

Mr Robby also appreciates his para veterinary technology pioneer graduate Mr Archie Yamb, farm stockman Mr Kolman Dokta and Animal Science staff Mr Abel Lam who assisted with the post mortem investigation.

Vudal Fish Farm project progresses



THE Fish Farm project at the main campus farm is slowly taking shape with mobilization of materials on site.

According to Farm Manager Alex Nugi, a total of 21 ponds have been dug and prepared; and are ready for plumbing works and floor and wall sealing, etc.

He said from this project, the Farm will venture further into aquaponics and other Fisheries stock farming in consultation with relevant department staff.

He called on both staff and students of the Department of Fisheries to participate in this endeavor to progress it further to the final stages.

Mr Nugi thanked the current team, which include both staff and students, who are doing a great job so far.

Farm harvests long pepper

Our first harvest of long pepper for the students mess from our very own spice block.

Our demo block doubles as a production and germplasm site for students learning.

Apart from chilies, we are venturing into turmeric, vanilla, pepper, ginger and herbs such as lemon grass, thyme and others.

A patch of Johnson grass from EHP is also being grown for mushroom trials.

Thanks all for the efforts.

Words and pictures by UNRE Farm Operations Manager, Alex Nugi.

