



The Campus

This Week

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UNRE launches Cocoa and Goat Integration Manual

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PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment through its farmer training centre has launched the Cocoa and Goat Integration Training Manual and opened a Goat Breeding Centre.

The event which was held last Friday (March 14) was attended by university staff; representatives from NARI, NAQIA and PNG Cocoa Board; James Butubu Area Manager ACIAR Bougainville; and acting Pro Vice Chancellor Academic and Research Mr Peter Navus.

Speaking on behalf of the University, Mr Navus thanked the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) for having confidence in UNRE as one of its partners, the University Farmer Training Centre, Kairak Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (KCfSRD) for the implementation of the project objectives and the other collaborating partners.

Mr Navus is confident that the Centre has achieved its objective to alleviate poverty, help people in rural areas and participate in research that addresses and improves people's livelihood.

He acknowledged the



▲ NARI Kerevat Research Leader Godfrey Han-net launches the new Goat training manual as Acting PVC Academic & Research Peter Navus (right) looks on.

hardworking technical team led by KCfSRD Manager Hosea Turbarat, Suri Thomas Taisa, Robby Sinafa, Limai Lan, Bradley Nelson, Inia Bunsu, Doreen Tunama, Roddy Amut, Owen Ngala, Gerald Enda, Constatina Kanugere and Jude Murawa for their efforts in the project.

Mr Butubu thanked UNRE for being part of the ACIAR Project on Developing the Cocoa value chain in Bougainville. This project focused on improving the profitability and vitality of smallholder cocoa farming families and communities in Bougainville.

He said it was delivered in collaboration with five key stakeholders: University of Sydney, PNG UNRE, PNG Cocoa Board, Mars Australia and AROB Department of Primary Industries and Marine Resources.

The aim of the six-year

project (2016 to 2022) was to:

1. Improve the productivity, profitability and sustainability of cocoa farming and related enterprises;
2. Understand and raise awareness of opportunities for improved nutrition and health to contribute to agricultural productivity and livelihoods;
3. Foster innovation and enterprise development at community level (this is where UNRE is involved); and
4. Strengthen value chains for cocoa and associated horticultural products.

Mr Butubu said UNRE has played an important role in the project with Cocoa and Goat Integration, and the development of the module is a great achievement.

He said the One Health Approach is a way forward for any government and donor funded project, adding that research has found that healthy farmers are wealthier and will improve productivity.

"Since we are faced with Climate Change issues, population growth, new diseases and food security, I urge UNRE and its stakeholders to work in partnership to create

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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

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Chancellor Momis pays tribute to Sir Rabbie

THE UNRE Council, Administration, staff, students and alumni were deeply saddened by the untimely passing of former UNRE Chancellor The Right Honourable Sir Rabbie Langanai Namaliu.

Sir Rabbie served UNRE as Chancellor from 2007 to 2011 and in those years, the University benefited from his wise counsel and knowledge gained over many years of distinguished political and public service, and international associations.

University Chancellor Chief Dr John Momis said: "The University is deeply indebted to his leadership and for the strategic oversight he provided. He supported the University's expansion plan and demonstrated clear passion and interest in the pivotal role of higher education for the development of PNG. He guided the University with strong intellect and demanded integrity in all University processes and systems."

Chief Momis said the University paid special tribute to his Chancellorship for leading the University in developing its innovative and valuable policy framework for proficiency in the fields of rural development, sustainable forestry, sustainable agriculture, sustainable fisheries, sustainable tourism and hospitality and ecological balance, reflecting the Fourth National Goal of the PNG's Constitution.

Chief Momis said Sir Rabbie was also a member of numerous Boards and through



▲ The late Sir Rabbie Namaliu congratulates Dux of the 2010 Bachelor of Tropical Agriculture Class Michelle Jambui. File photo.

them also promoted the collective welfare of Papua New Guineans until his untimely passing.

"As the current Chancellor, the death of my close friend, and wanwok, Sir Rabbie Namaliu, is a great loss to me and also to Papua New Guinea. It sees the tragic departure of yet another of the core group of people that not only contributed in significant ways to the founding of Papua New Guinea as an independent and sovereign state, but also continued to contribute to his beloved country for the almost 50 years

that followed," said Chief Momis.

Chief Momis added that in the immediate post-independence period, as a very young man, along with Sir Mekere Morauta, Sir Tony Siaguru and Sir Charles Lepani, Sir Rabbie became an active and committed leader of the then decolonising PNG National Public Service.

He said: "In all my many close dealings with Sir Rabbie, I found him to be a man of deep integrity and honesty. Unlike so many other leaders since he was Prime Minister, he did not use public office to become wealthy. He was committed to his country and its people. He was also a man of his word, honest in his dealings and others."

"We seem to have lost the ability to find and support leaders of the great calibre of Sir Rabbie. He will be deeply missed, both by me personally, and by his country that he loved so much."

KCfSRD celebrate long time manager, Turbarat

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new knowledge, theories, innovate new technologies to sustainably manage our natural resources in order to improve economic benefits, increase income earnings opportunities as well as improve food security and the general livelihoods of the rural population," said Mr Butubu.

The event coincided with Mr Turbarat's 70th Birthday celebration. In appreciation for his enormous contribution to the centre since its establishment, KCfSRD staff presented him with a traditional Tolai shell money wheel, one live pig, five chicken, five ducks and food items.



IAEA donates drought tolerant seeds to PNG UNRE

INTERNATIONAL Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) continues to support PNG UNRE through staff training and other agricultural assistance.

Recently, UNRE Plant Breeding lecturer Betty Kenny, attended a seven-week training on mutation induction and breeding in seed and vegetatively propagated crops in Jakarta, Indonesia. The training was hosted by the Research Organization of Nuclear Technology (ORTN), National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN).

UNRE Farm Operations Manager Alex Nugi said at the end of the training, Ms. Kenny returned with some sorghum and soybean seeds which had been subjected to gamma rays for drought tolerance. The seeds were handed to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Aisak Pue and are now the property of PNG UNRE.

Mr Nugi said Farm Operations will take charge of planting and researching on draught tolerance, followed by multiplication and possibly distribution after evaluation.

"The draught tolerant sorghum can be bred and used for human consumption as well as animal; both as feed and for grazing. Sorghum has the potential to be consumed as rice with high nutritional value (low in sugar



▲ Plant Breeding lecturer Betty Kenny (right) presents the seeds to Farm Operations Manager Alex Nugi.

and high in protein). Sorghum can also be ground to flour and used as wheat flour in baking. Thus, sorghum has the potential to be used as an alternative to both rice and wheat which can help reduce the high import cost on rice and wheat flour annually," said Mr Nugi.

"The research activity will be carried out in collaboration with BRIN in Jakarta. It is hoped that this work will further strengthen UNRE's ties with BRIN. In terms of mutation breeding UNRE stands to gain a lot from collaboration with BRIN, a leading organisation in mutation breeding. BRIN as a leader in radiation

technology, is contracted by IAEA to run trainings in mutation breeding. Although, no formal agreement is in place, BRIN has indicated their interest and willingness to collaborate with PNGUNRE in nuclear technology as part of IAEA's overall goal."

Mr Nugi added that Papua New Guinea, like other island countries, is subjected to climate change and variability challenges. Hence, the need for agricultural productivity and crop improvement through mutation breeding in addressing climate related challenges impacting on the nation is critical. Mutation breeding offers greater potential for crop improvements for increased agricultural productivity.

The first step in plant breeding is to identify suitable genotypes containing the desired genes among existing varieties, or to create one if it is not found in nature. In nature, variation occurs mainly because of mutation and without it, plant breeding would not be possible.

In this context, the major aim in mutation-based breeding is to develop and improve well-adapted plant varieties by modifying one or two major traits to increase their productivity or quality. Both physical and chemical mutagenesis is used in inducing mutations in seeds and other planting materials.

UNRE Nambawan Super contributors update personal info

STAFF of PNG UNRE were urged to update their personal information with Nambawan Super as well as the Employment form with the University's Human Resources Office.

University Registrar Mrs Jennifer Popat said in a circular that: "This is a very important exercise where you will get your forms updated, take your photos to update your NSL ID and address other enquiries you may have. The information you provide and collected by NSL must be accurate in order to also ensure the validity of records against your Life Savings. The benefit of this programme is that, in the event you exit employment,

or death occurs, you or your Beneficiaries are not denied the right to cash-out your superannuation."

Nambawan Super staff led by Kokopo Branch Manager John Gideon (pictured right) spent a week at the University's Vudal Campus to update personal details of all Nambawan Super members at the University. This included their beneficiaries.

Mr Gideon was impressed that the majority of staff participated in the exercise.

He said the main reason his team visited was to assist UNRE move into the employer online portal system which enables the University to update staff information directly to the



system.

The other reason is to update beneficiary details.

Mr Gideon said without these nominees, Nambawan Super often has a difficult time processing payouts.

He said this is especially difficult when a member passes away without an updated record of his or her beneficiaries. Nambawan Super is left with the difficult task of investigation who the real family members are before payments can be made.

Mr Gideon said having proper records in place

reduces fraud cases as anybody can claim to be a family member of the deceased member if the beneficiary details are not updated.

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Chinese delegation visits UNRE Vudal



▲ The delegation with the Administration and staff of the University.

A Chinese delegation visited PNG UNRE recently to discuss the possibility of establishing a Confucius Institute at the University to teach Chinese language and cultural studies.

University Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue who thanked the team for visiting, said he believed this is an opportunity which will benefit the University's Tourism Department as the department is also teaching foreign languages to students.

Professor Pue believes the collaboration will go a long way to benefit the University especially in infrastructure development, scholarships and exchange of academic programs.

Representing the delegation Dr Xian Zhang said Confucius Institute (CI) was named after a great Chinese Thinker who was a teacher, philosopher and a man full of wisdom.

He said Confucius taught

people from generation to generation. This is why CI aims to teach people around the world to learn Chinese as well as the Chinese culture, how Chinese people live and Chinese medicine.

"Indeed, you have a lot of medicine around your campus, but you don't know," said Dr Zhang.

He said the knowledge in medicine has been passed from generation to generation and because of that CI is keen to offer that knowledge to people around the world.

He mentioned that CI will also offer Chinese Language Test every month. This will be a great benefit to staff and students of UNRE and PNG who wish to apply for scholarships to study in China.

He explained that China has more than 4,000 universities and they are much more bigger and more advanced.

He said China is 20 times bigger than PNG with a huge

population but yet every year almost every young Chinese student has the chance to go to universities and colleges.

Dr Zhang said CI helps teach students to live a peaceful life, help solve disputes in a peaceful manner with dialogue instead of using weapons, fighting and killing.

Acting Pro Vice Chancellor Academic and Research Peter Navus said it is timely, as the government is putting pressure on universities to produce quality graduates.

He said in order to achieve the National Government's Vision, universities such as UNRE need adequate facilities and resources. He believes UNRE's collaboration with Chinese is a way forward.

Pro Vice Chancellor Planning and Development Dr Livingstone Tavul thanked CI for honouring the commitment last year and the University is looking forward to signing an MOU.

Farm assists in student research

PNG UNRE Farm Operations continues to assist students with their research.

Farm Manager Alex Nugi said his section's assistance towards students' mangrove conservation research has continued with the establishment of trial plots.

Mr Nugi explained this is for different soil conditions and elevations from sea level.

He commended Acting Dean of the School of Environment and Climate Change (SECC) Jason Paliau and his students from the Climate Resilience Team for the interesting research.

PNG UNRE students have ventured into blue carbon research and aim to establish a mangrove nursery on campus to address the impacts of climate change.

The research is led by students from SECC. They have partnered with students from the departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Marine Resource.

So far seven students are engaged in the project titled Mangrove Nursery & Restoration Study.

Mr Nugi who is assisting the students said this project will look at approaches to address coastal flooding and coastal erosion.



Nambawan Super markets other products

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During the exercise, staff were also informed of Nambawan Super products like the Voluntary Contribution, Housing Advance, Savings and Loans, and others.

UNRE HR Officer Aidah Purpuruk said when employees fail to update beneficiary details, the University has a difficult time dealing with family members when they pass away.

Giving an example, she said failure to update beneficiaries had resulted in an incident where two wives both showed up to claim their deceased husband's entitlements including his superannuation savings.

Ms Purpuruk therefore, urged all staff to update their Nambawan Super form and the employment form with Human Resource Office.