

Grow PNG

Supported by Grow Asia | 2019



Papua
New Guinea





Message

Interventions into the agriculture sector of Papua New Guinea recognises that over 80 % of the population is rural based, whose dominant preoccupation is subsistence farming, raising livestock, food and vegetables for immediate consumption. Interventions at different levels must include understanding the persistent outlook and actions required to change it, identifying important stakeholders and how they can contribute to making the changes and progress.

Grow PNG Ltd made its mark in the agriculture sector in June 2019, with the noble notion of building partnerships with various key stakeholders. Designed around the Grow Asia model, which is supported by the World Economic Forum and ASEAN, Grow PNG focuses on growers and farmers, existing agribusinesses and stakeholders in the value chain and identify the mutual benefits they can bring.

The principle for Grow PNG is to ensure that the stakeholders, whether they are growers or agribusinesses, can drive action to address issues that are important to them. Our on part, we coordinate, support and empower through leadership to raise awareness and to deliver results which addresses those issues.

We want to do so by establishing working groups around important issues such as land access, small to medium enterprises development, financial inclusivity, and market access. In the design phase of this partnership, it became very clear to us that what was needed was a mechanism which would ensure that important issues discussed are followed through for actions to be taken. The stakeholders also requested for feedback on bottleneck progresses to make sure strong ownerships of the issues are taken, and that continuity prevails in the course of addressing issues.

It is our hope at Grow PNG to fulfil those expectations. The priority action now is to work on establishing the first working group, Land Access. With them, our challenge lies in clear articulation in certain areas of the partnership ranging from their role, expectations, important issues to , and critical players to involved in this process. We then need to ensure that we define our focus, to achieve strong support within the stakeholders to enhance the credibility of our intentions and our intended processes.

Ivan Pomaleu, OBE

Executive Director
Grow PNG

Grow PNG

Launched in 2019, Grow PNG is based in Lae, Papua New Guinea, the gateway to the Markham Valley agricultural corridor.

The corridor is on a pathway to rapid agricultural sector expansion driven by a range of crops including palm oil, rice, cassava and sorghum. Much of the corridor's agricultural potential remains untapped, but a growing local population and demand from Asia creates significant opportunities and scope for development.

Grow PNG brings together business leaders, policy makers and farmers to collaboratively unlock growth in the sector and facilitate new opportunities for farming families.

Grow PNG aims to accelerate the growth of the agriculture sector in the Markham Valley by enabling smallholder households to increase their income by 20% within eight years.

This goal can be achieved through:

- Effective Working Groups addressing collective challenges and unlocking growth through policy changes, new partnerships and new business models;
- Stronger partnerships and increased trust between civil society, government, agribusiness and farmers; and
- Improved knowledge and information.

**Papua
New Guinea
statistics:**

| | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Population: | Population below the poverty line: | Population in agricultural employment: |
| 8 million | 40% | 68% |
| Agricultural contribution to national GDP: | Rural population: | Females employed in agriculture: |
| 18% | 87% | 70% |



Key Activities



Working Group Formation and Facilitation

Grow PNG will establish action-oriented Working Groups to collaborate around specific shared challenges and barriers to growth in the corridor. The team will work with a range of sector stakeholders on issues from land titling to infrastructure needs and skills development. Grow PNG will consult partners and proceed to establish a new Working Group when there is demonstrated interest and alignment with Grow PNG's goal and principles.



Learning Events

Learning events, hosted in Lae, will provide new insights for business leaders and potential Grow PNG partners. Themes will be set in consultation with business leaders and will provide an opportunity to test potential ideas for Working Groups by gauging interest in issues and which partners are keen to be involved. Grow PNG also intends to host standalone events in response to specific needs. The events will provide an excellent opportunity to utilize Grow Asia's extensive network to identify speakers from other countries to share expertise, learnings and technical best practices with Grow PNG.



Regional Forums

These events will convene businesses, government, development financiers and other relevant stakeholders within the sector. Forums will provide a pathway for partner engagement, learning, data sharing and Working Group formation, while also setting sector priorities—such as hard infrastructure and funding priorities—that will unlock agricultural growth.



Data Collection and Modelling

Grow PNG will collect data on the agriculture sector in the Markham Valley. This will act as a baseline for the partnership by measuring the existing impact of the agribusiness sector on smallholder farmers and the broader economy, providing an evidence base for donor investments and policy change. The dataset will be made available to the public to support better decisions by businesses; especially Working Groups.

Any organization is welcome to become a partner of Grow PNG and its Working Groups. Partners are expected to have an interest in the country and agriculture, a commitment to supporting smallholders and rural development and an openness to partner with other organizations in a pre-competitive space.



A photograph of a papaya orchard. In the foreground, several large, green, unripe papayas are visible, some hanging from a tree and others on the ground. The background shows more trees and a clear sky.

Engage

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