

Enabling community forestry in Papua New Guinea



Key details

Location

Papua New Guinea

Duration

Start Oct 2017

End Sep 2022

Budget

AUD 2,403,477

Commissioned organisation

University of the Sunshine Coast

Partners

Papua New Guinea Forest Authority; Papua New Guinea Forest Authority Goroka Office; PNG Forest Research Institute; Ramu Agri-Industries Ltd; Timber and Forestry Training College of the PNG University of Technology; University of the Sunshine Coast

Project Leader

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Program

Forestry

Project code

FST/2016/153



Overview

This project aimed to improve rural livelihoods through family-focused community reforestation and agroforestry in PNG.

In Papua New Guinea (PNG), nearly two-thirds of the land is covered by forests, 97% of which are held under custom landownership; therefore, community forestry offers an opportunity to improve rural livelihoods. Women play a key role in obtaining and managing forestry household resources.

Recognising the forestry sector's huge contributions to the national economy, the Government of PNG has been committed to building a sustainable and highly profitable forestry sector including increasing the area of planted forests. It views community forestry as vital to achieving this goal, focusing on five key factors to success: the importance of effective governance; secure property rights; social equity; government support; and tangible benefits.

Community-based reforestation and/or agroforestry in the grasslands has great potential to produce economic returns to clans, while also producing positive social and environmental outcomes. The results of the research undertaken in this project will be directly applicable to the PNG Forest Authority reforestation program 'Painim Graun, Plannim Diwai'.

Project outcomes

- Improved research skills (social and biophysical sciences) of project partners.
- Recommendations to PNG Forest Authority for policy changes to facilitate improved application of community forestry.
- Improved skills of families for reforestation practices, including the establishment of integrated agricultural and forestry systems along with improved livelihood options and greater food security of community members.
- Improved access of communities to formal timber markets.



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