Expert Consultation on Reducing Food Loss & Waste (FLW) for Addressing Interlinked Challenges of Food Security and Climate Change in APEC Member Economies

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Economy ReportPAPUA NEW GUINEA



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Introduction

- Reducing Food Loss and Waste (FLW) is an important action to addressing climate change as a mitigating measure.
- Reducing FLW aids in reducing the size of land required for food production therefore, freeing land that can be used for other purposes.
- Overall, It is also an important action to ensuring food security in the economy.

Current Projects on Food Loss and Waste Reduction

- Currently, PNG has no Policy / Projects / Programs specifically on Food Loss and Waste.
- In 2008 there was a survey done by a government Agency, the Fresh Produce Development Agency on FLW in one of the main vegetable market areas in Port Moresby (Capital city) where there were found out that nearly half of what is produced is lost between farm gate and the market.
- The government of PNG funding through its Public Investment Programme (PIP), has initiated development grant for post-harvest research to the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) for farmers training on Post- Harvest handling in order to reduce food loss. The training starts next year and will be for 5 years. Training to be coordinated by the Post-harvest R&D Programme of the NARI.

Current Polices (in operation)

Policies guiding the development in Agriculture Sector

- Medium Term Development Plan III (2018-2022)
- National Nutrition Policy (2026-2026)
- National Food Security Policy 2018-2029 (Before the NEC for endorsement)
- E- Agriculture Strategy 2018-2023
- National Agriculture Sector Plan (2019- 2029) (first draft —end of Sept 2019)

Major Challenges

- Landscape- Rugged Terrain and isolated islands of PNG
- Isolated / Remoteness of farming villages
- Lack of funding for Awareness and campaigns on FLW
- Currently, no system in place to measure FLW
- Lack of data on Food loss and Waste

Support needed to enhance institutional, financial and technical capacities to address FLW:

- 1. Capacity Building
- 2. Cold Chain facilities
- 3. Education awareness/campaigns on FLW
- 4. Funding to collect and establish data on the FLW
- 5. Manpower (experience, skills, knowledge)
- 6. Infrastructure development (frequent landslides as a result of CC) affects flow of produce to the market.
- 7. High freights (hinders farmers' produce to reach lucrative markets)
- 8. More post- harvest handling trainings
- 9. The need for a legislation (bill) to encourage work on reducing FLW.

Way Forward

Papua New Guinea would like recommend more sharing of knowledge, skills, technologies and best practices among the APEC economies on FLW on reducing FLW along the food chain.



