



SECRETARY'S OPENING STATEMENT

Agriculture Sector Coordination Meeting No.1/2025 [Meeting with NDAL, KAL and All Commodity Boards and Research Institutions]

Date: Thursday 23rd January, 2025
Time: 10:00am to 12:00pm
Venue: Lamana Hotel Conference Room

Salutations:

I am pleased to acknowledge the presence of:

- Secretary for the Department of Agriculture and Livestock;
- All the Managing Directors and CEOs;
- Esteemed colleagues;
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

I warmly welcome you all to our second engagement of the Agriculture Sector stakeholders meeting.

Introductory Remarks

1. Our great nation is turning 50 years in September. As an agriculture sector, our endeavor to be innovative, to upscale, to reposition, to reset are so critical as we embark on a pivotal journey to strengthen and unify the cornerstone of our economy, livelihood and cultural heritage.
2. Agriculture is not just any sector in Papua New Guinea; it is the heartbeat of our great nation. Contributing 13% to our Gross Domestic Product, generating approximately K2.492 billion in export revenue (2023 BPNG Report), agriculture stands as a cornerstone of our economy, livelihood, and cultural heritage. Today's gathering signifies a crucial step towards harnessing the full potential of this vital sector.
3. Our purpose here today is 3-fold:
 - i. Maintain consistent dialogue between key implementing agencies and stakeholders who drive the agricultural landscape of PNG.
 - ii. Understand your workplans and cashflows for the 2025 operational year.

- iii. Present what you are doing differently and innovatively to demonstrate that your commodity is using a workable model, is expanding and is working towards the targets and indicators of MTDP IV.
4. Let me remind us all once again. The Government has an objective to grow a K200 billion economy by 2030. Today, PNG stands as a K113 billion economy. Reaching this ambitious target within six years will require strategic alignment and innovation across all agricultural commodities.
5. The call to the agriculture sector now is how are we strategically re-positioning and re-setting ourselves with the respective commodities we lead to ensure that PNG is gaining maximum value through commercial trade and job creation.

Focus of MTDP IV 2023-2027

Agriculture Targets in MTDP IV include:

• Large run-down plantations rehabilitated	• Downstream Processing
• Smallholder farmers supported through MSME financing	• Provincial and District Markets established
• Value chain/storage facilities established	• Farmers benefit from price stabilization
• SEZs for agriculture developed	• Hectares of land developed for agric
• Farmers benefited from Freight Subsidy	• New commodities introduced

What are the Key Sector Strategies to take Forward?

- Provide legislative and policy framework to encourage downstream processing
- Establish strong governance
- Address major impediments to the growth of the sector
- Support extension services
- Support MSMEs by giving access to financial capital and identify markets
- Research and Development
- Establish central data center
- Review and finalize biosecurity strategy encourage Private sector partnerships
- Develop Hemp Policy

Expected Output for MTDP IV

- i. The value of exports should increase to K8,585 million by 2027;
- ii. Volume of exports for all commodities should increase to 2,194,000 tons by 2027;
- iii. Value of products for import replacements should decrease to K453.00 million in 2027;
- iv. GDP contribution of 14.2% and above by 2027; and
- v. 8% of the population is formally employed in agriculture