



**Department of National Planning and Monitoring**  
*Office of the Secretary*

**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**AGRICULTURE STAKEHOLDERS MEET TO DISCUSS SECTOR'S PROGRESS**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 – PORT MORESBY** – Secretary for the Department of National Planning and Monitoring, Koney Samuel has urged the agriculture sector to be innovative, aggressive and create impact.

He made the call today at the first Agriculture Sector Coordination Meeting for 2025, attended by representatives from the Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL), the Kokonas Industri Koporesen (KIK), and other commodity boards and research institutions.

Secretary Samuel highlighted the need for innovation and strategic realignment in the agriculture sector to help PNG achieve its goal of transforming into a K200 billion economy by 2030. Currently, PNG's economy stands as a K113 billion economy.

"Agriculture is not just any sector in Papua New Guinea; it is the heartbeat of our great nation. 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," he said.

The sector contributes 13% to the country's GDP and generated approximately K2.492 billion in export revenue in 2023, according to the Bank of Papua New Guinea.

The meeting's agenda focused on three key objectives:

1. Maintaining dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders who drive the agricultural landscape of PNG.
2. Workplans and cashflows for the 2025 operational year.
3. Innovation and progress: Present how each commodity is meeting targets and contributing to the Medium-Term Development Plan 2023-2027 (MTDP IV).

DAL Secretary Dr. Sergie Bang said the agriculture sector takes its role seriously and acknowledged that innovation is key to progress.

Secretary Samuel urged stakeholders to focus on strategic priorities such as:

- Strengthening legislative and policy frameworks to encourage downstream processing.
- Addressing major growth impediments.
- Expanding extension services and MSME support through access to financial capital and market identification.
- Enhancing research and development.

- Establishing a central data center.
- Finalizing the biosecurity strategy and developing a hemp policy.
- Encouraging private sector partnerships.

He called on the agriculture sector to re-position and reset themselves to ensure PNG gains maximum value through commercial trade and job creation.

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