



Grow PNG

19 May, 2021

Grow PNG welcomes new executive director

Grow PNG is pleased to announce that John Simango is the new Executive Director for Papua New Guinea.

Mr Simango comes from a development background, having extensive experience as an advisor and consultant working with various Australian Government programs over the last 15 years. He has also worked in mining, banking and fast-moving consumer goods companies.

In his first official stakeholder engagement, he participated in a Food Systems Summit Dialogue held in Lae last week.

Mr Simango said, Grow PNG was thrilled to participate in the Food Systems Summit dialogue facilitated by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nation, and the Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) as the national convener, and supported by Department of Foreign Affairs, Industry and Trade (DFAIT).

The event, one of few critical ones before the national dialogue later this year was well attended virtually, and physically by sub-national partners, from parts of Momase and Highlands.

“Grow PNG as a partner in facilitating Sustainable Agriculture, is encouraged to see government and FAO conducting this dialogue in an all-inclusive manner to include the voice of farmers, small holders, agri-businesses, civil society partners, gender, and youth. There is a need to also include the disability, marginalized and disadvantage groups,” Mr Simango said.

He commended the government and FAO in developing an all-inclusive national pathway towards a sustainable food system for PNG as it delivers on achieving the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals.

Grow PNG is a subsidiary of Grow Asia with head office in Singapore. It also has presence in five other Asian countries, Vietnam, Myanmar, Indonesian, Cambodia, and Philippines.

The organization is supported by the World Economic Forum, and ASEAN, and is established to help implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Strategy on Sustainable Agriculture, mostly focusing on Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry sectors.

Grow PNG has its footprint in the Markham valley, one of the biggest potential food bowls in the country. Its purpose is to provide a platform to facilitate engagement of investors in the agri-business, engaging farmers, small-holders, government and other important stakeholders within the food supply chain.



Any organisation 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 organisations in a pre-competitive space.

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