

Extension and Advisory Services in Papua New Guinea

**CTA Policy Learning and Planning
Workshop/Writeshop: *Improving
Effectiveness of Extension
and Advisory Services***

**Centre for Tropical Agriculture
Wageningen 20-23rd August 2013**

Outline of Presentation

1. The PNG Case Study on Extension and Advisory Services

- a) National policy environment**
- b) Current Status of extension services**
- c) Tools and approaches**
- d) Capacity development**
- e) Funding of extension**
- f) Impact of extension**

2. Key Lessons

3. The Future

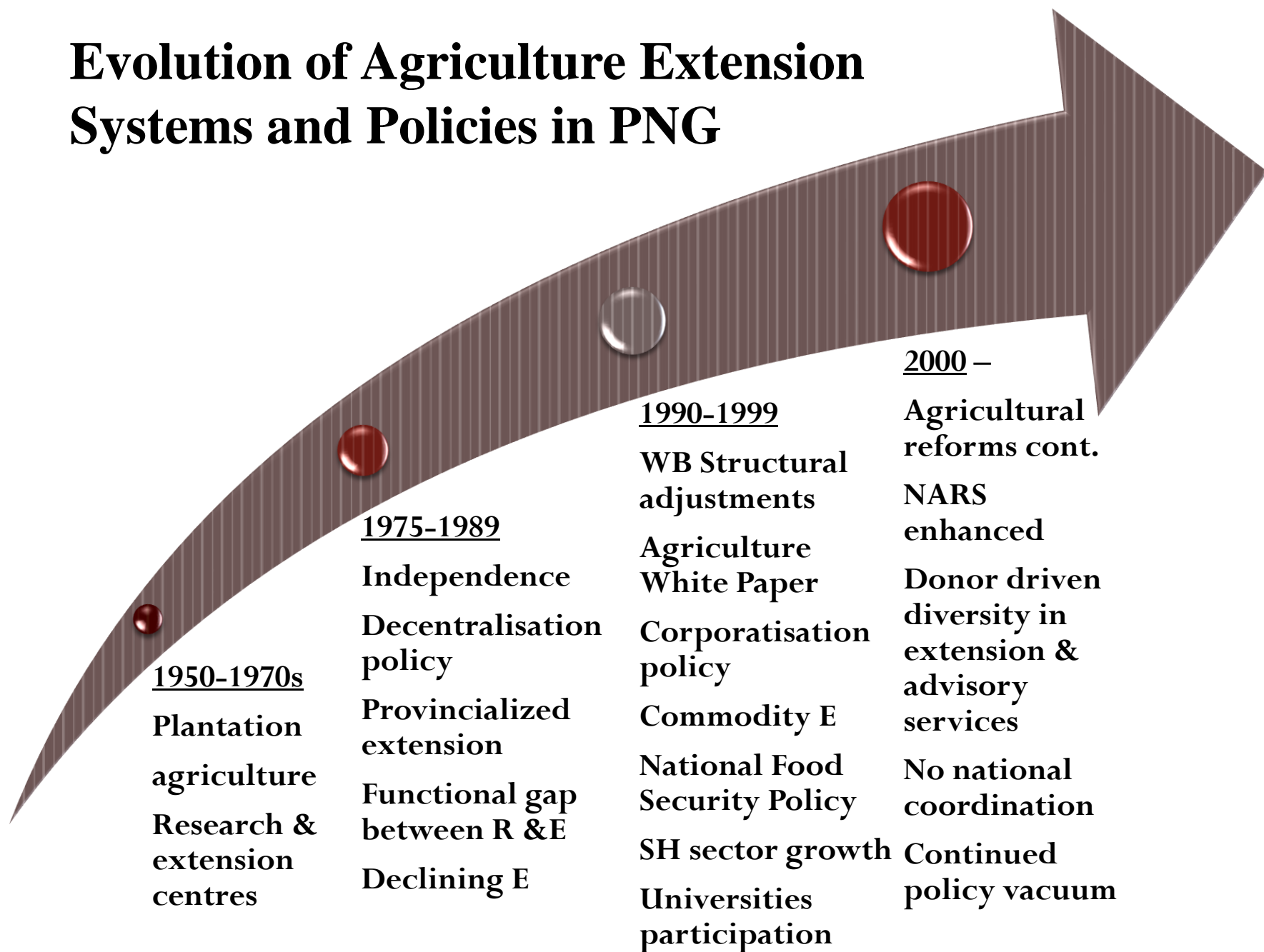
Consultative Process

- **Lead Organization** – National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)
- Pacific Agri-Systems Ltd – **Contracted Reviewer**
- **Consultative process** – (i) structured interviews; (ii) email exchanges; (iii) four regional meetings with institutions and farmer groups; (iv) a national stakeholders consultation.
- **Key officials consulted:** National Minister for Agriculture & Livestock; Chief Secretary to Government; National Departmental Head; Deans of Agriculture Faculties – PNG University of Technology and PNG University of Natural and Environmental Resources

Papua New Guinea Country Profile

- PNG became a Nation in 1975, and is a member of the Commonwealth and a signatory to the ACP/Lome Convention.
- The country is governed by a Federal Parliament, but is considered over-governed, as it is divided into 19 provinces with separate Provincial Governments.
- Has a population of 7 million people, 75-80 % are rural based.
- Hence 2.5 million are active farmers

Evolution of Agriculture Extension Systems and Policies in PNG



Current Status of Extension and Advisory Services

- Largely a public funded and managed extension service, with 14 commodity boards and 19 provincial government divisions
- Active private sector participation is limited to commercial agriculture (e.g. pig and poultry; sugarcane; oil palm; rubber)
- Recent donor (ADB, AUSAID, NZAID, WB) interventions since 2000 have increased participation of NGOs and CBOs to exploit agricultural value chains.
- Two major concerns with these are: (i) quality assurance that service providers possess desired abilities and capacities; and (ii) sustainability of effort beyond donor support.
- There is a lack of an effective mechanism for coordination, resourcing & management of the national extension service...

The Key Elements of the Extension Programs Exploiting Benefits of Value Chains :

- Availability of sound technological package
- Adequate funding
- Qualified human resource from partners
- Committed farming community (Often working in cooperatives)
- Proven private sector service providers
- Improved market access
- Sound and safe infrastructure (transport, IT)

Tools and Approaches

- PNG has adopted the T&V system and other modes used elsewhere
- No extension approach fits all and several may be applied as situation dictates
- The use of participatory approaches to extension has widened with increased private service providers
- The innovative role of the Universities expressed through IATP and SPISARD
- The use of ICT yet to be fully exploited
- Improving the link between the NARS and Extension and Advisory Service will enhance future use of extension tools and approaches

Capacity Development

- From mid-1960s to late 1990s the Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock PNG trained extension officers at 3 colleges offering certificates and diploma in tropical agriculture.
- Since 2000, this responsibility has been transferred to the University of Natural and Environmental Resources.
- The University and its sister University of Technology produce graduates and post-graduates in agriculture extension.
- The study indicated that a total of 850 extension officers are engaged in the public funded extension service

Extension Agencies, Staff & Cost - 2011

Status	Organizations (in 2000)	Personnel	Costs (Kmill)
National Agencies	10(10)	270	30
Provinces	19(19)	580	76
NGOs	20(5)	?	?
TOTAL		850	106
<i>Extension Officer/Farmers</i>		3000	

Impact Assessment of Extension Interventions

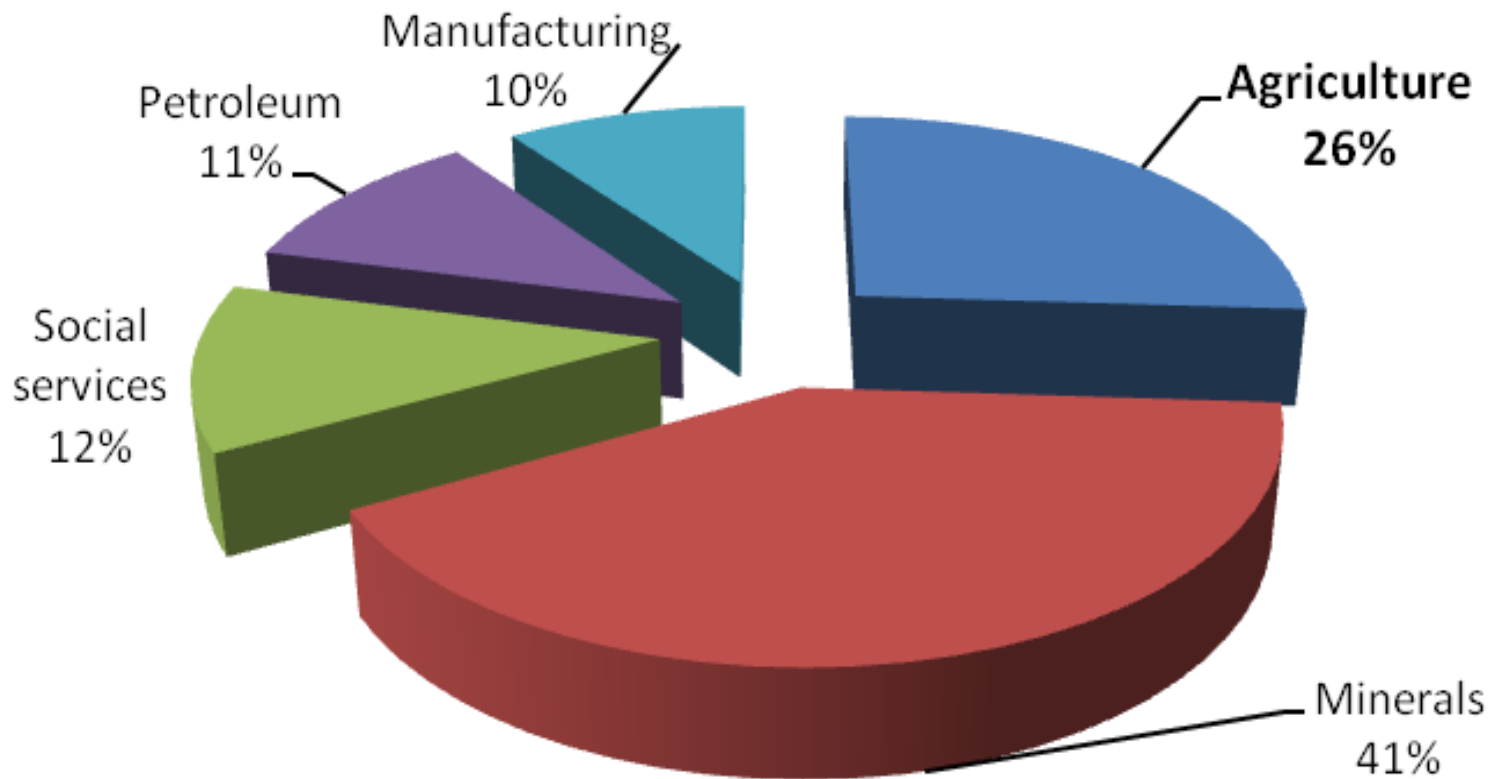
- This is a most critical task but was beyond the study to fully accomplish. The task is made more difficult by different layers of government players and participating agencies.
- Impact assessment in the tree crops are obvious but not formally quantified.
- Donor interventions are made at project completion, but outcomes are rarely shared at institutional level to enhance future national extension program planning.
- Recent growth in production of staple crops have occurred without any support from extension. The impetus has come from market forces – local foods have become cheaper than imported foods. This trend will continue into the future.
- Impact assessment of extension in PNG should be done as a matter of priority.

Key Lessons from the PNG Study

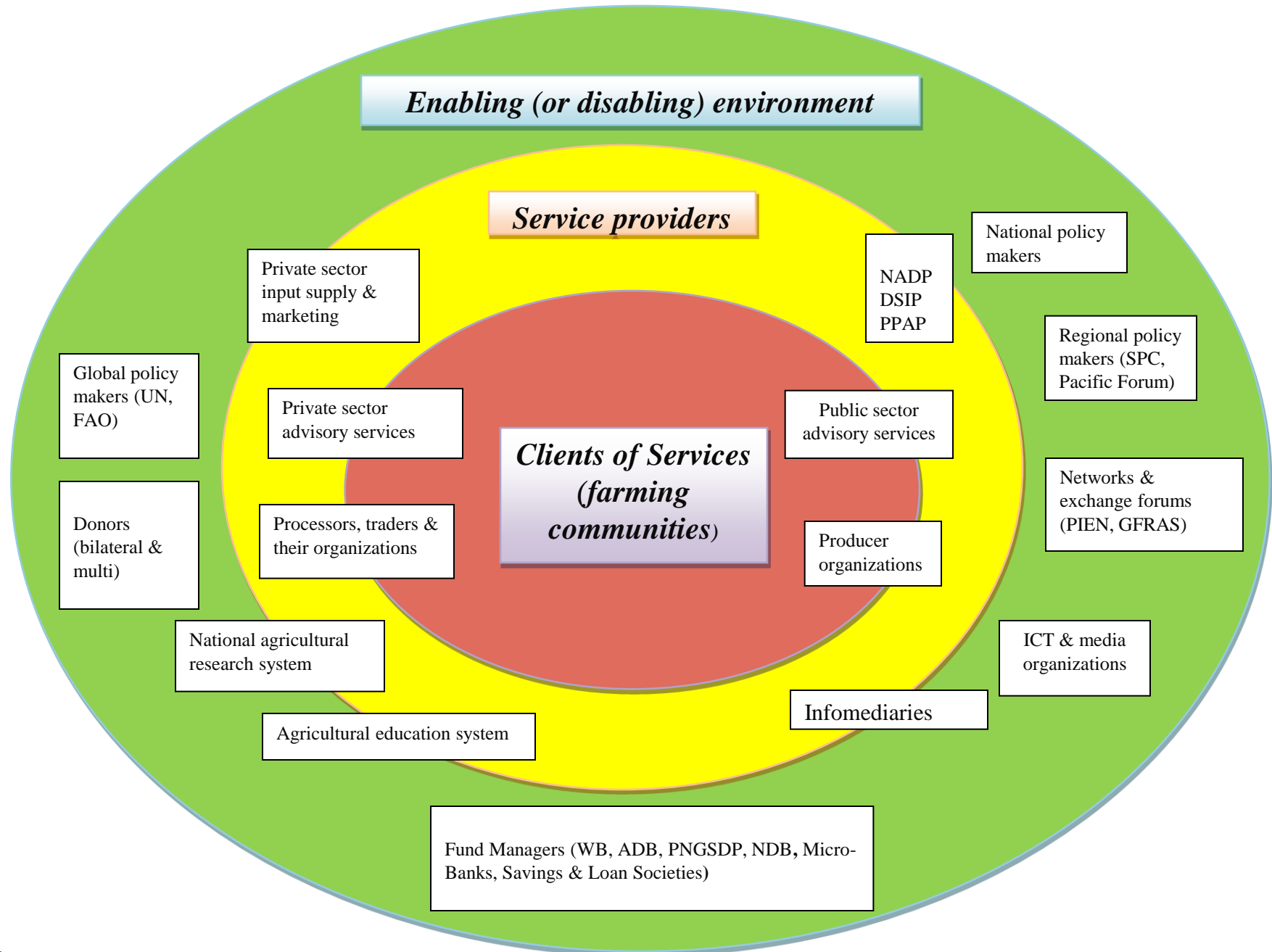
- The Extension and Advisory service in PNG is at a cross-road. Extension programs are presently carried out haphazardly by different agencies with no national mechanism of coordination, resourcing, management, and monitoring & evaluation.
- Extension must be guided by a new policy framework that is an integral part of the a new national agricultural development policy.
- The Ministry of Agriculture has a declining role in extension , and this calls for other national agencies and Universities to step and take responsibility to empower farming communities.
- There is a need for a national coalition of extension and advisory service stakeholders forum as a voice for extension and advisory service in PNG.

Agriculture in the PNG Economy 2012

% GDP contribution by sector



Extension and Rural Advisory Service Stakeholders in PNG



THANK YOU