INTERNATIONAL COCONUT GENE BANK, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

17th COGENT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
7 - 11th July 2014
Coconut Research Institute, Sri Lanka

Dr Eremas Tade
Acting Chief Executive Officer
200,000 households depend on coconut for their livelihoods

Most coconut palms are more than 60 years old

Coconut Gene Bank for South Pacific is located at Stewart Research Station (SRS), Madang, PNG,

Established in 1998

MOA signed in November 1998 (FAO, IPGR & DAL, PNG)

Aim is to conserve a maximum of 200 accessions

Use of coconut embryo technology to import international accessions
Current Status of Coconut Gene Bank

- 55 accessions; 14 dwarf and 41 tall varieties; all PNG collections
- BCS was reported in 2007
- BCS two kilometers from SRS
- Selected palms in gene bank are marked for nut collection
- Sampling of materials for analysis of phytoplasma from selected palms in gene bank
- Risk assessment of pest & diseases on Misima and Punipuni planned for 3rd quarter 2014
Bogia Coconut Syndrome
Sampling for PCR & Lamp Analysis
Relocation of Coconut Gene Bank

- Holding nursery for quarantine on Misima Island
- Punipuni Plantation - 200 hectares senile old coconut plantation
- Draft MOA completed, ready for signing
- Work Plan in place
- K400,000.00 allocated by GoPNG for relocation, require another K500,000.00
Work Plan for next 3-5 years

1. Transfer of Gene Bank to Mile Bay
2. Establishment of Gene Bank office & placement of staff
3. Recruitment of staff and casuals
4. Establish coconut nursery
5. Construction of pollen laboratory
6. Plant intercrops to sustain gene bank management
7. Evaluation of dwarf and tall varieties
8. Establishment of resource centre
9. Conduct research and training
10. Expand National coconut census & appraisal, replanting program