



# INTERNATIONAL COCONUT GENE BANK, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

17<sup>th</sup> COGENT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

7 - 11<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Coconut Research Institute, Sri Lanka

*Dr Eremas Tade*

*Acting Chief Executive Officer*

# BACKGROUND

- 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

# Coconut Gene Bank Location



# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



THANK YOU