



PNG CHRISTIAN PROFESSIONALS NETWORK INC.

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| File | Collaborative Development Initiatives with PNGCPN – Presentation |
| Event | 2026 PM'S Breakfast & Praivet Gavamani Konekt 1 |
| Date | 29/01/2026 |
| Author | Wikai Membi |
| Owner | Papua New Guinea Christian Professional Network |
| Purpose | Presentation to the 2026 PM'S Breakfast & Praivet Gavamani Konekt 1 hosted by the PNG Business Council. |

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| Topic | Collaborative Development Initiatives with PNGCPN |
| Speaker | Wikai Membi |
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| Brief | The speaker will focus on PNGCPN's activities as a CSO partner in advancing agricultural development, highlighting how their initiatives strengthen agri-value chains, enhance productivity, and promote sustainable practices. The presentation will remain aligned with the session's objectives, demonstrating how PNGCPN's work contributes to sustainable growth and innovation in PNG's agricultural sector. |
| Key question | How can PNGCPN's initiatives as a CSO partner drive sustainable growth and innovation in PNG's agriculture sector? |



Presentation Brief

1.0 Introduction

Ladies and gentlemen, good morning to you all, let me introduce myself to you, I am Wikai Membri, I work as an Operations Manager with the Papua New Guinea Christian Professional Network, and I am honoured to be part of this discussion as I present to you all some of my thoughts on the subject of **“ Collaborative Development Initiatives with PNGCPN “** along the main theme of the **2026 PM’S BREAKFAST & PRAIVET GAVAMANI KONEKT 1 - “ HARMONIZING ECONOMY- ALIGNING PARTNERSHIPS, INVESTMENTS, AND THE NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR SHARED PROSPERITY” .**

Let me start my presentation by acknowledging distinguished guests, members and participants in this event both from the public sector and private sector. Any event and gathering’s worth is amplified by the quality of people that attend and I thank you for your time.

A big thank you to the organisers of this event; to bring together different stakeholders with a common goal of economic development for Papua New Guinea. I firstly acknowledge **the Prime Minister – the Right Honorable James Marape** for your formal address earlier, **Mrs. Susil Nelson-Kongoi - President of Business Council PNG**, **Mr. Ivan Vidovich - CEO & Managing Director, Kina Bank**, **Amb. Ivan Pomaleu OBE - Chief Secretary to Government PM NEC**, **Moderators - Dr. Deane Woruba, Director, Nabre Enterprise Limited and Douveri Henao, Director, Legacy Group.**

My fellow presenters, I thank you for sharing your experience and thoughts – **Mr. Andrew F. Oaeke – Secretary Department of Treasury**, **Mr. Koney Samuel – Secretary, Department of Planning and Monitoring**, **Prof. David Kavanamur - Managing Director Kumul Consolidated Holdings (KCH)**, **Mr. Wayne Osterberg Partner for Advisory Services of KPMG (PNG)**, **Lorna McPherson - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) PNG Chiefs**, **David Werek - Interim Chief Executive Officer National Monitoring and Coordination Authority (NMCA)**, **Dr. Sergie Bang – Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL)**, **Ms. Malinda Kopi - Board Member - PNG Diaspora Business Council of Australia** and **Ms. Carmella Gabina - Executive Director of the Business Council of PNG.**

I stand humbled before you all to present to you my case, in this case a question posed to me;

“ How can PNGCPN’s initiatives as a CSO partner drive sustainable growth and innovation in PNG’s agriculture sector? “ on the subject of **“ Collaborative Development Initiatives with PNGCPN “**

I will answer the question by pre-empting 3 questions that I feel that the audience here may have to introduce my presentation:

1. Who is PNGCPN?
2. What Does PNGCPN do?
3. Why did we (PNGCPN) choose the Agriculture Sector?



2.0 Who is PNGCPN?

PNGCPN stands for Papua New Guinea Christian Professional Network, we (PNGCPN) are the graduate arm of the Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship (TSCF) campus ministry started in 2008. We network to mobilize all TSCF Graduates as well as other Christian Professionals to positively influence present and the future generation throughout PNG to be conduits of positive change wherever they are in their spheres of influence.

For those that may have been in one PNG's universities may have heard about TSCF, TSCF started back in 1967 as a campus crusade and ever since we have maintained our presence in our universities.

As a Community Social Organisation, we work with churches, and students (TSCF) and professionals who are Christians or TSCF Graduates.

3.0 What Does PNGCPN do?

Papua New Guinea Christian Professional's Network has a very long history dating back to 1967. Our primary focus is narrowed down to advocating and raising God fearing, people centered leaders who uphold and promote good governance in every sector of our societies. We want to see leaders who live with integrity and being accountable to God first and then to the people of PNG. This is achieved by working with our key stakeholders - the churches, our professional members and our TSCF students.

Our aim is to positively influence the seven spheres of influence – Church, Education, Family, Business, Government, Media, Arts and Entertainment.

- We work with other organization to influence government policy based on biblical world view.
- Networking with Graduates, professionals, affiliates and students to model Christ Like life in the marketplace.
- Create pool of critical thinkers and researchers to provide opinions on critical issues of national interest at policy level.
- Network with graduates to support students' outreaches, crusades, conferences and seminars.
- Our core business is adding value to people who then add value to their various spheres; these include communities, workplaces, villages or families.

How We Approach the Development Challenges in PNG?

Our approach to addressing the Developmental Needs of Papua New Guinea has been twofold:

1. Top-Down Approach
2. Bottom-Up Approach

Leveraging on our pool of network members and network partners, we work with organisations in both Private and public sector (DAL, Prime Ministers Department, NCDC) , international government partners (like DFAT/BCEP) and our churches and TSCF Students .



Top-Down Approach

- Through Minds Meet Programs, we create a platform for addressing national policy gaps.
- One success story was in Minds Meet 5 targeting Youth Unemployment through Agriculture and Minds Meet 6 – PNG Last 50 Years and Next 50 Years, one of the outcomes was our contribution towards the formulation and development of the First National Women and Youth in Agriculture Policy in Papua New Guinea. We worked closely with DAL involving them in the discussions.

Bottom-Up Approach

- During covid lockdown, worked with churches in Hood Lagoon and Central Province to move food into the city to address food shortage within the city due to lockdown. This opened the door to setup Unity Mall as a market access point for local SMEs and Papua New Guineans to participate in their own economy.
- Cleanup programs started on 20th January 2024 right after January 10th Black Wednesday to mobilise good citizens to take back NCD from hooligans. We were fortunate that late 2025 in Nov, NCDC came on board as a partner to support our cleanup programs that are held every fortnightly by volunteers from our churches and network members.
- Seminars on Family management in the digital landscape
- Agribusiness Training for our members utilizing our agriculture schools and network members.
- Research into how best to develop a health supply chain and build domestic food resiliency and security against external shock.

4.0 Conclusion - Why did we (PNGCPN) choose the Agriculture Sector?

To conclude my presentation, the agriculture sector must be prioritized if PNG is to meet national development goals.

- Lowest hanging fruit – PNG has always been an agricultural nation; Kuk is proof of that. Kuk Swamp, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Papua New Guinea, is crucially important to agriculture as one of the world's few identified, independent, and early centers of agricultural development. Our fathers transitioned from hunters and gatherers to ¹ sophisticated agriculturalists to meet their needs as a organised society close to 10000 years ago, I believe it's time now to mobilise and collaborate to transition from the current subsistence based to more commercialized farming in our time now.
- Domestic food security – reduce food import, reduce FX outflow.
- Address Youth Bulge through agriculture – creating a market access will enable youth to be self employed by working on the land.
- By creating an efficient network and logistics supply chain for food, we can effectively distribute healthy food to densely populated urban areas like Port Moresby, Lae making healthy food cheaper and affordable, this will reduce lifestyle induced diseases in the long term as more people have access to healthy and organic food.

¹ <https://worldheritagesite.org/list/kuk/#:~:text=Innovations%20in%20Agriculture,UNESCO>



From our experience working with churches, youths, TSCF students, and SMEs at Unity Mall and the general network members, our conclusion and recommendation to see a drive sustainable growth and innovation in PNG's agriculture sector are:

1. Approach the Agricultural Sector as a System rather than piecemeal approach. Intervention initiatives must consider supplier chokepoints to market access demands at a Sub National Level, after 50 years, just 2 weeks ago farmers complained that at here is no cold storage facility in Mt Hagen's Kagamuga Airport ², We do not even have designated storage for our commodities in our wharves or airports. Only then the full potential value would be delivered.
2. Involve everyone – Everyone has a place in this country's development, the Private sector is needed to drive economy, employment and especially in Agriculture, innovation and market access firstly in our domestic markets, the Public Sector and the Government both a National and Sub National Level is needed to ensure that the enabling infrastructure are available for business. People need to feel safe, when people move, money moves, the economy is flowing because there is buying and selling. In the communities, in rural parts of the country with the biggest agriculture potential, there is very minimal government services, that is where the churches are, we must not forget the Churches, they listen to the community's problem with or without Govt. support, maintain order and work to ensure there is peace and access to services.
3. My Appeal to the Government Agencies – Let's not be territorial, lets serve our generation.
4. The factors of productivity are 1. Land, 2. Labour (untapped Youths), 3. Enabling Infrastructure (Roads, Bridges, Cold Storage, Law & Order), 4. Market Access (Domestic & International) and 5. Access to Capital Finance.)

Based on the Factors of Productivity – Land and Labour we have in abundance, my appeal to the government now, mobilise all stakeholders in the sector and improve our enabling infrastructure for agriculture. My Appeal to the Private sector – work with us to create a market for our farmers, they may have challenges in supplying volumes consistently but let's work together in this.

PNGCPN stands ready to project manage this vision and deliver it as we have the network to reach the remote villages through our church partners to government and private offices through our professional network members, we stand ready to play our part in the nation's development.

² <https://www.nbc.com.pg/post/31269/highlands-farmers-count-heavy-losses-as-flight-cancellations-leave-produce-rotting-at-kagamuga>