



The Niu Briten Drum

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NBPOL value-accretive to Sime Darby Oils



NBPOL's Joel Koitaka displaying some of the oil products from Kumbango Oil Refinery to a visitor during a recent workshop for external stakeholders in West New Britain

NBPOL is the major source of Sime Darby Oils from its six plantation operations in PNG and Solomon Islands where oil palm is planted, harvested and milled. From a total crude oil production of 560 000 tonnes per year, about 460 000 tonnes (82%) are refined at Sime Darby Oils' Liverpool Refinery in the UK and Zwijndrecht Refinery in The Netherlands for the European market while the

remaining 100 000t (18%) are refined at Kumbango Oil Refinery in WNB, primarily for food services and retail products for the domestic market. Kumbango has already produced the NiuFry Oil (20L) for food services (hotels and restaurants), with a retail product in the planning. Sime Darby Oils is the largest supplier of oils and fats to the PNG food manufacturing industry for products like biscuits and noodles.

NBPOL's Otto-Polip Head Office and Housing project on target for completion



1



2

Construction of new NBPOL Head Office and Housing facilities at Mosa in West New Britain is on target with completion anticipated in the coming months.

- 1 Head Office**
Currently into installation of fixtures and fittings, all on track for completion in September.
- 2 Housing**
Construction at its peak currently with a target set for November.

CEO's Message



Mohd Azlan Shah
CEO, NBPOL

With budget processes running apace in all sites, many of us are starting to think about next year's operations and new aspiring targets to achieve.

We are also now past the midway point of 2022, and should be looking at our present year performance against KPIs.

Please do set aside some time to review your progress and see where you can accelerate progress on some of your indicators.

Every improvement we make, wherever it occurs within the company, is a step forward for the entire company. This is how our individual efforts become a corporate success.

Reading through the articles in this newsletter reminds me of how proud I am to be a Planter. Plantation Agriculture (including milling!) has a long and proud tradition of adventure and endurance.

Our estates were all carved from the land by Planters, who started with little and developed their land, their teams and themselves over time.

In areas of PNG and SI where minimal employment activities exist, plantations provide a backbone for a rural economy that feeds and services populations far larger than our own workforce.

Please review our reported activities this month; adult literacy training, water treatment, fruit quality, research of pests and diseases, mosquito control, baking and cooking, tree planting with local schools, sporting events, etc.

This small peek into the life of a planter demonstrates the complexity of life on a plantation, and also the many avenues for success and achievement that are available to a Planter.

A Planter must always be thinking on their toes, adapting to new and changing situations; wind, rain, floods, droughts, fires, high crop, low crop, breakdowns, bridge washed out, etc. I did mention adventure and endurance.

The depth and breadth of knowledge of a Planter is not seen in many careers, and our field teams should be proud to call themselves Planters.

NBPOL is blessed with a team of experienced Planters, and I am confident that

together we can overcome all obstacles and continue to deliver high quality FFBS to our mills to produce high quality palm products.

We will hear more discussions about product quality in the coming months; changing legislation in Europe is placing higher safeguards on CPO and PKO quality to protect consumers from any harm.

As consumers of products made from palm oil, I am sure we all appreciate the importance of safe food products. And, through Project Omega, we will work together to develop and implement appropriate control measures to ensure the highest possible standards for our palm products.

The sooner we can achieve these new standards, the better our place will be in the global marketplace to command the best possible prices for our products.

With that, I wish you all a safe and happy month!



Breeder-In-Charge of Plant Breeding at Dami Oil Palm Research Station in West New Britain, Ruth Jordan-Som, engaging with stakeholders this month

MBE uses fogging technique to control mosquitos

Milne Bay Estates' SQM Department has begun 'mosquito fogging' under the Environment, Safety and Health programme to control mosquitos on-site as part of its wider vector control initiative.

Fogging is an insect-killing technique which involves the use of a fine pesticide sprayer (aerosol), directed by a blower.

MBE SQM Manager Sarah Ekali said the first phase commenced on July 13 at the Giligili executive compound. A team of three operators and a supervisor was on site, fogging the area from 5:30 – 6:30 in the afternoon (timeframe when mosquitos come out from their hiding places and are most active).

From Giligili, the program continued onto Magisubu compound, then at Hagita Estate and will end at Waigani Estate.

The program will be extended to the outer Western plantations of MBE and continued for the rest of the year. It is hoped that other related vector control activities will be integrated in future to make it a more comprehensive effort.



MBE vector control fogging operators preparing their gear before setting off

Higaturu training targets fresh fruit quality



Participants of HOP training on FFB grading having a practical session at the ramp to better understand the best practice in post-harvest and quality control

A much needed training on improving fresh fruit quality was conducted for estate and plantation workers at Higaturu Oil Palms (HOP) recently.

The training was in response to records of slight decrease in Oil Extraction Rate and a minor increase in Free Fatty Acid during the months of May and June, as reflected in Daily Mill Production Reports.

The impacts were largely due to milling of unripe and under ripe bunches sent to the mill by smallholders, which was influenced by the high oil palm price since last year. The harvesting of immature fruits had affected the quality of the crop.

The smallholder sector supplies almost 37% of the total Fresh Fruit Bunch (FFB) to the mill. HOP has around 19,538ha of matured palm currently under production of which some 9,625ha are nurtured by smallholders - both as Land Settlement Scheme and Village Oil Palm.

The three-hour training session by the Structured Crop Recovery Assessment

team, under the Sustainability and Quality Management Department, was part of NBPOL Management Guideline under Unit 5: Mill ramp targets and other standards.

There were 70 participants who had the opportunity to refresh and grasp a better understanding on the importance of FFB grading at the ramp. The training was informative and interactive.

The first two hours involved indoor theoretical learning and the next was spent at the ramp. The objective was to ensure 100% crop recovery at field level before being sent to the mill.

It was also emphasized that crop delivered at the mill should always be at an acceptable level. The training provided in-depth information on the criteria and required standards for 100% recovery.

HOP has five estates, covering around 9,913ha now under oil palm production; out of the total 19,538ha matured palms.

WNB engages with external stakeholders



Participants at the 2022 West New Britain external stakeholders workshop at Liamo Reef Resort on June 30

West New Britain's (WNB) external stakeholders workshop for 2022 was held at the Liamo Reef Resort on June 30, organised by the Sustainability & Quality Management (SQM) Department.

It was themed: *Enhancing partnership to promote a healthy, safe and prosperous oil palm community.*

The annual event, which attracted over 70 participants, provides an opportunity for WNB to engage with the government, NGOs/CBOs, smallholders (LSS, VOPS, Community Planting and CRP), ILGs/Mini Estates and corporate sector in sharing information about company operations and discussing issues of mutual interest.

This year's workshop had a different approach, unlike previous events, with the set-up of booths displaying various activities within WNB operations. Another addition to the approach was the introduction of Sustainability Materiality Matrix Questionnaire to the participants to identify important economic, environmental and social impacts or issues.

The matrix was intended to focus more on critical areas based on their importance to NBPOL and the stakeholders.

A number of presentations were made, leading to team discussions. One of the discussion points was on possible approaches to promote healthy, safe and a prosperous oil palm community.

Issues and concerns of importance to both NBPOL/WNB and the stakeholders, requiring collaboration, will be based on the summary of the Sustainability Materiality Matrix Questionnaire.

The participants also had the opportunity to visit the booth stations which comprised of the following:

- Lands & Mini Estate,
- Earthworks & Road Maintenance,
- Smallholder Affairs,
- SQM,
- Biotechnology Laboratory,
- Data Management/Plant Breeding,
- PNG Oil Palm Research Association,
- Mill operations,
- Kumbango Oil Refinery, and
- Biogas.



**New Britain
Palm Oil
Limited**

A Sime Darby Plantation Company

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In next month's issue

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Any newsworthy stories and events, please forward them to our PR/Communications Officer

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DAMI DIGEST

with Dr Marnie Light

What are some of the pests and diseases that affect sugarcane production in Ramu?

New Guinea is widely regarded as the centre of origin of sugarcane, and there are three other closely-related species found in Papua New Guinea (e.g., pit-pit).

The cultivation of a domesticated crop is especially challenging in areas where related species occur, since pests and diseases found in the native species can affect the crop. Furthermore, other exotic pests and diseases may be introduced through the movement of people and cargo around the world.

In Ramu, as in other regions, the production of sugarcane is strongly impacted by various pests and diseases. Thus, it is important to foster a high-quality research approach that aims to understand the pests and diseases affecting crop yield, and to develop integrated pest and disease management strategies. In future articles, we will explore some more of these aspects in greater detail.

Main pests of sugarcane in Ramu include:

- *Sesamia griseascens* (stem borer)
- *Scirpophaga excerptalis* (shoot borer)
- Whitegrubs

Main diseases of sugarcane in Ramu include:

- Downy mildew (fungi)
- Ramu stunt (virus)
- Ratoon stunting disease (bacteria)
- Sugarcane smut (fungus)



Water management training at Milne Bay Estates



PNG Watermate Catch Ltd Managing Director, Tomson Tomoiye (centre), with participants at the Sagarai Water Treatment Plant during the training

A refresher training on water quality management was conducted at Milne Bay Estates (MBE) for water attendants and samplers during July 18-19.

MBE, through the SQM Department, engaged Watermate Watch Limited to deliver the program as part of the company's commitment to improving and ensuring continuous management of water at its operations for both domestic consumption and general use purpose.

The training was aimed at ensuring ongoing improvement in the skills and knowledge of MBE water attendants and those others dealing with water; from sampling to better management of water quality. It was also to improve the understanding of procedures and processes in water quality sampling treatment and recorders for pH and chlorine residue.

For some, the training was a refresher as they have been attending it every year. For others, especially new employees, it provided an opportunity for them to learn

new skills and knowledge necessary for water management at MBE operations.

The training was conducted for two groups of participants - Western and Eastern estates. The day one training on July 18 at Padipadi Community Hall was for water attendants, ESH Officers, clinic staff and village coordinators from Sagarai, Padipadi and Mariawatte estates.

On day two, July 19, a similar training was conducted at Hagita Community Hall for SQM/SCRA officers, ESH officers, clinic staff, water attendants and village coordinators from Giligili, Hagita and Waigani.

All participants, one-way or another, have been involved in water management - either through quality sampling, treatment or overseeing attendants.

The training was informative and generated much interest among the participants who enjoyed every bit and expressed their appreciation as it continues to improve their performances.

WNB women graduate from adult literacy training



WNB Women Empowering Women Chairlady and Breeder-In-Charge of Plant Breeding at Dami, Ruth Jordan-Som, presenting participant Emma Ali's certificate as Volunteer Trainer, Stella Yane, preparing other certificates

Thirteen women in West New Britain (WNB) were proud recipients of 'Level 1 Adult Literacy Training Certificates, reading and writing in Tok Pisin', after successfully completing a year-long literacy program on July 13.

The Dami Adult Literacy Training was rolled out through a partnership between Seventh-Day Adventist Church's Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA) and WNB as a pioneer project under the Dami Waisisi Plantation Social Management Plan.

With great satisfaction and excitement, the trainees spoke highly of the training initiative and shared positive testimonies during their graduation.

"Mi save ting taim ol man na meri marit em minim osem ol nonap moa go bek long skul na lainim samting" (I used to think that after marriage one would not go back to school to learn), one of the mothers said with tears crawling down her cheeks.

The training commenced on July 20 2021 with 28 enthusiastic mothers however only 13 faithfully completed it.

Four main subjects were taught with one additional - Christian Religious Education, Home Language, Numeracy (time, calendar, etc.) and Social Inclusion with Life Skills (doughnut baking, soap making, etc.) as the additional.

During graduation, trainer Stella Yane was emotional, expressing how proud she was seeing these women being able to read for the first time.

"They are able to read and write neatly and blend sounds; create words, sentences and even stories. These days they are always neat and tidy, and look after their families; which are all taught in social inclusion class," Yane said.

Head of Mosa Group Gabriel Paraka thanked ADRA and encouraged the trainees to continue with Level 2 training.

Baking and cooking workshop for Ramu residents

A baking and cooking workshop was conducted by Ramu Sugar Marketing for 200 residents in Ramu on July 15. The aim was to promote different uses of special line Ramu Sugar products.

Led by Head Chef of Ramu Guest House Benedette Moti, the team demonstrated three different types of dishes on basic day-to-day baking and cooking.

The demos were on making:

- easy brown sugar pancakes using Ramu Soft Brown Sugar,
- super easy doughnuts using Ramu Castor Sugar (making the dough and dusting doughnuts), and
- Ramu Beef stir fry using Ramu Soft Brown Sugar to marinate meat.

Among the participants were men, women, youth and kids. Many expressed their appreciation for the handy and life-long informative session.



RAIL Guest House Chef Benedette Moti and Graduate Trainee Victoria Oa

RAIL donates merchandises to Lae cricket club

Ramu Agri-Industries Ltd's (RAIL) Marketing Team in Lae has donated selected Ramu Sugar merchandises to local cricket club, Hoods Cricket Club, to support their participation in a one-day series in the provincial capital.

RAIL National Sales & Marketing Manager Harry Kaisa said the donation was part of the company's community responsibility.

Kaisa said 2022 is Ramu Sugar's 40th year and the team has been doing other programs but to get a request like this and coming forward to support, eventhough it is small, the company hopes the little gesture will go a long way. He wished the team the very best in their matches and was hopeful that the Ramu Sugar brand will continue to be promoted.

On behalf of Hoods Cricket Club, Coach Veari Taviri acknowledged RAIL for the support and said it will be big when his team promotes Ramu Sugar in their competition in Lae.



Members of Hoods Cricket Club of Lae dressed in Ramu Sugar merchandises

Higaturu supports environment day in schools



NESI Project Lead Christopher Soka (sitting) planting trees with staff and students of Sangara Primary School during 2022 World Environment Day

Community support by Higaturu Oil Palms (HOP) towards the 2022 World Environment Day celebration with schools in Oro Province last month was acknowledged by local Non-Government Organisation (NGO), Northern Environmental Solutions Inc (NESI).

HOP provided logistical support during distribution of landscaping tree seedlings to four schools. The seedlings were raised by NESI, a local NGO specialising in reforestation, environment protection, conservation and sustainable agriculture.

The benefiting schools were Sangara Primary, Sangara Skills Training Centre, Popondetta International and Sorovi Primary.

The main event took place at Sangara Primary and involved its students and staff and NESI officials.

The support stemmed from positive engagement and dialogue between HOP SQM

Manager Benjamin Osa and NESI Project Lead Christopher Soka on a possible way forward in working together to deliver reforestation and environmental sustainability programs for small oil palm blockholders.

Soka said the collaboration in environment was significant for humanity and thanked HOP's timely support and contributions.

Meanwhile, HOP conducted an awareness drive on the World Environment Day throughout its estates and departments, aligning to the global event's 2022 theme: "Only One Earth", focusing on "Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature".

The significance of the awareness was to improve employee knowledge on the benefits of environmental policies and legal requirements and how HOP sees sustainable development as a balance between environment protection and social responsibility.

July 2022 in PICTURES



Participants of a recent training on fresh fruit quality at HOP having a special session at the ramp to better understand best practices in post-harvest and quality control



Trainees and officials during graduation of Damu Adult Literacy Training, a program jointly delivered by WNB and ADRA over a 12-month period that ended on July 13



HOP Sustainability Manager Benjamin Osa (left), NESI Project Lead Christopher Soka (middle) and NBPOL Group Principal Sustainability Officer Peter Callister at a meeting at Higaturu



RAIL National Sales & Marketing Manager, Harry Kaisa (left), and RAIL Marketing Assistant Jacqueline Eva Isoy, presenting various Ramu Sugar merchandises to the Hoods Cricket Club of Lae



RAIL SQM's James Vuvu explaining an aspect of safety to K92 Mining workers at mine site in Eastern Highlands Province during the 2022 World Day for Safety and Health at Work



WNB Smallholder Affairs' Sustainability Officer Rayleen Samson (left), GIS Officer Elizabeth Kibikibi and New Development Officer Evelyn Tuoro during an external stakeholders workshop