

Food Vs Nutrition – Feed the People, Well

Nutritional Challenges of a Developing Nation

Norah Omot and Birte Komolong

The Crawford Fund Parliamentary Conference, August 27th 2014, Canberra

Introduction



- Nutritional challenges faced by a developing country, the case of PNG.

(1) Major staple crops

Name	Protein (g/100g edible portion)	Iron (g/100g edible portion)	Vit A (ug/100g edible portion)
Sweet potato (<i>Ipomea batatas</i>)	1.1	0.9	185.5
Banana (<i>Musa cultivar</i>)	0.9	0.6	15
Taro (<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>)	2.2	1.2	2
Yam (<i>Disocorea rotundata</i>)	1.4	0.6	40
Karakap, (<i>Solanum nigrum</i>)	5.0	19.0	NA
Tulip (<i>Gnetum gnemon</i>)	5.3	3.7	296



Source: Dignan et al. 2004

(2) Beliefs, attitudes, social relationship, lifestyle, culture

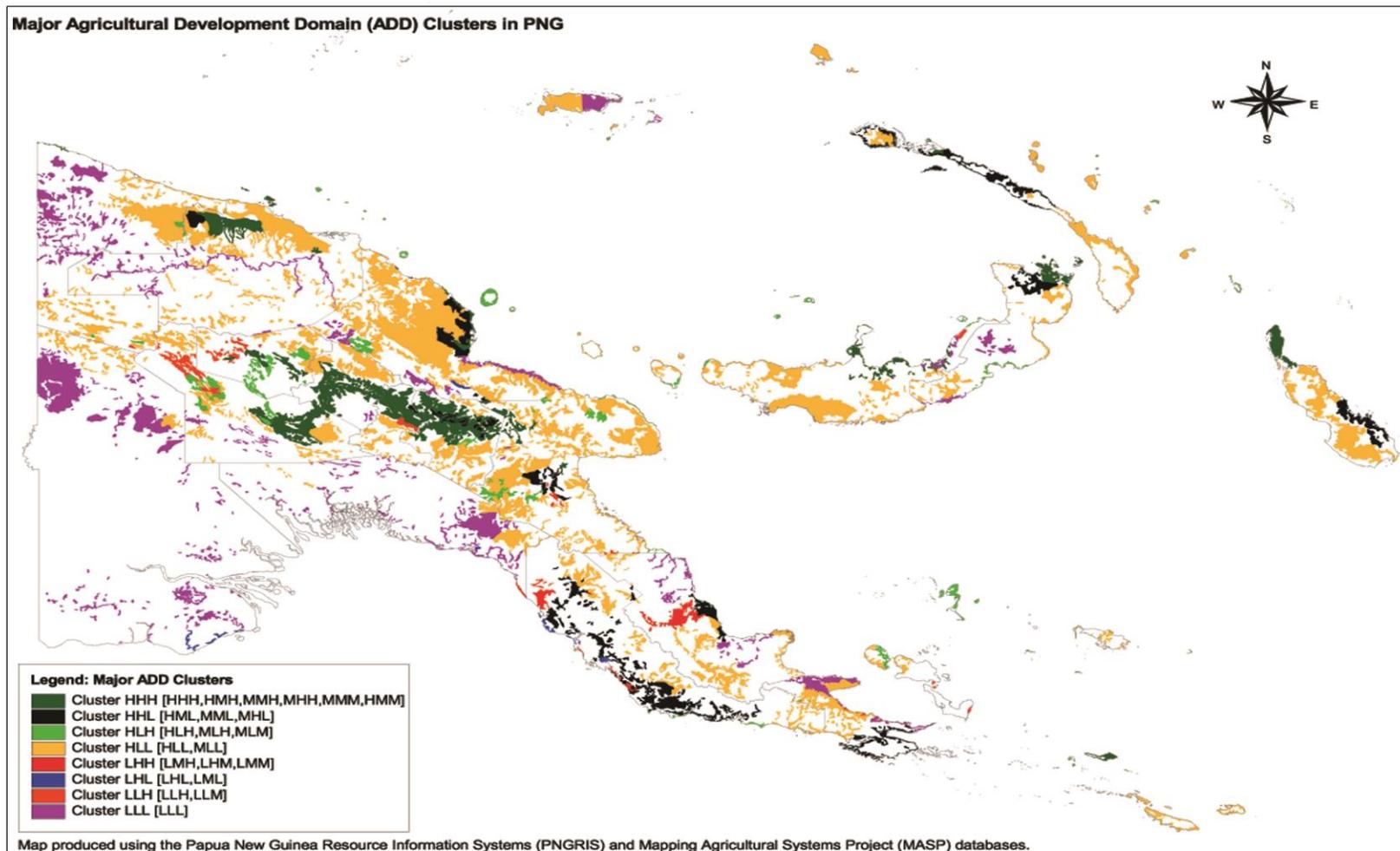
- Examples of effect on nutrition
 - Attitudes to food
 - Preference for processed food
 - Ignorance on value of food
 - Man first

(3) Environment challenges

- Smallholder farming environment and their food security status
- Interventions identified to address productivity in these farming environment
- Gaps in addressing nutrition and suggestions to bridge disconnect

(3) Environment challenges

■ (A) Smallholder Farming Environment



(3) Environment challenges

(B) Interventions identified to address productivity in the smallholder comm.

- Most efforts directed towards productivity and efficiencies in the food systems.
- Interventions include:
 - seed systems, crop improvement, marketing systems,
 - value addition, abiotic threats and climate change,
 - land and soil fertility management, biotic threats,
 - pests and diseases, farm mechanization, and market opportunities.
 - Within these interventions, fall a range of projects and research activities.

(3) Environment challenges

(C) The GAP and Suggestions for Addressing Nutrition

- nutritional security was never adequately considered and addressed in the agricultural R&D projects that were developed.
- For the future, the disconnect between productivity and nutrition can be addressed by:
 - considering nutrition in initial stages of R&D planning;
 - developing projects that focus on both productivity and nutrition;
 - for projects that had already been developed, to mainstream nutrition into implementation plans so some aspect of it can be covered;
 - stepping out of our comfort zone and linking up with other relevant sectors, eg. Health sector;
 - Another possibility is to work with traditional vegetables.

Conclusion

- PNG has nutritional challenges of various nature
- An assessment of the smallholder farming environment revealed environments that are vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity.
- While attempts had been made to increase productivity, less attention had been given to nutrition.
- This disconnect can be addressed by a number of things including:
 - considering nutrition in initial stages of R&D planning;
 - Possibilities of working with traditional vegetables, etc