

# **Food Vs Nutrition – Feed the People, Well**

## **Nutritional Challenges of a Developing Nation**

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# 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

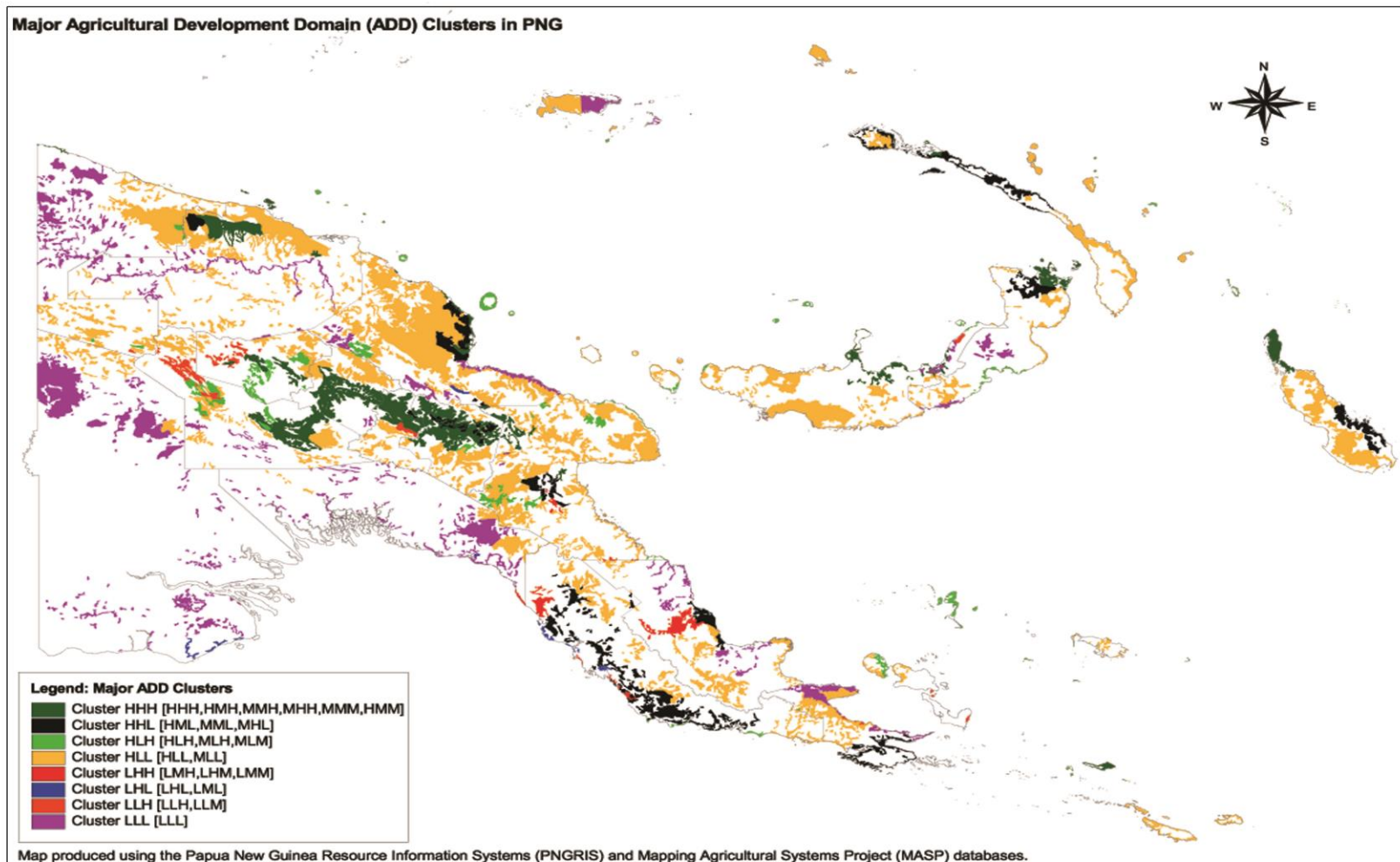
- Examples of effect on nutrition
  - Attitudes to food
  - Preference for processed food
  - Ignorance on value of food
  - Man first

# (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