

Research Directions

Office of Research Services

FISH FOR INLAND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

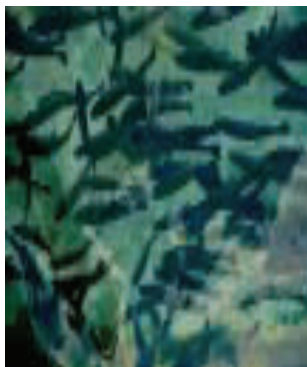
The Government of PNG has recognised the value of fish farming as a key component of the Food Security Program of PNG because of its capability to produce protein vital in the diet of rural people. Dr Paul Smith is the project leader of a collaborative project which has just been awarded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) to research inland aquaculture in PNG.

The PNG Government sees this initiative as a very positive and practical way of combating the problem of malnutrition in rural areas, evident in high rates of infant mortality, low birth weights, slow growth and small adult body size.

In earlier work, Dr Smith identified small scale fish farming as a rapidly developing industry, with farmers needing training in areas such as appropriate feeding and fertilizing and preparation of fish feed.

Future research will focus on developing and extending a fish husbandry package for integrated farming and meeting the training needs of the smallholder farmers.

Dr Smith said that: "The overall goal of the project is to improve the productivity and profitability of smallholder fish farmers in inland PNG. The long term outcome will be increased dietary protein and better nutrition for farmers, their families and inland communities".



The project *Inland aquaculture in PNG: improving fingerling supply and fish nutrition for smallholder farms* will receive funding of \$773,797 from ACIAR over the next five years.

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