
Signing promotes greater food security and economic empowerment

Media Release

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A strategic partnership between Oil Search, Fresh Produce Development Agency and PNG Mining and Petroleum Hospitality Services will pave the way for greater economic empowerment and the resilience of farming communities by increasing quality vegetable production and enabling direct access to the fresh produce market.

Local farmers in Moran, Gobe, Kutubu and Hides can better participate in the fresh produce value chain and other ventures outside the extractive sectors thanks to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the three parties today.

“The MoU will expand on Oil Search’s existing sustainable agriculture programs and will add direct value from farm to plate within our project impacts areas. This will allow our local farmers to participate in and take ownership of the fresh produce market within our project communities through sustainable use of their land,” said Mr Leon Buskens, Oil Search Senior Vice President – External Affairs, Community.

“Our people will be provided quality training in nursery through to marketing of the produce to ensure target yield and quality are met. This will enhance food security and wellbeing for our farming communities as farmers will be able to grow more nutritious foods for their families.”

Mark Worinu, Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) General Manager & CEO believes the partnership will ensure local farmers participate meaningfully in agricultural activities in food production, supply and consumption.

“This partnership with Oil Search will open new opportunities for us as an organisation and I am looking forward to supporting them in their vision to improve the lives of the local communities,” Mr Worinu said.

Peter Heno, PNG Mining and Petroleum Hospitality Services (PNGMPHS) Chairman said as a landowner company, PNGMPHS is extremely pleased to partner with Oil Search and FPDA.

“We bring the know how in standardized marketing bench mark. So long as the produce meets our requirements, the surplus can reach shelves in Port Moresby and even be able to reach shelves in the Asian markets if the economic climate of PNG is conducive.

“I am happy to support this initiative by Oil Search and FPDA as it is a step in the right direction. Synergies can be formed in this renewable resource and together as partners, we can deliver our aspirations for a sustainable future for our people, beyond the life of oil and gas. To our landowners, let us embrace this alternative approach in agriculture.”

The MoU signing supports the new government’s focus on boosting the renewable sectors and to make agriculture sector become the dominant contributor to PNG’s economy.

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Photos courtesy of Oil Search



OSH 1 – Oil Search Senior Vice President – External Affairs Leon Buskens (right), Fresh Produce Development Agency CEO Mark Worinu (centre) and PNG Mining and Petroleum Hospitality Services Chairman Peter Heno (left) signing the MOU to expand Oil Search’s existing sustainable agriculture programs.



OSH 2 – Oil Search, PNG Mining and Petroleum Services and Fresh Produce Development Agency in partnership to pave the way for greater economic empowerment and resilience of farming communities.



OSH 3 – Oil Search, PNG Mining and Petroleum Services and Fresh Produce Development Agency in partnership to pave the way for greater economic empowerment and resilience of farming communities.