

Background

By way of background, New Zealand has supported the Agriculture Institutional Strengthening Programme (AISP) at the University of Vudal (UoV) in East New Britain, PNG since 1993. The goal of the programme was to develop the educational capacity of the UoV and the Highlands Agricultural College to provide PNG with effective graduates to assist rural people, especially women, to derive increased livelihoods from agricultural production. The programme's objectives were to develop a new generation of lecturers in agriculture management, ensure an up-to-date library, availability of teaching and extension resources, and to support staff to develop effective curricula and account management systems.

Purpose and Objectives

The evaluation's purpose was to assess the results of the programme, identify any impediments to the achievement of its objectives, and recommend strategies to sustain or to extend its benefits. The evaluation's approach was to conduct interviews with all available stakeholders, and to hold a focus group session with 60 senior students.

Main Findings

The evaluation's findings were that: the programme was consistent with PNG development plans, UoV had met most of its contracted outputs; the programme had trained five graduates (three of whom were women) into successful lecturers; and that management of the project was patchy due to staff changes. Although funding was insufficient to sustain all the gains made in previous phases of the programme, much of the former work had been sustained and at reasonable value-for-money.

Follow-up

Evaluation recommendations to UoV included, for example, expanding its student accommodation and encouraging enrolment of female students. The evaluation did not recommend that NZAID provide continuing support for AISP.

To request a copy of the full report email aidevaluation@mfat.govt.nz and quote the reference number - Eva0906.