

Fly Breeze Newsletter



This Fly Breeze newsletter is a bi-monthly news bulletin

APRIL-MAY 2023 Issue 73



Rice grown, harvested and milled in Sapuka village, South Fly

Empowering communities for sustainable livelihood through rice farming

Sapuka village in the South Fly District of Western Province has embarked on a remarkable journey towards food security with the rapid growth of rice farming. The community have embraced agriculture with great enthusiasm and are eager to secure their livelihoods through this activity.

On May 24th of this year, the community witnessed the official launch of a food security program, aimed at empowering the people to cultivate rice and drought tolerant crops at the village level. This initiative has gained momentum, with more than 100 farmers producing milled rice at the Community Seed Bank Centre (CSBC) since November 2022.

Igu Kisua, a community representative, expressed the villagers' shift in focus from hunting and gathering to agriculture. He said: "The villagers used to rely on the forest for sustenance, but with the advent of rice farming, their lives have been transformed."

Sapuka Village has already yielded an impressive 1.5 tonnes of rice this year. The locally produced rice has not only met the needs of the village, but it has also contributed to feeding nearby villages on the Fly River.

However, Kisua highlighted a persistent challenge faced by the farmers - the limited capacity of the milling equipment, resulting

in delays. He emphasized the urgent need for a larger and more robust milling machine and emphasized that downstream processing plays a pivotal role motivating farmers.

During the launch, John Kewa, Executive Manager of Fresh Produce Development Agency, praised the farmers' achievements, acknowledging the contribution of farming to improving livelihoods. Kewa also expressed his anticipation to support food security through a collaborative partnership with the Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF). He added, "We are actively working towards deploying our officers to Sapuka Village this year to provide technical assistance on the ground."

Chief Executive Officer Havini Vira conveyed his heartfelt appreciation to the Sapuka community for taking ownership of the food security program that would be rolled out across the province. He emphasized the significance of such community-driven initiatives as a pathway to sustainable community development.

As rice farming trade continues to blossom in Sapuka Village, the future looks promising for the community who are determined to improve their livelihoods. With ongoing support from the OTDF, FPDA and various stakeholders, Sapuka's remarkable journey stands as an inspiring example for other communities.

In this issue



Learning Centers for South Fly villages



Water Project launched



Rice project flourishes



Scholarship program progressing



This newsletter is produced by the OTDF Public Relations to update and report on developments OTDF is carrying out throughout the Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) region, including the Western Province.

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The month in brief

- Kawiapo youths receive musical instruments
- Kawiapo community receive four outboard motor engines and four dinghies
- Pagona 2 community receive three outboard motor engines
- CMCA South Fly villages received dinghies and OBM's
- South Fly communities receive x 2 Community Seed Bank Centers in Sapuka and Kawiapo villages
- Mine villages housing project progressing
- Six Community Learning Centers (CLC) completed for South Fly communities in four regions
- OTDF staff mark World Environment Day 2023 by cleaning the office surroundings
- Vanilla buying continues at Samagos, Kiunga Western Province
- Okteditau CLC materials delivered and being mobilised as of 9th June 2023
- Atemkit and Kavorabip housing project progressing with materials delivered
- OTDF team complete updates during the combined OTML CR patrol



Celebrating WED 2023 by planting trees, Aiambak, Middle Fly



Sialowa Community Learning Center launching ceremony, South Fly



Vanilla buying continues in Kiunga, Western Province



Kiwaba Women & Children Association receive two CLC buildings



Pagona 2 village CLC launching, CMCA Manawete Trust, South Fly



Food Security Program launches Sapuka rice, South Fly



Mr. Kewa of FPDA cuts the ribbon to open the Sapuka Community Seed Bank Center

Boosting Community Nutrition: OTDF Teams Up with FPDA

Western Province communities traditionally rely on sago, a starch-rich food, as their main staple, while fish and wild game serve as protein source due to their abundance in the province.

Recognising the importance of a balanced diet for healthy living, the Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) has established a partnership with the Fresh Food Development Agency (FPDA) to introduce a range of nutritious food crops to complement the staple diet in the mine impacted areas.

In February of this year, the executive teams of OTDF and FPDA, along with their technical officers, convened at FPDA headquarters in Goroka to discuss the objectives and expectations of this collaboration. Subsequently, in June, both organizations officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), solidifying their commitment to this important initiative.

Mr. Havini Vira, the CEO of OTDF, is unwavering in his belief that the communities of the CMCA (Community Mine Continuation Agreement) will benefit from this partnership. He emphasised the awareness of FPDA's nationwide work as a government agency and highlighted the benefit of FPDA's technical expertise to strengthen the existing food security program.

As the partnership progresses, it will tackle various challenges, including farmer training and the procurement of crop seedlings

from outside the province. These issues will be central to the collaborative efforts of OTDF and FPDA.

Among the proposed crops to be trialed, sweet potato stands out as a potential addition to the staple food. OTDF, in conjunction with FPDA, seeks to introduce a variety of nutritious food crops that will enhance the overall nutritional value of the community's diet.

By diversifying the food sources and providing technical support, this partnership endeavours to empower the local population to achieve a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle.



Executives from OTDF and FPDA with the signed MoU documents



Sialowa village CLC, Suki Fly Gogo Trust region, South Fly

Community Learning Centers launched in South Fly

Local women leaders of South Fly CMCA Trust are confident services will come to their doorstep despite their location in the Fly River delta.

Locals in South Fly received their new Community Learning centres (CLC) in May starting at Samari village on the 15th and concluding the CLC handover with Sialowa on 23rd May 2023.

Presidents of the four receiving associations expressed a sense of accomplishment when receiving the learning centres on behalf of their youths, women and children.

These buildings are expected to support different life skills training such as baking, sewing, leaders meeting among others.

Kiwaba Women & Children's Association President Pahe Davi said: "This facility is first of its kind opened in Kiwaba region. We need more of such services in villages so that our people can sustain their lives and can also change our communities."

Dudi Women & Children's Association received their learning center on the May 18. President Mrs. Anna Sumai said: "It's an emotional event today as we shed tears of joy, from our struggles we have this learning center now built. We thank OTDF for delivering the project, especially Mr Eric Kuman for supporting the Women & Children's Associations."

This achievement is part of the five year development plan of all nine Women & Children's Association in the Community Mine Continuation Agreement (CMCA) region in Western Province.

The funding for the CLC buildings were sourced from 10% of OTML compensation allocated to women and children in CMCA region. The CLC's were received by communities in Manawete, Dudi, Kiwaba and Suki Fly Gogo Trust areas.

OTDF Executive Manager Program Services Eric Kuman said these CLC's would support opportunities for training in different life skills for self-sustainability in the coming years.

OTDF has built 18 CLC's across the Western Province.



Above: Severemabu village CLC launch, Dudi Trust region, South Fly
Below: Samari village CLC launch, Kiwaba Trust region, South Fly



The Corporate team take lead in the WED program

OTDF staff observe World Environment Day (WED) - 5 June

Maintaining safe and clean environment is important in different organisations and the community in the country.

In commemorating this year's World Environment Day themed "Beat Plastic Pollution" the staff members of Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) cleaned the public road and carpark around the main office in Kiunga this morning.

As a community development organisation serving the people in Western Province, OTDF values the environment that important for livelihoods.

OTDF's safety coordinator Shane Tarue said observing the day raises awareness on the environment and the effects of human activities on nature and people.

He said: "Many issues relating to climate change and the environment is caused by us so we need to take care of our environment. Air, water and land are essential for human survival."

He said businesses, stakeholders, and all citizens should take care of the environment and help reduce plastic pollution in PNG.

Chief Executive Officer Mr. Havini Vira stressed on personal responsibility, where everyone should be cautious of things they do such as throwing out plastic and other rubbish publicly.

He urged families and individuals to continue to play their part in disposing of plastics properly at home and in our towns and villages. That's how we individually contribute to saving the environment.

He said: "Safety and environment are OTDF values that underpin our work. We must continue to maintain these standards and eventually influence others to take care of the environment."

OTDF staff at field bases along the Fly River commemorated the day by planting trees.

To end the day, all employees together with their families participated in collecting rubbish around their residential areas followed by quizzes and activities for the children.



The team participating during the cleanup



Infrastructure Development

A villager from Kokonda fetches water from the recently launched community water catchment facility

Community Water Catchment Project brings hope to Kokonda village

Kokonda village, located in the North Fly District of Western Province, celebrated the successful completion of their community water catchment project on 6th June.

This was made possible through their Village Development Funds (VDF) under the Wai Tri CMCA Trust. The project was supported by OTDF, and the villagers expressed their gratitude for the efforts and logistical support provided.

Mr. Adam Soke, a dedicated community representative, conveyed his appreciation on behalf of the villagers. He acknowledged the challenges they faced in initiating the project, stating that it was not an easy task.

"I am representing the community not as an elected leader or councillor but as a youth who has witnessed the dire needs of our people in our village," he explained. Currently, only six families reside in Kokonda village, and Mr. Soke expressed his hopes that the water catchment project would serve as an incentive for others to come back.

Mr. Johannis Saferius, the CMCA Trust Administrator, echoed Mr. Soke's sentiments and affirmed the Trust Administration's commitment to delivering all pending projects. He assured the Kokonda village community that more projects were in the pipeline, not only for the North Fly CMCA region but also for the Middle and South Fly communities. Mr. Saferius praised his dedicated team for their unwavering efforts and acknowledged the contractor responsible for constructing the building and installing the tanks.

Mr. Havini Vira, the CEO of OTDF, emphasized the significance of such legacy projects. He pointed out that the progress of such projects was often hindered by the limitations of community funds, which could secure materials but not cover the costs of transportation. Mr. Vira stressed the importance of community ownership and urged the villagers to take care of the facility. The presence of the minority, who attended

the program, was as a positive sign of change and patience within the Kokonda community.

The completion of the community water catchment project in Kokonda village has brought newfound hope and enthusiasm to the residents. It stands as a testament to the collaborative efforts of the community, OTDF, and the Trust Administration, with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of the villagers.

The success of this project is the basis for future endeavours aimed at improving communities throughout the region through the compensation benefits from OTML operations.



A child has access to clean drinking water



Community Education

Community Health Worker (CHW) students at Rumginai CHW school, Western Province

CMCA/PAD Scholarship Program update

The Scholarship program funded by CMCA Trusts and Ok Tedi Development Foundation (OTDF) aims to provide further learning opportunities for men and women from the Western Province communities to continue their education through distance learning, technical colleges, and universities.

Higher education has enabled graduates to engage in formal employment throughout Western Province and PNG. In 2020, the demand for scholarship positions increased due to raised program awareness.

However, there was a slight decrease in scholarship positions due to more stringent selection criteria, with scholarships only awarded to students achieving a minimum 2.5 Grade Point Average.

OTDF, in partnership with Ok Tedi Mining Limited (OTML) and CMCA Trusts, since 2015 has provided educational opportunities to students from the Preferred Area (Oksapmin, Telefomin, Olsobip) and Western Province of Papua New Guinea.

Apart from other disciplines, priority is given to health, education, and agriculture.

Every year over 300 students who meet the requirements are sponsored to take up studies, with an average 100 students graduating.

The focus on the selection and support is not on the quantity (number of sponsored students) but the quality in the selected disciplines.

According to the Manager Program Services Sustainable Development, Mr. Andrew Mari, the Scholarship program has relieved the burden on parents and provided the opportunity for students to further their education, return and contribute to the development of the province and their communities.

Havini Vira, CEO OTDF, expressed appreciation for the

well-managed Scholarship and Maritime support program. However, he acknowledged that effectively monitoring the progress of students after they graduate poses a challenge and believes there is scope for further improvement.

2,585 Western Province and PAD students have been sponsored by OTDF through the CMCA Trusts and OTML since 2019. OTDF is committed to contribute to the development of human resource of Western Province and PNG.



OTDF encourages equal participation in the program

Time Out



1. From the East to the West

2. Time out from CDW training

3. Mine Safety Week vehicle inspection program

4. Ready to fight plastic pollution - WED June 5th 2023

5. World Environment Day clean up, Kiunga

6. OTDF Corporate sports supporters

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