A CURRICULUM REVIEW OF THE FARM MANAGEMENT COURSE
AT HIGHLANDS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BY

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An Abstract.

Papua New Guinea P.N.G. is an Agricultural Country with over 85% of the population dependent on subsistence Agriculture for their livelihood. The country derives some 40% of its foreign earnings from Agriculture. Increased agriculture production could not be achieved without input from Agricultural Education and Training. The PNG Government established an Agricultural Education and Training Branch in the early 1960's and successfully maintained this until the mid-eighties when monitoring of curriculum development and evaluation was hampered by poor economic conditions.

The purpose of this study was to determine whether the curriculum content and, in particular the farm management component of the current Highland Agricultural College (HAC) Post Certificate Diploma (PCD) programme contained suitable and adequate management knowledge and skills training to meet the vocational needs of Rural Development Officers (RDO)

To determine these a curricula comparison was made of the farm management curricula from selection of Commonwealth Agricultural Colleges and a survey questionnaire was used to seek responses from graduates of the current PCD training programme together with a small number of certificate graduates.

From these studies two areas of training were identified:

1. That an advanced report writing course was needed to provide the knowledge and skills required by RDOs.
2. That an expanded current Feasibility Studies course in the PCD would be necessary to improve the management horizon of individual graduates and to overcome some management weakness experienced by aspiring RDTs.
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## CONTENTS

### CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

**Section 1: Introduction:**

1.1 Introduction  
1.2 Climate  
1.5 National Development Strategies.

**Section 2: Agricultural Background:**

2.1 Introduction  
2.2 An overview of Agriculture  
2.3 Agricultural Production

**Section 3: Extension and Manpower**

3.1 Introduction  
3.2 Extension in PNG  
3.3 Organisational Structure  
3.4 Role of Certificate Graduates  
3.5 Role of Diploma Graduates  
3.5 Role of University Graduates

**Section 4: Agricultural Education & Training**

4.1 Introduction  
4.2 History  
4.3 Highlands Agricultural College  
4.5 Latest change  
4.6 Curriculum problems  
4.7 Current HAC Training program  
4.8 Curriculum Development Unit  
4.9 Current HAC Training Programme

### CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEWS:

2.1 Introduction  
2.2 Curriculum Development  
2.3 Curriculum Development Process  
2.4 Curriculum Implications for H.A.C.  
2.5 Need Assessment  
2.6 Curriculum Evaluation
CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Training Needs Assessment

3.3 Examination of Documents

3.4 Questionnaire Methods

3.5 Hypothesis

3.6 Study Plan

CHAPTER 4: RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.2 Study of Documents

4.3 Questionnaire Results

CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION

5.1 Introduction

5.2 Curricula Study

5.3 Consultant’s Training Assumptions

5.4 Questionnaire- General Extension

5.5 Questionnaire Part C

5.8 Implications of the Study

5.9 Competence & Knowledge level of RDT

CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION and RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Introduction

6.2 Report Writing

6.3 Project Planning and Management

6.4 Conclusion and Recommendations

REFERENCES:
APPENDICES.

Appendix 1: Correspondence 124
Appendix 2: Survey Questionnaire 126
Appendix 3: New Survey Questionnaire 131
Appendix 4: Sample Duty Instructions 148
Appendix 5: Re-organised Feasibility Studies 151
Appendix 6: Proposed Project Planning Course 152
Appendix 7: Farm Management Course Outline 154
Appendix 8: P.C.D. Course Outline 161

Tables
Table 4.a: Curriculum Comparison Results 44
Table 4.a: Questionnaire Part A Results 47
Table 4.b: Questionnaire Part B Results 62
Table 4.c: Questionnaire Part C Results 87
Table 4.d: Questionnaire Part D Results 90
Table 5.a: Activities Compared to PAD Curriculum 109

Figures
Figure 3.a: Organisational Structure- Provincial 11
Figure 3.b: Organisational Structure- National 12
Figure 3.c: Rank and Qualification of Officers 13
Figure 4.a: Finance Responsibilities 66
Figure 4.b: Report Writing Duties 69
Figure 4.c: Supervision Duties 70
Figure 4.d: Planning for Commercial Funding 73
Figure 4.e: Planning for Government Funding 75
Figure 4.f: Advice on Poultry Duties 77
Figure 4.g: Advice on Piggery Duties 78
Figure 4.h: Advice on Cash Crop Duties 79
Figure 4.i: Advice on Vegetable Duties 81
Figure 4.j: Advice on Food Crop Duties 83
ABBREVIATIONS:

AE&TB- Agricultural Education and Training Branch.
ARDO- Acting Rural Development Officers.
ADRDO- Acting District Rural Development Officer
CSU- Charles Sturt University
DAL- Department of Agriculture and Livestock
HAC- Highlands Agricultural College
FCA- Fiji College of Agriculture
LU- Lincoln University
NDAL- National Department of Agriculture and Livestock
PAD- Post Certificate Diploma
OAC- Orange Agricultural College
PDAL- Provincial Department of Agriculture and Livestock
RDA- Rural Development Assistant
RDT- Rural development Technician
RDO- Rural Development Officer
SO-Scientific Officer
USP- University of South Pacific.