

SUCCESSFUL SEED PRODUCTION IN SIMBU PROVINCE

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INTRODUCTION

In earlier issues of HARVEST (see 6(1), and 6(2)) there have been articles about the progress of seed production programmes in different parts of Papua New Guinea. This article is about the seed production programme in Simbu Province.

The subsistence and nutrition programme in Simbu Province aims to produce more food. To do this, more seeds are needed. The Department of Primary Industry has produced and distributed almost 33,548 kg of seeds in the province between January 1976 and the end of December 1980. The amount and kind of seed sent out is shown in the table opposite, for each of these years until the end of 1980.

Seeds were sent out to many places, including primary, secondary and high schools, vocational centres, missions, private institutions and individual farmers.

The people in Simbu Province are very pleased and satisfied with the scheme. They want it to be continued to meet their needs in the future.

The rapid increase in seed production for 1979 was gained by Kumgi Seed Production Centre which was funded by the National Public Expenditure Plan.

THE THREE YEAR PLAN

A three year plan for producing more food was prepared. It was approved by the Provincial Government, and started in 1980. Its aim is to fight malnutrition, and it should also encourage farmers to set up projects for growing vegetables on a commercial scale. The seed production scheme is a part of the three year plan.

The aims of the seed production scheme are:

1. To achieve self-sufficiency in seed for the province.
2. To combat malnutrition.
3. To train technicians and interested farmers in vegetable production.



Trays of seedlings at the Provincial Greenhouse, Kundiawa. Proper care of seedlings leads to a good harvest.

TABLE 1. YEARLY SEED DISTRIBUTION IN SIMBU PROVINCE (KG)

VARIETIES	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Potato	1,049.57	-	370.00	8,900.00	13,172.00
Corn	197.93	14.00	471.15	427.50	1,574.00
Peanut	91.00	157.67	457.60	554.10	973.00
Brown bean	40.11	266.12	81.00	-	-
Purple bean	-	3.75	145.50	-	-
Snake bean	-	-	40.25	71.50	765.00
Soy bean	43.05	62.14	119.79	147.50	382.00
Mung bean	23.25	17.50	33.50	-	25.00
Winged bean	15.00	35.50	20.00	-	32.00
Dwarf bean	-	-	-	-	2,769.00
Total:	1,459.91	556.68	1,738.79	10,100.60	19,692.00

PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Phase One (1980)

1. Establishment of a Provincial Seed Production Centre.
2. Establishment of seed production centres for all districts within the province.
3. More seeds to be produced, especially high protein seeds.

Phase Two (1981)

1. Establishment of a training centre for the province in vegetable gardening.
2. Establishment of a Census Division seed production centre in five districts: Kundiawa, Chuave, Kerowagi, Kamtai and Gembogl.

Phase Three (1982)

1. Establishment of a training centre in vegetable gardening, in each of the five districts.
2. Establishment of a Census Division seed production centre in all districts.

PROGRESS IN 1980

By the end of 1980, Phase One was complete. The Provincial Seed Production Centre had been set up at Kumgi, with an area of 3.0 ha. Each district now has its own centre: Kundiawa, with 0.4 ha; Kerowagi, with 1.6 ha; Gembogl, with 1.8 ha; Chuave, with 1.4 ha; Kamtai, with 1.5 ha; Gumine, with 0.35 ha; and Karimi, with 1.0 ha. The total area used for



Rural Development Recruits have their first lesson on corn from the P.R.D.O.

seed production in the Province is 11.05 ha.

In 1980, 4,946 kg of high protein seeds (peanuts and beans) were produced and distributed to farmers and other institutions in the Province. This is an increase of 4,172.9 kg over the 1979 harvest.



Inspecting the size of Mungbean pods which will be used for seed



A demonstration plot of 700 plants of Chinese Cabbage. The plot was set up to encourage commercial gardening.

Altogether 19,692 kg of various seeds were distributed to 9,342 farmers. Nine business groups were helped in growing vegetables commercially.