

## BEETLES JOIN WAR AGAINST BUFFALO FLY

Hundreds of dung beetles have been let loose in PNG to battle the blood-sucking buffalo fly.

The buffalo fly sucks blood from cattle up to 40 times a day and up to 10 000 can settle on one beast.

The dung beetle was introduced as a result of a request from DASF to the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization.

Mr Ted Fenner, the Chief Entomologist, said that the dung beetle was introduced to decrease the buffalo flies, and also to increase dung fertilizer.

Dung beetles bury cow dung, so that the buffalo fly cannot breed in the dung. The buried dung increases the fertility of the soil.

Dung beetles have been distributed in the Central, Northern, Morobe, Madang and East New Britain Provinces.

DASF has its own dung beetle breeding laboratory in the Northern Province.

## PNG JOINS FAO

Papua New Guinea has become a full member of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization.

The Minister for Primary Industry, Mr Boyamo Sali, led a delegation to Rome in November 1975 to accept Papua New Guinea's admission at the 18th session of the FAO conference.

Mr Sali said FAO was carrying out technical aid programmes to the total value of K500 000 in PNG.

Papua New Guinea is anxious to play as full a role as it can in FAO, Mr Sali said.