

Farming

Boost in rice farming

TRUKAI continuously support the development of the local rice industry through its technical staff, expertise and infrastructure.

Trukai Industries Ltd Rice Project officer Nicodemus Bokame said by harnessing the country's geographical location, skills and economy, the company is helping to propel the rice industry forward.

"We have successfully established several pilot rice farms in West New Britain Central, Morobe and Northern which are now advancing into commercial rice growers."

A number of sales have already been undertaken by these farmers and we are registering growing interests among farmers and leaseholders to participate in Trukai's model of rice development.

The key success factor to achieve outcomes is the willingness of the communities, provincial and the local level governments to participate in the development of rice.

At the outset, the company committed significant

financial and technical resources to assess the suitability of developing different models of growing rice farming in PNG.

"Our investment in the initial assessment of the land suitability country-wide shows that about of 14 per cent of the total land mass of PNG is suitable for growing rice."

This assessment, using the latest Geographical Information technology (GIS), has guided Trukai's decision to target developments in the provinces and parts of the country that have high suitability.

A case in example is the current expansion of in the Markham valley where commercial farms are now developed in partnership with local land owners

The company is guided by the overarching principle that, the people own the land but through mutual partnership, Trukai will assist locals to develop their land and provide market access to growers to sell their rice crop.

And to date, Trukai has ex-



Trukai Industries Ltd Rice Project officer Nicodemus Bokame donating rice to assist the 3-day Farmers Rice Production Training at Laloki, last week.

and quality requirements for local processing and the development of technology to support a village based agri-

culture system in PNG
A commitment that
matched and con
very generous to

Rice farming