



Taiwan ICDF improves agro in Kairuku-Hiri

Reports by URSHULA JIM

AN agricultural expert of the Taiwan Technical Mission (TTM) to Papua New Guinea, under the Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF) has revealed that the TTM will be focusing more on improving agricultural activities in the Kairuku-Hiri electorate this year.

Agronomist and agricultural machine specialist, Jui-Feng Chiu said the main focus was to help farmers in the area improve agricultural activities because they were the potential suppliers to the markets in Port Moresby.

Chiu said they would be focusing on helping farmers in Kairuku-Hiri improve crop production and management to help farmers improve their existing crop production technique.

Last year TTM conducted training programmes under the Farmers Training Cooperation Project by TTM in partnership with the National Agriculture Research Institute (Nari) and local farmer groups in Morobe and Central.

Chiu said 15 training programmes were conducted last year to improve farmer basic agriculture production skills in Central.

"For Central, most of the training programmes were conducted at Nari-Laloki, and only three were conducted in Rigo," Chiu said.

"The training programmes we provided were on introduction to hand tools, farm planning, basic agriculture production skill, financial management, crops protection and others.

"We plan in cooperation with Nari to provide some more training programmes this year in different

stages. Training programmes on crops production, crops protection, post-harvest, marketing and financial management, depending on farmer needs.

"We will also building a blue print for the farmers, giving them a guideline to improve all the skills they need," Chiu said.

He said they would try out three areas, in Central in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DAL) extension of the Kairuku-Hiri district office.

He said members of the Women In Agriculture (WIA) in Central were the main recipients of the training they delivered last year.

He also revealed that there were plans of improving agricultural production at the Bomana Prison Farm in Port Moresby and introducing passionfruit to villages along the Sogeri plateau.