Background
The majority of Papua New Guinea’s population lives in rural areas, largely dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. Coffee and cocoa are the main cash crops, with half of the country’s total workforce involved in their production, processing, and sale. Despite its importance, the quality and productivity of Papua New Guinea’s coffee has been declining, largely due to a lack of replanting, limited incentives for smallholder farmers, and poor access to markets. The cocoa industry has been experiencing similar issues in addition to the threat posed by the cocoa pod borer.

The Productive Partnerships in Agriculture Project (PPAP) aims to combat these problems in order to improve the livelihoods of smallholder cocoa and coffee producers, and promote rural development and poverty reduction more broadly.

About the Project
The PPAP’s primary aim is to improve the livelihoods of smallholder cocoa and coffee producers supported by the project. This will be achieved through the implementation of three main project components, designed to:

- Strengthen industry coordination and institutions;
- Facilitate links between smallholder farmers and agribusiness, through productive partnerships, for easier access to markets, technologies, and services; and
- Improve critical infrastructure for market access.

The project will support improved quality in the coffee and cocoa industries and promote the adoption of certified sustainability practices (such as organic, fair trade, Rainforest Alliance, Utz or quality certification schemes). Under the productive partnerships component, funding will support partnerships in the private sector and civil society. Often these groups are already engaged with smallholders to increase output, productivity, quality and sustainability and are now interested in scaling up those activities.

In the cocoa sector, activities will include support for cocoa pod borer management, improved planting materials, and promotion of rotational planting. In the coffee sector, activities will include the adoption of sustainable practices, replanting and coffee garden rejuvenation programs, and training on good farming practices. Further, PPAP will identify and fund important maintenance and upgrades to local infrastructure such as roads and wharfs.

Partnerships will also be encouraged with smallholder farmers in disadvantaged areas — such as more remote areas in the Highlands or cocoa-dependent areas affected by the cocoa pod borer — and partnerships which support vulnerable groups such as women and young farmers. Community consultations will continue to take place throughout the project.

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