Role of women in successful businesses based on customary land: case studies from Papua New Guinea

DevNet Conference Dec 5-7 2018
University of Canterbury, Christchurch

Hennah Steven
(PhD Candidate – Massey University, Manawatu)

Prof Glenn Banks
Prof Regina Scheyvens
Dr Litea Meo-Sewabu
Suli Vunibola
OUTLINE

• Introduction/Study context
• Methodology
• Research sites
• Forms of businesses
• Learnings/women’s role
• Conclusion
Customary land ownership – 97% (could be less than 90%).

- Diverse inheritances rules – patrilineal & matrilineal lines
- Supports 800 plus ethnic groups
- Supports 7.3 million people and provides jobs for 3 million farmers
- Supports the informal sector and subsistence economy

Women work on customary land in most parts of PNG
METHODOLOGY

Case studies (4)

i. Talanoa (informal conversations)
ii. Interviews
iii. Observation
iv. Field notes
v. Application of business sustainability tool
RESEARCH SITES

Kavieng – New Ireland Province
- Clem’s Place
- Cathy’s Eel Farm

Goroka – Eastern Highlands Province
1 - Blue Kona Business
2 - PNG Beekeeping Supplies
FORMS OF BUSINESSES

Agriculture

Blue Kona Farm
PNG Beekeeping Supplies

PNG Beekeeping Supplies
Poultry
Piggy
Fishery
Coffee
Commercial property
Queen bees
Bee hive boxes
Raw/organic honey
Training in Bee keeping

Clem’s Place
Tourism

Clem’s Place
Surfing
Diving
Camping

Cathy’s Eel Farm
Cathy’s Eel Farm
Freshwater eel farm
Annual catering

Forever discovering
A KEY LEARNING

Social values and networks seem to be important for these businesses

When you operate you business on customary land, getting involved in social activities and having good relationship with your community will help you to be successful. Position yourself properly in the wantok system. Its not a barrier. You will get support in return (Interview, Linda Voyorite, EHP, 2018).
CONCLUSION

Women seem to play a key role in keeping the businesses socially embedded and grounded within the communities they are established in.

What does this mean?

Women’s empowerment needs more than just economic empowerment alone.
Reference


Meo-Sewabu, L. D. (2015). *Tu ga na inima ka luvu na waqa*: (The bail to get water out of the boat is in the boat yet the boat sinks): *the cultural constructs of health and wellbeing amongst Marama iTaukei in a Fijian village in Lau and in a transnational Fijian community in Whangamui, Aotearoa (Doctoral thesis)* Palmerston North, New Zealand: Massey University.


Tenkyu tru
(Thank you very much)