



CEFINIUS

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MOU signed to introduce financial education to school curriculum



The Governor of the Bank, Mr Loi M Bakani CMG, states that the module presents a relevant curriculum that facilitates the learning of social responsibility and financial competency.

The Bank of Papua New Guinea and Centre for Excellence in Financial Inclusion (CEFI) with the Department of Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding partnership on January 06 to collaborate on a National Financial Education Curriculum for preparatory level up to Grade 12 students in the country.

The Governor of the Bank, Loi M Bakani, CMG signed the partnership with Department of Education Secretary, Dr Uke Kombra, to promote Financial Inclusion partnership under the theme – Financial Education for a better future.

The financial education initiative is to integrate financial education as a Relevant Needs-Based Curriculum to be integrated into the existing Standard Based Curriculum (SBC), with the objective of educating school children about money management, income generation, saving and budgeting, investments and credit.

“BPNG has invested in technological innovations to expand the access of financial products and services. These initiatives include the Regulatory Sandbox, Retail Electronic Payments System and Digital Identification Project which are key drivers of the financial products and services. Building Financial Education into our education curriculum will complement these innovations and allow our young generation to acquire knowledge and skills to build responsible financial behavior and competency.” Mr Bakani said.

Department of Education Secretary Dr Uke Kombra says, “Jointly DoE and CEFI will ensure teachers are given specialized in-service financial education training and will be certified accordingly.

“We will ensure necessary arrangements are in place for project pre-planning and implementation in order to achieve an effective roll out of the financial education curriculum. The project team consisting of curriculum development specialist, CEFI and BPNG will provide technical oversight throughout the development, assessment, and delivery of the Curriculum.” Dr Kombra confirmed.

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Message from the Executive Director Saliya J Ranasinghe

2020 Highlights

The year 2020 had multiple unforeseen challenges that organisations and businesses experienced forcing many to adapt to new realities. It was a challenging year for the Centre for Excellence in Financial Inclusion (CEFI) due to Covid-19 measures, hampering a majority of our calendared activities in the first half of the year.

I am proud to state that CEFI remained on course and implemented its 2020 Business Continuity Plan which significantly aligned our activities to online platforms to ensure CEFI continued to provide resolve to deliver the financial inclusion strategy 2016-2020.

- ✓ CEFI signed the memorandum partnership with Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA) under the Market for Village Farmers (MVF) Project to deliver financial inclusion products, services and family farm team training to 25,000 fresh produce farmers in six provinces.
- ✓ CEFI delivered the first ever 2-day Digital Finance Symposium in PNG via online platforms which reached over 300 participants throughout Papua New Guinea and abroad.
- ✓ Papua New Guinea through CEFI acquired the Microfinance Pacifica Network. CEFI will assume the role of the secretariat to lead important financial inclusion initiatives in the region.
- ✓ Discussion on government partnership between CEFI and National Training Council to improve Financial Literacy training modules in the country.
- ✓ CEFI and National Volunteer Service signed Financial Literacy Training MoU for CEFI to deliver training for national volunteers in communities.
- ✓ CEFI and APEC Secretariat collaboration to implement FINTECH incubator for innovative approaches for financial inclusion in PNG.

2021 Outlook

The start of 2021 saw CEFI herald a landmark milestone, with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Education to introduce financial education in the national school curriculum from preparatory to grade 12. This will significantly improve the savings culture for young Papua New Guineans.

Complementing the signed MoU, CEFI will embark on the following activities;

- Formulation of the next financial inclusion strategy 2021-2025. A series of stakeholder consultancies will be held to cement the new strategy and a five-year corporate plan for CEFI.
- CEFI will introduce a free downloadable financial literacy application which will be developed by local tech professionals to improve financial management skills and knowledge for citizens.
- CEFI will launch country's first Digital Microfinance Professional Course in partnership with Institute of Banking and Business Management. The courses will be available online at a reduced cost and will target Microfinance Institutions and tertiary students in banking studies with the intent to develop a pipeline of professionals.
- CEFI will deliver the first fintech incubator to expand digital financial services and products.
- CEFI to host the first Annual General Meeting of the Microfinance Pacifica Network, with CEFI as the Secretariat of the network.
- CEFI will work with the Asian Development Bank to launch the next important phase of improving Access to Enterprise Development and to commence implementation of the Improving Access to Finance for Enterprise project.
- CEFI and Microfinance Institution (MFI) commemorate International Women's Day, highlighting and promoting women in top leadership roles in CEFI and MFI's. This will include the promotion of women entrepreneurs and account holders making a difference in the business communities.

With all these activities on the table, the CEFI Board, Management and Staff looks forward achieving financial inclusion in Papua New Guinea.

I thank all our technical working groups, our government and private sector stakeholders, and development partners who continue to work with us to deliver on financial inclusivity for our citizens.

Induction of Milne Bay Provincial Steering Committee on Financial Inclusion

The Centre for Excellence in Financial Inclusion (CEFI) and the Milne Bay Provincial Administration (MBPA) have unanimously agreed to work together in partnership to drive the agenda of Financial Inclusion in the province.

Both CEFI and MBPA came to agreement following respective meetings of the Milne Bay Steering Committee on Financial Inclusion on January 28 - 29 in Alotau.

The purpose of the meeting was to induct members of the Milne Bay Financial Inclusion Steering Committee.

From the meeting, key activities were identified to begin the process of financial inclusion agenda in the province which included, Baseline Survey on Financial Inclusion in the province, Training-of-Trainers for Financial Literacy, Business Essential Skills Training for SMEs in the province, hosting of Financial Inclusion Exposition and Pilot Project on expanding access of financial products and services to the districts.

Some key resolutions that came out of the meeting included, the finalization of the Milne Bay Provincial Financial Inclusion Steering Committee, terms of reference for the committee, the 2021 annual work plan, date of the next meeting and setting up of a desk to coordinate financial inclusion in the province.

The formation of the steering committee is part of a list of activities outlined in the scope of Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) signed between MPBA and CEFI on 25th November 2019.

”

CEFI’s Manager for Special Projects Busa Jeremiah Wenogo emphasized



the need for the financial inclusion agenda to be embedded in the province and urged MBPA and the Financial Institution’s to work together collaboratively to drive financial inclusion in the province.

“This induction is centered on articulating your roles and responsibility. This Steering committee will provide oversight and guidance in terms of how financial inclusion activities will be undertaken in the province, Mr Wenogo explained to the committee members.

Mr Wenogo also highlighted the importance of financial institutions engagement in the financial inclusion agenda in the province adding they were important partners in driving financial inclusion in the province.

“You are going to be a very important partner in this process of embedding financial inclusion in the province. Through the induction process we

hope that you get an appreciation of what CEFI and BPNG plans to do so that you can also come in to drive the process,” he told representatives of financial institutions.

Representatives from the financial inclusion expressed their willingness to partner in the financial inclusion agenda and work together with the MBPA and urged the MBPA to be more active in involving them in their financial inclusion activities.

MBPA Deputy Administrator, Corporate and District Services, Sharon Mua assured the financial institutions present at the meetings that they are looking forward to working with them in achieving the activities set out in the work plan.

Mini financial inclusion exposition in Kavieng successful

Over 600 hundred residents and oil palm growers have attended a two-day Mini-Financial Inclusion Exposition in Kavieng, New Ireland Province on 27-28 November 2020, hosted by Bank of Papua New Guinea and Centre for Excellence in Financial Inclusion.

The exposition had participation from Bank South Pacific (BSP), Kina Bank, Wespac, Nationwide Microbank (MiBank, Nambawan Super Limited, National Superannuation Fund Limited, Nambawan Savings and Loan Society, Niu Ailan Savings and Loan Society, Small and Medium Enterprises Corporation (SMEC), Teachers Savings and Loan Society Limited, National Development Bank Limited and insurance industry.

In conjunction to the exposition, CEFI trainers delivered Financial Literacy, Business Essential Skills Training and Train-of-trainers programs to over 100 oil palm growers, small business owners and residents in Kavieng District.

Hundreds visited stalls and received specific products and services information and contact details from the licensed financial institutions. There were special panel discussions, talk back series, and question and answers sessions with BPNG, CEFI and financial institution representatives.

The Governor of the Bank of Papua New Guinea, Loi M Bakani told the public in Kavieng to invest their earnings from oil palm related business to build better lives.

“Oil Palm brings over K21million in annual returns for the province, yet little seems to be transferred to empower the people and businesses.

This event is a financial inclusion intervention to support people make informed decisions on how to save, budget and spend money within the formal institutions.” Said Mr Bakani.

The Mini-Exposition is part of an on-going commitment undertaken by the BPNG and CEFI to provide an environment for oil palm growers to gain access to financial products and services, to raise awareness on new development in the finance and banking sector, including innovative financial services and delivery channels.



Female business owner acquires essential skills in business



‘We must have a mindset of an entrepreneur, set our goal and aim to meet that goal whether its a monthly goal or yearly goal...’



Juggling business and parenting can be a double-edged sword admitted 32-year-old Lyniata Anana, a tailoring business owner, from Pirie village in Namatanai district, New Ireland Province.

After taking up an active interest in sewing, Lyniata established a tailoring business to sell meri blouse to residents in Kavieng town, as additional income stream to complement her formal employment salary income.

“I opened a small shop in 2014 and started full time on retailing the blouses but I had to move out in 2017 to make way for the refurbishment of the building. The move pushed me to venture online selling and mobile market,”

Lyniata recalled.

Lyniata says she draws the motivation and passion from her children to operate family business in tailoring and art & crafts.

“I believe the drive is to be a role model for my children, because they see the strength and the struggle, and the ups and downs that I go through. This is for them to understand that life is not all that easy, you have to sweat to get something,” Lyniata said.

On November 28, Lyniata received the Business Essential Skills Attainment Certificate, after the completion of the SME and Business Essential Skills training conducted by CEFI in partner-

ship with Bank of Papua New Guinea, New Ireland provincial government and Oil Palm Growers’ Association.

CEFI conducted the 2-week financial literacy as part of a Financial Inclusion Exposition led by Bank of Papua New Guinea, CEFI, Oil Palm Growers Association, the financial service providers, targeting oil palm growers and micro, small and medium enterprises in the province.

“We have different types of understanding in business but we appreciate the training provided by CEFI facilitators who explained new ideas on how we can manage our business as entrepreneurs,” said Lyniata confidently.

“We must have a mindset of an entrepreneur; we must set our goal and aim to meet that goal whether it’s a monthly goal or yearly goal. That’s one thing

that CEFI facilitators delivered through the training. It changed my perspective on how I am going to manage my business and market to target clients and customers,” said Lyniata.

“I am grateful that I attended this training as it will benefit my business in the long run.”

Find more products on Lyniata’s social media page, @dahana haus bilas.



CEFI signs agreement to deliver Family Farm Team Training



The Centre for Excellence in Financial Inclusion (CEFI) has signed Partnership Agreement with three training agencies on in November 2020 to deliver Family Farm Team Training (FFTT) for fresh produce farming households in Simbu, Jiwaka and Western Highlands Provinces.

The agreement between CEFI and Ambumangre Micro-Credit Scheme, Cliffy Contractors and Peoples Action for Rural Development (PARD) will target 5000 farming households in Simbu, Jiwaka and Western Highlands respectively, as part of Financial Inclusion Component under the Market for Village Farmers (MVF) project.

The FFTT will focus on reorienting men, women and youth in households towards a gender equitable and more effective planned approach to farming as a family business. The training will also introduce farming families to a livelihoods approach, good nutrition, better agricultural practice, founda-

tional business and financial literacy.

CEFI Executive Director Saliya Ranasinghe in his address stated CEFI has selected the three training partners based on their track record, good reputation and experience in delivering financial literacy training.

“The signing and workshop signals the next phase in the implementation of the Financial Inclusion component under MVF Project. The trainers from the agencies will undergo a Training-of-Trainer (ToT) program to be conducted by CEFI’s service contractor, CARE International PNG, on November 23 2020.” Mr Ranasinghe said.

The ToT training will provide the agencies on approaches of FFTT and will cover Community Mobilizations, Financial Literacy and Nutrition before the training institutions go out to selected provinces to deliver the FFTT.

MVF Project Management Unit Manager Robert Lutulele told the partic-

ipants that FFTT is part of the MVF deliverable to improve market access for Fresh Produce and Galip Nut in the country.

“This signing demonstrates that CEFI together with other lead partners are serious about improving the business opportunities for our farmers. Your roles are important in educating the farming households and farming groups so that they improve their livelihood and well-being.” Mr Lutulele stated.

CEFI will be delivering the FFTT to 25 000 farming households in six-selected provinces in Highlands and East New Britain and Morobe Provinces. Commercial Banks, Savings and Loans Society, Microbanks have been invited to participate during the training and open bank accounts for farmers as well as innovating agriculture lending products for farmers.

The CEFI-MVF project is jointly funded by the PNG Government and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and implemented by Fresh Produce Development Authority.



Formulation of NFIS workshop commences



The Centre for Excellence in Financial Inclusion (CEFI) and Bank of PNG (BPNG) held a workshop on the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) in December 2020.

The session was the first of a series of workshop to roll out in 2021 to identify the new phase and formulation of the NFIS in 2021-2025.

The workshop deliberations were on identifying sectorial implementation of the NFIS 2016-2020 through a stock take with CEFI and BPNG Staff in partnership with Papua New Guinea National Research Institute (PNG NRI).

BPNG Assistant Governor, FSSG, Elison Pidik told FSSG and CEFI staff, the NFIS workshop was important as the design of the new strategy will have a impact on the country in the future.

“Thankyou for your guidance and contributions to the NFIS 2021-2025 Workshop. We concluded the workshop with six lists of recommendations, which are being compiled by Dr Francis Odhuno (from PNGNRI),” Mr Pidik said.

“The lists generated were very generous and we still need to look at them again very carefully as things tend to look appealing from the outside but they could be only indicating symptoms and not the real causes.

“We did not moderate on the findings to ensure there were no major omissions, I would like us to consider having another Session to carry out the cause/effect analysis to determine and identify effective strategies and actions that we can recommend,” Mr Pidik said.

Family Farm Team Training workshops success

The Centre for Excellence in Financial Inclusion (CEFI) partnered with two of its training partners to deliver trainings for farmers in Western Highlands and Jiwaka provinces respectively last year.

The first training, ‘Family Farm Team Training (FFT) – Training of Trainers (TOT),’ was conducted by Care International PNG in October to upskill 30 CEFI affiliated trainers in Mt Hagen.

The participants, including 11 women from People’s Action for Rural Development (PARD), were trained to conduct FFT training to farming households across Western Highlands.

The objective of the FFT Training was to upskill PARD trainers to teach farmers on family goal setting to achieve their dreams, family budget planning, gendered roles and responsibilities, and effective communication between



family members. In December CEFI’s training partner PARD facilitated a weeklong Family Farm Team Training in Kundjip.

A total of 80 lead farmers were trained on how to set family goals, creating family budget, money management techniques, effective communication and gendered roles and responsibilities.

The aim of the training was to enable

lead farmers to work as a family team to transition from subsistence farming to business enterprises.

The FFT training is part of the financial inclusion component delivered by CEFI under the Market for Village Farmers Project (MVF).

The MVF project is jointly funded by the Papua New Guinea Government and International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and implemented by Fresh Produce Development Agency (FPDA)



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Pictorial Highlights

FSSG-CEFI Team Bonding

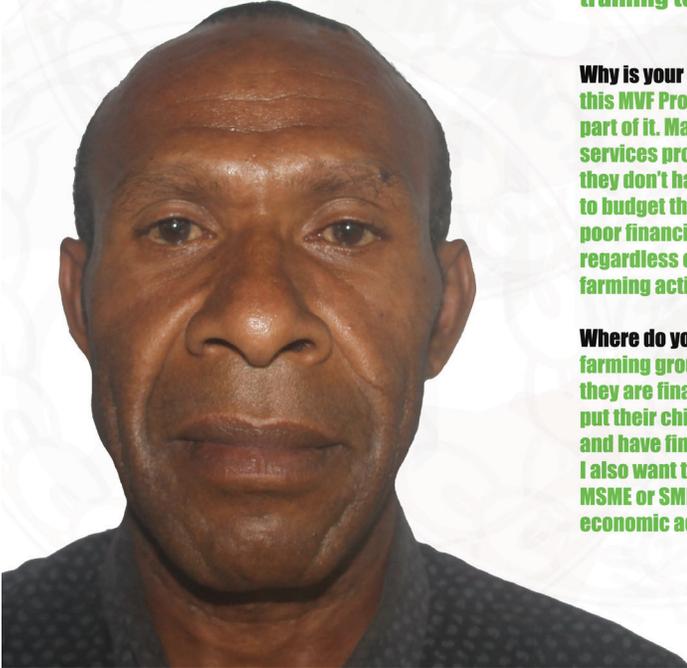




Meet Our Team

Paul Maina Field Officer

Village: Kuragi
District: Keorwagi
Province: Simbu



What does my work involve: Provide financial literacy & financial training to selected farmers & farmer groups under the MVF project

Why is your role important to Financial Inclusion: My role as the Filed Officer under this MVF Project is important taking into account the financial inclusion part of it. Majority of the farmers are not participating in financial services provided by financial institutions on the condition that they don't have a bank account. Farmers don't have the basic financial management skills to budget their takings from sale of fresh produce which results in making poor financial decisions. My role is to make sure the farmers see farming as a business regardless of whatever the geographical settings are, reinvesting into the farming activities after every harvests.

Where do you see your work after a few years time: I want to see change amongst farmers and farming groups, that is they are financially literate and are able to use their hard earned savings to build their homes, put their children to school and have financial security for their future. I also want to witness and support farmers venturing successfully into other MSME or SME where they can contribute and participate actively in economic activities with their respective settings.



Article Credit: BSP

The PNG market has quickly adapted to 64% Visa contactless transactions, significantly higher in comparison to other markets within Asia Pacific such as Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Philippines.

Bank South Pacific's Digital General Manager - Nuni Kulu, in giving an insight on BSP's commitment to digital innovation in Papua New Guinea, said this is an impressive start for BSP Digital Payments journey with an adoption rate over a four (4) year period for the PNG market, which has typically taken developed countries such as Australia, Singapore and New Zealand over 8 years to achieve.

As more goods and services are pur-

chased using various electronic mediums, we transition away from the dependency to use of cash or cheques. Digital payments using cards on channels such as ATMs and EFTPoS have been in our markets for over three decades and our banked customers still dependent on these traditional payment channels to carry out their everyday transactions.

We however, seeing a rise in alternate payments, alternative payment methods are bringing new ways for customers to transfer funds online using electronic funds transfer (EFT) for payments in a secure and password-protected manner. The customer is carrying out payments and banking on their readily accessible mobile devices. The accessibility to the simplest phones 'one bang' is driving a connected population who are now gravitating to this style of payments.

The increasing adoption of mobile phone devices in the Pacific is supported by improving expansion of telecommunication networks and we are seeing a direct correlation with an increase in Mobile Banking transactions. BSP plays an integral role in influencing both customers and businesses to adapt to the new normal or "Niupela Pasin" by providing cost effective and streamlined digital solutions through domestic and global commerce that will help stimulate economic activity.

Read more here:

<https://www.bsp.com.pg/Media-Centre/News--Announcements/2021/BSP%E2%80%99s-commitment-to-Digital-innovation-in-PNG.aspx?iframe=true&innerWidth=750&innerHeight=595&lightbox=true>

Financial Inclusion Reports

- One Year On: What a Year of Surveys Tell Us About COVID-19 and Microfinance

<https://www.findevgateway.org/interview/2021/03/one-year-what-year-surveys-tell-us-about-covid-19-and-microfinance>

- The Role of Consumer Organizations to Support Consumers of Financial Services in Low and Middle Income Countries

<https://www.findevgateway.org/paper/2021/03/role-consumer-organizations-support-consumers-financial-services-low-and-middle>

- Elevating the Collective Consumer Voice in Financial Regulation

<https://www.findevgateway.org/paper/2021/03/elevating-collective-consumer-voice-financial-regulation>

- How the pandemic has fuelled money laundering, Financial Times <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bd1INVh-J3oM>
- How Covid-19 is boosting innovation, The Economist <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPyOnZpeFnQ>
- Digital Agriculture: New frontier for food system, World Bank <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQ5jADa0DAs>

About Us

Visit our website - www.thecefi.org



CEFI was established under the Association Incorporation Act and officially launched on the 24th April 2013 by Hon. Prime Minister Peter O'Neill. CEFI is endorsed by PNG's National Executive Council (NEC), as the industry apex organization for coordinating, advocating and monitoring all financial inclusion activities in PNG.

CEFI's vision, mission and values focus on financial inclusion and literacy, poverty elimination and the promotion of vibrant financial institutional operation in Papua New Guinea.

This newsletter is produced by the CEFI Communications and Stakeholder Mobilisation Team to update and report on developments CEFI is implementing through Financial Inclusion in Papua New Guinea.

If you have any comments or feedback, please send them to ekuson@thecefi.org or call 322 5300

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