

Growing a New Industry: Research-led Development of the Galip Nut Sector in Papua New Guinea

Transforming an indigenous nut into a thriving, locally owned agribusiness

In Papua New Guinea, the galip nut (*Canarium indicum*) is a culturally significant and nutrient-rich native food, traditionally harvested from wild trees for home consumption.

Despite its value, the nut lacked formal supply chains, market visibility, or commercial development. Since 2016, Professor Helen Wallace from QUT's Centre for Agriculture and the Bioeconomy has worked in partnership with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Papua New Guinea's National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), and private industry to unlock the galip nut's commercial potential and improve rural livelihoods.

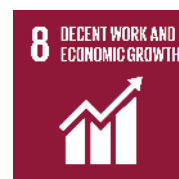
The research addressed challenges in production, post-harvest processing, and market testing. A successful 2018 commercial trial confirmed strong

consumer demand for packaged galip products, laying the foundation for new supply chains and business ventures.

The work has directly benefited over 2,000 smallholder households—most of them rural women—by providing access to cash income, processing opportunities, and local employment. As Dorothy Luanna from Divine Management Services explains,

"Most of our suppliers are women, from the lowest end of the village hierarchy. This gives women direct access to income, which is very rare in many rural communities."

This research-led initiative is helping to build a nationally owned industry that strengthens food sovereignty, uplifts rural communities, and celebrates PNG's rich biodiversity.



Impact highlights

- Benefited over 2,000 smallholder households, particularly women in rural areas
- Supported the creation and expansion of PNG-owned businesses like Divine Management Services
- Products now sold in PNG supermarkets and used by local chefs
- Led by Professor Helen Wallace, QUT Centre for Agriculture and the Bioeconomy



Image: Galip nut products launched on shelves in a Papua New Guinea supermarket



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