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# Growing peanuts in Papua New Guinea:

a best management practice manual

# Growing peanuts in Papua New Guinea: a best management practice manual

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2008

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Published by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

GPO Box 1571, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia  
Telephone: 61 2 6217 0500  
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Hughes M., Rachaputi R.C.N., Kuniata L. and Ramakrishna A. 2008. Growing peanuts in Papua New Guinea: a best management practice manual. ACIAR Monograph No.134, 77 pp.

ISBN 978 1 921434 86 0 (print)  
ISBN 978 1 921434 87 7 (online)  
Technical editing by Biotext Pty Ltd  
Design by Design ONE  
Printing by Bluestar Print

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## Foreword

The last peanut production manual for Papua New Guinea (PNG) was published in 1977 by the Department of Primary Industry, Port Moresby. The PNG peanut industry has declined significantly since the 1970s, for various reasons. However, peanuts have recently started to regain their popularity and are now seen as an important cash crop for many smallholder farmers. The area planted to peanuts is expanding at a smallholder level, and substantial areas of commercial production are also being planted. This should lead to the return of the peanut industry over the next 5 years.

Publication of this best management production manual is thus timely, and will help the wide spectrum of industry stakeholders interested in growing and marketing peanuts in PNG. The content of the manual comes largely from research funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and is aimed at developing varietal and management practices to improve peanut production and quality (ACIAR projects ASEM/2001/055 and SMCN/2004/041). Expert advice from various sources in Australia (BGA AgriServices, Peanut Company of Australia, Queensland

Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries) and PNG (National Agricultural Research Institute, Ramu Agri-Industries Limited and Trukai Industries Limited) has been sought in the preparation of the manual.

Early studies from research plots indicate that new varieties, grown using improved production practices, have a two to threefold increase in yield over local varieties. To improve peanut productivity in PNG, these results must be transferred to smallholder growers.


This publication is designed to assist agricultural researchers, extension people, smallholder producers, agricultural consultants and commercial producers by providing information on best management practices that will improve peanut productivity and quality.

The manual contains valuable scientific information about crop management topics such as land preparation, varietal selection, seed management, crop protection, postharvest management and marketing. It also contains photographs and figures to assist identification of serious peanut pests and diseases, and explains their control

measures, including safety aspects, in a way that is easily understood and adopted by the end user. Key points are summarised in boxes at the beginning of each section for quick reference.

The manual also covers crop modelling, which appears to be a promising and valuable tool to provide advice on what variety to grow, as well as where and when. As peanut production in PNG expands into a range of agroecological zones with varying climatic constraints, crop modelling will indicate the probability of yield and preharvest aflatoxin risk.

This publication will facilitate the re-emergence of the peanut industry with private sector involvement, and provide valuable information on cost-effective and sustainable production of peanuts for smallholders and commercial growers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Core'.

**Peter Core**  
Chief Executive Officer  
ACIAR



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## Acknowledgments

The following people and organisations have contributed in-kind support and efforts during the ACIAR peanut project that provided the information in this manual.

### PNG

Humphrey Saese, John Bafui, Julie Kolopen and Geoff Fahey (Trukai Industries Limited)

Julie Sip, Miriam Otto and Maria Linibi (Ramu Agri-Industries Limited)

Yanding Tomda, Johnny Wemin, Timothy Geob, Allan Quarterman, Elick Guaf, Barbara Tomi (National Agricultural Research Institute)

### Australia

Ian Crosthwaite (BGA AgriServices, Australia), Greg Mills (former Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries [DPI&F] Principal Extension officer), Graeme Wright (Peanut Company of Australia), Geoff Tatnell (District Experimentalist, DPI&F), Jim Barnes (Senior Extension Officer, DPI&F) Hugh Brier (Senior Entomologist, DPI&F), Dr Mike Bell (Principal Agronomist, DPI&F), Lesley Adams (Administration Officer, DPI&F)

The authors would also like to thank the farmers, students, researchers, agriculturists, information and administration staff who assisted in developing this manual and provided important critical comments during the field testing process.





## Abbreviations and acronyms

<b>ACIAR</b>	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
<b>DPI&amp;F</b>	Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland
<b>NARI</b>	National Agricultural Research Institute, Papua New Guinea
<b>PMMV</b>	peanut mild mottle virus
<b>PNG</b>	Papua New Guinea
<b>PPE</b>	personal protective equipment