


VSA Assignment Description

Assignment Title	Small-scale Pig Farming Training Advisor
Assignment Modality	In-Country
Assignment Number	42088
Country	Papua New Guinea
Location	Kokopo, East New Britain
Partner Organisation	Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL)
Duration	9 Months (option to extend)
Sustainable Development Goals	

1. Partner Organisation Overview

The Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) of Papua New Guinea (PNG) is the national institution responsible for the oversight and development of the country's agriculture and livestock sectors. As the backbone of PNG's economy, agriculture supports the livelihoods of a significant portion of the population and is critical to the nation's goals for inclusive, sustainable economic growth and food security. DAL plays a pivotal role in shaping the sector's future by providing policy advice, technical and administrative support, and strategic leadership. Its core responsibilities include coordinating national agricultural programs, promoting investment, and fostering partnerships with stakeholders to drive competitiveness, innovation, and sustainability. Furthermore, DAL leads capacity-building initiatives, such as extension services and training, to enhance support for farmers and livestock producers, ensuring long-term resilience and growth within the sector.

2. Assignment Overview

In Papua New Guinea (PNG), the development of the livestock sector is essential for strengthening food and nutrition security, as agriculture forms the backbone of rural livelihoods. Pigs, in particular, hold deep cultural and economic significance, serving as a vital protein source and playing a central role in social customs and local economies. Given PNG's favourable climate and traditional farming practices, pig farming is well-suited to both small-scale farmers and larger commercial operations. Traditional methods typically involve free-range systems, where pigs forage and are supplemented with household scraps and garden produce.

Despite their cultural and economic importance, however, the pig farming sector faces several challenges, including disease management, feed shortages, and limited genetic diversity. Sustainable pig breeding and farming techniques, enhanced animal health services, and value chains that respect cultural traditions present significant opportunities to boost production. Nonetheless, pig farmers encounter barriers such as limited access to improved breeds, inadequate facilities, and a lack of technical knowledge. These challenges limit the growth and productivity of pig farming in PNG, restricting the sector's potential to improve livelihoods, create jobs, and enhance food security.

This assignment aims to increase pig meat production by introducing improved pig breeds, supporting efficient breeding, farming, and husbandry systems, and training local farmers. Through these initiatives, the assignment seeks to enhance food security and contribute to the resilience and development of local economies. To achieve this goal, the Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) is seeking the assistance of a Pig Farming Training Advisor to provide technical support, coordination, and expertise in implementing improved pig breeding and farming practices. The trainer will focus on capacity strengthening and capability development in several key areas, including enhancing breeding and husbandry systems and providing advisory support on sustainable breeding, farming, and animal health practices.

3. Goal/Outcomes/Outputs

Goal

The primary objective of this assignment is to assist the Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) and other key stakeholders in supporting current and prospective pig farmers to strengthen their capacity and capabilities. This support is aimed at improving productivity and increasing meat production through sustainable pig farming techniques, enhanced animal health, and improved husbandry practices.

Outcome 1 (Assessment and Recommendations)

The capacity and capabilities of the Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL) and other key stakeholders, including NARI and UNRE, are strengthened to better support current and prospective pig farmers in acquiring and applying advanced knowledge and practical skills in sustainable pig breeding and farming techniques, animal health management, and husbandry practices.

Collaborate with DAL staff, relevant personnel from NARI and UNRE, participating communities, and other key stakeholders to:

- Lead a detailed needs assessment in the target communities to identify existing resources, capacity and capability gaps, challenges, and opportunities related to small-scale pig farming. This assessment will establish a clear baseline to guide the development of tailored training programmes, resource support, and extension services.
- Based on the findings of the assessment, develop a detailed set of recommendations tailored to the specific needs and contexts of the target communities. This will include actionable strategies for improving small-scale pig farming practices, enhancing infrastructure, and addressing identified capacity and capability gaps.

Outcome 2 (Capacity Strengthening and Farmer Training)

Current and prospective small-scale pig farmers acquire and apply enhanced skills and knowledge in sustainable pig breeding and farming techniques, animal health management, and effective husbandry practices to increase productivity and meat production.

In collaboration with DAL, NARI, UNRE and other relevant stakeholders:

- Design and deliver training sessions for pig farmers on improved pig farming and breeding practices, animal health management, and husbandry to ensure the long-term viability of pig farming and promote environmental stewardship.

- Conduct on-site visits and hands-on workshops to reinforce training and address specific challenges faced by farmers.
- Develop and distribute contextually appropriate learning resources training materials and resources in collaboration with DAL, NARI, and UNRE for future reference by farmers.

Outcome 3 (Advisory and Mentoring Support)

Pig farming practices and herd health management are enhanced through comprehensive support for disease risk mitigation, improved extension services, and infrastructure development, including guidance on efficient housing and feeding systems.

- Assist DAL, NARI, UNRE, and local stakeholders in identifying and mitigating disease risks to improve herd health.
- Contribute to the enhancement of extension services for farmers by providing advisory support on sustainable breeding methods, animal health protocols, and eco-friendly husbandry practices.
- Support infrastructure improvements to enhance pig farming operations, including guidance on efficient housing and feeding systems.

4. Reporting, Working Relationships and Capacity Building

The volunteer will be engaged in capacity-building activities throughout their assignment, including:

- Capacity strengthening through upskilling, training, workshops, and mentoring.
- The transfer of knowledge, skills, and appropriate technology for improved pig farming practices.
- Developing and distributing manuals, guides, and other educational resources that farmers can refer to for best practices and troubleshooting.
- Collaborating with agricultural research organisations (such as NARI and UNRE) to keep farmers updated on the latest research findings and innovations.

The volunteer will report directly and be accountable to the Regional Director. On a day-to-day basis, the volunteer will work closely with DAL staff in East New Britain, pig farmers, and personnel from NARI and UNRE. The role will also involve establishing periodic working relationships with local businesses, and other key stakeholders in the region. As required, the volunteer may travel to DAL's other regional centres and provide upskilling, training, and mentoring support to relevant staff.

Additionally, the volunteer and DAL will maintain an ongoing relationship with the VSA Programme Manager for assignment monitoring, reporting, professional advice, and personal support.

As needs on the ground may change over time, the volunteer is encouraged to review and update the Assignment Description on arrival in consultation with the partner organisation and VSA Programme Manager. By their very nature, development situations can involve significant change, so it is advisable that the volunteer periodically reviews and reflects on the Assignment Description throughout the Assignment to ensure the best development outcomes are being achieved.

5. Selection Criteria/Position Requirements

Professional Specifications

Essential

- A tertiary qualification in Animal Science, Veterinary Science, Agriculture, or a related field.
- Proven expertise and experience in livestock development, specifically in pig breeding and production, animal husbandry, feed formulation, and biosecurity measures.
- Demonstrated experience in designing and delivering capacity-building programmes
- Ability to mentor, coach, and support others.

Desirable

- Previous work experience in any of the Pacific Island nations.

Personal Specifications

Essential

- Excellent relationship management skills (ability to relate well to people from different backgrounds and cultures) combined with a respectful and culturally sensitive demeanour.
- Ability to work independently, possibly remotely, and be self-motivated.
- Solution-oriented.
- Ability to work collegially and collaboratively.
- Patience, flexibility, and tolerance when working in a multicultural context.
- Willingness to learn and use Tok Pisin.

6. VSA Essential Attributes

- Commitment to volunteering, to VSA and to the partner organisation
- Cross-cultural awareness
- Adaptability and a willingness to approach change or newness positively
- Able to form good relationships, both personally and professionally, with work colleagues and in the community
- Resilience and an ability to manage setbacks
- Initiative and resourcefulness
- An ability to facilitate learning through skills exchange

7. Country Context

For more information about Papua New Guinea, see [VSA in Papua New Guinea](#).

8. Living and Working Situation

The office space at the Department of Agriculture and Livestock is modern, air-conditioned and within walking distance to the Market, bus stops, shops and Kokopo Village Resort. The volunteer will need to bring his or her own laptop for work.

A furnished house will be provided to the volunteer. The house is located in the suburbs of Kokopo. The distance between the office and the volunteer's house is about 5-10 minutes by bus. Volunteers may be asked to share accommodation depending on the situation.

Additional Information

ST2 Assignment (6-11 months)

Residency status

VSA volunteers must be New Zealand citizens or have New Zealand permanent residency status, and currently living in NZ.

Pre-departure briefing

As part of the volunteer's contract, successful candidates will be required to take part in a pre-departure briefing course run by VSA in Wellington and complete all required pre-reading.

Final appointment

Final appointment will be subject to satisfactory medical and immigration clearances (costs covered by VSA), partner organisation acceptance, and successful completion of the pre-departure briefing course.

Family status

VSA supports partners to accompany volunteers on assignments of six months or longer. However, volunteers with accompanying dependents will not be considered for this assignment.

Fundraising

VSA funding stakeholders are both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and donors. We ask volunteers and accompanying partners to fundraise to help cover the cost of sending volunteers throughout the Pacific and beyond. Fundraising can be as simple as doing something you enjoy with a group or friends, and our Fundraising team is available to help you every step of the way.

Vaccination requirements

Potential volunteers are advised that VSA's insurers require volunteers to be vaccinated, prior to departure, in accordance with the instructions of VSA's medical adviser. VSA covers the cost of any required vaccinations.

Children's Act

While on assignment, VSA volunteers may be required to work with children and/or may choose to participate in informal activities in their own time that involve interactions with children (such as coaching teams or teaching English). VSA is committed to the protection of vulnerable children and adults, which also includes meeting our commitment under the Children's Act 2014.

The information requested during the application process is necessary to assist VSA in determining applicant suitability to work and/or interact regularly with children and is part of a series of pre-selection checks undertaken on all applicants for VSA assignments.

Volunteer package

The volunteer's package includes the following:

Reimbursements and grants

1. The volunteer may be entitled to an establishment grant to help them set up in their country of assignment, and a rest and respite grant after a specified period of active service in-country to encourage the volunteer to take a break away from the immediate assignment location. These grants depend on the length and location of the assignment. The volunteer's contract will specify any grant entitlements.

2. A resettlement grant of NZ\$200 will be paid for each month the volunteer is on assignment. This is payable on completion of the assignment.
3. The volunteer will receive a monthly living allowance of PGK2,100.

Accommodation

Basic, comfortable furnished accommodation will be sourced by VSA. In some circumstances, volunteers may be asked to share accommodation.

Airfares and baggage allowance

VSA will provide the volunteer with economy airfares to and from New Zealand for their assignment plus a baggage allowance.

Insurance

VSA will provide travel insurance to cover baggage and personal property, and non-routine medical expenses for the duration of the assignment. Further details of the insurance cover will be provided during the volunteer pre-departure briefing.

Utilities

VSA will reimburse volunteers reasonable expenses for household utilities while on assignment.

Final terms and conditions relating to the specific volunteer assignment will be confirmed in a personalised volunteer contract.