

Jonathan Ritchie and Musawe Sinebare interview with Janet Pandi, 9 September, Cultural Research Institute, PNG

MA 2000 cohort, Adelaide University; PhD 2010 cohort, Adelaide University



[00:00:18]	Current study at Adelaide University, PhD Agricultural studies; MA also at Adelaide 2004-2006. ACIAR John Allwright Fellowship. Project leader was also her supervisor, which was great advantage. Existing relationship with SA Research Institute. Many friends and colleagues there from working on a previous project together. Great support in Adelaide.	Background; Post-graduate studies and scholarships
[00:02:37]	Previous connection at NARI with ACIAR funded project. Visited Australia for the project in 2002. Second time in Adelaide meant that she already had a network. Still today in contact with these people and three subsequent projects. Strong link exists and further opportunities.	Previous connection with Australia
[00:04:23]	Undergraduate degree in Agriculture at UniTech. ACIAR needs to link with local research organisation and lead organisation in Australia - NARI and South Australian Research Development Institute at Adelaide University (SADI). Research related to chicken welfare and feed.	Undergraduate studies; research
[00:06:15]	NARI has an MOU with Adelaide University for livestock training, which	Collaborative research

	emerged from this collaboration with SADI across a decade.	
[00:07:18]	ACIAR John Allwright Fellowship. Janet's research on broiler chickens was a groundbreaking in PNG. Before her research there was limited understanding around local ingredients for chicken feed and better knowledge of the nutritional needs of livestock. Capacity building in her institution.	Current PhD scholarship; ACIAR
[00:09:34]	MA research was research only and that was comfortable. But PhD is proving more of a struggle to manage the research and various demands. Discussion of this process. Broadened out to include human element in research.	Challenges in study
[00:11:34]	Another struggle is lack of infrastructure to analyse the data. Most equipment required is not in PNG. Mentoring cadet and junior scientists.	Research challenges in PNG
[00:12:45]	Lucky to get JAF because of linkages with professionals and institutions in Australia and across the Pacific.	Scholarship advantages
[00:13:34]	When doing her MA is was difficult to mix with local students. With international students it was good and with colleagues at SADI. Regrets not stepping out of her comfort zone at that time. When she returned for her PhD was more willing to make friendships outside her own networks.	Living in Australia
[00:15:39]	Maintains connections with friends from around the world. Connections ongoing with SADI colleagues.	International networks
[00:17:16]	Research and data analysis. Can only transfer a limited number of samples to Australia due to restrictions on bird tissue. NARI develop a biotech	Research detail; collaboration

	centre and is involved in that process, but needs to make links with other research institutes to complete her analysis in PNG. Regular contact with Australian-based supervisors and colleagues and upcoming visit to PNG by her supervisor.	
[00:19:51]	Supportive husband; During MA, for first year child left in PNG and in second year for writing up, child joined her and managed well. For PhD, more difficult. Three children now. Left 6 mth old baby at home. Does not want to take children to Australia to live with her. Too difficult to complete her lab work etc. and manage the household.	Living in Australia; Family
[00:21:36]	Other contacts with people outside the university, friends from church whom she had met on her visit in 2002. These people had previously lived in PNG and she met them again in Adelaide. They would take her to Mass. In Adelaide a PNG Association with 1000 members at that time and now larger.	Friendships; networks in Australia; PNG community in Adelaide
[00:23:02]	Challenges; plans for future contributions. Wants to do more research but is aware that NARI will push her into management. Likes to take on mentoring role for female colleagues.	Returning to PNG
[00:25:28]	Motivations to do further study. In one of the first batches of cadets at NARI in late 1980s. Chose livestock program because not yet any female researchers. Opportunity to work in livestock later. Originally from Madang, village on the border area with little services. Decided that she wanted to	Motives for study

	contribute in some way. Saw gap in research in livestock especially broiler chickens.	
[00:27:53]	Lack of mentoring at NARI for the livestock unit. But managed and at the end of her cadetship had the opportunity to work on ACIAR project.	Early mentors
[00:29:19]	After returning from completing her MA was sent to various posts in the Highlands. A series of building and re-building research facilities and projects in each place. Being a coastal woman in the Highlands was an eye opener. Lived among the farming community in Tambul for 6 years. Made her appreciate things. Often no electricity, email etc. A 'reality check' after returning from Australia.	Returning home; Post-scholarship work experience; culture shock
[00:31:25]	I was comfortable doing research and raising family. No plan for further study, but new Director encouraged her and also her mentor from SADI was encouraging and has supported her all through the journey.	Mentoring
[00:34:08]	Advice to PNG women who want to pursue higher degrees. 'I think it is time for a change. I think females owe themselves.' Need to break the norm.	Women and work
[00:35:16]	END	