



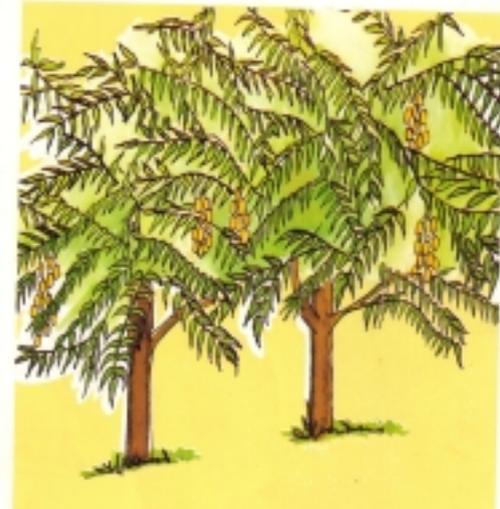
National Agricultural Research Institute

Copies of the leaflet can be obtained from:

Research Programme Leader  
National Agriculture Research Institute  
Dry Lowlands Programme - Laloki  
PO Box 1828  
PORT MORESBY  
National Capital District  
Papua New Guinea

Telephone: (675)3281068/3281015  
Facsimile: (675) 32810 75  
Email: dlplaloki@datec.com.pg

## **INFORMATION ON NEEM TREE**



NARI TOKTOK  
LAL005E

August 2002

## **Neem tree**

Neem originated from India in South East Asia, and is now widely grown in dry lowlands areas of Papua New Guinea. Central Province is one of the region that experiences long dry season and neem tree grows well in this areas. The tree grows up to 10m in height, has narrow toothed leaves, fruits are small oval with the shape like bird's egg. Seeds are green and turn yellow when ripe. Neem tree produces seeds twice a year.

## **Natural Insecticide**

Like many other plants, neem seeds possess substances that can be extracted to produce insecticide. Neem extract does not have direct poisonous effect but acts as an repellent. Research conducted in the Central Province have proven that neem insecticide is an effective method of controlling caterpillars, leafhoppers, beetles and other insect pests on cabbages and other leafy vegetables.

## **THE INSTITUTE**

**The National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)** was established by an Act of National Parliament of Papua New Guinea in July 1996 as a publicly funded, statutory research organisation, to conduct applied and development oriented research on food crops, alternative food and cash crops, livestock and resource management issues. Besides applied and adaptive research, NARI is responsible for providing authoritative technical, analytical and diagnostic services and up-to-date information to the entire agriculture sector in PNG. The major targets are the smallholder semi-commercial farmers in the country.

The mission of NARI is to contribute, through applied research and technical services, to the development of the agriculture sector and realization of the national goals by identifying, adapting and transferring agricultural technologies and information, so as to:

- Enhance the productivity, efficiency and sustainability of the smallholder agriculture, and
- Improve farmer income, food security and welfare of Papua New Guineans and the Nation.

**This toktok was written by Anna Kawi,  
NARI Dry Lowlands Programme in  
August 2002.**

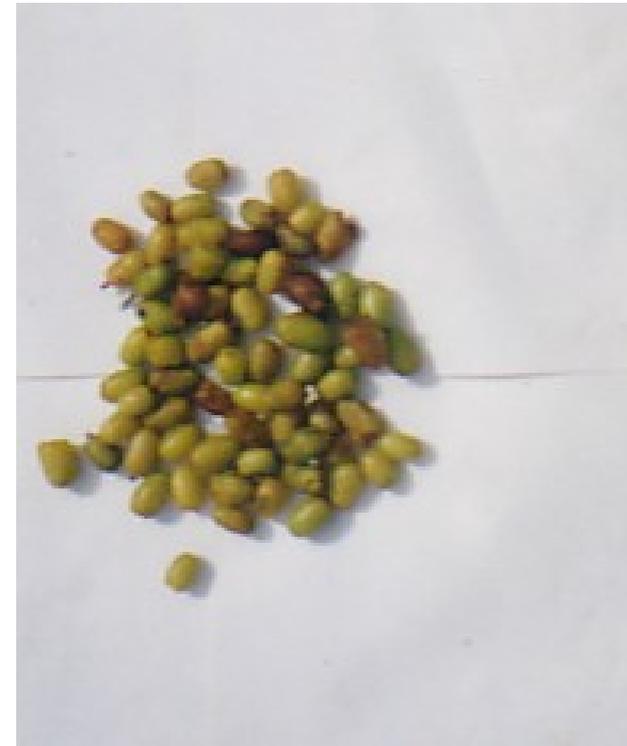
## Uses of Neem

In its countries of origin neem has a variety of other uses.

- traditional medicine.
- production of insecticides.
- neem oil is used as a protective agent for stored bean seeds.
- oil from the seeds are used for making soap and fuel for lamps.
- timber for making houses
- firewood.

## Harvest and storage of neem seeds

Seeds turn yellow when ripe and fall to the ground, or when eaten by birds the kernel splits out.



Collect mature fruits, soak overnight in a bucket of water



Remove skin, wash seeds properly before drying in open sunlight for 3-5 days (eg. like drying coffee beans)



Store dried seeds in baskets or paper bags in a cool dry place for future use. Never store in plastic bags, moisture will encourage fungal growth.

