



Coffee farmers get boost in coffee production

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The agriculture team of Hidden Valley Mine recently launched a nursery project as part of a coffee development programme aimed at preparing coffee farmers for life after the mine.

With the launch of the Tia Hanama Weta Cooperative Society in September 2023, farmers registered with the cooperative have produced several trial batches that received positive reviews from potential buyers.

To increase collective yields and meet volume expectations, the agriculture team is working to boost membership in the cooperative from neighbouring villages in the Watut Valley. Larger membership will allow farmers to plant higher-yielding coffee varieties (Arusha) on a larger scale.

To support new farmers and complement production efforts, the agriculture team donated 10 coffee pulpers each to the Akikanda, Plalamanga, and Nauti villages and officially opened coffee nurseries in those communities. The agriculture team plans to continue the nursery project until farmers reach their target number of trees.



Currently, there are 1,500 farmers across the Watut and Biangai regions growing over 100,000 coffee trees.

Looking ahead, the agriculture team aims to continue their solar dryer project until each household has at least one solar dryer. Plans also include coffee berry borer pest management training, disease prevention workshops, and establishing centralised wet mills in each village with motorised pulping machines. These long-term initiatives will further boost capacity in the area.

