

## **NFA deploys IFAD program into Maritime Provinces**

PNG National Fisheries Authority has deployed Inshore Fish Aggregating Device (IFAD) into PNG Maritime Provinces basically to provide food security, income generation and alleviate poverty for over populated small islands and coastal provinces under pressure. Subsequently the IFAD will be used as a conservation and management concept for the sustainability of the fisheries resources especially from the reefs. When the coastal communities are focused on the IFAD areas of fishing, the reefs will be slowly recovering and allow natural reproduction for the sustainable marine and fisheries resource.

Population has been increased in the coastal communities and subsequently the level of harvesting of natural resources especially the fisheries and marine resources are tremendously increased and this has put a lot of pressure on the fisheries resources and ecosystems.

As the mandated authority, NFA continues to strive to promote equitable and sustainable fisheries development management in PNG by deploying IFADS so that the coastal communities can benefit overwhelmingly. NFA initiated IFAD program basically to support coastal communities to provide food security and alternative income generation. This project will support the objective of NFA Corporate Plan 2008-2012 and government Policy -Vision 2050 the Development Strategic Plan and Mid-Term Development Strategy that supports sustainable resources management, food security and provide alternative income generations for the people of PNG.

NFA has already started IFAD deployment in East Sepik Province and will eventually move over to other provinces very shortly. NFA Fisheries Management Unit particularly Inshore division will conduct awareness, Training and consultative meetings in each maritime provinces prior to the deployment of the IFAD. This meeting will involve partners, agencies, provincial fisheries officers, local communities, stakeholders and industry representatives to come up with a way forward on how effectively these IFADs will be managed and utilized.