



Tuesday 28th April 2020 at 02:00pm - 04:00pm PNG time | via Zoom

Chair

Mr. Brown Konabe, Director Food Security Branch DAL

Co-chair: Helmutrude Sikas-Iha FS Cluster Coordinator FAO

Participants

Refer to Annex 1.

Agenda

1. Overview on coronavirus (COVID-19), African swine fever (ASF) and Fall armyworm (FAW)
2. Fresh Produce supply chain – Market Development Facility (Sharif/Mathew)
3. E-didiman responding to effects of COVID-19
4. Updates from Cluster members and updates
5. Summary of action points and closing of meeting

1. Overview on COVID-19, ASF and FAW

- The chair welcomed cluster members, opened the cluster meeting and provided the situational overview of the COVID-19 in PNG
- The main highlight is that the number of cases in PNG had increased to 8. The cases were 2 in Kokopo, 1 in Lae, 3 in Kiunga, and 1 in Asaro and 1 in NCD
- For the ASF and FAW updates, the NAQIA team members thanked the partners DFAT and AHC, Phamaplus, MFAT and FAO for supporting ASF and FAW activities at NAQIA
- For the ASF update, the NAQIA team informed the cluster that a team of Technical Officers had been deployed to Enga, Hela and WHP to set up Provincial Local Disease Control Centres (LDCC) in Hela and Enga as well as to set up 9-13 check points in the three provinces
- For the FAW, the team are undergoing planning for the Delimiting Survey in the Southern Region

2. E-didiman responding to the effects of COVID-19

- Jordan Becks presented from Buka on how the E-didiman Team is responding to COVID-19 in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. In the promotion of E-



agriculture the E-didiman was used to facilitate the buying and selling of fresh produce online. Once purchase is made, the fresh food produce are delivered to the buyer

- There was positive feedback from cluster members of this innovative intervention
- The Cluster Coordinator reiterated that Bougainville needed support on food security and that cluster will look into that

3. Fresh Produce supply chain Report – feedback from cluster

- The Market Development Facility Team shared the report on fresh produce supply chain and requested feedback from the cluster
- Allan of World Bank noted that it was great someone was tracking food prices. The food basket tracker took note of popular consumed brands and has derived prices from up to three major supermarkets. The basket comprise of 13 food items for Port Moresby, Lae, Hagen, Goroka, Kokopo and Buka and is great information. Mr. Oliver enquired if anyone had any idea of this being done by Post Courier? He concluded that the summarized prices in Hagen increased by 4.6% followed by Goroka 1.2%.
- Nicholas of IFAD provided feedback on the report through email. He noted that it was interesting, although unsurprising, to see the difference between the more established *formal* market actors and the more informal 'grassroot' actors. The study mentioned that a lack of effective communication to this informal segment, and their lack of understanding of the SOE procedures led to some of them being sent back at roadblocks. In this context, he enquired if a targeted communication campaign, with effective support in understanding the procedures, be included as an element of response to the crisis for smallholder farmers?
- Established market actors also have larger volumes which effectively reduces the marginal cost of applying for a special permit from the Police to allow them to operate and transport their produce. This, in my opinion, provides an extra incentive for smaller farmers/market actors to get together and aggregate their produce to bring to the more formal markets. As such could a targeted support to farmers and SMEs to set-up cooperatives or other forms of agreements to aggregate more produce also be an element of response to the crisis?
- Some of the feedback to the report included dates of the interviews done and an annex list of people interviewed. More on the literature review parts.
- MDF lead Shariful said they were using the template that FSC had sent them and modified parts of the template to capture the information captured in that report.
- He noted that report was representative of issues and recommendations collected through program partners only and recommended for the cluster to continue with reporting of the food security situation
- Cluster members from Mr. Tenakanai, also noted that the NCD, Central and Governor distributed 20 tonnes of fresh food through the churches to the needy in the city through the Food Bank Initiative



- Cluster members pointed out that FPDA had baseline on fresh produce sales of Port Moresby and other main centres. These studies need updating so they could be used as baseline when reporting the price monitoring of food and agriculture
- Examples of food lanes being trialed in the Philippines were discussed as interventions that MDF will be considering to adapt and take on in PNG. They welcomed the views of the cluster members on this concept.

4. Updates from Cluster member and updates

- National Planning allocated 3 million Kina to Bismarck Shipping for the transportation of fresh produce from Lae to Pom and other parts of country.
- Cluster members requested that a member of FSC be part of the committee of these food fresh initiatives
- Road blocks are still evident along the Highlands Highway. Goroka cluster members (FPDA) enquired if the curfew times imposed in Goroka such as 4 pm to 6 am was consistent with the laws of the NEOC as this had affected people movement of people in the afternoons to obtain fresh produce in the afternoon at rural markets.
- DAFT reported on their work along the treaty villages as well supporting the cluster to do assessment on markets and agriculture
- Development partners also enquired if DAL could push for a seat at NEOC for DAL to be part of the discussions there and be part of the coordination of some of the good initiatives happening already. Mr. Konabe noted that he will do a follow-up
- Cluster members enquired about the status of the impact assessment with FAO

Action Items

1. Get someone from the NCD food distribution team to provide
2. Obtain update from ASF Team in Mendi
3. Request Lae Food Security Sector working group to provide update
4. Provide an update to contact and coordinate with NCD Food Distribution interventions

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 5th May 2020 | 2 pm PNG time via Zoom

ANNEX 1 – ATTENDANCE LIST

Attendees:

1. Brown Konabe, Chairperson
2. Willie Kunsei, ADRA



3. Steve Burns, AHC
4. James Marshall, DFAT
5. Doreen Iga, ACIAR
6. Katie Francis, AHC
7. Mike Bourke, ANU
8. Shariful Islam, MDF
9. Mathew Kanua, MDF/Senior Consultant
10. Regina Nukundj, DAL
11. Emily Schmidt, IFPRI
12. Adrien Mourgues, EU
13. Anna Kiman, DAL
14. David Tenakanai, NAQIA
15. Pere Kokoa, NAQIA
16. Joe Koima, FPDA
17. Allan Oliver, World Bank
18. Rachael McCarthy, NHC
19. Clement Chipokolo, World Vision
20. Hudson Tabara, DMT Secretariat
21. Douglas Apeng, SUN movement
22. Tomoko Sato, IOM
23. Regina Nukundj, DAL
24. Helmtrude Sikas-Iha, FAO
25. Melinda Benjamin, FAO
26. Paula Pupune, FAO
27. Apologies- Nicholas Syed- IFAD