FOOD SECURITY SECTOR
PALESTINE
Urban Agriculture Working Group
Minutes of Meeting

Date and time: Sunday 21 September 2014
12:00- 14:00

Participants: See attached attendance sheet

Facilitators: Ahmed Soulani (Oxfam Italy) – Urban Agriculture Working Group Co-Lead
Masae Sumikoshi (FAO) – Urban Agriculture Working Group Co-Lead

Agenda:
- The need/reason to enlarge the scope of Urban Agriculture Working Group
- Proposed ToR for the enlarged working group
- Leadership structure in the working group
- Needs for the HPC 2015’s HNO
- Any other business

1. The need to enlarge the scope of Urban Agriculture Working Group:

The main idea of enlarging the urban agriculture working group to plant production agriculture working group is to have an integrated strategy for agriculture in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. However given a nature of geographical specialization in both regions, the scope of work will be maintained its flexibility to adapt the context of each region.

In order to avoid any overlaps in the scope of work with other working groups, in particular, the livestock working group, the proposed working group will mainly focus on the plant production activity while the livestock production in urban agriculture could be included in the livestock working group.

2. Proposed ToR for the enlarged working group:

It was agreed on the amendments in the ToR of the Urban Agriculture Working Group to be compatible to the enlarged working group. It is particularly worth noting that the amendments related to advocacy and lobbying will reflect the comments from some participants to be more comprehensive by addressing the followings:

- Challenges that the agriculture sector facing such as the protection issues for farmers under the occupation;
- Agricultural technical issues.

As the enlargement of the working group and amended ToR should be officially endorsed by the steering committee of the Food Security Sector, the following agreed new ToR is considered as a temporal ToR.
(Temporal agreed ToR)

- Provide support and coordination to agencies involved with crop (plant and tree) production activities for farming and/or non-farming families within an emergency food security project framework.
- Information sharing network on activities involving emergency crop (plant and tree) production agriculture with a particular focus on lessons learnt and success stories of existing and/or coping mechanisms under such protracted crisis conditions (innovative methods).
- A space (platform) to create and support advocacy and awareness messaging on key emergency issues including both farmers’ protection aspect against occupation and agricultural technical aspect for crop (plant and tree) production activities to educate and lobby stakeholders (Donor community, various government ministries, CBOs etc.).

3. Leadership structure in the working group:

It was agreed that FAO and Oxfam remain as co-lead of the working group until the end of this year. In addition, the third co-lead will be recommended from the members in the West Bank. This leadership structure will be discussed again when reviewing the entire structure of the Food Security Sector in January 2015.

4. Needs for the HPC 2015’s HNO:
The following is the result of brain storming during the meeting, but narrative part of the HNO for both WB and Gaza has be ready by 25 of Spet.2014

- Rehabilitation of agriculture roads;
- Re-establishment of the destroyed wells (currently 210 wells are identified as totally destroyed due to the last escalation) and rehabilitation of the damaged well;
- Home gardens to enhance the food security for HHs.
- Rehabilitation of green houses to catch the coming winter season;
- Rehabilitation of the agricultural infrastructures (wells, roads, ponds, water carrier lines, etc.);
- Clearing the soil from explosive remnants attributed to the last escalation;
- Encouragement of intercrop production;
- Rehabilitation of electricity wires to pump up irrigation water;
- Rehabilitation of the farmer’s storage rooms targeted by IDF during the latest three wars.

5. Other general needs:

- New strategies of MoA to protect farmers and to control the gap and the need in the market.
- Participation of the Agricultural Working Group to the establishment of the MoA yearly strategies.
- Emergency fund ready to be used directly after any crisis.

6. The olive harvest festival in Gaza:

- It was proposed to have an event or festival in Gaza for Olives Harvest Season in this year so as to strengthen the relationships among farmers and serve as a connecting
point where farmers can get the opportunity to meet the individual consumers, companies and solidarity groups that buy their products.

- Any ideas/proposals of the activities are welcomed to receive during this week.

Attachment:
- Presented PowerPoint slides
- List of Participants