



Tuesday 9 March 2021 at 02:00pm - 04:00pm PNG time | via Zoom

Chair

Chair: Mr. Brown Konabe, Director, Food Security Branch, DAL.

Co-chair: Ms. Helmtrude Sikas-Iha, Food Security Cluster Coordinator, FAO.

Participants

Refer to Annex 1.

Agenda

- a. Opening and endorsement of last meeting minutes
- b. COVID-19 update
- c. Final update on Tari response
- d. ASF/FAW update
- e. Monitoring drought indicators
- f. Tracking food security activities
- g. Food Systems Summit 2021
- h. AOB

Opening and endorsement of last minutes

1. Ms. Sikas-Iha welcomed all participants to the meeting.
2. Minutes from last Food Security Cluster Meeting on 9 February 2021 endorsed.

COVID-19 update

3. Ms. Sikas-Iha provide the following COVID-19 update to the cluster:
 - a. Eighty-seven (87) new COVID-19 cases were reported on 7 March 2021.
 - b. The total number of confirmed cumulative COVID-19 is 1,670.
 - c. The latest cases were reported in West Sepik, Eastern Highlands, Morobe and the National Capital District provinces.
 - d. Total known COVID-19 caused deaths stands at 16 and active cases are 200.



- e. Seventeen (17) provinces including the Autonomous Region of Bougainville have reported COVID-19 confirmed cases.
- f. Markets that were assessed last year (2020) by FAO during the COVID-19 Rapid Impact Needs Assessment, remain open, and domestic flight continue to operate.

Final update on Tari reponse

4. Ms. Sikas-Iha provided the following update and thanked all coordinating agencies, government agencies and authorities, and the Hela Provincial Government for their involvement and support in the emergency response:
 - a. Tari emergency response is now completed.
 - b. The Hela Provincial Government has now taken over the situation and have moved on with peace mediation and other interventions to restore peace with parties involved in the tribal fighting.
 - c. Relief supplies, including food and non-food items (clothes, blankets, cooking utensils and stoves, etc.) were distributed to over 3,500 affected people.

Update on ASF/FAW

5. Dr. Ilagi Puana provided the following update on African Swine Fever (ASF) in the country:
 - a. The disease is mostly contained in the upper Highlands Region: Hela, Southern Highlands (SHP) and Enga provinces.
 - b. In December 2020, there was a spill on infections detected from Enga into Western Highlands Province (WHP). This was due especially to pig movement from Kompam in Enga Province into the Tambul area of WHP. The infections then spread to Mt. Hagen. At the same time, incidences were reported in Lumisa and Mul Baiyer areas of WHP. The spill overs were mostly due to transportation of pigs from Enga to WHP during the festive period in December 2020 which is usually the peak period in the Highlands Region for conducting bride price events, Moka, peace/compensation events and other events where pigs are usually exchanged between people. Another reason for the spill over was because of a tribal fight in the Wapenamanda area of Enga in December, forcing displaced families to move into WHP, moving with them their pigs from Komiap into WHP.
 - c. In late January and early February 2021, an infection was detected in Poligap in Jiwaka Province. The infected pig was culled. NAQIA teams in Jiwaka are monitoring the infected farm where the pig was detected.



- d. In late February 2021, there was a suspected incident in Kunjip in the Banz area of Jiwaka. The rapid tests of the suspected pigs were positive and clinical symptoms were that of ASF. Sample of the suspected pigs has been collected and sent off for PCR testing in Australia. NAQIA is currently awaiting PCR test results.
 - e. Also, in late February 2021, there were two ASF outbreaks in Chuave, Simbu Province. Field tests returned positive for infected pigs and PCR tests confirmed that the cases were positive. The infected pigs are now all dead. NAQIA continues to monitor the infected areas with a team currently in Chuave conducting a delimiting survey.
 - f. Due to increased awareness, most pig owners are now culling their infected pigs in the ASF affected provinces in the Highlands. However, most of the culled pigs are disposed in rivers and not buried which increases the risk of spreading the disease to surrounding communities.
 - g. NAQIA is now carrying out ASF awareness, monitoring and response activities in the lower Highlands Region.
 - h. NAQIA response strategy is now looking at the whole Highlands Region as an infected area and current work plans are focusing on the pig value chain to contain the disease.
6. There were no updates on a Fall Armyworm (FAW) presented.

Monitoring drought indicators

7. Ms. Sikas-Iha informed the cluster of the following
 - a. The purpose of this agenda was to inform cluster members of the La Niña and drought monitoring around the country, especially drought induced from the La Niña in the New Guinea Islands (NGI) Region according to forecast by the National Weather Service.
 - b. Cluster agencies were advised to help monitor the drought situation in NGI, with also assistance from their partners and/or implementing agencies in the region, using the La Niña monitoring template which was circulated to the cluster in February 2021.
 - c. PNG is currently under watch for La Niña in the Pacific and the event is expected to run through to April and May 2021.
 - d. The cluster, through monitoring the drought situation, can work together on an anticipatory coordinated action for food security in the event that there is a drought in the upcoming months.
8. Dr. Emily Schmidt informed the cluster that FPDA and IFPRI could support by monitoring indicators such as market price of vegetables. She also informed the cluster that the next PNG Food Price Bulletin will be released in early April 2021 for the first quarter of 2021.



Tracking food security activities

9. Ms. Sikas-Iha informed the cluster with the following:
 - a. The 4W matrix was circulated last month (February 2021) to the cluster and cluster members provided their inputs.
 - b. She elaborated on the purpose of the 4Ws use: to track programming and activities by agencies in locations around PNG.
 - c. The 4Ws will be circulated again to cluster members to track changes in cluster members' programs and get update on new programs.

Food Systems Summit 2021

10. Ms. Sikas-Iha informed the cluster on the global 2021 Food Systems Summit and its preparations in PNG:
 - a. FAO will be facilitating the Food Systems Summit dialogues (stakeholder workshops) in PNG in the four regions of the country.
 - b. The dialogues will be conducted in April and May 2021.
 - c. The global event will take place in October 2021.
11. Mr. James Marshall advised the cluster that Grow PNG can provide support to FAO for the Food Systems Summit dialogue in Lae for Momase Region.
12. FAO acknowledged and accepted the support from Grow PNG towards the Food Systems Summit dialogue in Lae.

AOB

13. No comments for this agenda.

Action Items

1. FAO to contact Mr. Marshall and Grow PNG on support towards Food Systems Summit dialogue for Momase Region in Lae in April.
2. 4W excel will be sent out to cluster members to update their activities for 2021.
3. NAQIA to provide updated report on ASF and FAW to the cluster coordinator for sharing.



NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 13 April 2021, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM PNG Time

ANNEX 1 – ATTENDANCE LIST

Attendees:

1. Emily Schmidt – IFPRI
2. Brown Konabe – Chair-DAL
3. Helmtrude Sikas-Iha – CO-chair-FAO
4. Ian Laki – FAO
5. Melanie Raire – UNDP
6. Amy T
7. Ilagi Puana – NAQIA
8. James Marshall – DFAT
9. Nicolas Syed – IFAD
10. Stephanie Werner - WFP