



Tuesday 15 December 2020 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. Review of minutes and action items from last meeting
- b. Papua New Guinea Food Price Bulletin
- c. Update on Fall Armyworm
- d. Update on West Papua Refugees - new arrivals in Iowara
- e. COVID-19 Food Security Impact Assessment in Central and Southern Bougainville
- f. AOB

### Review of minutes and action items from last meeting

1. No comments from Cluster members. Minutes endorsed.

### Papua New Guinea Food Price Bulletin

2. Dr. Emily Schmidt from IFPRI provided a presentation on the Food Price Bulletin on behalf of Joe Koima from FPDA.
  - a. FPDA, NRI, DAL and IFPRI have collaborated, including support from IFAD, to develop the time series food price database. The team has built the database tool that tracks food prices across different markets in PNG in real-time.
  - b. The database provides time series data on food prices across PNG markets and by food types.
  - c. FPDA has been collecting data on food prices in a variety PNG markets since 2009. Currently, they are focusing on collecting retail food prices of



approximately 30 food items at five markets (in Port Moresby, Lae, Goroka, Mt. Hagen and Kokopo) across PNG every fortnight.

- d. Food price data collected by FPDA is stored in the database.
- e. From this, the first Food Price Bulletin was released in December 2020.
- f. The next Food Price Bulletin will be released in March 2021 and will include up-to-date price trends focusing on COVID-19 recovery and price adjustments after subsidy provision.

Moving forward to 2022, FPDA, DAL, NRI and IFPRI are working on releasing food price bulletins quarterly each year.

- g. Changes in funding and priority in FPDA are challenges affect collection of food price data since 2009.
  - h. Planning to get NSO involved to assist with providing data.
  - i. From the Food Price Bulletin, prices of major food staples in Kokopo, Lae and Port Moresby have remained broadly stable over 2019 and 2020. Also, the rate of price data reporting has been lower in 2020, in part due to COVID-19 related disruptions.
3. Dr. Mike Bourke provided advice on data collection of the food price data from the bulletin, emphasizing on large number of data points (sample size) per food item being monitored per month per market, to effectively monitor average food price trends over time in markets. Dr. Bourke strongly suggested to reduce the number of food items being monitored and increase the number of sample size per month.

### Update on Fall Armyworm

4. Mr. Steven Hoko provided an update on the Fall Armyworm (FAW) Stakeholders Workshop in Lae, Morobe Province, at NARI Allan Quarterman Hall from 10 to 11 December 2020
- a. Stakeholders who participated the workshop were from the public, private and development sector: NAQIA, NARI, DAL, Rumion Limited, Ramu Agri Industries, Trukai Industries, Vintage Agriculture, PHAMA Plus and FAO, and others.
  - b. Through the workshop, stakeholders from the industry shared their experiences on the impacts of FAW to them and how they tried to manage the pest.
  - c. Issues on tools, equipment and techniques for Fall Armyworm detection in the field was one the main issues raised during the workshop. There needs to be clear guidelines or procedures on identifying the pest in field, as the pest has strong similarities to other preexisting insect/pests in PNG.
  - d. Another issue, among others, raised during the Workshop was the need for increase public awareness of FAW, as this has been lacking compared to African Swine Fever awareness. Also, FAW hotspots need to be identified for immediate response and intensive surveillance to be conducted.



- e. From the workshop, it was identified that there is a need to establish a national FAW working group or taskforce. This taskforce will develop a national response action plan for FAW including a budget for response activities. The action plan is to be developed throughout the remainder of this year and early next year (2021) and will be circulated for stakeholder consultation/inputs. The taskforce will initially comprise of NAQIA, NARI, DAL, FAO and PHAMA Plus Program technical personnel.

### Update on West Papua Refugees – new arrivals in Iowara

5. Ms. Hemltrude Sikas-Iha provided an update on the food supply situation of the newly arrived West Papua asylum seekers:
  - a. DPLGA is currently supplying food to the new arrivals for the month of December 2020 through to February 2021.
  - b. Food supply has, however, not been consistently provided.
  - c. FAO together with UNDP, UNHCR, IOM and other supporting UN agencies have secured food for the asylum seekers and have been engaged in discussion with DPLGA, the National Disaster Centre and involved stakeholders on the proposed emergency referential standard food basket for the new arrivals

### COVID-19 Food Security Impact Assessment in Central and South Bougainville

6. Mr. Jordan Becks from the Bougainville Youth in Agriculture Association (BYIAA), an implementing partner of FAO for the on-going COVID-19 impact assessments, provided a brief presentation on the initial findings of the COVID-19 Food Security Impact Assessment conducted by BYIAA in Central and Southern Regions of Bougainville.
7. The presentation mainly focused on the food insecurity experience scale (FIES) data collected from the assessment surveys in the two regions.
8. The assessment surveys were conducted over a period of 2 months from October to December

### AOB

9. Mr. James Marshall from DFAT informed the cluster on the Western Province South Fly Resilience Plan is currently under discussion with the senior management at the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby. The plan is focused on food and water security, and emergency preparedness and livelihoods.



10. Also, there is currently a review of the Australia's Agriculture Development Portfolio underway, with consultation with DAL and other stakeholders.

### Action Items

1. FAW Action Plan draft to be shared to the cluster in early 2021.
2. The next Food Price Bulletin is to be released in March 2021 by IFPRI and partners.
3. DFAT to share IFPRI's research note on the "Effects of Covid-19 on Papua New Guinea's Food Economy: A Multi-Market Simulation Analysis" (It was shared after the meeting).
4. IFPRI to do a presentation on the simulation modelling on the various threats to food security in PNG in the next cluster meeting.
5. ASF Technical team including NAQIA and FAO to share updates on the African swine fever Six-month action plan developed from the ASF Stakeholders Workshop to be conducted in Mt. Hagen, Western Highlands Province, from 16 to 17 December 2020.
6. Cluster members to confirm their contact details with the FAO (the PNG FSC Secretariat).
7. FSC will inform cluster on next cluster meeting date in January.

### NEXT MEETING

TBC

### ANNEX 1 – ATTENDANCE LIST

#### Attendees:

1. Emily Schmidt – IFPRI
2. James Marshall – DFAT Australia
3. Brown Konabe – Chair-DAL
4. Helmtrude Sikas-Iha – CO-chair-FAO
5. Ian Laki – FAO
6. Nigel Baro –FAO
7. Simon Kafu -IOM
8. Steven Hoko – DAL
9. Michael Bourke – ANU
10. Jordan Becks – BYIAA
11. Nicolas Syed – IFAD
12. Richard Higgins – UNDP / PNG DMT Secretariat
13. Roselyn Kuniata – Caritas Australia
14. Melainie Raire- UNDP