Thursday 12th September 2019 at 10.30-12.00 PM I Department of Agriculture and Livestock I Main Conference Room I Central Government Office (CGO) Building I Waigani.

Chair

Mr. Brown Konabe, Director Food Security Branch DAL
Co-chair: Helmtrude Sikas-Iha FS Cluster Coordinator FAO

Participants

Refer to Annex 1.

Agenda

1. Contingency plans (natural and conflict disasters)
2. Preliminary findings of the study on planting material propagation & distribution
   o Overview of food security issues during a taim hungre
   o Threats to food security in the most vulnerable locations
   o Relief during and after natural disasters
   o Strategy to increase resilience in the most vulnerable places including distribution of planting material of key crops
   o Potential partners for propagation, distribution and for long term increased resilience
   o Next steps

1. Contingency Planning

The cluster was informed of the process taken to formulate contingency plans. The food security cluster was required to provide inputs to the natural and conflict disasters. The process required inputs from the cluster actors to consolidate into a sectoral action plan to provide to the Disaster Management Team Secretariat to consolidate into one plan.

The example of the ARoB Humanitarian Contingency Plan was presented at the cluster. It was anticipated in that scenario that, in the event that a response was required, the cluster will draw on what has been planned using this planning process for the food security and agriculture sector. The contingency plan would provide an action plan with principled, targeted and coordinated life-saving and protection assistance to 50,000 people affected by the disaster.

2. Preliminary findings of the study on planting material propagation and distribution

Planting materials is a very important especially in places where there is increasing effects of catastrophic events that brings about by natural disasters such as drought, earthquakes, floods and frosts that brings negative impacts to the surrounding communities.

A major impact of disaster affected areas is food insecurity and the unavailability of food supplies. Supplying seeds and planting materials in a well sustainable and in the most appropriate ways, will ensure there is food available before, during and after a slow onset disaster.
The threats to food security in the most vulnerable locations were shared using a picture presentation. The cost of providing food relief during and after natural disasters is very expensive. The efforts used for the provision of food supplies can be used in increasing the supply of planting materials of key food crops and then distributed to disaster-impacted communities.

There are existing and long-term vulnerabilities at these locations such as malnutrition and it is obvious in times of disaster. Short-term issues that have a negative impact on food availability are disasters and tribal fights. When these occur, the planting cycles of food crop production are affected and therefore the impact on these vulnerable communities and are further exacerbated. As a result, the workload of women in food gardens is increased.

Also, during a disaster, women die at birth, there are increased death rates of kids by chronic disease which has an adverse impact on children's mind capacity. The inaccessibility of road for transportation is another issue and the shortage of water and the scarcity of food has led people migrating to safe places. In order for a better life expectancy, key food crops play an important role.

Hence, the strategy to increase resilience, is to work with entities who breed, propagate, and distribute planting materials, and for the distribution of planting material of key crops in the most vulnerable locations. Also to work with the private sector to ensure sustainability of this intervention.

The strengths, challenges, and gaps within the institutions who propagate and distribute planting materials and supply of planting materials were identified and a plan for resilience production will be built around that. Pathogen tested varieties, increased and better quality of planting materials, disease resistance, and drought resistance crops are also required when increasing the propagation of planting materials of key food crops.

It was also identified that training for nutrition and health were areas for strengthening of food crop supply during times of disasters. Upgrading of road infrastructures was an essential area to enhance the marketing of key food crops for improved livelihoods of those affected by disasters.

Cluster members provided feedback to have a proper design of the study, that the interventions should be adaptable by impact community. Cluster members also added the to consider the availability of land and to include simple irrigation techniques during the planning process.

Potential partners identified in the propagation and distribution of planting materials of key food crops for disaster situations. These include actors from the government, private sector, NGOs, faith-based organizations, academic institutions, research institutions and including many others. They play a major role in the breeding, propagation, and distribution of seeds and planting materials.

**Next step:** From the findings of the study on the propagation and distribution of planting material, a proposal will be developed and presented to DAL, DFAT, and FAO for review and will also be shared with the cluster for feedback.

**Action Item**

- Provide the full proposal to DAL, DFAT, and FAO in October, 2019.
ANNEX 1 – ATTENDANCE LIST

1. Joe Koima, Fresh Produce Development Agency
2. Linsy Pokambut, World Vision Papua New Guinea
3. Anna Kimam, Department of Agriculture and Livestock
4. Charles Iha, Global Green Growth Institute
5. Mary Jr Konobo, Secretariat, Disaster Management Team
6. Nige Kaupa, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
7. Joshua Kale, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
8. Doreen Iga, Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research
9. Aaron English, Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research
10. Tom Okpul, The Papua New Guinea University of Technology
11. Mike Bourke, Australian National University Enterprise
12. Helmtrude Sikas-Iha, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
13. Brown Konabe, Department of Agriculture and Livestock