Tuesday 22nd October 2019 at 11:00am - 12:00pm | Department of Agriculture and Livestock Main Conference Room | Central Government Office (CGO) Building | 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. Dissemination of main findings of the Planting material study and next steps;
   - Consolidated findings of the study
   - Implementation strategy
   - Way forward
2. IFPRI study – Agricultural Markets and Food Security in Papua New Guinea-Monitoring, Analysis and Capacity Strengthening for increased Resilience
   - Brief overview of study
   - Plans for further research and capacity building on food security in PNG
   - Quarterly food situation reports including market price monitoring as part of an early warning system to indicate food shortages

1. **Findings of the Planting material study**

The cluster was informed of the findings from the planting material survey outlining the features/trends where most people are vulnerable to food shortage:

- Low cash income in farming households
- Physical environment is not ideal for agricultural production with low population density
- Areas are remote and inaccessible via road to receive basic goods and services
- In high altitude areas, particularly the highlands fringe, frost destroys most food crops
- For islands and atolls, rising sea levels causing erosion and soil salinity is the common cause of food shortage

It was also highlighted that the current focus is on drought affected areas where there is serious cases of people dying due to shortage of food, lacking mostly protein and carbohydrates in daily meals.

The proposed strategy discussed would be the support from organizations working to improve food security and cash income through increasing their capacity to multiply and sell key crops. This could be enabled through food security enhancement by:
- Introduction and distribution of planting material
- Training villagers in improved crop production
- Basic training in nutrition and hygiene
- Assist villagers in increasing household cash income

The way forward through the grant scheme that is available (draft budget of K10.5mil/USD 3mil):
1. Competitive grant scheme to groups engaged with communities to increase their resilience to food shortage or to propagate key food crops such as corn, bean.
2. Non-contested grants being distributed to institutions and agencies (e.g. DAL, NARI, FPDA, Hore Agriculture Service, Alotau DPI) for multiplication and distribution of seeds.

2. IFPRI Study – Agricultural Markets and Food Security in PNG: Monitoring, Analysis and Capacity Strengthening for increased Resilience

- The International Food Policy Research Institutes (IFPRI) main objective was to provide research-based solutions that sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition. The four main pillars for IFPRI –PNG program are; Research, Policy analysis, Policy dialogue and Capacity strengthening.

- IFPRI implemented a rural household survey on food systems in PNG in 2018. The survey focused on questionnaires on agricultural production systems and health outcomes with sections on production, consumption and expenditure, farming and non-farming activities and nutritional statuses of which a report was formulated, providing key indicators and actions that can be taken to improve agricultural systems and nutrition in PNG.

IFPRI has embarked on a three (3) year program in Papua New Guinea with key outputs under the following pillars as:
- Research: - Upcoming survey in May 2020
  - Socio-economic analysis of food security outcomes
  - Food security bulletins, first to be printed in March 2020
Minutes 2019/2

- Capacity strengthening: - Data analysis course at the University of PNG
  - Data collection and database management
  - Data driven policy analysis with government departments

- Policy dialogue: -Hands-on collaboration with key government partners
  - Annual workshop on research results
  - Meetings with provincial government partners

Next step

Finalization of the planting material proposal and present to DAL, DFAT and FAO for review and will also be shared with the cluster for feedback.

NEXT MEETING
TBC

ANNEX 1 – ATTENDANCE LIST

1. Katie Francis, Australian High Commission
2. Isimel Tuembe, Oxfam
3. John Hosea, Adventist Development and Relief Agency
4. Alice Daniel, Adventist Development and Relief Agency
5. Linsy Pokambut, World Vision
6. Don, Caritas PNG
7. Joe Koima, Fresh Produce Development Authority
8. Kavaea Evara, MDF
9. Aaron English, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
10. Julienne Leka-Maliaki, Australian High Commission
12. Regina Nukundj, Department of Agriculture and Livestock
13. James Marshall, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
14. Emily Schimdt, International Food Policy Research Institute
15. Brown Konabe, Department of Agriculture and Livestock
16. Aina Kaupa, World Vision
17. Dr Mike Bourke, Australian National University
18. Mathew Kanua, National Consultant
19. Helmtrude Sikas-Iha, Food and Agriculture Organization
20. Dr. Nime Kapo, Food and Agriculture Organization
21. Melinda Benjamin, Food and Agriculture Organization