Minutes 2019/3

Tuesday 07th April 2020 at 02:00pm - 04:00pm PNG time | via Zoom

Chair

Mr. Brown Konabe, Director Food Security Branch DAL

Co-chair: Helmutrude Sikas-Iha FS Cluster Coordinator FAO

Participants

Refer to Annex 1.

Agenda

1.0 Opening remarks and agenda list (Chairperson)
2.0 Overview of the current situation on COVID-19
3.0 Review of last meeting minutes/action items
4.0 Brief update on African Swine Fever and actions
5.0 Impact of FAW on crops
6.0 Cluster member updates, plans and new developments
7.0 Action Items and next steps (Cluster Coordinator and Chairperson)

1. Brief introductions of who is on the call

The cluster members were welcomed by the Chair and co-chair. Participants were then asked to self-introduce themselves.

2. Review of last meeting minutes/action items

Impact assessment implementation:

- There is on-going bilateral discussions with UN colleagues, IFPRI, DFAT, WFP who are providing technical support and guidance notes and ways forward to have an outline for the impact assessment. FAO is taking lead to come up with baseline for the methodology on how the impact assessment will be implemented and will share with rest of partners to see where best they can contribute/fit in.

Messaging:

- Messages have been drafted and are based on food safety, ensuring there is no overlapping on what is being shared by other clusters (i.e. WASH cluster). Will be finalized as per the comments/feedback and will be sent for cluster approval.
- UNDP has been working with FAO and the Protection Cluster in preparing risk messages in terms of protection not just specific to COVID but all three current issues (COVID-19, ASF and FAW), causing violence in the Highlands region.

Market monitoring:
- MDF and its program partners have started monitoring prices of market goods. There has been indications of challenges with goods and supplies reaching cities, small markets and shops,
- Fear and lack of awareness at the community level on COVID-19 causing lockdown of villages restricting access to cocoa and coffee.
- Due to SOE transportation of goods has been very limited
- Price of goods have increased
- All major markets are closed hence farmers are selling produce on roadside markets. There is no social distancing and hygiene being practised, hence educating famers on basic hygiene and sanitation is important.
- SOE arrangement does not indicate the allowance of transportation of produce from the Highlands to Port Moresby. Requested DAL Secretary to address the matter with the SOE coordinator.
- Representatives from the agriculture sector such as DAL or FPDA to be included in the COVID-19 emergency control team as ‘essential service provider’

3. Overview of the current situation on COVID-19

- Officially, second confirmed case of COVID-19 in East New Britain is a 40 year old woman
- FSC partner members are ramping up preparedness and response strategies to respond to COVID-19 as in light of the second confirmed case, containment and response phases will need to be taken into account as per the government of PNG SOPs.

4. Brief update on African Swine Fever and actions

- It has been confirmed that ASF is in PNG. This has been declared by the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock indicating its presence in Hela, Southern Highlands and Enga provinces which are now disease and quarantine zones.
- NAQIA has dispatched a team to the three provinces to conduct delimiting surveillance to determine the extent of the spread of ASF, as well as carry out containment and awareness on ASF.
- The government has allocated reserve funds for the tem to carry out delimiting exercise
- The Livestock Development Cooperation (LDC) gets on board to ensure ASF containment in the current provinces and does not spread to ‘clean’ provinces, as this will have a great effect on pig production.
- Discussions with colleagues within the UN system, awareness messages are being developed specific to ASF.
- FAO working with PHARMA and NAQIA to produce and translate ASF awareness messages

5. Impact of FAW on crops

- FAW is a pest of corn or maize, rice and other grasses. There are two types; One that attacks sorghum and maize while the other attacks rice and other crops.
- The pest originated from South Africa and has spread to Africa South East Asia, Northern Australia and now PNG across in western province: Pest of corn or maize etc...
- FAW is confirmed to be found in the Western province border areas of Daru. FAO program working to support NAQIA and DAL on a contingency plan on containment.
- FAO has an existing technical cooperation program specific to FAW. An international expert from the FAO regional office providing remote technical assistance. In country; on-going communication with respective partners FPDA, NARI, Unitech. Awaiting NAQIA CPPO to circulate the investigative report and next steps for FAO and NAQIA to develop a responsive plan.

6. Cluster member updates, plans and new developments

Priority issues and how they can be addressed, plans and new developments in relation to:

James Marshall:
- Currently focusing on IFPRI and FPDA as well as FAO and DAL on market survey. As current market and transport disruptions to food supply could lead to safety and food concerns as well. Model and guidance on how food can be transported to main local areas. MDF and FAO could look at contacts to assist in this area.
- Investigating global supplier restrictions; understanding potential restrictions. At the moment rice stock-piles are good, rice is available in China. Working with government on ASF and the economic losses, border package assistance in term of food security and agriculture and economic resilience and recovery.
- FSC to provide a snapshot on what different development partners are doing in terms of food security and agriculture recovery.
- Longer term focus on the impacts of COVID-19 in terms of declining agricultural production and rural income, the impacts on labour and inputs and commodity prices, trade disruptions.

Emily IFPRI:
- Macro-economic modelling of data on; the effects on production within the country, seed delivering system, ASF, market accessibility and imports. In the process of creating a multi-market model which provides an analysis of the effects on the demand side of different goods, how policies can be formulated
in order to decrease the cost on individual household consumption and also how market systems will be functioning within the country.

- Variety of survey instruments being implemented in different countries when facing challenges on different scale. IFPRI will be sharing different modules with FAO on questionnaire development and assessment

Nicola WFP:
- Supporting countries with micro-analysis, looking at trade and supply issues, macro economics.
- Two elements have been refined is a module that is adapted to the COVID-19 context of food security, understanding the food consumption pattern of the population
- Key concern is the informal workforce, waged labourers, casual labourers, migrant workers in urban/peril-urban, have developed some module to look at some of the coping strategies that this population have adapted to or a likely to adapt to over the next two months the food coping strategy and the livelihood coping strategy. In addition, a module looks into multi dimension deprivation, understanding what people are resorting to in terms of health, income, food security these modules have been adapted and will be shared with the FSC in developing the assessment.
- There is also a key element; the Market Functionality Index that looks at the broader aspect of food and food availability, food and non-food items. Also from the retailer perspective, understanding the bottlenecks. Some lessons learnt from China can be shared with the cluster. The latest module that has been developed to the COVID-19 context can also be shared
- WFP is available to work on the macro-analysis in particular the market functionality as a key contribution.

Shariful MDF: Proceeding in terms of addressing the COVID scenario
- Using the tree-form strategy to engage with private sector to reach out to their supplier base and increase awareness of rural communities. There has been good discussion with companies on how to reach out to rural communities and educating them on what is COVID-19 and how best to keep safe and still engage with the companies. These are activities MDF can support with the approval from DFAT.
- Working with Kanua on concept note on emergency food supply chain concept. Once developed, it will be shared and submitted to DFAT for implementation
- Engage in price information collection and inter-province trading information of fresh produce in collaboration with market authorities.

Mathew: Add on to Shariful
- Critical that data is collection should be ongoing by state institutions such as DAL, NARI, FPDA. This core function needs to be led by state bodies rather than working in isolation. Information, data and intelligence gathering should be institutionalized.

Mirriam, FAO:
- FAO has a regional team that has been set up to provide support to the country office; FAO is looking at the proposal for developing the methodology to conduct a needs assessment, to assess the needs and understand the socio-economic impacts caused by COVID-19 and the compounding effects of FAW
and ASF. Once travel bans are lifted, technical experts from FAO regional office will be in-country to provide support.

- There is a regional framework being setup to assess the impacts of COVID-19 specifically on food systems, food security and livelihoods. The assessment is being rolled out in two staged; rapid assessment of 4-6 weeks and longer term assessment of 3-9 months.

- FAO will be supporting the FSC and partners in terms of rapid needs assessment survey and also important to say that not only COVID but ASF and FAW. FAO country office currently in discussion with regional team on support that can be provided; both technical and financial. There is also a need for more coordination in terms of the different activities being done by cluster members to avoid over-lapping in terms of assessment.

Joe, FPDA:

- Weekly market surveys are being done in the main urban areas in Mt Hagen, Kokopo, Port Moresby, Goroka and Lae for the past 10 years. Current challenge in terms of data collected is whether the data can be analysed; Emily of IFPRI is assisting in this area. However, due to current COVID-19 situation, data collection has been halted due to closure of main urban markets. A system should be put in place to enable continuation of data collection even during lockdowns/SOEs going forth.

Emily IF: Advised not to reinvent mechanism to collect data, however, use the same CAPI program for data collection and make a note when uploading onto database that data was taken elsewhere (i.e. roadside market) instead of usual urban markets.

Mathew, Senior Consultant: Spoke to people in Hagen central, Markham valley in Lae and they have advised that there is an extensive expunction on the roadside. People coming from outside of Hagen central to purchase market produce. Same thing in the Markham valley; four main markets in Lae have shut down, hence this has caused thefts on food gardens, as the demand for food has increased due to people being laid off in light of COVID-19 SOE (i.e. workers employed by the oil palm, cassava plantation, Niu Guinea table birds).

**Action Items**

1. Finalize food safety messages, send out to cluster for approval before disseminating
2. Contextualize messages of COVID-19, ASF and FAW for specific locations
3. James/DFAT to follow up within their network on activities related to FAW to share with FSC
4. Lavinia to follow up on Economic Analysis Report on ASF and share with FSC
5. Cluster Coordinator to map partner activities (circulate 3Ws)
6. Outline of impact assessment methodology to be sent to cluster members
7. Price monitoring template to be shared with DAL provincial, NARI, FPDA, NAQIA provincial, NGOs and CPP
8. Set up of task force within DAL/FPDA/FAO to discuss special pass to farmers (women as well) with central province and coordinate movement of fresh food to market
9. Inclusion of FSC/DAL rep in the National Emergency Controllers Office
10. Inform SOE controller to support for women that pass through road blocks to Fresh produce markets
11. Assessment on the spread of FAW and its impact
12. Set up dialogue with the Central Provincial Authority for car passes for service providers especially women into the city
13. Impact assessment of FAW on food security and economic loss
14. Information Paper on current issues being discussed and associated recommendations for the perusal of the DAL Secretary and Minister
15. Nicholas WFP to provide mVAM questionnaires to FSC
16. Emily or Gerard to provide a brief presentation on the impact of COVID-19 on food/agriculture/economy from their country and what would be the lessons learnt for PNG
17. FSC action plan for COVID-19, ASF and FAW to be circulated

NEXT MEETING
Tuesday 14th April 2020 | 1-2 pm PNG time via Zoom

ANNEX 1 – ATTENDANCE LIST

Attendees:
1. James Marshall, DFAT
2. Shariful Islam, MDF
3. Mike Bourke, ANU
4. Mathew Kanua, independent consultant
5. Brown Konabe, Chairperson
6. Sharon Inone, DMT Secretariat
7. Emily Schmidt, IFPRI
8. Nicolas Bidaut, WFP Regional office Bangkok
9. Camilla Blasius, UNICEF
10. Joe Koima, FPDA
11. Michelle Muller, UN Women
12. Geethi, World Bank
13. Santon Josh, World Bank
14. Gerard Ng, UNDP
15. Regina Nukundj, DAL
16. Graham, FPDA
17. Glen Hayoge, FPDA
18. Mirriam Mondia, FAO
19. Helmtrude Sikas-Iha, FAO
20. Melinda Benjamin, FAO
21. Paula Pupune, FAO