Minutes 2020/3

Tuesday 21st April 2020 at 02:00pm - 04:00pm PNG time | via Zoom

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. Welcome (Chairperson)
2. Current situation of COVID-19 in PNG
3. Update from the Lae mission
4. Update on African swine fever
5. Update on Fall armyworm
6. Activity updates from cluster members
7. Summary and Action Items

1. Current situation of COVID-19

- Cases had increased to seven (7) in Papua New Guinea. The provinces where the cases had occurred were Central, Morobe, East New Britain and National Capital District and Western Province. Most of the cases had recovered except the three in Western Provinces where they are still under observation.

3. Update on Lae Mission

- Food supply transported into Lae city was an issue now that only the main market was open and the smaller markets are still closed.
- The Lae Food Security Sector Working Group working market development, restructure, fresh food wholesale bulk buying adhering to social distancing at the market
- The Lae group, strategizing on providing support to the food and income loss situation related to COVID-19 for both the rural and urban Morobe
- Dr Bourke positively remarked that FAO should continue to monitor the Lae group and replicate the Lae Food Security model in other smaller provincial towns in PNG
4. Update on African Swine Fever and FAW

- There had been indication that ASF had spread to Margarima in Hela and Kandep in Wabag. Team increasing efforts on risk communication
- See further updates in cluster member updates
- Follow-up on risk communication messages and more investigation needed in the Southern Region

5. Activity updates from cluster members

- Nicolas/IFAD member Nicolas was joined cluster and was interested in the work being done by Lae Food Security Working Group. National Food Security Cluster in Port Moresby with now Lae group linked in. He said they were reprogramming their MVF program with FPDA/DAL and that they stand ready to support FAO with the assessment and other work on fresh produce as per the cluster discussions
- Allan/World Bank and Regina/DAL together updated the cluster of their group meeting with NAQIA, Phamaplus and FAO. The World Bank has considered ASF to be supported through their project titled the PNG Agriculture Commercialization and Diversification Project (PACD), particularly the Emergency component for piggery value chain to take on board and address not only the ASF but FAW issues as well.
- Sidney/Phamaplus reported that they are making changes to the ASF Economic Analysis Report adding in the protection and human rights parts to it and then would circulate with cluster
- He also reported the progress of the surveillance mission and the report will be out soon. He further reported that the risk communication teams have to increase their efforts for the mediums to communicate the ASF messages. Radio and other avenues to be used to decrease social issues related to ASF and that Team from NAQIA will be deployed to the Highlands to continue the surveillance and containment measure of ASF
- Having said, the Cluster Coordinator was happy to note that Phamaplus and the Highlands Joint Program have acted on contextualizing the ASF messages using different mediums to address the additional social issues that come handy in the context of Highlands
- Steve Burns/AHC/DFAT announced that they will be funding FAO for the Rapid impact assessment. In relation to this, cluster members (DAL) enquired if the methodology could be shared with the cluster. Mirriam said it is not ready to be shared at this time as it is undergoing quality checks within the FAO teams
- Willie/ADRA reported from the Church partnership that they were implementing food security activities in Bosavi, SHP
- WFP and IFPRI reported that they are ready to support FAO and DAL particularly on the impact assessment but also the cluster work
- Sharif/MDF targeting 4 provinces on price monitoring of fresh produce. These are provinces where they are programming in. The price monitoring includes cocoa and coffee
- Sharif/MDF has brought in Outspan Limited and reported that they are doing messages on the work done for Cocoa and other cash crop in relation to COVID-19 with funding from DFAT.
- Regina/DAL reported that the National Airports Cooperation (NAC) willing to provide storage facilities/space at airports for fresh produce.
- Mr. Konabe gave a summary of the meeting with the minister, relevant government agencies and private sector of rice and wheat companies. For the next 3 months (April to June), rice and wheat supply in the country will not be a problem. Opportunists continue to hold 50-100 road blocks in the Highlands and charge commuters/travelers unnecessarily. Communication desk to be set up within DAL
- Urban livelihoods should now be considered as a response activity
- Lavina/Phamaplus noted that the value adding opportunities with cassava and would be crop for consideration after
- Alex/Phamaplus commented on export restrictions with DFA and WTO
- Work with Protection Cluster on how to get the informal sector up and running

**Action Items**

1. NAQIA, FAO, Phamaplus to work on finalization of the messages for Fall armyworm
2. Follow-up with Economic Analysis Report on ASF and FAW
3. Continue mapping partner activities on 4W
4. Price monitoring continues with teams within cluster
5. Impact assessment of FAW on food security and economic loss
6. Information Paper on current issues being discussed and associated recommendations for the perusal of the DAL Secretary and Minister

**NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 28th April 2020 | 2 pm PNG time via Zoom

**ANNEX 1 – ATTENDANCE LIST**

Attendees:
1. Brown Konabe, Chairperson
2. Willie Kunsei, ADRA
3. James Marshall, DFAT
4. Shariful Islam, MDF
5. Mike Bourke, ANU
6. Mathew Kanua, independent consultant
7. Regina Nukundj, DAL
8. Anna Kiman, DAL
9. Allan Oliver, World Bank
10. Nichoas Syed, IFAD
11. Emily Schmidt, IFPRI
12. Sidney Suma, Phamaplus,
13. Alex, Phamaplus
14. Nicolas Bidaut, WFP Regional office Bangkok
15. Michelle Muller, UN Women
16. Geethi, World Bank
17. Santon Josh, World Bank
18. Hudson, DMT
19. Douglas Apeng, SUN movement
20. Regina Nukundj, DAL
21. Graham, FPDA
22. Mirriam Mondia, FAO
23. Helmtrude Sikas-Iha, FAO
24. Melinda Benjamin, FAO
25. Paula Pupune, FAO