



Tuesday 07 July 2020 at 02:00pm - 03:30pm PNG time | via Zoom

### Chair

Mr. Brown Konabe, Director Food Security Branch DAL

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

### Participants

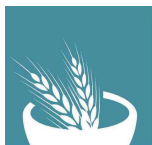
Refer to Annex 1.

## Agenda

1. Situational overview update on COVID-19
2. Update/Presentation of African Swine Fever
3. ASF Risk Communication Strategy
4. ASF Preparedness in the Highlands
5. Presentation on the spread of the Fall Armyworm
6. Supply and Demand of Fresh Produce in Port Moresby
7. Update of West Papua refugees
8. Short and progressive partner activity
9. AOB

### 1. Situational overview update on COVID-19

1. Helmtrude reported the following brief/updates from FAO Sitrep 03 2020 that is soon to be published/circulated:
  - Three new reported cases of COVID-19 reported in Port Moresby in June 2020, which brings the total number of confirmed cases in PNG to 11.
  - One of the affected persons was a defense officer at Murray Barracks, hence, there has been a 14 days lockdown imposed at the barracks, starting of 25 June.
  - The new National Pandemic Act 2020 together with 8 new measures (most relating to public health standards) were passed on by Parliament, in addition to the 13 previous emergency orders. The new Act or the Public Health Emergency Act is for the purpose of responding to the Pandemic and to enable the delivery of the Act.
  - Community transmission of COVID-19 is now evident with additional three cases.
  - Measure put in place to control the spread of COVID-19 has affected the reopening of provincial main markets and furthermore impacted the income of



smallholder farmers and urban residents, as well as those in the private sector agribusiness were the worst impacted.

- Some markets are still closed while some are reopening
  - Essential and basic food safety rules at some main markets need to be in place before market authorities allow the recommencement of sales of cooked food, poultry and fresh fish. Most of these sections of the markets are still closed.
  - COVID-19 measures have affected the long-term benefits of small income earners. There was a case where an individual (female) who is employed in the private had her leave funds used to pay her through the three-month lock-down period.
  - After discussions with FPDA, it has been identified, from data, that in general the demand of fresh food supply in Port Moresby is for high altitude fresh produce, such as broccoli and carrot including others.
  - Concerned citizens have raised the need for protocols to govern the road side markets as there seems to be too many of them
  - COVID creates an opportunity for provinces to take stock on what should be done in terms of agriculture to improve livelihoods.
2. Nicolas reported that IFAD has launched a facility called the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility to support small holder farmers. IFAD has been allocated 473, 000 USD for PNG. IFAD office in PNG has been asked to develop a proposal in conjunction with DAL, UN and other stakeholders. The first draft of the proposal will be out tomorrow (08 July 2020). The idea of the proposal is to incorporate the Facility activities into IFAD's ongoing project in the highlands provinces of WHP, EHP, and Jiwaka, and Morobe Province, which is implemented by FPDA and focuses on supporting fresh produce farmers. The Facility is about supporting fresh produce farmers to enter into beneficial agreements with lead partners. The lead partners and the farmers are expected to pay a 10 percent contribution to financial institutions to be able to get loans to basically complement the investment and the subsidy that the project will be giving them. In reaction to COVID response, the idea is to basically finance that 10 percent directly. Thus, the Facility/project will, in one of its components, provide working capital for the local transporters to support the fresh producers due to the imposed travel restrictions.

Nicolas is willing to share the draft of the Facility project proposal for sighting and peer review.

## 2. Update/Presentation of African Swine Fever

3. Allan provided an update on the procurement of technical assistance for support to ASF. He reported that the World Bank and FAO have been able to secure technical assistance to support ASF. One international technical assistance is based in Rome and interviews for national consultants were conducted yesterday and they will be engaged shortly. This support will be



able to provide NAQIA and to the technical team. Also, World Bank has put in a funding submission to the Korean Trust Fund and 400,000 USD has been approved. They are now working on the last stages to present the final proposal. This funding will also go towards supporting the work on ASF and Fall armyworm.

4. Dr Ilagi Puana of NAQIA was not available to do his presentation on ASF.

### 3. ASF Risk Communication Strategy

5. PHAMA Plus was not available to give update on the ASF Risk Communication Strategy. However, Simon from PHAMA Plus joined later into the meeting and gave his updates in Agenda9 AOB.
6. Helmtrude reported that PHAMA is going to engage with stakeholders on the rolling-out of the ASF Risk Communication Strategy. The SMS communication strategy was launched last week.

### 4. ASF Preparedness in the Highlands

7. Regina Nukunj presented and reported the on the highlands ASF sensitizing and preparedness awareness in non-infected provinces of WHP, Jiwaka and Simbu. The target audience for the awareness were local SME pig farmers (sow herd range of 10 – 300) and Jiwaka pig farmers who are engaged in e-Agriculture. The awareness spanned for a week doing on-farm biosecurity awareness and demonstrations with farm PPEs. A total of five SME farms (one in Jiwaka and four in Simbu) were reached and awareness on prevention measures and short demonstrations on the use of PPEs were conducted to owners and farm hands.

The pig farmers showed appreciation and gratitude for the awareness on ASF prevention measures which will improve their on-farm biosecurity, including purchasing more PPEs and constructing perimeter fencing.

The constraints/issues faced by the pig farmers include lack of biosecurity protocols, lack of basic pig husbandry knowledge, and ignorance of the farmers (also the public) to the high risk of ASF spread. Also, the lack of funding is an issue in all three provinces that were visited.

Simbu Province was very proactive with its Provincial Administration being receptive in making time for sensitizing advocacy/awareness followed by tasking their technical officers to a brainstorming one day workshop for their awareness



on ASF. The Sibmu Provincial ASF Response Action Plan and Budget of K1.2 million was approved by the PMT and some funding have already been made available to commence their awareness.

DAL/LDC awareness team provided incidence reports to NAQIA on pig deaths for NAQIA to further investigate.

It is recommended for in-depth farmer awareness at different levels of pig farming and public, training of provincial counterparts and partners in the three provinces, and identification of main ASF focus areas and to seek funding support from development partners.

## 5. Presentation on the spread of the Fall Armyworm

8. Helmtrude provided an update on the spread of the Fall armyworm. It has spread to the Markham and Ramu Valley and Wau, in addition to Western Province. It has been found in Markham and Ramu areas by the Ramu Agri Industry. The pest has been only found on maize and sorghum.

## 6. Supply and Demand of Fresh Produce in Port Moresby

9. Joe Koima was not available to report on this agenda.

## 7. Update of West Papua refugees

10. Helmtrude gave the following updates and brief on the situation:
  - The FAO, DAL, disaster group and UN group have been supporting the group of refugees Western Province. They has been resettled in Kiunga at Catholic mission site. To this date, Immigration and others have gone in to give them their register and give them their status and go through the processes required for the relocation to happen.
  - There has been a recent meeting with DPLLGA who are mandated to look after the borders and are looking after food security issues at the moment. A request has been put forth by DPLLGA for seed and tools for refugees when they move over to Iowara to start up their livelihoods. The Department requested for around K13,000 for this assistance.



- FAO provided food rations to the refugees in December 2019 to help alleviate food shortage issues among the refugees.

11. Chanelle reported the following:

- A total of about 140 West Papuans arrived in PNG seeking protection in October 2019
- In December 2019, a UN joint mission with the Government to the site the refugees arrived and a recommendation was made for the refugees to be moves on a temporary, very short term basis, to Kiunga. This move occurred in February 2020.
- In March 2020, a UN team led by UNHCR and joined by UNFPA, UNDP and FAO undertook a mission to monitor the refugee situation.
- There were a number of very critical concerns particularly related to lack of freedom of movement, but of particular relevance to food rations that were being provided. The food rations have been provided inconsistently. There has been delays of provision of food rations, such as three days delay in two weeks for rations, causing great distress within the population. Informally received concerns identified that rations supplied for seven days have only been sufficient for four days. Furthermore, there has been an increase in GBV concerns, particularly among women and children, as well as child protection issues. In addition to these concerns, there has been an absolute lack of clothing and sleeping mats.
- Refugees were supposed to be relocated to the Iowara refugee site, with about two and half thousand West Papuan refugees, after temporary stay in Kiunga. Continued delays have resulted in the Kiunga relocation going over four months and potentially five months.
- Chanelle stated that she is open to discuss this further bilaterally with anyone from the cluster as they are trying to address these issues with the Government.

## 8. Short and progressive partner activity

12. James Marshall reported the following updates:

- Have been working on the Markets Economy Recovery Inclusions (MERI) Program. Through this program, a number of, about 14, major markets in key economic regions and economic corridors are helped being improved in terms of their public health standards necessary for managing COVID-19 and reestablishing them as a hub for the informal economy.



A managing contractor is currently working with the market authorities and provincial and district administrations on this, and undertaking rapid assessments on basic hygiene and sanitation needs in the markets. The assessments will be carried out on a stage basis over the next couple of months, and after this, minus sanitation and hygiene works to help markets comply with controls and guidelines to support safe operations of markets. Work is being done to establish a high level steering committee to oversee the program.

- Regarding the Lae City Handout Program, the first group of community workers have been selected for the first three projects in Lae. The School Garden Project is nearing its starting date, which is going to include the building of poultry sheds, vegetable gardens and fish ponds and other forms of agriculture to support the four high schools and two primary schools in Lae. DAL has joined Project in the last few weeks, including as number of other institutions such as NARI and Lea Polytech
13. Allan stated that the PACD project is still pending signing by treasurer to move on to next stage to launch the project.
14. Simon Anakapu reported the following:
- Regarding ASF risk communication, PHAMA Plus has moved from the DDA area, in which the initial focus for NAQIA was to make sure that PHAMA Plus's risk communications was focused in the affected areas, to rest of the country.
  - Recently launched a media campaign on all levels and platforms of media, including social media, updating people on the situation of ASF in the country. This is being done with the Australian DFAT and MFAT involvement with the bilateral program with PNG, and supporting NAQIA through their risk communication processes.
  - At the moment, PHAMA Plus is sticking to the format that has been now initiated (country-wide communication), making sure that the rest of the country is aware of ASF given that there is obviously and ill-informed audience around the country. The strategy is to make sure that ASF awareness is in the public space and then going deeper on to the ground level into communities right across the country.
  - A risk communication will be carried in Hagen mid this month to get a better understanding of AS, with the focus on behavioral change to the affected areas and then try to protect the rest of the country with a similar strategy.
  - Importantly and one of the biggest things is to get the message across the country that ASF is not caused by sanguma, especially in the Highlands region.



15. Helmtrude reported that Caritas Australia has requested session for ASF training to be done during their trainings.
16. Smith reported the following:
  - World Vision Recovery Rapid Assessment has been done. The findings of the assessment will be published one approval. The assessment asked food security and agriculture questions asked were focused on local household subsistence – household owned gardens and sustainability during COVID-19.

## 9. AOB

17. Helmtrude stated the following:
  - In terms of assessments that are currently going on, there is a reference group meeting that occurs every two weeks. World Vission will be included into this group, including others. Through this group, everyone will share what they are doing, especially gaps in study/assessment areas.
  - The UN SEIA has come through from the UN Resident Coordinators office and inputs and findings from FAO are currently being added in, then will be peer reviewed before it is shared.
18. Brown highlighted that it is important to know what each FSC member is doing in order to not duplicate assessments.
19. Regina explained on the normal quarterly National Government funding to districts and K1 from the stimulus package to each districts with K160, 000 for ASF response.
20. James Marshall suggested that for the next meeting to get somebody to join that will give updates on commodities effects on rural livelihoods.
21. Brown suggested for the next meeting, to invite representatives from commodity boards to highlight impacts of COVID-19 on crops such as cocoa and coffee.
22. Allan suggested for the next meeting to invite representatives from provincial governments' project management unit and CIC.
23. Elizabeth Kopel mentioned that she is still working on annotated bibliography based on last meeting. Also, NRI publications on COVID-19 available on NRI website



Elizabeth has been doing research on informal economy, particularly markets in NCD, and also have collected data on Rabaul and Kokopo Market, Lae Market, Alotau Market and Hagen Market. She is still putting together the results.

### Action Items

1. Nicolas to share IFAD's Rural Poor Stimulus Facility proposal for feedback, criticism and peer review, and IFAD is open for bilateral discussions on the Facility with organizations.
2. Share ASF Risk Communication Strategy with cluster.
3. Share Newsletter on MERI, Lae Handout Program and NKW Fresh.
4. Discuss with PHAMA Plus and other stakeholders to include ASF Training with Caritas Australia.
5. Get written update from NAQIA on ASF and Fall armyworm
6. Invite representatives (project managers) from Cocoa Boards and CIC to next FSC meeting to inform the cluster on impacts of COVID-19 measures on cocoa and coffee

### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 11 August 2020 | 2 pm PNG time via Zoom

### ANNEX 1 – ATTENDANCE LIST

#### Attendees:

1. Anna Kimam, DAL
2. Regina Nukundj, DAL
3. Emily Schmidt, IFPRI
4. James Marshall, DFAT
5. Mike Bourke, ANU
6. Allan Oliver, World Bank
7. Douglas Apeng, SUN movement
8. Brown Konabe, DAL, Chair
9. Helmtrude Sikas-Iha, FAO, CO-chair
10. Melinda Benjamin – FAO
11. Ian Laki – FAO
12. Nicolas Syed – IFAD
13. Chanelle Taoi – UNHCR





14. Elizabeth Kopel – NRI
15. Smith Sapaka – World Vision
16. Tomoko Sato – IOM
17. Simon Anakapu – PHAMA Plus