ATWG Meeting Minutes 11th June 2021

1. Opening remarks and review of previous minutes. (Benson -Co-chair)

With the welcome note, the ATWG meeting Chair insisted to broaden the base the ATWG, more members into the forum through engaging FAO, by mobilizing ELP partners and using the FSL Cluster to recommend Agriculture partners and update the emailing list for ATWG. The survey on training needs for ATWG partners is yet to be conducted, FAO is expected to support in running capacity building trainings to partners after the survey.

2. Crop management challenges (pesticides and remedies for disease control)- Morris – FAO

FAO gave an overview of the Fall Armyworm (FAW) Management Options following the numerous reports of FAW infestations around the country. The presentation was centered around: Monitoring; Possible IPM Options for management for FAW; and Cultural Control methods. Full presentation is uploaded on the FSL portal. FAO is running radio programs on Radio Miraya, and the boda boda tuktuk across the country, disseminating messages on pest management. Some materials now available on birational pest control methods developed by FAO. (Brief note on Fall Armyworm)

3. Agricultural Response in Emergencies" - Good practices by ACROSS -Dan Janzen

Dan Janzen, the "Technical Advisor Food Security and Livelihood" at ACROSS shared the good practices in emergency agriculture around South Sudan. Relief & development integrated, reaching out to the most vulnerable, the most difficult to reach, in dangerous places and monitor, evaluate, & improve, with professional approaches for rapid movement from relief to development. This involves leveraging, negotiating resources including rethinking terminologies that we use. “Relief to Development” (video clip here) focuses on an integrated programming with a transformational leadership, convergence of Church and Community Engagement. (Presentation here)

4. Brief update on the findings from SEADS Evidence Reviews - Isaac - FSLC

SEADS Project systematically reviewed (2020) the impact of emergency agriculture programming. 250 evaluations and studies, only 2 are “strong” evidence, 26 categorized as “moderate” evidence, due to various weaknesses in evaluation, research design, and reporting. It is observed that, very limited evidence exists to show that livelihood, food security, or nutrition objectives are achieved. Donors and implementing NGOs should critically review their commitment to understanding impacts. The overall conclusion is that there is limited evidence on the impact of emergency agriculture interventions on people’s livelihoods, food security, or nutrition. (Brief report here)

5. Update from ATWG partners

Partners indicated the challenge in joining the ATWG meetings through the link. FLS cluster information team to assist in fixing the challenge and have it tested before the next meeting. Need to consider having the ATWG meetings in the morning hours so that more partners can join since evening hours are busy and internet slows down.

AoB and Upcoming meeting, events, and trainings – Morris – FAO

- ATWG to conduct a training needs survey to inform FAO to prepare plans for capacity building of partners.
- Dan was invited to make another presentation at the FSL cluster meeting to share ACROSS experiences.
- FAO to recommend partners to the ATWG, and Justus to include them in them in the emailing list.
- FSL Cluster IMO, Justus to share another ATWG meeting link with all the partners.

The ATWG meeting was adjourned, next meeting will take place after 2 weeks, to be scheduled within the morning hours.