

## MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS WORKING GROUP MEETING

**Location: Borno State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR), Conference Room**

**Date: August 07, 2019**

**Time: 02:05 pm – 03:42 pm**

### AGENDA

1. Welcome, opening remarks and round of introductions (5 min)
2. Review of action points and approval of minutes of the previous meeting (5 min)
3. Updates on 2019 rainy season post distribution monitoring by partners (10 min)
4. Updates on dry season planning by partners (10 min)
5. Experience sharing and discussion on application/distribution of liquid fertilizer, by FAO (20 min)
6. AOB (5 min)

### SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

1. Sector to organize a proposed recommendations and lessons learned workshop between partner involved in micro/kitchen/backyard gardening (including FAO, AAH, ICRC, NRC and SCI)
2. Sector to share a map of seed distribution completed against the plans.
3. The sector to facilitate the coordination among dry season partners to avoid duplication

NO	PROCEEDINGS	ACTION
17	<p><b>Welcome, Introduction and Opening Remarks</b>            The meeting was opened by the chair, followed by the self-introductions</p>	
18	<p><b>Review of action points and approval of minutes of the previous meeting</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sector to organize a proposed recommendations and lessons learned workshop between partner involved in micro/kitchen/backyard gardening (including FAO, AAH, NRC and SCI) – Pending; ICRC asked to be included in the discussion on proposed recommendations and lessons learned workshop among partners involved in micro/kitchen/backyard gardening.</li> <li>2. FAO to share LGA-level post-harvest assessment findings for Borno State - FAO requested that the action point to be removed because they will not be able to meet it.</li> <li>3. Sector to share a map of seed distribution completed - Pending</li> </ol>	<p>Pending items from the meeting will be part of the action points for next meeting</p>
4.	<p><b>Updates on 2019 rainy season post distribution monitoring by partners</b></p> <p><b>ICRC:</b> Data for PDM ongoing in MMC, Jere and Monguno.</p> <p><b>ACF:</b> To share the PDM results later as well; Pulled out of Mobbar due to security challenges</p> <p><b>FAO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PDM started, but a break due to Sallah will pause the activity</li> <li>• In Monguno, the partner reported that as a result of the military restrictions, up to 60% of the beneficiaries did not plant the seed received.</li> <li>• On-site spot checks in Jere indicate that crops are 'doing well'</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO and partners are following up on the distributions of fertilizer to communities.</li> <li>• Regarding the issue of the groundnut that was reported not to have done well, this was confirmed. <u>Lessons learnt:</u> Standardized tests were done as required before seed distribution, and the preliminary findings indicated that the groundnut seed would not do well. By the time the test results was released, the seed had already been distributed due to time constraints to catch up with the season. FAO is looking into options to cushion the groundnut farmers with support to cover the already anticipated very poor harvest.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insecurity in Northern Borno has slowed down cropping activities.</li> <li>- In addition to Monguno, other partners mentioned a likelihood of similar reports of seeds not being planted in Nganzai and Magumeri, pending results of PDM.</li> <li>- Partners are encouraged to do a germination test before seeds are bought. On delivery also, lot sampling should be done again to ensure that good quality seed has been delivered.</li> <li>- Procurements of seeds will have to be done in time to avoid being caught up in time constraints</li> <li>- Regarding the seeds in Monguno not planted, partners were encouraged to sensitize farmers not to eat the treated seeds. Not all partners' seeds are treated, only some.</li> <li>- Partners also mentioned that other ways of keeping seed safe without treating is by storing in hermetic bags (ex: PICS bag)</li> <li>- Partners also recommended that from next season, joint PDMs at local level should be done to avoid individual partners doing separate PDMs. The LGA FSS focal points can lead this.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Updates on dry season planning by partners</b></p>	<p>ICRC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning for horticulture/vegetables growing with irrigation equipment using small pumps among other equipment.</li> <li>- Partners have been encouraged to consider availability of water and making sure there is no scarcity for water for human consumption by consulting with the WASH sector.</li> </ul> <p>FAO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In advanced stages of planning and procurement process for dry season farming</li> <li>- Ongoing discussions on fertilizer should be finalized soon so that the fertilizer for the dry season farming is clear.</li> <li>- Targeting at least 36,000 HHs in the states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe</li> </ul> <p>Discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kitchen gardening is an all year round activity</li> </ul>	<p>The sector to facilitate the coordination among dry season partners to avoid duplication</p>
<p><b>6. Experience sharing and discussion on application/distribution of liquid fertilizer, by FAO</b></p>	<p>Liquid fertilizers are applied through the leaves (foliar). Like solid fertilizer Liquid fertilizers comes in various.</p> <p><b>TYPES</b></p>	

- Organic and inorganic grades
- Straight fertilizers (Containing only one primary nutrient) e.g. Urea, SSP,
- Multi-nutrients fertilizer (Containing more than one primary nutrient) e.g. NPK,
- Secondary nutrients fertilizers (Containing only secondary nutrients) e.g. Magnesium, Sulphur, Calcium.
- Micronutrients fertilizer e.g. Iron, copper, zinc, boron in a straight or multi form.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE.**

Have to be labelled with:

- Nutrient(s) present
- Analysis result/grade/Active nutrients compositions.
- Manufacturer’s name and address
- Direction of use/Application rates
- Temper proof sealed
- Quantity in Litres.
- Certification by the relevant government agency.
- Expiry date/statement

**Tips for successful Liquid fertilizer use.**

- Chose the right fertilizer (type, nutrients, grade).
- Check and calibrate the sprayer.
- Know the spray volume needed standard.
- Follow the maker’s instruction.
- Dilute the fertilizer correctly.
- Ensure maximum leaves/foiar contact.
- Do not spray on a windy days or in a very dry weather or when heavy rain is likely.
- Buy the amount needed.
- Store the fertilizer correctly.

**BEFORE DISTRIBUTION**

- Ensure you understand your target audience needs and work accordingly e.g. training needs, Sprayer need.
- Know your distribution plan to workout sharing formula for both the fertilizer and sprayer i.e. number of farmers per container/sprayer.
- Purchase the right quality, quantity and container volume.

**AFTER DISTRIBUTION.**

- Monitor use and efficacy of the product for future programming.
- Ensure safe application and empty containers disposal.
- Share experience with other partners.

**Discussions**

Liquid fertilizer:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be careful in disposing off the remainder, plastic packaging and storage of the fertilizer, especially keeping it away from children for safety.</li> <li>• A spray pump should be accessible by the farmers. These can be shared among farmers.</li> <li>• Liquid fertilizer should be given enough time to be absorbed by the crop. For instance, if the fertilizer is applied a few minutes to a rain, it will be washed away. Application is best when the canopy is well developed</li> <li>• Partners should also take more precaution in training needs for extension agents and farmers in terms of application of the liquid fertilizer as granular fertilizer was the common one in North East before the military restriction</li> <li>• MC also mentioned that they have demonstration garden which includes application of liquid fertilizer, and other partners are welcome to visit.</li> </ul> <p>General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Propcom also mentioned that they have designed a fertilizer that is under the review with the Office of the National Security Advisor and under test to see if it can be applicable for the North East given that it cannot be used to make IED.</li> <li>• The alternative of using DAP fertilizer was also raised. According to the partner, majority studies indicate that the soils of North East Nigeria does not respond to Potassium which makes DAP more applicable to the context. However, it seems that currently, DAP is not common and many partners did not have information about DAP.</li> <li>• Partners are to continue with research to find most appropriate solutions to the fertilizer restriction issues in the North East.</li> <li>• More attention to the quality of fertilizer to ensure it is as required or described on their description and also meet standards.</li> </ul> <p>For the full presentation: <a href="https://fscluster.org/nigeria/document/presentation-basic-guidance-application">https://fscluster.org/nigeria/document/presentation-basic-guidance-application</a></p>	
7.	AOB: NSTR	
8.	<b>Closing:</b> The meeting adjourned at 3:42pm. The date for next meeting will be confirmed due to Eid.	

**Partners in Attendance:** 34 Partners - 46 individuals (8 females, 38 males).

Government/UN/Donors/Others	INGOs	NNGOs
1. MoA Borno	2. ADRA	3. CRUDAN
4. FoMARD	5. AAH	6. SACSUI
7. WFP	8. CARE	9. DHCBI
10. ICRC	11. CARITAS	12. YOUNG AID
13. NCFMI	14. PUI	15. SWNI
16. FAO	17. SI	18. YIPDI
17. IOM	18. DRC	19. PALRI
	20. ZOA	21. LPF
	22. MC	23. WREP

	24. ACTED	25. Sheriff Aid
	26. INTERSOS	27. HARAF
	28. ACF	29. GREENECODE
	30. NRC	31. SAF
	32. PROPCOM	33. SRF
		34. Creative Associates