

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS WORKING GROUP MEETING

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

Date: July 10, 2019

Time: 02:05 pm – 03:56pm

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 seed distribution by partners (25 min)
4. Discussion on ONSA temporary ban on dry-blended NPK fertilizer movement and distribution & its impact (20 minute)
5. Presentation on WFP Livelihood Programme and Activities (20 min) – TBC
6. AOB (5 min)

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

1. Partners to share their experiences and lessons learnt on liquid fertilizer
2. MoA to follow up with NEMA on the NEMA and Borno State Government rainy season distributions.
3. Sector to organize a proposed recommendations and lessons learned workshop between partner involved in micro/kitchen/backyard gardening (including FAO, AAH, NRC and SCI)
4. FAO to share LGA-level post-harvest assessment findings for Borno State
5. Sector to share Seed Voucher and Seed Fair guidance notes with partners for further comments
6. Sector to share a map of seed distribution completed

NO	PROCEEDINGS	ACTION
1.	<p>Welcome, Introduction and Opening Remarks</p> <p>The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Sector. This was followed by self introduction of all participants.</p>	
2.	<p>Review of action points and approval of minutes of the previous meeting (5 min)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 2. FAO to share LGA-level post-harvest assessment findings for Borno State – Pending 3. Sector to share Seed Voucher and Seed Fair guidance notes with partners for further comments – Pending 4. Sector to share a map of seed distribution completed – Pending <p>With no further comments, the last meeting minutes (25 June) were adopted.</p>	Pending items from the meeting will be part of the action points for next meeting
3.	<p>Updates on 2019 rainy season seed distribution by partners (25 min)</p> <p>Solidarites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finished distributions of inputs to 389 HHs out of 400 planned in Ndjamena, Ngala LGA. Post Distribution Monitoring to follow soon and feedback will be shared. 	Chair to follow up on the NEMA and Borno State Government distributions.



WFP

- Madagali, Konduga, Damboa, Mafa distributions on going. There were procurement challenges that delayed distributions in Ngala and Dikwa. Challenges were overcome and now distributions currently ongoing.

FAO

- Distributed almost all seeds, pending fertilizer. Pending LGAs for seed distribution completion include Ngala, Nganzai and Askira Uba. All the distributions are expected to come to an end the following week. Some of the challenges included difficulty in transporting inputs especially in Ngala, but it was overcome.
- The main challenge currently is the restriction on fertilizer movements. If there is more delays in getting the approval for fertilizer distribution, it will be too late to distribute hence not benefiting the farmers leading to low productivity.

VSF

- Completed distributions in Yobe and Adamawa. Partners had challenges in procuring herbicide and cow peas due to late arrivals from suppliers. VSF are partnering with IDS in Biu.

NCFRMI

- In Yobe, in collaboration with SEMA and local government, distributed seeds and other inputs including pesticide and herbicides.

AAH

- Did distributions for micro gardens and staples. In Borno, completed distributions in Mobbar, Monguno and Nganzai but ongoing in Gubio. These include tools as well such as wheel barrows, hoes etc. RESILAC project is setting up demo gardens in Jere and will later expanding to other LGAs.
- In Yobe, Geidam and Yunusari distributions have also been completed
- Gubio distributions were delayed by challenges in getting security clearance. Hopefully, distributions should end the following week

Mercy Corps

- All distributions (Hawul, Biu, Gwoza, Kwaya kusar, Mafa and Ngala) to be completed the following week
- Trucks for Jere and Mafa axis were stuck but should be resolved soon.
- Using voucher modality to support the beneficiaries to procure their preferred seed and other inputs including liquid fertilizer.

CARE

- There were delays in getting seeds to Dikwa. However, it is confirmed that it has arrived.

GREENCODE

- As FAO partner, started distributions of seeds. Faced security challenges in Madagali.

Discussion:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertilization of the land can still happen 2 to 3 weeks from the time of planting. • Sector chair (MoA Borno) confirmed that NEMA distributions will start with Jere immediately after the flag off by the Governor. It was clarified that the Borno State government distributions led by SEMA are different from NEMA's. • Partners mentioned that in some areas the types of crops procured were controlled by the military as they did not want farmers to plant "tall crops." It is key for partners to consult with military and community first to decide on the types of crops as part of the planning phase. 	
4.	<p>Discussion on ONSA temporary ban on dry-blended NPK fertilizer movement and distribution & its impact (20 minute)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter from ONSA on the storage, distribution, sale and usage of fertilizer in the North Eastern States was received through the co-lead agencies. According to the letter, among solid fertilizer, only wet-blended NPK fertilizer may be allowed. • At the moment, we are aware that five sector partners are planning to distribute solid fertilizer (total: 2,578MT), and out of the five, four have planned for dry blended NPK fertilizer distribution (600MT), which is banned by ONSA. The letter has been shared with these partners. Logistics Sector and OCHA Civil-Military/access colleagues have also been informed. • FAO has received clearance from ONSA, but currently waiting for approval at Theater Commander level in Maiduguri. • While the window for this current rainy season is very narrow if not too late for fertilizer distribution, partners are encouraged to look into the option of liquid fertilizer for the upcoming dry season, to be on the safe side. • A series of presentations/discussions by partners who have liquid fertilizer experience/knowledge will be organized in upcoming Agri & L WG meetings as it will have significant impact in terms of procurement, market readiness, budget/costs, transportation and project design (specific training for farmers as liquid fertilizer is not that common). • The Sector is also working with colleagues in UNMAS (whom ONSA has requested to meet and discuss about homemade explosive and fertilizers in Abuja) for their support in advocacy for the upcoming dry season from a technical perspective. UNMAS colleagues will hopefully meet with ONSA to further discuss at the end of July. • There is no restrictions on liquid or organic fertilizer. <p>Discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sector mentioned that there is need to plan for a longer term alternate solution given this challenge has been on for a long time. A similar challenge regarding fertilizer restriction may again come back in the next dry season planting. • Partners were also encouraged to start future procurements for dry season liquid fertilizer early since sometimes when there is shortage, suppliers may have to get the fertilizers from out of the country. • Partners were also advised to be careful about liquid fertilizer as some of the fertilizer is micronutrient only. 	<p>Partners to share their experiences and lessons learnt on liquid fertilizer so that the lessons can benefit the dry season. This will generate more solutions for the dry season.</p> <p>Sector to reach out to partners with expertise.</p>



5.	<p>Presentation on WFP Livelihood Programme and Activities (20 min)</p> <p>WFP Livelihood & Resilience Building Interventions FFA/ livelihood programme Main Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To enhance livelihood Protection, Restoration, Rehabilitation and Reclamation of assets contributing towards building Self-reliance and Resilience Capacity of conflict affected populations;• To improve the food security and nutrition of IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host communities in North East Nigeria. <p>Livelihood Planning Processes/Tools</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. ICA – Integrated Context Analysis<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A collaborative tool used to identify the most appropriate programmatic strategies in specific geographical areas, such as: Resilience building, Disaster risk reduction, Social protection, and emergency preparedness – among actors.2. SLP –Seasonal Livelihood Programming<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A consultative process used for planning applied at the sub-national / LGA level.• Bringing together local needs and experiences so that multi-sectoral & multi-year programmes and interventions can be coordinated, planned, and delivered.3. CBPP – Community Based Participatory Planning<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bottom up planning tool taking communities are at the center of planning and development. <p>Expected Outcomes of the Livelihood Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve access to food for the most vulnerable and food insecure people.• Increase access to livelihood assets that reduce disaster risks, ensures early recovery and contribution towards building long term resilience to shocks.• Empower local communities to improve planning, implementation and monitoring of projects and enable them decided their own development.• Ensure community participation, ownership, sustainability and replicability and scale up of successful interventions.• Increases partnership among actors (community, government NGOs and other actors for complementarity and consolidated outcomes.• Promote nutrition, gender equality and women’s empowerment.• Promote community cohesion and solidarity mechanisms.• Contribute in achieving zero hunger. <p>Selection criteria for WFP livelihoods interventions and locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Areas with relative security and accessibility and with access to land.• Displaced people who have returned back to their villages.• IDPs integrated with host communities.• Host/local communities affected by the conflict.• Beneficiary willingness to participate in livelihoods programmes (conditional transfers). <p>WFP Assisted Livelihood Projects</p>	
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1. FADAMA /WB– WFP partnership project – 1 year project in 2018
Operational Areas: four communities in MMC and Jere LGAs through CAID
2. WFP –livelihood project in Konduga town- 1 year project (2018)
Operational Area: Konduga LGA (town) through BOWDI
3. Synchronized Rainy Season Seed and food/cash distribution to IDPs having access to land (collaboration between FAO and WFP) – Since 2018 in two states;
4. EU-EDF joint project (WFP,FAO and UN-WOMEN) – 3 years project in 13 LGAs;
5. WFP – Livelihood transition plan 2019: (17 LGAs in NE) in 9 LGAs in Borno,6 LGAs in Yobe and 1 LGA in Adamawa.

Livelihood Components

WFP livelihood interventions classification: All projects designed based on community based participatory planning.

1. Community/ social assets – e.g school maintenance, market sheds construction, waste pits, water schemes, tree planting etc.
2. Private assets – benefiting individual households – dry and wet season crop production, livestock production, IGAs etc.

Main Livelihood Components

1. Dry and wet season crop production / Crop and vegetable production
2. Livestock production – small ruminants, poultry, fattening bulls, fishery etc.
3. Natural resource management – SWC, tree seedling production & planting, water harvesting etc.
4. Community infrastructures development – market sheds, schools and health facilities construction and maintenance, waste disposal pits, access roads construction & maintenance etc.
5. Income generating activities – small businesses managed by individuals and small groups
6. All interventions are supported by capacity building of CPs, beneficiaries and WFP staff (trainings, workshops, meetings etc).

Livelihood Plan 2019 main considerations

- Priority to transition beneficiaries from GFD to livelihoods.
- Entitled family size / members = 5.
- 7 months total transfer (3 months for asset protection and 4 months for community assets.
- Transfer modalities: in-kind, cash through mobile money, E-voucher.
- Labor utilization – 15 days / month per household.
- Working hours: 5-6 Hrs per day.
- Entitlement: one able bodied member works for 15 days per month and gets 30 days ration for 5 members in the household.

Implementation Challenges

- Insecurity as in the case of Ashemeri where NSAG raided the village four times in a week at night and robbed beneficiaries. They slaughtered and took away poultry distributed to the livelihood beneficiaries.
- Require communal land for group farming.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reluctance of the community/ beneficiaries to engage in public works/ activities and work for reasonable hours in a day to meet set technical standards and work norms. • Lack of community land for community assets such as nurseries, social infrastructures etc. • Delay in the partner’s procurement process slowed down activities implementation such as social infrastructures. • Limited experience of contracted CPs / WFP in livelihood activities planning and implementation. • Delay in cashing out at the beginning of the project also slowed down the implementation of some activities and beneficiaries thought they would not be paid for work done. • Poor ground level partnership and coordination with relevant partner. <p>Discussions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The importance of having technical field staff at LGA/ward level. 2. For PLWs, if they are to join the livelihood scheme, light chores will be given to them. 3. Land availability remains a big challenge. <p>Below is the link for the presentation: https://fscluster.org/nigeria/document/presentation-wfp-livelihood-resilience</p>	
6.	AOB: None.	
7.	Closing: The meeting adjourned at 3:56pm. The next Agriculture & Livelihoods WG meeting will be on 24 July (Wednesday), 2 pm, MoARD.	

Partners in Attendance: 33 Partners - 46 individuals (8 Females, 38 males).

Government/UN/Donors/Others	INGOs	NNGOs
1. MoA Borno	2. CRS	3. Young Aid
4. FMoARD	5. ZOA	6. GREENCODE
7. WFP	8. ADRA	9. WINN
10. BOSADP	11. AAH	12. VSF
13. NCFRMI	14. CAID	15. WREP
16. DFID	17. CARITAS	18. SPIEC
19. IOM	20. NRC	21. COCIN IRR
22. FAO	23. CARE	24. CRDUAN
	25. FEWS NET	26. GERI
	27. ACTED	28. HARAF
	29. Mercy Corps	
	30. IMC	
	31. SCI	
	32. PUI	
	33. Solidarites	