

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS WORKING GROUP MEETING

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

Date: October 9, 2019

Time: 02:05 pm – 03:30 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 from post distribution monitoring by partners (15 min)
4. Discussion on dry season planning and next year's rainy season planning (20 min)
5. Discussion on movement and distribution of fertilizer in BAY states (10 min)
6. Debrief from the session on lessons learned/good practice for vegetable/backyard/micro-gardening (20 min)
7. AOB (5 min)

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

1. The sector to facilitate the coordination among dry season partners to avoid duplication
2. Partners to share their post-harvest monitoring reports

NO	PROCEEDINGS	ACTION
1	<p>Welcome, Introduction and Opening Remarks</p> <p>The meeting was opened by the co-chair, followed by the self-introductions. The Chair apologized for his absence due to other official engagement.</p>	
2	<p>Review of action points and approval of minutes of the previous meeting</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, ICRC, NRC and SCI) - Done 2. Sector to share a map of seed distribution completed against the plans - Pending 3. The sector to facilitate the coordination among dry season partners to avoid duplication – Ongoing <p>After the review, the minutes of the meeting held on 28 August was adopted.</p>	Pending items from the meeting will be part of the action points for next meeting
3	<p>Updates from post distribution monitoring by partners</p> <p>FAO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was reported that floods have affected some farms in Hawul and Chibuk LGAs. - Groundnut distributed for planting did not perform well in Damboa, Gwoza, Bama, Gubio and Jere as this was distributed before the biotic analysis and report. - Late distribution of fertilizer may have affected the growth of the grains. This is still unclear until the post-harvest analysis is conducted <p>ICRC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ICRC colleague also reported negative impact of excessive rainfall on the performance of some crops - Cowpeas distributed to farmers for planting is not the preferred variety, so it was not widely accepted for planting. - All the crops planted in Jere and MMC were confirmed to have performed very well. 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In this round of seed distribution, groundnut was not taken into consideration, however, this will be factored into future activities <p>NRC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generally, there was report of good crop performance in Biu, Hawul, Jere, Damasak and Askira-Uba LGAs 	
4	<p>Discussion on dry season planning and next year’s rainy season planning</p> <p>FAO presented its dry season planning. Full presentation can be found here.</p>	
5	<p>Discussion on movement and distribution of fertilizer in BAY states</p> <p>FAO: Procurement of fertilizers is already in advanced stages and all things been equal, the distribution will go ahead as clearance is been sought to facilitate early activities in this respect.</p> <p>Sector: For the current dry season, the brown wet blended NPK fertilizers are allowed by the military to seek clearance. Partners are advised that white wet blended type is not allowed as according to the authorities, it could be mistaken as urea particles.</p>	
6	<p>Debrief from the session on lessons learned/good practice for vegetable/backyard/micro-gardening</p> <p>The lessons learnt was a contribution from the practical experience of FAO, AAH, ICRC and SCI which focused on key areas like household consumption/nutrition, markets access/ household Income generation, access to land, water sources, and other inputs (Seed, fertilizer, and other materials among others. Other key issues covering targeting government policy, shocks, were not left out.</p> <p>The major discussions covered three key areas of what worked well, what did not work well and key recommendations.</p> <p>What worked well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to land (the use of sacks and 1metre square raised bed technology in areas with limited agricultural land access) - Access to water sources (converting waste/flood water in trenches into irrigation use) - Access to other inputs like seeds, fertilizer and other materials (required inputs like seeds and domestic usable material like bags, tyres and broken buckets are easily sourced) - Household consumption and nutrition (availability of fresh and rich vegetables in household meals further raises nutrition level of beneficiaries) - Access to markets and improved household income generation (money at hand previously use to procure vegetables is saved and excess produce is sold for more income) - A potential solution to helping the most vulnerable groups out of hunger and poverty and creating a sustainable platform by registering farmers with government bodies with regulated policies (continuous technical support and registration of farmers with respective government bodies for sustainability) <p>What did not work well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to land (Some community members are not used to the container, bags methods of vegetable growing) - Access to water sources (converting waste/flood water in trenches into irrigation use) 	

- Access to other inputs like seeds, fertilizer and other materials (required inputs like seeds and domestic usable material like bags, tyres and broken buckets are easily sourced)
- Household consumption and nutrition (availability of fresh and rich vegetables in household meals further raises nutrition level of beneficiaries)
- Access to markets and improved household income generation (money at hand previously use to procure vegetables is saved and excess produce is sold for more income)
- A potential solution to helping the most vulnerable groups out of hunger and poverty and creating a sustainable platform by registering farmers with government bodies with regulated policies (continuous technical support and registration of farmers with respective government bodies for sustainability)

Key Recommendations

- Agreements on land can also be signed with land owners to protect the vegetables gardens.
- Sensitization on new technologies including 1 metre square technology, growing vegetables in bags, etc especially in the urban areas.
- Continued cooperation between WASH and FSS partners to Water to ensure water is efficiently used.
- Early distributions to ensure the full rain reason water is maximized.
- Training on water harvesting is key
- Twin-track approach by ensuring targeted households have access to food as well, to protect the seed and other inputs.
- Emphasis on locally available and usable material.
- Use of nets (green houses) to reduce heat and water evaporation (by 60%) is efficient in the dry season
- Affordable and locally available materials should be used for fencing
- Sensitization should be done so that beneficiaries can use all the kits including seeds as required.
- Farmers can also be trained to grow/save seed for the subsequent season
- Farmers are encouraged to continue using organic inputs since they are also healthy especially when eaten raw.
- There is need to ensure that the gardening hand tools get to the hands of the beneficiaries undamaged.
- Sensitization should be done on the nutritional value of vegetables and also on planting different varieties of vegetables
- Creating awareness to beneficiaries on selling surplus harvests in the nearby market for sale
- Sensitization on group coexistence and dynamics among individuals in a group.
- Community participation in the needs assessment to ensure cultural, preferences, acceptability.
- To ensure success of groups, trainings on group dynamics should be delivered to beneficiaries.

Full presentation can be found [here](#).

7	AOB: FAO invites partners together to observe World Food Day. The theme for this year is “Our actions are our future. Healthy Diets for A Zero Hunger World”	
8	Closing: The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm. The date for next meeting will be confirmed in due course.	

IN ATTENDANCE: 28 partners were in attendance - 33 individuals (9 Females & 24 Males)

Government/UN/Donors/Others	INGOs	NNGOs
1. NEDC	2. ACTED	3. WREP
4. FAO	5. AAH	6. SAF
7. WFP	8. ADRA	9. SWNI
10. ICRC	11. CRS	12. JDF
13. VSF	14. ZOA	15. IDS
	16. IRC	17. SHI
	18. NRC	19. CREATIVE
	20. SCI	21. GREENCODE
	22. ZOA	23. Samaritan Care
		24. LABI
		25. SILCA
		26. MVF
		27. YIPDI
		28. FESYD-P