

Documentation of Farmers Consultation on GAFSP and SAPIP

17 February 2017 | Arbiru Beach Resort



ATTENDANCE

(See registration sheet from ANAPROFIKO)

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Mr. Joanico Jose Ximenes, President, ANAPROFIKO, gave welcome remarks.
2. Participants introduced themselves, most of whom are members and staff of ANAPROFIKO. MOKATIL was invited, but they were not able to come due to a district congress.
3. Mr. Cezar Jose da Cruz, Secretary General, MAF, gave the opening remarks (in local language). He emphasized the importance of working together for the GAFSP project in Timor Leste. He said that 21 million USD is no small amount so Timor Leste has to use it properly according to its policy, strategy and plan. He said he hoped to learn from the experiences of the organizations who are present.
4. Mr. Kyle Stice, Manager, PIFON, gave a presentation on MTCP2 (See powerpoint).
5. Ms. Esther Penunia, Secretary General, AFA, gave a presentation on GAFSP (See powerpoint).
6. Ms. Angela da Cruz, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Deputy Project Director, SAPIP), gave a presentation on SAPIP (in their local language) (See powerpoint).
7. The representative from Timor Global also shared some information about their activities. Timor Global buys maize from farmers. Farmers produce a lot and complain there is no market. TG comes in to buy. It also does fortified food for children under 5 and pregnant mothers. Its materials are maize and soybean, mainly imported from Thailand. It costs 45 cents per kg from Thailand and 1 dollar per kg from local farmers, much costlier so TG cannot buy it. The question is why do they sell high. It is because production is too low. If they increase the volume, they can get more money. Farmer will do if they get money. If not, they don't do it. FAO develops some agricultural techniques. Providing tractor creates dependency. The alternative technology is better. The challenge is how to work together to benefit farmers. TG is ready to buy maize and soya bean.
8. Ms Paula Lopes Da Cruz, Assistante FAO Representative (Programme), also shared some information about FAO.

9. There was a brief discussion among the participants (in their local language) on their feedback on the project. In general it was positive and they all agreed that ANAPROFIKO will participate.
10. At the end of the discussion, Kyle suggests that ANAPROFIKO, MOKATIL can have meeting with NGO Forum. National NGOs have little interaction. Angela agrees but groups should meet with MAF first. MAF will determine which NGOs will sit in the PSC.
11. Having no further agenda to discuss, the consultation ended around lunch time.