

**National Consultation on Policy and Programmatic Actions  
To Address High Food Prices in Niue,  
Niue Sports Club, Alofi, Niue,  
1-2 May 2012**

**Outcome Statement**

1. The National Consultation on Policy and Programmatic Actions to Address High Food Prices in Niue was held at the Niue Sports Club, Alofi on 1-2 May 2012. The meeting was convened by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF); and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN). Participants from government agencies, private sector and civil society organizations.
2. The objective of the national consultation was to assist government in identifying various policy options and designing immediate actions in response to food price rises.
3. The consultation recognised the following:
  - a) The contribution from FAO in 2009 was timely and contributed positively to mitigating negative impacts of high food prices.
  - b) High food prices in Niue will not likely return to pre 2007 price levels and will continue to follow global trends.
  - c) Prices of inputs for food production since 2007 have remained consistently high and continue to increase.
  - d) The most vulnerable groups affected by high food prices are low income families, pensioners<sup>1</sup>, non permanent residents, widows, children and unemployed youth.
  - e) Labour shortages will continue to be a major constraint to increasing production and productivity, and needs to be addressed through labour mobility under PICTA.
4. Participants discussed the trends, impacts and key issues of high food prices and agreed that the following guidelines can inform their actions:
  - a) All interventions addressing issues relating to food insecurity and high food prices should prioritise the needs of the most vulnerable groups.
  - b) Strengthen partnership, coordination and management of support between DAFF and other relevant stakeholders, to ensure adequate targeting of most vulnerable groups, effective implementation, delivery, monitoring and evaluation.
  - c) The Government of Niue should assist by reducing the cost of inputs for primary food production including but not limited to:
    - i. Seeds, fertilizers, agricultural chemical and materials etc.;
    - ii. FADs for canoe fishing; and,

---

<sup>1</sup> Include people with disabilities, elderly, and hardship

- iii. Effective and affordable fishing canoes and methods.
- d) Develop targeted programmes including TVET to increase youth involvement in primary food production, including the provision of incentives and mentoring programmes.
- e) Strengthen and improve production of local bred chickens, pigs, small ruminants and other livestock.
- f) Incentivise and provide support, including mentoring for agribusinesses and value adding programmes, and undertake the following:
  - i. Update and change mindsets towards creating mid-life businesses;
  - ii. Establish contracts with farming/fishing businesses;
  - iii. Glide time to enable growth of the private sector, agribusiness and labour force; and,
  - iv. Promote organic farming methods.
- g) Government should protect the right of consumers by enforcing the Price Control Act and by having a board of representatives of key stakeholders, to enforce the Act.
- h) Government should assist private sector with better sourcing and buying of affordable, good quality and nutritious food items from New Zealand and other countries.
- i) Recognising that staple food items will continue to be imported, the government should consider assisting the private sector with the cost of transportation and storage.
- j) Government should continue to actively engage and support development of the PACER Plus agreement to establish better trade relations with Forum members.
- k) Government should review the tariff schedule to promote healthier food choices.
- l) Government, partners and other stakeholders should research, promote and implement effective traditional food preservation methods and conservation of traditional food sources using sustainable methods.
- m) Government (DAFF) should improve the communication, documentation and management of information on agriculture and fisheries technologies.
- n) Government should review and adjust Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) with a view to ensure that the most vulnerable groups have adequate sustainable access to healthy and nutritious foods.
- o) Government should support the development and the delivery of the following:
  - i. Food vouchers for the most vulnerable groups;
  - ii. Maternity/parental allowances;
  - iii. Credit system for land preparation should be re-established;
  - iv. Pensioners should receive payment on the same day as public servants;
  - v. Establish a savings programme; and,
  - vi. Superannuation scheme for the private sector.

- p) DAFF is tasked with the responsibility of submitting the outcome statement to cabinet and ensure follow-up of implementation in conjunction with key stakeholders represented at this consultation.
- q) The meeting recommends that the Government of Niue endorses, and call upon development partners to support the implementation of, the outcome statement.