



## FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE CLUSTER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# VANUATU'S FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE CLUSTER SETS THE STANDARD FOR LONG-TERM PAM RECOVERY

Food Security in the wake of Cyclone Pam is without a doubt one of the most serious concerns facing the people of Vanuatu in the coming days, weeks, and years. With an estimated 207,000 people affected, the productive is under tremendous pressure.

Vanuatu's Food Security and Agriculture Cluster has been mandated by the Government of Vanuatu and the National Disaster Management Office to coordinate and oversee all Cyclone Pam relief, recovery and rehabilitation efforts in the Food, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry and Biosecurity Sectors.

The Food Security & Agriculture Cluster seeks to restore and enhance the affected population's capacity to meet its own food and livelihood needs as soon as possible, and to rebuild our nation's productive sector in a way that is stronger, more resilient and sustainable than before Cyclone Pam. The Cluster has placed high importance on addressing medium to longer term needs, starting immediately after the cyclone.

The day after Cyclone Pam struck, the Food Security & Agriculture Cluster compiled key messages in Bislama language advising farmers to quickly replant available materials, and consider their livestock needs. These messages were air dropped in affected locations, sent via sms on all mobile phone networks, and transmitted via shortwave radio from Australia (with support from UNDP, Digicel, TVL, and SPC/GIZ). During the emergency food push in the week after the cyclone, all households were provided with an emergency ration of fast yielding crop seeds and Bislama-language instructions with planting advice. Planting materials like island cabbage, manioc, taro and kumala have already been distributed to the most affected people in the Shepherds, rural Efate and Tafea. More seeds, planting materials, fishing gears, and tools for affected households have already been purchased (with support from the Government of New Caledonia, FAO, the World Bank, and the Swiss Government/GIZ) and are on the way in April.

Just yesterday, the Food Security & Agriculture Cluster, with its members from the private sector, commenced a live chicken trial on Pele Island with financial support from the German Government. Households received day old chicks with enough chicken feed for them to be raised and then eaten after



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6 weeks. Mark Nutley from Pepe's Farm accompanied the chicks and ran a training session with the Pele Island Council of Chiefs on how to raise, care for and eventually kill the chickens for protein. This innovative trial, if successful, could change the way recovery throughout the rest of the country proceeds. Rather than communities receiving tinned meat as food aid, for a similar investment, provision of live chickens would strengthen local agricultural expertise and also promote self-reliance in the long-term.

Vanuatu's Food Security & Agriculture Cluster is a close cooperation among Government Departments, NGOs, international agencies, development partners, the private sector, researchers, church groups and many others. It is led by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (within the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity (MALFFB)) with support from FAO and SPC/GIZ. The Food Security & Agriculture Cluster is a long-established entity, operational in Vanuatu since 2013, now with a fully staffed-secretariat and support services during this response to Cyclone Pam.

Moving forward, the Food Security & Agriculture Cluster has completed a comprehensive and fully budgeted Medium & Long Term Recovery & Rehabilitation Strategy for Vanuatu, which outlines the sustainable reconstruction of our productive sectors in a way that is stronger and more resilient than what we had before Cyclone Pam. With climate change creating ever more severe impacts today and new challenges for the future, the Food Security & Agriculture Cluster is working hard to help Vanuatu get back to its feet now and innovatively lead the way into a better future.

For information on the Food Security & Agriculture's activities and plans, or to get involved in the national recovery and rehabilitation planning, please email [fsareport@gmail.com](mailto:fsareport@gmail.com) or visit <http://www.nab.vu/projects/food-security-agriculture-response-cyclone-pam>