



FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE CLUSTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FSAC, PRIVATE SECTOR, FISHERIES AND NDMO FIND INNOVATIVE SOURCE OF FISH TO FEED VANUATU PEOPLE



The widespread agricultural destruction of Cyclone Pam has left many families in Vanuatu struggling to find sources of fresh protein. The Vanuatu government, in partnership with the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, NDMO and Vanuatu Tuna Fishing Ltd, has found an innovative solution to improve people's diets using pre-existing local resources. By-catch, fish or marine species caught unintentionally by fishing vessels, is often discarded by large companies seeking one specific type of fish. This is a wasteful practice, as the fish are perfectly good for consumption.

Vanuatu Tuna Fishing Limited is providing 20 tonnes of by-catch to the people of Efate. The Department of Fisheries will manage the sale of frozen fish, which will be sold cheaply to the public and donated in limited quantities to boarding schools and hospitals. The proceeds from the sale will be donated to NDMO to buy fishing gear for people whose livelihoods were affected by Cyclone Pam. The Food Security and Agriculture

Cluster was eager to facilitate the sale and assist the people of Vanuatu in meeting nutritional requirements in times of food shortages.

“This is a great chance for the people of Vanuatu to add much-needed local protein to their diets while cutting down on environmentally wasteful practices. I encourage all companies to consider donating by-catch to Vanuatu instead of throwing it back into the sea,” said Fisheries official Graham Nimoho.