



## FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE CLUSTER

**James Wasi** (Director ,Department of Agriculture ,Chair, Food Security & Agriculture Cluster)

Phone:+6785958886 Email: [jwasi@vanuatu.gov.vu](mailto:jwasi@vanuatu.gov.vu)

**Emma Coll** (Food Security and Agriculture Cluster Coordination Advisor, FAO-DARD)

Phone:+6785374109 Email: [Emma.coll@fao.org](mailto:Emma.coll@fao.org)

**Christopher Bartlett** (Technical Advisor ,SPC-GIZ Climate Change)

Phone: +678555287 Email: [Christopher.Bartlett@giz.de](mailto:Christopher.Bartlett@giz.de)

24 April 2015

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FSAC PELE ISLAND LIVE CHICKEN TRIAL A SUCCESS



At the beginning of April, the Food Security & Agriculture Cluster and its members from the private sector commenced a live chicken trial on Pele Island with financial support from the German Government implemented by SPC/GIZ. Households received day-old chicks with enough chicken feed for them to be raised and then eaten after 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.

As the trial nears a month in duration, the preliminary results are promising. Out of the 300 chicks initially handed over to farmers, 275 remain healthy (an 83% survival rate.) Pele farmers took immediate ownership of the project, building the chicks shelters of local wood and chicken wire and providing them with project-supplied feed and water regularly. The chicks are growing quickly and will be ready to be eaten in 2-3 weeks, when they will bolster the diets of thirty families suffering from Cyclone Pam-related food shortages.

The project is in keeping with the self-reliance of the ni-Vanuatu people who prefer to work for their food than wait for donor handouts of tinned fish and meat. With the success of the initial trial, The Food Security & Agriculture Cluster is already working with donors and development partners to upscale the initiative to reach other severely affected communities across Vanuatu.