



Working Group on Sustainable Rural Development

HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING

ILO Auditorium
19th Floor RCBC Tower
Ayala Avenue, Makati City
28 May 2009

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by DAR Undersecretary Gerundio Madueno at 2:10 in the afternoon. He then acknowledged the participants. (Annex 1)

2.0 Welcome Message

Mr. Yolando Arban/IFAD welcome the members of the WG on Sustainable Rural Development to the UN premises and thanked the co-convenors for giving IFAD the opportunity to host the meeting.

3.0 Adoption of the Agenda

Annex 2

4.0 Approval of the Highlights of Previous Meeting

Having no major comments, the highlights of the previous meeting was approved by the body.

5.0 Updates from the WG/sub-WG

- WG on SRD

On **Issue : Climate Change**, Ms. Agnes Balota/GTZ-ACCBio reported on the Policy Dialogue on Adaptation to Climate Change: Challenges for Climate Change Strategies for the Philippines organized by GTZ and DENR which was held on May 21, 2009. A presentation will be made later.

On **Issue: RBM introduction in the RD sector**, Mr. Amiel Sarne/NEDA-Agriculture Staff informed the body that the planned workshop did not push through because of some concerns which have to be settled within NEDA, specifically, between the NEDA-Agriculture Staff which handle the RBM introduction in the RD sector and the NEDA-PMS which sits

with the Harmonization Committee. Mr. Sarne will discuss the issues with PMS and advise the WG on agreements.

Dr. Salzer reiterated the long standing offer of GTZ support in addressing RBM and in particular the assignment of a CIM expert. He emphasized that a decision has to be made by NEDA as soon as possible because GTZ-HQ has allocated the position in 2009. Mr. Sarne will clarify the issue with NEDA principals.

Dr. Salzer also mentioned the necessity for a meeting with oversight agencies. He suggested for NEDA to organize such meeting with Ms. Dolatre to assist, if necessary.

- Sub-WG on Agribusiness

On behalf of Mr. Marriz Agbon, co-convenor of the sub-WG on Agribusiness, Linda Dolatre/GTZ reported on the National Agribusiness Strategy Workshop using the Value Chain Approach held last May 13-15, 2009. The workshop was supported by GTZ and participated in by more than 30 national-regional-provincial agribusiness focal persons and action officers. Follow up trainings and other activities have been lined up, such as Agribusiness and Upland Development Strategy Workshop using the value chain (July) ; preparation of investment-ready Agribusiness Investment Proposals (July), round table discussion on Overseas Farming Investments: Implications to Food Security and Rural Economic Development (August) in preparation for the National Agribusiness Summit in September.

Usec Madueno reminded the sub-WG to consider issues on biofuels in relation to food security and land policies. Mr. Arban also informed the body of an on-going study by SEARCA which deals with biofuels and food security, effects of biofuels in relation to forest, among others.

Dr. Salzer expressed interest on this study and the possibility of sharing this TOR with the WG. Mr. Arban will check with SEARCA.

- Sub-WG on Upland Development

Ms. Juliet Texon (DENR) informed the body that the Upland Development Program (UDP) had started. The earlier reported funding of P2B is down to P1.5 B. Update on the program implementation will be reported in the next meeting of the sub committee on upland development.

- Sub-WG on Land Policies

Usec Madueno reported that as of last night, the Senate Committee on Agrarian Reform had basically approved the bill, although 3 more members of the Committee are expected to make final amendments to the Senate Bill. He mentioned that the situation at the Lower House is more problematic because there are still 3 versions of the AR bill, however, he is hopeful that eventually the Congress will adopt the Senate version of the bill. He added that Congress will be on recess starting June 5 and hopefully that there will be a CARP Extension Bill by June 4, 5 pm.

Dr. Salzer encouraged the sub-WG on Land policies to improve its performance. He proposed for the sub-WG to review related studies (such as ADB study on Poverty, WB study on AR) and other studies confirming the necessity for CARP extension but would require some reforms to be put in place (such as those from APCC, UP Los Banos) and consider if these studies could be consolidated towards elaborating a Rural Development Framework. He observed that there were many studies but these were fragmented.

On developing a Rural development Framework, Mr. Arban wondered what has happened to the discussions on RBM introduction in the RD sector way back in Antipolo in 2007, where one of the priority measures considered is linking indicators to the RD framework.

Mr. Sarne/NEDA responded that the discussions are still in progress. Dir. Ferrer/DENR reiterated that an RD framework was the requirement of the 3 agencies from NEDA as an initial step towards RBM introduction in the sector.

Since more responsibilities have been devolved Mr. Juan Echanove/EC suggested that the 3 agencies under the convergence should also engage the league of municipalities.

6.0 Updates on the 2009 PDF meeting

- Meeting of the PDF planned in June 25-26,2009 in Tagaytay City was postponed to September 2009.
- Details of the event,e.g. exact venue, program, logistics and administrative arrangements (to be provided by GOP)
- Awaiting clarification from PDF Main Secretariat on the issue of *Other Stakeholders to be invited* (NGOs and CSOs were accorded full membership in the WG on SRD, hence, could additional stakeholders be invited?)
- Reminder Confirmation of the Composition of Delegates (Deadline: May 29, 2009)
- Updated Matrix Progress Report from the sub-Working Groups to be submitted to the Secretariat by end of June. The Secretariat will prepare the report format and draft report of 3-4 pages . Mr. Echanove/ EC suggested to insert something on financial crisis. Amendments to the report can still be received within the next 4 weeks.

Dr. Salzer informed the body of a proposal from the co-convenors of the WG (Usec. Serrano and himself), i.e. an out of town meeting for 2 days in September, where resource persons would be invited to enlighten the members on some aspects. The proposal was welcomed by the members of the WG and thus, the secretariat was tasked to develop concept and proposals.

7.0 Discussions/Presentations

Ms. Balota presented the results of the Policy Dialogue on Adaptation to Climate Change: Challenges for Climate Change Strategies for the Philippines organized by GTZ and DENR which was held on May 21, 2009. In the said workshop, a collaboration framework was developed and next steps were identified towards the elaboration of adaptation strategy as part of the overall climate change strategy (Annex___).

Mr. Echanove expressed the timeliness of the collaboration framework in relation to the new EC project to start by 2011. The details of the new project would still be the subject for discussion by an EU ad hoc committee which will brainstorm by end of June. Dr. Salzer inquired whether

GTZ can participate, at least to present the Framework which resulted from previous discussions. Mr. Echanove welcome the suggestion.

8.0 Other Matters

Mr. Echanove also announced the launching of the EU Food Facility worth 3.1 million euro to finance measures relating to safety nets, population in conflict areas, rice seed production-distribution and small grants for infrastructure. The call for proposals will be issued shortly, including the deadlines for submission of concept note (within one month) and the full proposal (within one month after approval of concept note).

Mr. Agoncillo/USAID also extended the invitation to the DENR-USAID Forum on ENR Financing in August and the Forum on Solid Waste Management in August to share best practices.

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on July 23, 2009 at 2:00pm. NEDA was requested to host the meeting.

MEETING of the
PDF WG on Sustainable Rural Development

ILO Auditorium
19th Floor RCBC Tower
Ayala Avenue, Makati City
28 May 2009

List of Participants

1. Undersecretary Gerundio Madueno	DAR
2. Dr. Walter Salzer	GTZ/ co-convenor
3. Herminia B. San Juan	DAR
4. Dir. Lourdes Ferrer	DENR
5. Ms. Juliet Texon	DENR
6. Benjamin Cuevas	DA/PADCC
7. Amiel Sarne	NEDA
8. Novel Bangsal	CPBD,HOR
9. Onie Lebrilla	CPBD, HOR
10. Gene Castro	FAO
11. A. Albano	ICRAF
12. Oliver Agoncillo	USAID
13. Juan Echanove	EC
14. Yolando Arban	IFAD
15. Agnes Balota	GTZ/ACCBio
16. Nathaniel Don Marquez	ANGOC