



## E-Discussion/E-debate on Agricultural reconstruction on Small Islands after a climate disaster (Natural disaster).

### Wrap-up of Day one contributions

Q1. What kind of mechanisms have countries put into place and how effective have they been?

**Contributions from Herman (Benin):** The more observed mechanisms for disaster and climate change in the Small Islands (especially the Caribbean and Pacific) are Committee/Agency for DR. And these institutions are put under the leader of ministries. The responsibilities of these committee or agency are often the coordination of preparedness, risk reduction, response, relief and recovery efforts of all humanitarian agents involved.

Let's talk about Vanuatu, as a recent disaster case. This Island has recently set a Disaster Management Office (NDMO) which is under the lead of the Ministry of internal Affairs and is composed of different sector ministries. The responsibility of this committee is "to request international assistance, when a disaster become outside the capacity of national response efforts" (the case of Vanuatu actually).

For further information on the institutional structure of these organisations acting in Vanuata about Disaster. Interesting reading: "Gero, A., Fletcher, S. Thiessen, J., Willetts, J., Rumsey, M., Daly, J., Buchan, J., and Kuruppu, N. 2013. Understanding the Pacific's adaptive capacity to emergencies in the context of climate change: Country Report – Vanuatu." or click on this link [http://www.preventionweb.net/files/32882\\_32882isfwhocccountryreportvanua...](http://www.preventionweb.net/files/32882_32882isfwhocccountryreportvanua...)

A part of national committee or agencies, there are another organisation that intervenes to help predict and face the climate disaster ranging from donors (AusAID, New Zealand Aid Programme), Meteorological agencies to NGOs.

Unfortunately, the **different mechanisms to intervene in the case of disaster still not align**. The mechanisms (especially at national level) suffer from Technical capacity and financial resources.

I think that for the next COP21 in Paris, the possibility to set a Climate Disaster Fund for the Small Islands (which face more frequent climate disaster) should be discussed. For that the different stakeholders who represent the Small Island have to raise their voice even if their place in the climate negotiations still very low.

**Contributions from Cheryl (Australia):** She has shared several links to documents which outline the work the Vanuatu FSAC has been doing since TC Pam. - A notice recently distributed with key messages for affected rural communities re: food aid, key points for farmers to start re-establishing various crops, and timeframes to harvest for common crops [PDF] - [http://www.nab.vu/sites/all/files/projects/fsac\\_key\\_mesej\\_flyer\\_pam\\_19\\_m...](http://www.nab.vu/sites/all/files/projects/fsac_key_mesej_flyer_pam_19_m...) This document is in Bislama (pidgin English)

-A message from the Hon. Minister for Agriculture re: the severity of the current situation - [bit.ly/1B3tn3q](http://bit.ly/1B3tn3q)

- FSAC page with key food security & agriculture documents and notices - <http://www.nab.vu/projects/food-security-agriculture-response-cyclone-pam>

- A media article outlining some simple ways that local indigenous knowledge has been used for food & water security in the immediate aftermath - <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/south-pacific-s-vanuatu-...>

- A media article outlining some of the advance work done on cyclone preparation, local disaster committees, and climate change impacts - <http://insidestory.org.au/preparing-for-cyclones-reuben-solo-tuni-ula-an...>

**Contributions from Olu (The Netherlands):**



The questions are topical especially given recent events in the region.

First some general points:

Scenario building is increasingly being used as an approach for robust planning for policy in a number of sub regions especially in the area of challenges of climate change and other disasters. SIDS can explore the use of this approach policy planning. Lessons learnt from other regions could provide some useful insights for such venture in SIDS There is much awareness on climate change and its economic importance in the region and many efforts and initiative to address climate change. It will be good to reflect how the different efforts on climate change and on-going initiatives have (have not) created synergies among them for more effective response to climate change and disasters. Experiences from previous projects can help to inform the design and implementation of new ones. What practical mechanisms can be used to improve such synergy?

#### Q4. How does damage to infrastructure affect agriculture to pick-up again after natural disasters

##### Contributions from Cheryl (Australia):

Lack of communication infrastructure has been very significant for Vanuatu in determining areas and levels of damage. Vanuatu is an archipelago nation comprising 83 islands, so since phone, internet and radio comms are down it has only been through aerial surveillance that initial damage assessments have been able to be carried out. This has then fed into plans for food aid distribution

#### Q5. What are the experiences about the re-establishment of agricultural production after natural disasters?

##### Contributions from Cheryl (Australia):

The situation in Vanuatu is currently too early to comment on this. I would be very interested to hear experiences of other members on this.

Some media articles on climate change influence on the impacts of TC Pam -

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/16/vanuatus-president-blames-c...> and <http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/damage-from-cyclone-pam-was-exacerbated...>

And, more generally, if anyone is interested in a visual display of the impact of the cyclone -

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-17/cyclone-pam-before-after/6325222> and <https://twitter.com/SamBoliitho/status/578306494363348992>

**More information about our contributors (Biodata) will be inserted in the E-debate synthesis.**