KOBE REPORT draft
Report of Session 5.5, Thematic Cluster 5

ENSO, Food Security: coping with nutrition issues during climate related crisis

1. Summary of the session's presentations and discussions

Food security constitutes a global issue with social, economical and political components. Implications of quick, slow onset and complex emergencies directly affect food security and nutrition. Translation of climate forecasts into Food Security prospects has been carried out in some African countries. El Niño South oscillation (ENSO) and Climate Variability forecasts continue being a challenge which must be addressed at regional and national scales focusing the rainfalls or droughts forecast more than ENSO regional forecasts. Uncertainties and contradictions between different global meteorological and oceanographic agencies generate at the end, confusion and limitations for contingency planning. This situation is worst when the message is not adequately disseminated to stakeholders, decision makers and end users. The relationship between tropical cyclones over the inter American seas with the ENSO cycle was also examined in view of their contribution to precipitation anomalies and other extremes weather hazardous affecting Central America, such as floods and landslides. It is recommended that products be provided to authorities with friendly tools which would assist them in developing a positive governmental response based on accessible and more accurate forecasts.

2. Primary issues

- ✓ Improved weather forecasts and efficient information systems can contribute preventing food insecurity mainly in slow onset emergencies. However, providing information is only one part of a more complex process in particular the way to ensure that people who receive the information will act upon.
- ✓ ENSO global forecasts must be adjusted to regional scale and expressed in terms of the effects more than the event's behavior.
- ✓ Better forecasts, and early warnings must be followed by, positive and coherent Government responses.

3.a) Suggested targets and indicators to measure accomplishments

- ✓ To improve outcomes of Regional Outlook Forums including in the mean future, risk food security scenarios and related socio economical impact.
- ✓ To promote ENSO and Climate variability regional early warning systems which would be focused on rainfall behavior (excess or absence).
- ✓ To develop climatic risk scenarios for agriculture and fisheries based on high resolution land cover and ocean information

3.b) Existing indicators with reference

- ✓ Increase 40% of the existing target audiences and users of Climate Outlooks Forums.
- ✓ Increase 60% of Geographic Information Systems which provides climate risk scenarios at regional and national level.
- ✓ Increase 30% of Food insecurity thematic maps in all the regions.

4. Partnerships

- ✓ WMO, IRI, FAO, CIIFEN, ISDR, NOAA.

5. Any other relevant and brief comments

- ✓ It is strongly recommended that Global Ocean and Atmosphere Research Agencies interact with another Regional Research Institutes in the world as the International research Center on El Niño (CIIFEN) in Latin America and Drought Monitoring Centre in Africa to create the necessary and complementary actions to get a reliable and coherent ENSO forecast between global and regional scales.

6. Name, affiliation and contacts of presenters and titles of presentations

- ✓ Henry Josserand, Chief-FAO Global information and Early warning
  "Lessons learned: impacts in the area of food security and nutrition".
  Henri.Josserand@fao.org

- ✓ José Santos, Director-International Research Center on El Niño (CIIFEN)
  "ENSO predictability, and benefits of the forecast"
  j.santos@ciifen-int.org

- ✓ Pablo Manso, Director-National Meteorological Institute of Costa Rica
  "ENSO: Impacts and vulnerability, the Central America case".

- ✓ Max Dilley, Disaster and Risk Management-International Research Institute for Climate prediction
  "Food insecurity: some examples in Africa"
  mdilley@iri.columbia.edu

7. Name, affiliation and contact of person filling in the form

- ✓ Rodney Martínez, Scientific Coordinator- International Research Center on El Niño (CIIFEN)
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