

# KIRIBATI NATIONAL FOOD SUBMIT

10-12 February 2010  
National Stakeholders

2010

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# KIRIBATI NATIONAL FOOD SUMMIT

## Tarawa, Kiribati 9 to 11 February 2010

### INTRODUCTION

#### BACKGROUND

*Food security exists when all people, at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs for an active and healthy lifestyle (FAO & WHO: 1996)*

The Kiribati Food Summit has been proposed and endorsed by Cabinet to help stimulate a discussion and action on an integrated approach to improving food security and the health of the people of Kiribati. Central to this will be an examination of current and future efforts to improve local production and consumption to ensure health benefits, and also facilitating trade. In addition, control systems including legislation, regulation, labelling, inspection, monitoring, education and enforcement are also being examined.

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this national food summit is twofold. Firstly, it is to enable government officials from different departments, food business representatives and other concerned stakeholders to dialogue and work out joint strategies to improve food security in Kiribati. Secondly, it is to contribute necessary inputs, relevant to the situation of Kiribati and other small atoll islands, to the Pacific Food Summit

#### OBJECTIVES

1. Review the food security and safety status and trends in Kiribati
2. To scope key issues and health problems that can be addressed through improved food security, safety and nutrition
3. To outline what food producers, traders, health sector representatives, consumers and regulators can do together to support food security and improve nutrition
4. Agree on the most appropriate interventions and partnerships to enhance progress towards meeting identified outcomes. Identify strategies to overcome the effect of climate change and dependence on food imports

#### EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. Participants have achieved a clear understanding about the linkages: between food consumption and health and about food security and safety issues and trends in Kiribati.
2. A set of recommendations on how food security in Kiribati can be strengthened – These should be formulated so that they can be submitted to the Cabinet for approval and be integrated in the proposed Framework for Action on Food Security 2011-2015.
3. Partnerships between government agencies, food businesses and other concerned stakeholders established with the purpose of improving food security

4. A written report on the summit is produced.

## **DAY I: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

### **SESSION 1.1 BRIEFING AND OVERVIEW OF THE FOOD SUMMIT**

#### **1.1.1 OVERVIEW OF THE PACIFIC SUMMIT (Presented by Peter,WHO)**

The Agriculture, Health and Trade regional Ministers' meeting recognizes the importance of Food Security to be addressed at the national and regional level, hence a proposal to have the Pacific Food Summit. Countries within the Pacific Region were encouraged to host National Food Summit as part of their effort to address Food Security. The idea is to advance food security interventions at the national levels, promote multi-sectoral collaboration and to provide input to the Regional Food Summit as well as the Proposed Regional Framework for Action.

#### **1.1.2 OVERVIEW OF THE KIRIBATI NATIONAL FOOD SUMMIT**

The purpose of the summit as explained to participants was to have a collective input through the collaborative partnership between the Private and Public Sector to encourage empowerment and ownership by all stakeholders, and outcomes of the Summit will guide the preparation to the upcoming Pacific Food Summit.

The challenges, issues and recommendations derived from the Summit will form the foundation of the national food security framework that would guide the implementation of actions to improve food security at the national level.

### **SESSION 1.2 THE WORLD CURRENT SITUATION AND KIRIBATI ISSUES**

#### **1.2.1 THE PACIFIC FACING FOOD SECURITY CRISIS IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT**

The presentation explained Food Security and its determinant which involves Food Availability, entitlement, Utilization and Adequacy. Food Availability is discussed in relation to the food available at the national level through domestic production and imported foods from overseas. Food Entitlement has two components, Food Produced and Food Procured. Food produced looked at food that is produced through a cultivated area, access to and input into that cultivated area, while food procured concentrated on the Household expenditure and food prices and affordability to the people. Food Utilization stressed the importance of the composition of meals, meal frequency and access to portable water. The last determinant of food security is Food

Adequacy which examines the adequate access to sufficient food through distribution as well as its nutritional value.

The common threats to Food Security within the Pacific region are also covered and the threats include:

- Rapid Population Growth: The data on population statistics showed rapid growth within the Micronesia, and this indicates an increase in food consumption. Population growth would also pose land problem and of course local production
- Rising Global Food Price: the price of food would always be affected by the changes in the global environment such as stock level, production shortfall, petroleum price, trade policies etc
- Urbanization: migration from the rural to the urban area is also a threat as the young left to the urban leaving the old people to do the farming
- Loss of Traditional Knowledge: methods of growing, utilizing and preserving food are being lost with the new generation
- loss of Biodiversity both marine and terrestrial animal and plants
- Climate Change: impacts of climate change is affecting productivity
- Increased consumption of Low Quality Food

The sustainable solution to the problem of Food security lies in increasing production and productivity and in ensuring that the vulnerable have access to it such as providing support to direct production of food, supporting access to food market in the form of income generation, strengthen infrastructure to food production, adaptation to climate change, establish policies to support farmers' food production, building resilience systems, develop urban agriculture and to provide direct provision of food.

All these solutions needs multi-sectoral approach which involves partnership and participatory from all stakeholders.

## 1.2.2 INTENSIFY APPROACH TO IMPROVE LIVELIHOOD AND FOOD SUPPLY AND ACCESS TO ENHANCE PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING IN THE PACIFIC

A brief look at how the food supply in Kiribati has changed over the past 40 years. This information is based on Food Balance Sheets which are being compiled by FAO using national statistics for food production, food imports and exports and use within country to give a picture of how the national food supply develops over time.

The graph indicated that over the last 40 years, food consumption has increased by about 13% from 2537 Calories in 1965 to 2859 Calories in 2005 (per person per day). The protein supply over the same period was also revealed and showed an increase of 28% from about 58 g in 1965 to about 74g per day in 2005. The supply of fat was also discussed and interestingly it has actually decreased by 16% from about 115 g/day in 1965 to 97 g/day in 2005.

The issues in relation to food security and the actual areas that have been identified for assistance by FAO was also discussed.

The following development issues were identified during the formulation process of the National Medium Term Priority Framework for Kiribati, which was adopted and endorsed last year (2009) and forms the basis for the FAO programme of assistance to Kiribati for the next 3 years, subject to review and improvement as required.

Based on the national situation analysis and existing medium-term priorities of the Government and the UN System, and taking into account past and on-going FAO and partner's programmes, the following four priority outcomes have been identified and will be pursued in the next four years in order to improve food security in Kiribati.

Strengthened policy, legal, regulatory and strategic frameworks for sustainable agricultural and fisheries development is the first area for assistance to agriculture and fisheries identified during the consultation process

Increased production, productivity and resilience of crop and livestock systems is the second area identified for assistance.

### 1.2.3 OVERCOMING BARRIERS IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND ACCESS IN KIRIBATI

The main objective of the presentation is to develop action plan or strategies in improving food production in Kiribati. The overall presentation basically discussed barriers affecting food production and how to overcome these barriers. Normally Kiribati have poor soil fertility, uneven distribution of rainfall, lack of knowledge on planting, isolated islets within Kiribati, absence of middlemen, traditional knowledge, poor commitment to gardening, use of fertilizers (harmful to the environment). However there are action plans or strategies that needs to be developed in order to overcome these barriers, and these will include the recycling/decomposition of humus to soil, the use of organic farming, to enhance knowledge on processing meat from animals in a hygienic way and to enhance knowledge on home gardening.

### 1.2.4 FOOD SECURITY STATUS IN KIRIBATI

The presentation outlines food security status at the national level and how it is addressed by the Agricultural side of it. Briefly it went through food availability in terms of local food as well as imported foods. Expenditure on food is commonly high in Kiribati – it has been found to be the top priority among I-Kiribati. Kiribati has found food security vulnerability assessment as extremely high – as shown by the number thus the dependency of imported food. Activities such as planting food crops or root crops for marketing purposes, increasing production of such local crops for local consumers has been carried out as a way to try and minimize constraints faced with availability of stable foods. Assistance and local trainings for local farmers is also ongoing which includes management of soil fertility, providing of a variety of crops as well as enhancing capacity building. Traditional knowledge on farming is also encouraged and preserved for local farmers. A strategy needs to be planned and further activities need to be implemented to enhance

food production in Kiribati. Such activities would include setting and maintaining partnership with key stakeholders, not only at national but regional level, to create empowerment and ownership, enhance implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation process.

## 1.2.5 PUTTING NUTRITION AT THE FRONT END OF FOOD SECURITY

This presentation basically outline the definition and case for nutrition security, nutrition status for the first 24 months of life, framework for food and nutrition security, burden and impact of nutrition insecurity and action connecting food and nutrition security. Food security can be defined or exists when all people (from womb to tomb), at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary need and food preferences for an active and healthy life. (FAO 1996). And nutrition security can be defined as when all people at all times have physical, economic and social access to an age-appropriate balanced diet, safe drinking water, environmental hygiene and primary health care. The predominant impact of malnutrition is during pregnancy and the first two years of life, and most of the damage cannot be reversed. For children under two years, breast milk remains a critical “food security commodity” during times of food shortages and hunger. Therefore there must be a much stronger focus on prevention, and on this narrow window of opportunity. South Asian children –born with low birth weight track below African and Latino kids for life- so especially in South Asia, preventing low birth weight is extremely important. Children born with low birth weights are also the ones who are most prone to non-communicable diseases such as Cardio-Vascular Heart diseases, diabetes, etc. It is clear from the presentation that infant and young child feeding is a foundational in human growth and development. Micronutrients has to be available to the whole population, sustainable utilization of agricultural and marine resources for food and nutrition security and to determine the contribution of good nutrition to food security in the Pacific context

## SESSION 2: FOOD PRODUCTION, ACCESS AND CONSUMPTION

### 2.1 THE GROWING BURDEN OF NCD'S AND UNDER NUTRITION AT THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ARENA

The overall coverage of the presentation outline health situation in the Pacific, links between nutrition and diet and current regional efforts and possible solutions. The pacific has an increasing number of cases of Non communicable diseases or NCDS. Obesity has been found to be the major risk of NCDs in the region which links to high prevalence of diabetes, hypertension and stroke. As shown in 2002, the mortality rate of heart disease and stroke was high in most Pacific countries, in particular in males. A recent NCD Steps-Survey coordinated and funded by WHO has shown dramatic cases of Pacific Islanders who lead an inactive lifestyle, do not

consume recommended number of fruits and vegetables' serves, smoke and drink alcohol and the majority are found to be extremely overweight or obese.

By looking at the other side of health, the majority cases in the Pacific region as well are found with complications of not obtaining sufficient amount of other needed nutrients such as vitamins and minerals. A double burden has been experienced in the region – cases have shown complications of consuming too much food (over eating), while other cases have shown complications of consuming too little food (under eating).

Strategies need to be set up and activities need to be implemented to counteract such a double burden in the Pacific. Such activities would include profiling, planning, implementation and evaluation, together with interventions on behavioral change, clinic, advocacy and surveillance. Food security need to be assessed and monitored for improvement, however, it would be a necessity to put Nutrition as a major part of it.

## 2.2 OVERCOMING BARRIERS IN ADDRESSING THE BURDENS OF NCDs AND UNDERNUTRITION IN KIRIBATI (Presented by Dr. Airam Metai)

This presentation made by Dr. Airam from the NCD Unit of MHMS was based on results of the surveys made by WHO in 2004 on food consumption for Kiribati and other Pacific Island Countries (PICs). In general, Kiribati in this survey showed very poor results compared to other Pacific island neighbouring countries. The issues taken out from the survey which compared Kiribati and other PICs showed the following results:

- *98% of the majority of the people consumes less than 5 serves of fruits and vegetables per day*
- *50% of the population do not do exercise or active work*
- *there is a great increase in the percentage of people in the 15-16 year group getting*
- *more than 40% of the population have high blood pressure.*

And with the WHO 2004 step survey, the results are also alarming as indicated below:

- i) 81.5% either overweight or obese
- ii) 20.9% High Blood Pressure
- iii) 28.1% Diabetes
- iv) 61.3% Smokers
- v) >95% inactive

The presentation showed that there is an increase in NCDs related to poor nutrition and under-nutrition in Kiribati and also compared with other PICs. There is a need to improve nutrition and food consumption in families so that the incidences of contracting the diseases given above are reduced. As regard to smoking, this is becoming another second major problem. And being inactive has been identified as more than 95% of those in the survey which is taken to reflect the actual situation.

### 2.3 FISH PRODUCTION (Presented by Mr. Karibananga Tamauera, Fisheries Division, MFMRD)

The presentation highlighted fish harvesting and production in the islands of Kiribati including South Tarawa or the Urban areas. The studies made in the 1990s till early 2000 showed that fish catch and production increased significantly per year. The study however was only for the 1990s.

There was a good report of fish catch from the EZZ which showed a very big tonnage which ranged from 150,000mt in 2000 to 350,000mt in 2002, and it dropped sharply to only 100,000 mt in 2003. It was noted that fish catch from the EEZ fluctuated with the seasons of El Nino and La Nina.

The only fish farmed is milkfish which is used mainly for consumption. The other source is shell-fish which is sold from Abaiang at the rate of 175 bags per week or 9,100 bags per year or 185,000mt per year.

Fishing had been noted to be a major activity in every households and it is used only for home consumption which involved 67 % of the households. Households fish for earning income for their family either full time or part-time. And all households in Kiribati have fishing gears.

The government support to fishing industry was also stated besides the problems involved as well as the benefits. The ways forward were also explained which provided ways of improving protection and conservation of marine resources, aquaculture, improved legislation for fish export, fish processing and handling to preserve fish quality and many others.

### 2.4 CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SECURITY (Presented by Nei Abete-Reema, Director of Environment & Conservation Division, MELAD)

The presentation informed participants on the causes of climate change and its impacts to Kiribati in regards to food security. The impacts of increasing sea level and strong westerly winds (storm winds) were also discussed which created problems to our food resources, and our sea environment and resources. It was noted that sea erosion resulted in reduced land area hence a reduction in land area which could be used for farming or gardening as settlements moved further inland.

To help reduce the adverse impacts of climate change, the Kiribati Adaptation Project funded by AusAID, NZAID, GEF. The climate change causing rising sea level and increased ocean temperature would lead to acidification and the drop in food production in general. The KAP is one way of reducing the impacts of increasing sea level and coastal erosion as well as improving the quality and supply of water resources.

Participants were also informed that gravel and sand mining are to be banned to reduce coastal erosion. The replanting of mangroves have also been part of the adaptation programmes run and funded under the KAP. The PIPA is also a means of maintaining and conservation of marine

resources. The enforcement of Environment Act is also important in reducing the impact of climate change.

## 2.5 PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC ACCESS (Presented by Tekena Tiroa, Director of Statistics, MFED)

There were two parts of the presentation which were Income and Poverty in Kiribati. The presentation outlined to participants a detailed discussion of household income, sources of income in rural and urban Kiribati and how Kiribati households in the various island groups compare with one another. The last topic discussed was on “Poverty or Hardship” which clarified the differences between the two terminologies.

The presentation indicated that income is lower than expenditure and that the rural areas also have a higher income than the urban areas. The sources of income are mainly from wages and salaries while home produce has the smallest percentage. The Southern Gilbert Island group received the lowest income compared to the northern and central islands. The Northern islands received more income than all islands in Kiribati.

Household expenditure is highest on food for all islands in Kiribati which shall be noted for concern and for improvement, which totaled 46% of expenditure. In the rural area, 52% of income is spent on food while in the urban area it is only 42%.

As also obtained from the presentation, it was realized that the island groups that is S. Tarawa, Northern, and the Line and Phoenix Group, spend more than level of income while island in the Central and Southern spend within the income limit.

The Director also explained to participants the meaning of poverty which equals to hardship and the inability of meeting costs of social obligations and needs. There are plenty foods but there is problem of limited income to meet family needs.

## 2.6 GROUP WORK

**Topic: What national interventions are needed to improve food production, access to and consumption of healthy food?**

**Table 1: Proposed National Interventions to improve food production and consumption**

Group	Constraints	Proposed Action	Responses by Respective Ministries
1. Mayors' Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land shortage for Agriculture Development</li> <li>Shortage of required tools and seeds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Govt to lease more land for Agriculture</li> <li>Provide with more tools</li> <li>Provide more seeds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture responded by requesting assistance from Island council</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor performance of AA and FA in outer islands</li> <li>• Shortage of workforce on the island AA and FA</li> <li>• Considering of reports send by Island Councils regarding their staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AA,MA, FA to be transferred to outer islands asap</li> <li>• Provide more fishing gears on outer islands</li> <li>• Reports from Islands councils to be taken into consideration asap</li> </ul>	
2. Womens Interest Worker (WIW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited farming skills</li> <li>• Lack of farming equipments</li> <li>• Lack of interest to engage in farming activities</li> <li>• Gutting of sea cucumber by sea cucumber divers raised concern</li> <li>• Lack of te bun on certain islands on Kiribati</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need training/workshop on how to plant specific crops</li> <li>• Request equipment support from Govt</li> <li>• Request that Outer islands funds to be channeled through Island Council and trainings to be done in villages</li> <li>• Promote gardening competition with and provide reward</li> <li>• Strengthen legislation to address sea cucumber gutting</li> <li>• Request Govt assistance on Te bun to islands without it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DECD: Under Envi Act gutting of sea cucumber is forbidden</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
3. Church Gp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Importing of non nutritious food</li> <li>• Nutritious imported food very expensive</li> <li>• Very tasty food are very bad for health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request Gvt to import high valued food such as brown rice and flour etc</li> <li>• Request govt to import such food and subsidies food price</li> <li>• Support training on how to prepare food</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eretii Health can assist upon request from different groups important food fortification would address this issue</li> </ul>
4. Business Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shortage of land space</li> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Changing life style of te I Kiribati</li> <li>• Shortage of outlet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resettlement scheme (NZ, Kiritimati)</li> <li>• Promote home gardening</li> <li>• Promote consumption of local</li> </ul>	

	areas to provide seedlings/ Piglets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shortage of the knowhow on Agriculture and Livestock</li> </ul>	Produce/products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase Awareness programs on Agriculture and Fisheries sustainable practices</li> </ul>	
5. Government representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited skills on production technology</li> <li>• Limited farming skills</li> <li>• Poor management and operational skills</li> <li>• Land tenure insecurity</li> <li>• Limited land availability (urban area)</li> <li>• Low income levels to meet nutritious and expensive food</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making used of funds and training assistants provided from</li> <li>• Promote joint ventures</li> <li>• Request training program on maintenance and operational skills</li> <li>• Formulation of regulations on land use</li> <li>• Intensity existing farming</li> <li>• Promote local food products</li> </ul>	

## DAY 2: Wednesday 10 February 2010

### SESSION 3: FACILITATING AND MONITORING IMPORTATION OF SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS

#### 3.1 MONITORING SUPPLY OF IMPORTED FOOD (By Mr. Ierevita Biriti)

##### 3.1.1 OVERVIEW

The presentation focuses on looking at the mechanisms in which the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives (MCIC) monitors the supply of imported goods to ascertain a steady supply of imported food to meet the Country's population needs. Hence, the presenter emphasizes the need to have a quota for the amount of goods to be imported for the national need. The quota should reflect the total population in the Country. The population dwell on each island should also be taken into account for a fair distribution of goods.

Food items in which the data collected reflect on rice, flour, and sugar due to the fact that they are the main food items a I-Kiribati spend more income on particularly people live on S.Tarawa and Christmas Island.

Importation of goods to the Country should be done on a proper timing. Goods from overseas should arrive in the Country at the right time as well as goods dispatched to the outer islands. This is to avoid the extended time lapse which may result in the shortage of goods.

To ensure that such arrangement is properly implemented, MCIC established a body which liaised with local Companies to ensure that such import quota is entertained accordingly. Hence, MCIC undertakes a weekly stock taking were the amount of available goods in the Country tallied and reported to the Minister concerned.

### 3.1.2 ISSUES

- The shipment of goods to the outer islands is always affected by the inconsistent ship schedule to the outer islands
- Data on stock taking from the outer islands is always poor

### 3.1.3 PROPOSED STRATEGIES

- Provide more ships
- Island Council should establish ways in which private businesses provide data on their stock taking and be responsible for submitting such data through MISA and carbon copy to MCIC

## 3.2 AWARENESS OF CONSUMER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY (By Nei Ran Areta )

### 3.2.1 OVERVIEW

The presentation on the Awareness of consumer rights and responsibility was delivered by Ms. Ran Areta a Senior Regulatory Officer from the Ministry of Commerce Industry and Cooperatives. The presentation was more focus on the analysis and clarification of four different aspects concerning the rights and responsibilities of consumers as well as the roles of service and goods suppliers to the end buyers in accordance with the regulating mechanisms imposed by the law known as the 'Consumer Act' in Kiribati.

For instance, the rights of consumers includes the rights to basic needs, rights to safety, the rights to be informed, the rights to choose, the rights to be heard, the rights to consumer education and the right to a healthy education. Not only that but it should be cleared to consumer on their key responsibilities such as critical awareness, involvement, social and ecological responsibilities and solidarity.

Ms. Areta also indicated the approved standards of goods and services that are provided to the end buyers by different suppliers. For instance, every item should have a clear price listing, a clear name, address of the producer, ingredients, expiry date, warning or cautions and labeling in English alone. The presenter stressed out that products failed to comply with such requirements would be destroyed or banned from entering the market and the supplier would be prosecuted immediately.

### 3.2.2 ISSUES

Most of the issues arise from participants on these presentations were much related to lack of enforcements from the Government. Up to now, some suppliers' especially Chinese restaurants in South Tarawa continued to sell out products that labeled in Chinese or other language which triggered the concerns of the general public on the negligence of the responsible Government body to encounter the matter.

### 3.2.3 PROPOSED STRATEGIES

Given the alarming concerns of the general public on this, the following were proposed to be the challenges of the Government to act immediately:

- Strengthening the monitoring and enforcement of Consumer rights in accordance with the Consumer Act.
- Campaigning awareness on the Consumer rights especially those on Outer Islands
- Exploring other possible mechanisms that would help to tolerate and encounter the prevalence of non-compliance goods and services.

## 3.3 APPLICATION OF CUSTOM DUTY AND IMPORT LEVY ON IMPORTED FOOD ITEMS (By Mr. Tekaie Ititaake)

### 3.3.1 OVERVIEW

This short presentation was introduced by Mr. Tekaie Ititaake from Kiribati National Customs Services (KNCS) of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MFED).

Briefly, the presentation talked about the link of the world wide Harmonized Tariff System and the National Harmonized Tariff System (NHTS). Historically, the tariff and rates in the NHTS were there ever since the colonial period without much changes made.

These are 2 types of charges placed on all imported goods namely:

- i. Custom Duty for Government's Revenue

- ii. Import Levy collected for a special fund known as Import Levy Fund that was established for the purpose of subsidising the transport of goods to islands within the Gilbert Islands at the current rate of \$30/cubic meter.

Government usually determines and approves tariff rates from time to time however it is not too often. Internationally, reviews done on a five year interval and the last review was done in 2007.

### 3.3.2 ISSUES

Issues include the following problems:

- Lack of national reviews on NHTS
- No direct link between the change of custom duty rates and the price control
- Very little knowledge on the import levy and its application. The question of its effects on setting prices (e.g markup on goods) when cargoes reached their destination. Outer- islands are complaining in that it plays minimal role in reducing the prices.
- Goods that can be available or produced domestically are those with lower rates of custom duty. Rates are not too connected with the nutritious value of food items.

### 3.3.3 PROPOSED STRATEGIES

Proposals included the followings:

- Conduct of the National Reviews of NHTS following the International Review timeframe of every 5 years
- Establishment of National Stakeholders Committee to discuss the outcomes of the National Reviews incorporating stakeholders views and comments.
- Establishing close collaboration with other National Committees (e.g National Food Security Task Force)

## 3.4 STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF QUARANTINE/HEALTH IN MONITORING FOOD SAFETY

### 3.4.1 ROLE OF QUARANTINE SERVICES (By Ms. Tearo Otiuea)

In the presentation, the escalating number of damages being realized to our local crops and livestock which somewhat related to the carelessness of those who have brought in planting materials and meat from overseas was emphasized.

The issues on particular pests were discussed as examples to explain the situation and the problems Kiribati is now facing.

#### 3.4.1 (1) ISSUES

- Severe outbreak of rats damage
- Fruit fly
- Taro beetle

#### 3.4.1(2) STRATEGIES

To subdue the problem:

- The Agriculture Division provides a quarantine service in which goods landed on our shore are inspected at their port of entry and
- Enforcing exercises required under the Quarantine Act.

In the conclusion, the presenter strongly appeal to participants that all agricultural products brought in the Country should all be declared to Quarantine Officers for inspection and advice.

#### 3.4.2 ROLE OF ENVIRONMENT HEALTH UNIT (By Ms. Seren Davis)

The presentation is presented by Ms. Seren Davis from Environmental Health Unit (EHU) of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS).

To ensure that food is safe and quality for public consumption and use, EHU had worked with the former Pure Food Ordinance Cap.84 that was repealed recently and replaced by the new Food Safety Act 2006 as EHU had encountered a number of shortfalls with the Ordinance. The new Act had been accented by Te Beretitenti in August 2007 and approved for publication in the gazette in October 2009.

In S. Tarawa and on the outer-islands, expired food items could be found and sold to the public. Preparation and storage of food in schools, restaurants, food stalls, etc do not follow safety and health standard procedures. Non-English (Chinese) labels on food items can be found in wholesalers' warehouses and retailers' food selves. Handling of frozen meats (e.g chicken), sugar, rice and flour are found to be unhealthy right from the wharf to warehouses, retailers and to outer-islands. When shipped out to outer-islands, handling and storage on boats are even worse. Sacks of rice and flour can be wet and dirty.

#### 3.4.2(1) ISSUES

Issues are more on the problems of enforcing Acts that have parts to strengthen food safety procedures. Other problems relate to the lack in close collaboration of the existing Committees and Ministries having roles on food safety.

Existing Committees include:

- National Food Security - Office of Te Beretitenti (OB)
- National Food Codex – MHMS
- National Food Fortification – Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives
- National Food & Nutrition – MHMS

Ministries that have roles and responsibilities in food safety

- MELAD – Quarantine of Agriculture Division
- MHMS – Environment Health Unit, Health Promotion, Nutrition Unit
- MCIC- Consumer Unit, Chamber of Commerce, Wholesalers
- Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource Development – Fisheries Division
- MFED – Kiribati Customs Office
- Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs (MISA) – Local Councils on outer-islands

### 3.4.2(2) PROPOSED STRATEGIES

Proposed strategies include:

- A national framework (governance) that is appropriate to discuss food safety
- Framework appropriate for Local Councils
- Inclusion of stakeholders in Committees (e.g Importers, NGOs)
- Training on the Enforcement of Acts -
- Public Awareness – Importers, food handlers, consumers, wholesalers, retailers, etc
- Improvement of conditions on the issue of licences

## 3.5 PRICE CONTROL ON CERTAIN IMPORTED FOOD(By Mr. Taiau Komeri)

### 3.5.1 OVERVIEW

This presentation was prepared by the Price Control UNIT (Sub-Division of the Fair Trading REGULATORY center) within the Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Cooperatives and delivered by Mr Taiau Komeri, Commerce Officer. The Prices Ordinance came into force on 10 June 1976 during the colonial era when Kiribati was under the British Administration. In 1979 when Kiribati became an Independent Country, it was left as part of the Kiribati Law under the supervisions of Ministry of Commerce. The nature of Price control ordinance were much related to the safeguard and support of the social well-beings in which people could enjoy and afford the most basic commodities for their survival with their families and also assist in standardizing the prices of basic commodities on all the islands.

The core rationales for the existence of a Price Ordinance (cap 75) include the followings:

- To empower the Minister to make Orders regulating the prices of certain commodities to the lowest level possible
- To enable consumers, especially those with low cash income to be able to purchase their basic needs.
- To assist in standardizing the prices of basic commodities on all islands.

Further, the following extracted sections of the Price Ordinance were clearly highlighted by Mr. Komeri and therefore should be noted and understood by the general public. These sections include:

- Powers of the Minister (S3(1) & S3(2))
  - S3 (1) – to regulate the wholesale and retail prices of the commodities listed in the schedule.
- S3 (2) – to add/delete commodities from the Schedule (i.e. a lists of price controlled items and to be further discussed in slide 10).
- Price Control Officers (S9)
  - Appointed by the Minister under S9 to report on any breaches of the provisions of the Prices Ordinance or any regulations or orders made there-under;
- To institute, prosecute and conduct any legal proceedings in respect of any alleged offence against the Ordinance or any regulations or orders made there-under
- Prohibited Acts (S10)
  - No person shall sell a commodity at a greater price than that prescribed by the order.
  - In the course of business apply different methods with intent to evade the provisions of the prices ordinance/regulation/order.
- Penalties (S12) – Any person who contravene or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this ordinance/regulation/order shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of \$1000.
- Valid Transactions (S13)
  - The person paying a price in excess of that prescribed in the order which currently in force shall be entitled to recover the excess of any price so paid by him over such price.
  - It is imperative for the claimant to produce evidences (e.g. Invoice, etc) to support the claim.

### 3.5.2 ISSUES

Although the Price Control meant to alleviate poverty and hardships throughout the community through affordable and reasonable prices to the public, still heaps of reservations and issues arise concerning the limitations of Price Ordinance in incorporating some other basic needs like fruits and vegetables which are mostly nutritious to the people. However the following were some issues developed by the meeting:

- The need to incorporate the fruits and vegetables in the Price control
- The control on the prices of cigarettes and tobaccos
- Lack of enforcements on the prices control by responsible bodies especially on Outer Islands
- Lack of awareness to the public on every items incorporated under the Price Control ordinance

### 3.5.3 PROPOSED STRATEGIES

The following were some constructive measures to the scenarios above:

- Incorporations of the prescribed items under the schedules.
- Campaigned awareness on the Price Control Ordinance both on Tarawa and Outer Islands
- Enforcement of Prices Ordinance by MCIC and strengthening drastic measures to tolerate the problem.

## 3.6 CHALLENGES FACED BY IMPORTERS AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD IN KIRIBATI (By Punjas Ltd)

### 3.6.1 OVERVIEW

On behalf of major importers for food items, Punjas Ltd Co. from Fiji who has a branch here gave a brief presentation on the topic. Punjas arrived in Kiribati since 2007 when food shortages experienced in Kiribati from time to time for over a period of 2 years. Local importers in those days had low capacities to meet the demand for rice, flour and sugar. Foreign companies were then invited to bid and fortunately Punjas won the tender. From thereon, shortages of these major food items are no more a problem.

Punjas is very committed in business and want to be a number one company to provide services for people in the Pacific. In respect to food safety, Punjas only imports foods in the following manner:

- Food that are not sub-standard

- Food that are either fortified or enriched
- Goods that are branded as quality products (e.g ISO) meeting the International Standards
- Food items that are labeled in English

In its operation, Punjas always ensures that the company complies with Government's policies as well as to follow both national and international standard procedures and to abide by the Laws of the country.

Its distribution coverage to outer-islands at the moment is minimal due to poor transportation in particular.

### 3.6.2 ISSUES

As mentioned above, the issue in particular is on poor transportation system on the outer – islands.

### 3.6.3 PROPOSED STRATEGIES

Punjas invites and welcome Mayors of Local Councils who attended the summit to visit their Office if they wish to discuss the possible ways of expanding Punjas's operation and distribution to outer-islands.

Another proposed strategy is for the country to increase the number of shipping lines to operate for the outer-islands that have the capacity to load more cargoes and store food items especially with care.

## SESSION 4 : IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED AND IMPORTED FOOD

### 4.1 OUTER ISLAND PRODUCTION (By Mr. Ioakim Tooma, Mayor of the Butaritari Urban Council

#### 4.1.1 OVERVIEW

The Mayor of the Butaritari Island Council presented his experience in regard to the agricultural program currently on-going on the island. In his presentation, the Mayor emphasized the importance of the program in relation to the availability of food supply and income generating. Further the Mayor strongly voiced out his Council support to the program and was also happy to announce the kind support the Council of Elders on the island renders to this program. This program was launched at the side of the Airfield runway which is the Government leased land.

There are nine plots which have splitted up into nine one-acre plot of which a one acre plot have been allocated to each individual developer to manage. These developers have started clearing their plot and other preparatory works before they start digging their beds.

#### 4.1.2 ISSUES

Some of the problems that were forecasted by the Mayor that may adversely affect the program include;

- post-harvest losses
- damages during handling
- damages during shipment
- Over supply of bananas, pumpkin which require processing

#### 4.1.3 PROPOSED STARTEGIES

The Mayor suggested the following strategies to avoid the significant impact of the problems to the produce;

- Training on post-harvest techniques
- Proper handling and storage of produce during shipment
- Creation of market and processing of produce

### 4.2 AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES IN THE OUTER-ISLANDS (By Ms Roota Manako)

#### 4.2.1 OVERVIEW

The paper highlights activities carried out in the outer islands to boost agricultural production. The focus of the paper discusses some of the challenges in which the Agriculture Division is facing, strategies to rectify and boosts agricultural activities and some way forward to address food issues.

According to the statistical data, it is apparent that there is a decline in the number of food crops in the Country. This dilemma poses threats to the availability of food to compensate for food being imported to the Country.

If this problem continues to persist, how can we ensure we have a food secured situation given the fact that we have the potential to grow our own food? This problem however is compounded with the soaring prices of food stuff.

Some of the agricultural activities to address the problem include;

1. Nurseryman's role
  - a. On Outer Islands:

- i. Providing and distributing sufficient supplies of planting materials to those interested in agricultural activities
- ii. Setting up of agricultural committees on the islands
- iii. Setting up of agricultural gene banks
- iv. Supports youths to actively take part in agricultural activities
- v. Livestock improvement and development
- vi. Safeguarding the introduction of pests and diseases.

#### 4.2.2 ISSUES

- Shortages of planting materials
- Lack of supports from relevant stakeholders
- Transport costs
- Laziness
- Urban rural drift
- Unavailability of markets

#### 4.2.3 PROPOSED STRATEGIES

- Supports to agricultural workers on the Outer Islands
- Campaign awareness
- Effective agricultural policies
- Promoting the growing and consumption of locally produced crops.

#### 4.2.4 WAY FORWARD

- Partnerships between the Government agencies, communities, NGOs and development partners and all relevant stakeholders to promote and work together in addressing food issues.

### 4.3 SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS LOCAL FOOD (FOOD VENDORS), by Ms. Seren Davies)

#### 4.3.1 OVERVIEW

The presentation was prepared by Environmental Health Division from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and personally delivered by Ms. Seren Davies. The presentation talked about different aspects of food vendors such as major food vendors such as school hawkers like primary and JSS, Office hawkers, fish vendors and local food vendors (market), health

requirements like license by the council and exemptions of fresh and uncooked local foods vendors, procedures and criteria

Environmental Health Division obliged and responsible for the promotions and monitoring the compliances of food vendors in the country to key ideologies and guidelines stipulated under the Food Safety Act 2006 whereas vendors had a serious obligations in providing hygienic and nutritious foods for the general public in order to avoid unforeseeable circumstances might triggered as a result of poor quality and unhygienic food for commercial purposes.

The Environmental Health Division work closely with the Island Councils in terms of acquiring licenses and other interrelated Government bodies to ensure that systems and procedures ultimately complied by vendors. Failures to comply with the rules and regulations lead to severe penalties to certain vendors and might also restrict them for being vendors anymore depending on their cases.

Further, health inspectors appointed by Ministry of Health and Medical Services in accordance with the Food Safety Act 2006 had a key roles in policing and ensuring that every vendors follow every health requirements through out their operations. Health Inspectors indeed requirement to carry out their duties transparency, accountability and impartially without any favors and anticipated to report any suspicious to the Ministry when they found one.

#### 4.3.2 ISSUES

Problems are mostly on the enforcement of the Act and the understanding of procedural requirements:

- Lack of enforcement of Food Safety Act 2006
- Incapacities of local vendors in providing hygienic foods
- Dominance of our cultures over our duties
- Lack of the community cooperation's in reporting any suspicious.
- Lack of awareness on the Food Safety Act 2006
- Lack of health education sessions to the public.

#### 4.3.3 PROPOSED STRATEGIES

The following were some proposed measures to above issues based on the collective and group agreements:

- Strengthening the enforcement of Food Safety Act 2006 by MHMS
- Workshops or campaign awareness on the Food Safety Act 2006 both on Tarawa and Outer Islands
- More trainings to Health inspectors on their key roles in order to develop and able to perform their duties properly.
- Strengthen the licensing process for all local food vendors
- Importance of time and temperature of food

- Maintain Health Education to all Food Vendors
- Reinforcement and strengthening of healthy food for children (school policy)

#### 4.4 FOOD PROCESSING (By Ms. Conchitta Tatireta)

##### 4.4.1 OVERVIEW

This paper presents activities carried out in which fruits are processed into drinks and food product at Temaiku still on trial basis. The plant so far has started with the pandanus fruit. This venture is still very immature and therefore a further improvement to the machines, building, road and the processing component of the operation is still required.

The main objectives of this project is to;

- Address food health related problems
- Provide value added to the product
- Buy and process agricultural local raw materials (income generating opportunities)

##### 4.4.2 ISSUES

- wrong modified design of the machines in which a wooden rod inserted making the juice fermented quickly (products spoiled)
- Financial constraints in which funds run out
- Limited time for trial in which just a few products are tested
- Lack of expertise and competence
- Project management (poor due to very limited funds to employ full time staff to run the project)
- Road access points

##### 4.4.3 PROPOSED STRATEGIES

- Tender project (Open to any interested I-Kiribati)

#### 4.5 FOOD FORTIFICATION (By Mrs. Ereti Timeon)

##### 4.5.1 OVERVIEW

The presentation was prepared by National Nutrition Centre within the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and presented by Ms. Ereti Timeon. The major focuses of this paper were basically on the consumptions and distributions of fortified foods for the betterment of the health

of all I-Kiribati. Not only that but the paper also touched on the awareness of possible health diseases that might resulted from unbalanced and healthy foods like junk foods and many more. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) was one of the major concerns of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services through out the country as Kiribati listed as one of the top country with high obesity, malnutrition and other issues resulted from poor and unhealthy foods.

Given the huge concerns of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services on the increase in number of NCDs, a special committee was established known as the Codex Committee to look after and monitor the standards and quality of foods consumed by the people and ensure that such items were ultimately cleaned, fortified or healthy for the people. This committee was comprises of different officers from different Government departments like MELAD, OB, and MCIC.

#### 4.5.2 ISSUES

The following were common issues found in Kiribati as a result of unfortified foods:

- High rates of NCDs
- High death rates at a younger ages
- Lack of awareness of the public on nutritious foods
- Unaffordable of healthy and nutritious foods to the public
- Poor quality of soils for subsistence crops

#### 4.5.3 PROPOSED STRATEGIES

The meeting came up with some of the following strategies:

- Roll on of more intensive campaigned awareness to the public
- The price control of nutritious and healthy foods
- Government’s support in importing fortified foods and restrictions of unfortified goods prior entering the boarder.

#### 4.6 GROUP WORK

**Topic: How can we improve the quality and safety of domestically produced and imported food?**

Participants broke into 4 groupings (1. Mayors, 2. Women, 3. Churches, and 4. Businesses) to discuss the above topic. Their findings were summarized in Table 2 below:

**Table 2: Proposed actions to improve quality of domestically and imported food items**

Issues	Groupings	Proposed Actions
1. Expiry dates	1. Mayors	1. Expired cargoes to be inspected right upon first entry from overseas by Kiribati Customs

		2. Expired cargoes to be inspected from S/Tarawa before distribution to Outer Islands.
		3. Establishing an independent body to carry out strict monitoring and inspection on this.
	2. Women	4. Be monitored from Tarawa to ensure that expired cargoes are not distributed to the Outer islands.
		5. Request training on food safety and consumer's right
	3. Businesses	6. Strengthen legislation on food safety act. Training on consumer's awareness programs
2. Damaged goods	1. Mayors	1. Consumers to exercise their right to choose
	2. Women	2. Request committee to be established to inspect cargoes before shipping to outer islands
	3. Businesses	3. Reporting back to responsible ministries/bodies on those selling damaged goods
3. Labeling issue	1. Mayors	1. Reject all foreign labeling other than English to enter the country
	2. Businesses	2. Kiribati Customs to reject entry upon arrival at the wharf from overseas
4. Price control items	1. Mayors	3. Request public awareness on this area
	2. Businesses	1. Handling charges to be included in cost of products in the outer islands.
5. Expensive cost of imported fruits and vegetables	1. Mayors	2. Review of price margins for controlled items (12.5% markup for wholesalers and retailers)
		3. Add additional items eg imported fruits and vegetables in the control price list
6. Weak control on food vendors	1. Mayors	1. Promote cultivation and consumption of local crops.
	2. Women	2. Imported fruits and vegetables should be included on the price controlled list
		1. Strengthen monitoring procedures to ensure food safety
		2. Need strong monitoring of locally produced food products to ensure quality food.
		3. Surprise inspection on food preparation premises
		4. Strengthen Council policies and conditions for the issue of licence
		5. Training on hygiene practices prior the issue of a Medical Certificate and a licence to operate
		6. Surprise inspection on food preparation premises
	3. Churches	7. Confiscating license of those fail to comply
8. Shortage of locally produced and imported food	1. Churches	1. Strengthen home gardening and increase imported goods. Increase the importation of nutritious food
9. Lessen the production and sale of less valued food entering markets	1. Churches	1. Reducing price of nutritious food
10. The sales of low	1. Churches	1. Improve quality standard of fish sold in

quality fishes in markets  
(e.g. CPPL fish)

- market.
2. Strengthen awareness on post harvest handling and therefore request training on this.

In summary, the Table above highlights some of the issues and proposed actions to improve food safety.

## DAY 3: Thursday 11 February 2010

### SESSION 5 FACILITATING PARTNERSHIP

#### 5.1 THE BENEFITS OF REGIONAL APPROACH (Presented by SPC Dr Siua Halavatau)

##### 5.1.1 OVERVIEW

The presentation highlights the importance of forming good partnership at all levels toward Food security. It was also stated that Food Security is everyone's responsibility and therefore to ensure that this is achieved it is encouraged that good cooperation and working collaboration is built between different and potential bodies, organizations within the Government ministries, stakeholders, NGOs etc in order to address food security issues at all levels and to become uniform in making decisions in the end.

It was also strongly highlighted in the presentation that there is always a missing or existing gap amongst key stakeholders due to poor or improper coordination to effectively address issues related to food production and access to nutrition and health. Lack of collaboration and strong competition for limited resources between recognized and potential bodies, organizations and ministries at national, and the trend of competition seemed to be wider at regional and international level (self oriented or protection of individual interest).

##### 5.1.2 ISSUES

Bulleted below are issues raised during open discussion after the presentation was delivered.

- Insufficient amount of vegetables consumed by the I-Kiribati due to poor and infertile soil for cultivation of nutritious vegetables
- Lack of knowledge on Food security issues and agriculture due to limited information sharing to children/youth
- Lack of skills or being lazy to properly cook local vegetables

- Limited access to seeds of root crops and vegetables by outer islands (e.g. to provide seeds to participants before session dismissed)
- Kiribati inability in processing its own fish tins.

### 5.1.3 PROPOSED STRATEGIES

From the discussion, Stakeholders managed to come up with the following strategies:

- Establishment/maintain the existence of food authority (Kiribati Food Security Task Force)
- Raise awareness throughout Kiribati on Food security and other agricultural related issues
- Agriculture and food security issues and lessons should be included in the Syllabus
- To encourage and boost women's group to effectively conduct workshops and training on cooking local vegetables
- Agriculture division is encouraged to have issues on seed distribution incorporated in its work plan and programs
- Fisheries division will find ways to address issues on processing local tin fish (e.g. to form committee on processed local tin fish)

## 5.2 THE PACIFIC FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON FOOD SECURITY

### 5.2.1 OVERVIEW

The presentation mentioned about the framework in relation to Food security. Food Security Frameworks are implemented by building good cooperation within the Food security model which mainly comprise of government ministries, NGO and other relevant bodies and organization such as health, commerce, fisheries and agriculture at all levels.

During open discussion the stakeholders raised constructive ideas with regard to the upcoming Pacific Food summit in April. It was raised that whatever outcomes (issues and recommendation) of the National Food Summit should be raised/taken up during the forthcoming pacific summit.

### 5.2.2 ISSUES

The following issues are raised at the end of the presentation

- Lack of implementation of frameworks on food security
- Limited access of local councils to participate in regional meetings

### 5.2.3 PROPOSED STRATEGIES

Below are strategies in pursuant to above issues.

- Establish/Maintain the existence of Food Security Model (comprise of MHMS, MELAD, MCIC, MFMRD)
- Information sharing to local councils on each of the outer islands will be made available and be incorporated in the awareness programs in future plans of the Agriculture division
- To form a committee at which councils will participate and will be given allowance to select their reps to be able to participate in regional meetings.

## 5.3 GROUP WORK

The group work was categorized into two parts. The first part was focused on the 6 strategies on how to improve partnership in order to achieve a multi-sectoral approach to benefit the country according to its own context. Barriers toward achieving good partnership/cooperation at all levels were also put up for each group to find solutions to overcome them. The second part of the group work was focused on identifying the importance of partnership and cooperation and to find ways to improve and maintain their existence.

The groups were made in accordance to their interest and to best suit the different interest of the organizations and bodies they represent.

### 5.3.1 GROUP WORK PART II – The 6 strategies

#### 5.3.1 (1) STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP OF FOOD SECURITY

It was realized during the summit that the missing link/gap is governance and leadership of food security due to very limited access of information, poor enforcement of existed and very old and expired legislations to list a few. It was explained well by UNICEF (Ms Seini) that information sharing and work collaboration between all sectors and areas who are involved at community, island, ministry and national level should be enforced, re-structured or retained and to be improved and to ensure that the gaps are filled in with constructive measures and responses.

There was also a mention of Government bodies and key ministries such as MISA to maintain and improve the existence of working collaboration with its local councils on each of the outer islands and to ensure that the links in between are strongly bonded. Same also applies to other respective ministries such as Agriculture, Health to name a few to start cooperating with each other and to ensure that sharing of information flows well. Review/improve and enforcement of the old laws and legislations at all levels has to be taken as first priority and to ensure that its impact is effectively felt nationwide by means of improving governance and leadership toward food security.

#### 3.51(ii) ESTABLISH MECHANISMS FOR GOVERNMENTS TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY AND QUALITY OF FOOD

In Kiribati the core weakness is the missing link between the private sectors and the government in terms of working cooperatively with each other. This greatly affects the slow motion in improving the safety and quality of food.

It was highly recommended in the discussion that a mother/umbrella committee on this should be re-formed and improved while private sector is encouraged to be a member of. There have been ideas on putting up focal committees on each of the outer islands through which information sharing will be accessible by all sectors at private, public, island and ministry levels.

### 3.5.1(iii) FACILITATE TRADE OF SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD THROUGH REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

It is clearly stated in the discussion the importance of enforcing the existing law on food safety, and to align all concerned Ministries together with other recognized bodies to work and cooperate toward this campaign. Government Bodies like Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS), Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development (MELAD) and Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives (MCIC) had been identified as key leading organization to ensure that the public awareness is being carried out nationally. It is been noted the limitation of the outreach program to the outer Islands, but all the participating Island Councils agreed to convey and assist in delivering the message to people on their Islands.

Another way of ensuring the accessibility to nutritious food is by using or consuming our own local food that could be available in each respective Island. Apart from enforcing laws on food safety, it is ideal to encourage farmers on outer Islands to increase their production in planting crops to minimize importing of food from other countries. The Government with other developing partners requested to increase the capacity of local farmers by training them.

### 3.5.1(iv) IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD THROUGH ENHANCED AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND TRADING OF SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS LOCAL FOOD

The strategy as highlighted above is based on the importance of production, processing and trading of safe and nutritious local food to improve food security and the livelihood of the I-Kiribati. During the group work the discussion came from stakeholders who voiced the concern on the poor enforcement of laws and regulations on food safety at the ministry levels. Expressions and concerns were stressed out that these laws and regulations should be improved, reviewed, and re-enforced so that the full enforcement are again put into actions so that the outcomes are greatly felt by people and the country at large.

Furthermore, responsible ministries such as agriculture department is to ensure that farmers are encouraged on each of the outer islands to start putting their efforts in planting their land with root crops such as dalo, sweet potatoes as well as vegetables such as pawpaw, pumpkins,

breadfruits, pandanus and many more which are nutritious. On the other hand there have been discussions on the improvement of the cold-houses which are already existed and the construction of the new ones on each of the remaining outer islands. This will help enhance the quality of fish when kept/stored for long time before shipment to Tarawa or outside Kiribati.

Overall in the discussion there was a mention of key ministries to carefully look into ways to improve this by means of improving laws, legislations, and policies to successfully implement this strategy at both the ministry and the national levels. Proper training on food handling, processing is necessary in order to prolong the lifespan of goods before, during and after the shipment or when stored.

### 3.5.1(v) ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY OF INFANTS AND OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTAION AND SCALING UP OF STRATEGIES DEMONSTRATED TO BE EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY

One of the top topics during the summit was on the enhancement of food security of the most vulnerable population age group; in particular the infants. It was noted that in most cases infants and kids died at early ages due to problems of food insecurity, malnutrition, and amongst all Vitamin A deficiency which is the most recent and common cases in Kiribati that raise up mortality rate at early age.

It was highly recommended that key ministries who are responsible for this should start acting now by ways of building good working relationship and work as a team i.e. Health, commerce, fisheries, agriculture etc. Ideas and assistance maybe sought from abroad and at national level to assist in the implementation and scaling up of such strategy which may in turn effectively reduce morbidity and mortality.

### 3.5.1(vi) STRENGTHEN FOOD AND NUTRITION MONITORING, RESEARCH CAPACITY AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

It is the sole responsibility of the identified government bodies to improve monitoring of food securities throughout the nation. There is also a need to establish a national committee on South Tarawa and to involve all concern Ministries to carry out the overall monitoring. Establishment of Committees on outer Islands that complement with the national Committee had found to be more effective as information and knowledge transferred from each committee to another.

Establishing of the bye-law by each councils to ensure that each individual (person) on the Island access to nutritious food in their daily lives would beneficiate not only the government in achieving its target of expanding and strengthen food and Nutrition monitoring, but minimize the likely impact and costs of malnutrition. Mayors, Medical Assistant, Principals of Schools and Church Leaders are encouraged to participate and to become members of the establishing

Committee on Outer Islands. However the communication of each Island Committee with the Central Committee or the National Committee should be efficient and timely.

It is also a proposal to incorporate the awareness and knowledge on Food security at School level i.e. Primary and High Schools syllabus. Educating young people with this subject create their opportunities to understand the importance of nutritious food at their younger ages. This would encourage our young people to turn to their own local and nutritious food rather than imported foods.

### 5.3.2 GROUP WORK RESULTS

**Table 3: Proposed actions for good governance on food security and food safety**

<b>Partnership/mechanism for collaboration</b>	<b>Why is this important</b>	<b>Who should be involved</b>	<b>How should the partnership for mechanism for collaboration be established</b>
<p>1.Strengthen Policy on Food safety Act Awareness programs on nutritional values of local food (Media)  Hygiene shipment of shipped food items  Restricted areas for importing of goods</p>	<p>Avoid defect foods  Highlight criteria for expected imported food  Food safety  To target suppliers with information of fortified food</p>	<p>Responsible ministry Same as above  Shipping lines food inspectors  Stakeholders</p>	<p>Establish National committee for stakeholders  Formal letters to shipping line from MCIC,MHMS,MELAD WHO to select suppliers that comply with food safety acts, UNICEF, FAO</p>
<p>2. Setting up of joint committee  Establishing task force on imported Food</p>	<p>Public awareness on food safety on Agriculture health and trade  Promote food security</p>	<p>MHMS, MCIC, MELAD, MFMRD, MTTC, TUC, BTC Outer island reps, KOIL Same as above</p>	<p>Meeting/Workshop training  Report to umbrella committee</p>
<p>3. Establish mechanism for governments to work cooperatively with the private sector to improve the safety and quality of food</p>	<p>Develop import form for importers to comply with to avoid. Shipping line to take good care of all shipped food items Private sectors</p>	<p>All stakeholders</p>	<p>Cabinet Paper  Customs to stop expired food items at the wharf.  Customs to stop food items in labeled in other language apart from English.  Handling cargoes must be hygienic from the wharf, warehouses, on boats to outer-islands</p>

4. Setting up of Committee to set up TOR Speed up process	To have a clear mandate, communication	MELAD	Cabinet Paper
5. Setting up of joint committee	Food safety be enforced at all levels	All stakeholders MELAD	Cabinet Paper Workshop
6. Collaboration between ministries responsible for ordering of cargoes  Joint collaboration with overseas partners  Monitoring of goods not safe for human consumption Improve child food  Breast feeding	Setting up standard code for all to follow  Sharing of information  Public awareness on unsafe foods Improve child health development  Give Child good health	MELAD, MHMS, Custom, MCIC  Health, WHO Consumers and health  Education ,health  Health and Councils and women's group	Via internet, meetings  Meeting and  Telephone and Communication  Public awareness on importance of Breast feeding
7. Involve elder people in collaboration with whole seller			

## 6. KIRIBATI WAYFORWD TOWARD FOOD SECURITY

The importance of having the appropriate National Framework to address Food Security in Kiribati is realized and discussed thoroughly in the National Food Summit. The wayforward is to support the implementation of the Pacific Framework for Action on Food Security 2010-2015.