

Minutes

Date: 28th August 2020

Subject: First Steering Committee Meeting – Minute Summary

Venue: USP Community Room1

GCCA+SUPA Project held its First Steering Committee meeting on Friday, 28th August 2020 from 10am to 2pm at the Community Room 1 - USP, Nauru.

Reagan Moses, Director for Climate Change, delivered the Opening Remarks. He welcomed the members of the Steering Committee and briefly shared the purpose of the meeting. Marissa Cook offered the Opening Prayer.

A total of 20 members attended with 11 males and 9 females who were actively engaging during the meeting discussion. Majority of the members were from the communities and included community leaders and key government officials.

Ms. Erana Aliklik – Project Coordinator facilitated the meeting by outlining the project overview, key result areas, in-depth details of the selection and analysis of data and way forward. Committee members participated in a group discussion on their experiences with different types of water tanks within their community.

Mr. Abraham Aremwa – Research & Community Officer from USP presented the progress of Output 2 on the National Governance Structure Draft Report and other upcoming training activities such as training needs analysis, resilience training, mainstreaming climate and disaster risk into local area development and building a community of practice. Abraham asked members for their comments to be incorporated before finalizing the report through email exchange.

After the presentation, members of the steering committee raised questions related to household selection and criteria. The Project Coordinator highlighted that the selection criteria including the project priority area on household water tanks have been identified by the stakeholders during the consultation in February. The team highlighted the vulnerability household survey was also conducted to serve a fair selection by prioritizing the able-disabled and old citizens including the over-crowding families also decided by the stakeholders in February. The Project Coordinator confirmed that the data analysis and selection was done by colleagues from SPC – Fiji to avoid favoritism.

After lunch members were divided into two groups to allow them the opportunity to share their experiences with different water storage tanks and to list the pros and cons of different tanks.

Find below a few points of discussion during the group presentations.

GROUP 1:

Poly tank

- Portable, convenient to move around in case of emergency, relocation or redesigning housing extension.
- Proposed for poly tank and to include slab with roof top to safeguard the tank or bury underground
- 19,000L storage capacity.
- Avoid ridge/corrugation type.
- Prefer dome tank which was introduced about 30 years ago - easy maintenance, low cost and thickness should be 10mm.
- Suitable for Nauru's climate.
- To date no complaints have been received from the communities who had their poly tanks installed 30 years ago. No cons.
- Tank imported from Australia.
- To be properly installed.

Colorbond

- Decline (Reason: Recent experiences on damaged lining during refill from water truck's hose pressure breaks the lining).
- A few individuals requested extra linings to replace the damaged lining.
- Requested training for repairing Colorbond tanks.
- CIE & NUC to identify training needs (maintenance and repair of Colorbond tanks).
- Districts have different weather conditions – Colorbond tanks located close to the sea are vulnerable to rust so poly tanks are more appropriate for seaside residents.

Slim Tank (rectangular)

- Highly recommended 5,000L rectangular poly tanks called "slim tanks". The ones in Nauru were imported from Australia. Alamanda installed a few 5,000L rectangular tanks which she states save a lot of space and are user-friendly.

GROUP 2:

- All tanks to have a tap for quick access and for use during power cuts.
- All citizens should be trained on how to maintain their water tanks.
- There should be a mandatory course at USP/TVET on repairing water tanks.
- Training should be in partnership with NUC and CIE.
- Imported tanks should be easy to maintain and repair works can be carried out locally.

White Colorbond tanks

- It has been one year since installation – the tanks are working fine but it is too early to detect any damage/issues.
- Occupy limited spaces which may lead to land disputes (land limitation in Boe and Location).
- Water delivery personnel lack knowledge of tank sensitivity and hose handling.
- Limited pool of qualified and experienced personnel in tank repair.

Galvanized tanks

Not recommended due to salty environment. Galvanized tanks with lining also not recommended.

Location underground water storage:

- Need access to blueprints to determine tank locations and capacity.
- Noted that NUC has a copy of Location blueprints.

Individual comments from the Committee members:**Timmy Denuga:**

- Highly recommend poly tanks (non-corrugated) with minimum 10mm thickness.
- Poly tanks should be half-buried in the ground to avoid expansion/ cracking when filled.
- Poly tanks should be sheltered to avoid constant exposure to the sun.
- Tank linings are okay if properly installed with some protection placed underneath the lining sheet.

Boe community:

- Issue on land space for new water storage tanks.
- Problem can be resolved by the introduction of community reticulation systems.

Water trucks:

- Initial water pressure from water truck hose has been a major cause for damage to poly and lined tanks.
- Hose with flaring nozzle is recommended.