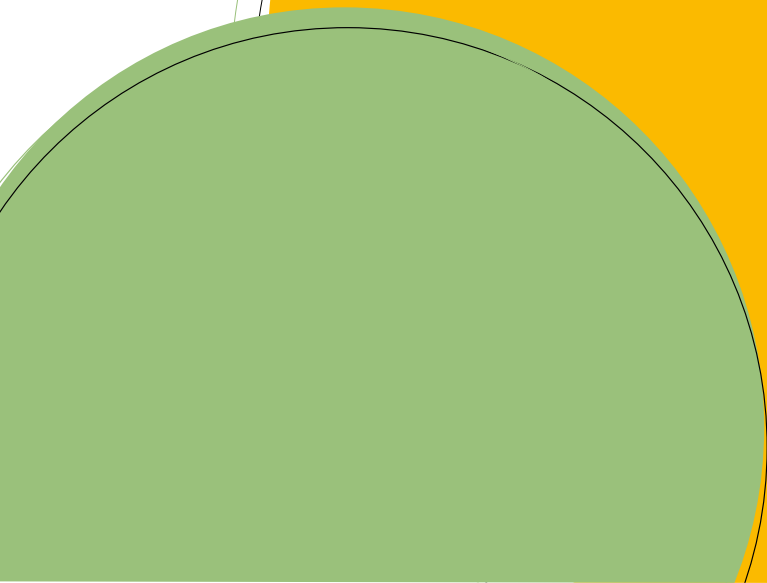




Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development



**2017** Annual Report



# 2017 Annual Report

Framing the future of  
rural development



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

# **TABLE OF CONTENT**

**5 ABOUT US**

**6 STRATEGIC FOCUS**

**7 THE PLATFORM'S BOARD**

**8 MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

**10 MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS**

**12 THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

## **PLATFORM THEMES**

**16 Agenda 2030 and rural transformation**

**18 Gender**

**20 Land Governance**

**22 Inclusive Agribusiness and Trade**

**24 Climate Finance for Sustainable Agriculture**

**26 Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture**

**27 CAADP**

**28 CAPTURING KNOWLEDGE**

**30 LOOKING AHEAD**

**32 COSTS AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS  
REGARDING PLATFORM ACTIVITIES IN 2017**

**35 IMPRINT**



## ABOUT US

**The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development is a network of 40 bilateral and multilateral donors, international financing institutions, intergovernmental organisations, foundations, and development agencies. Since 2003, the Platform has been serving as an open space for members and partners to exchange on different issues related to agriculture and rural development. In 2017 the main topic of discussions was the complexity of the Agenda 2030 and the impacts its universality and ambition will have on the agricultural sector and the members' efforts to increase food security and eradicate poverty in rural areas. The members of the Platform actively searched for correlations, leverage points and cooperation possibilities between agencies and sectors. The year was marked by strong, coordinated advocacy messages and inclusiveness in framing the future of rural development.**



# STRATEGIC FOCUS

The Platform's strategic focus is aligned with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) will frame the development policies in decades to come. In the short term, the members of the Platform are using the clear international mandate for development, to ensure economic, social and environmental sustainability in rural areas. Last year, we looked at the transformation process taking place in rural areas. The Platform identified key drivers and dynamics and focused on understanding the future of rural development through the lens of agriculture and the agricultural sector.

The Platform's strategic focus is on enhancing agriculture, food systems and rural livelihoods as parts of rural transformation. The process of rural transformation is ongoing and will have profound effects on rural areas and rural population. Following the intensive exchange and discussions about the process in 2016, this year the Platform focused on certain advantage points and correlations to frame the future of sustainable agriculture and rural development.

## THE PLATFORM'S BOARD

The Board is the voice of the Platform in championing agriculture, food systems and rural development. The Board is charged with taking a long-term strategic view of the Platform's future and guaranteeing the quality of its outputs. The Board is led by two co-chairs elected by the Board to serve for two years. They also engage on a regular basis with the secretariat as a management team. In 2017, the Platform had 12 Board members.

Co-chairs Shatanu Mathur (IFAD) and Patrick Herlant (EC) led the Board. Following the Annual General Assembly in January 2017, the Board members agreed to focus on cross-cutting issues relevant to the implementation of Agenda 2030 in rural areas. Food security, sustainable agriculture and gender were identified as overarching priorities that will be mainstreamed in each workstream of the Platform, thus reflecting the policy priorities of the members. The work plan 2017 focused on the process of implementation of Agenda 2030 and rural transformation as underlying objective, while leaving space for the workstreams to explore interlinkages and new topics of priority. At the virtual Board meeting in June, a new workstream was officially created - linking closely agricultural trade and inclusive agribusiness and the topic of youth became more prominent in the second half of the year. Additionally, the Board members took the decision, following the Strategic Plan 2016–2020, to open the membership and invite our close partners from the International Trade Centre and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to become official members. The Annual General Assembly 2018 was postponed to the second trimester of the year and the Board officially welcomed the organisation of a second high-level forum of donor representatives to discuss the future of rural development.

All the meeting minutes are accessible through the Platform website  
[www.donorplatform.org](http://www.donorplatform.org).

# MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Two new members joined the Platform in 2017 – The International Trade Centre (ITC) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). ITC has been a long-time partner in the trade workstream. The organisation decided to become a member, based on the interest of the Platform to link trade issues to other workstreams, such as gender, and build up the connections with the private sector. Both issues, where ITC can contribute with knowledge creation and facilitate exchange with other experts. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has strengthened bilateral cooperation in the agricultural sector with several of the members of the Platform. After participating in a number of events organised by the Platform, the Foundation reached out to the Board and expressed its interest to become a paying member in 2018.

The policy focus of many of the members of the Platform have changed and adapted to new political priorities and international dynamics. For example, Australia released a new agricultural aid concept that foresees strong markets and sustainable resource use as key milestone for implementing the development agenda. Canada launched a new “feminist” development assistance policy and took the lead in the international community on developing new financial instruments to support the implementation of the SDGs. The European Union introduced the European Investment Fund that actively pursues opportunities to leverage and cooperate with non-traditional donors and the private sector.

## NEW FOCAL POINTS

Focal points are the points of contact in each member organisation of the Platform. They regularly share information and knowledge within their organisation on the activities of the Platform and with other focal points on the respective members’ experience in certain topics. There were several new Focal points in different organisations: Marco Platzer joined from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (IADC), Amrane Boumghar from Global

Affairs Canada, Ueli Mauderli from the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), Bernhard Worm from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Atsuko Toda is the new Focal point from the African Development Bank (AFDB), Mohamed Manssouri from FAO and Oriane Barthélemy from the French Ministry of Europe and International Affairs. The focal points from the new members of the Platform are Hérnan Manson from the International Trade Centre (ITC) and Ammad Bahalim from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

## PARTNERS

The Platform continued the strong cooperation with partners in the different workstreams. Under the Inclusive Agribusiness and Trade Workstream, the members closely cooperated with Building Effective and Accessible Markets (BEAM) Exchange and Seas of Change on defining what inclusive agribusiness is and how it relates to donor policies on development and trade enhancement. The Platform continues the close cooperation with the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) and is planning to release a joint paper on the issues of alignment between trade and agricultural policies in 2018. Partnerships were also strengthened with GIZ on different topics such as CAADP, rural transformation, finance for development and youth employment. Numerous other partners are also involved in the other workstreams of the Platform, especially in the work of the Global Donor Working Group on Land.

## PLATFORM SECRETARIAT

The Platform secretariat continued to support the exchange between donors and their advocacy activities in many topics. The secretariat consolidated the efforts of the different workstreams, thus implementing the overall strategic goals, as set out in the Strategic Plan 2016–2020 of the Platform. The secretariat supported the information dissemination and knowledge sharing by organising webinars, teleconferences, and physical meetings and



through reporting from strategically relevant events and conferences. In close collaboration with the Board, 'non-Board' members and the members, the secretariat led the planning and organisation of the Annual General Assembly (AGA). The secretariat reported regularly to the Platform Budget Group and Board on the budget execution.

Based in Bonn, Germany, the secretariat team is serviced by the administrative structure of GIZ on behalf of the host, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). This administrative arrangement allows the secretariat members to exchange with peers and experts working in multiple implementation and policy projects for the German government. Peer reviews and profound exchange on topics and experiences from different perspectives inform the strategic orientation of the working groups of the Platform and ensure new and innovative approaches on particular topics.

The secretariat services the members of the Platform and the different workstreams. In its global outreach, the secretariat also participates in international events and when and where appropriate, communicates collective positions of the Platform.

The secretariat provided all Board members with the annual independent external audit report and its 2016 Annual report in June 2017. The secretariat team in 2017 included Reinhild Ernst (Secretariat Coordinator), Christian Mersmann (Policy Analyst), Romy Sato (Policy Analyst), Jedi Bukachi (Junior Policy Officer), Martina Karaparusheva (Junior Policy Officer), Marion Thompson (Finance Administration), Svetlana Silova (Office Manager) and Simone Miller (Finance Administration). Programme consultants supported the team in thematic, communication, design related tasks and event management.

## MEMBERS OF THE PLATFORM:

- African Development Bank (AfDB)\*
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)\*
- Austria – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
- Belgium – Directorate-General for Development Cooperation
- Belgian Technical Cooperation
- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
- Global Affairs Canada
- Denmark – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- European Commission – Directorate-General DEVCO\* (co-chair)
- Finland – Ministry of Foreign Affairs\*
- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- France – Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs\*
- French Development Agency (AFD)
- Germany – Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)\*
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Global Mechanism of the UNCCD (UNCCD GM)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (co-chair)\*
- International Trade Centre (ITC)
- Italian Agency for Development Cooperation – Italy (IADC)
- International Development Research Centre – Canada (IDRC)
- International Trade Centre (ITC)
- Irish Aid – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- KfW Development Bank, Germany
- Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
- Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency (LuxDev)
- The Netherlands – Ministry of Foreign Affairs\*
- Norway – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Spain – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)\*
- United Kingdom – Department for International Development (DFID)\*
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)\*
- The World Bank (WB)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Trade Organisation (WTO)

\*Board member in 2017

# MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

PATRICK HERLANT (EC) AND SHANTANU MATHUR (IFAD)

The universality and ambitions of Agenda 2030 will challenge development policy and operations in the next decade. The year 2017 showed us that we, as donor agencies and development finance institutions, need to stop thinking in silos and sectors, but rather concentrate on interconnections within and across our development strategies and programs – towards greater realignment, efficiency and more coherent delivery of outcomes and joint impact. The SDGs brought us closer together politically, asking us to coordinate and cooperate, use each other's expertise and knowledge and design new programs of the future, which are in line with the repositioning of the entire international development cooperation, and not just the United Nations Development System, to deliver the Agenda 2030. This is an excellent moment to advocate for the centrality of the agricultural sector in implementing the SDGs.

We are certain that sustainable agriculture and inclusive rural development will receive increasing attention within the new development policy architecture. Based on the transformation processes currently taking place in many countries, particularly in Africa, we can be sure that the broader 'food security and nutrition agenda' and the primary sector (agriculture) will be key to creating new opportunities and therefore driving development.

Understanding the issues faced by smallholder and family farmers should be at the centre of agricultural support from our side. While meeting between 60% and 80% of the global food demand they are also stimulating the demand for non-food activities and hence triggering rural transformation. Rural women are the majority of the global agricultural labour force, and faced with a considerable increase in the number of rural youth (15–24 year-olds), the demands on rural and peri-urban spaces (e.g. in terms of employment opportunities; rural out-migration or in terms of natural resource use) will rapidly increase.

Therefore, it is our responsibility to promote agricultural and rural development through coherent and coordinated programs which not only support our partner countries in their goal to sustainably improve agricultural productivity and transform rural economies, but also the rural population to face the new challenges and harness new opportunities.

We hence see the agricultural sector and the development of associated value chains as key engines for inclusive and sustainable rural transformation. By focusing on different development challenges and issues like land rights, trade and inclusive agribusiness, nutrition sensitive value chains, climate finance for ARD, and linking them under our Strategic Initiative, we believe we can make a decisive contribution to support progress in making the Agenda 2030 "happen" in the rural space and securing the benefits of the nexus with the urban dimension of the agenda.

In 2015, we analysed the political power and relevance of the Agenda 2030 and looked for linkages and synergies that will help us develop holistic programmatic approaches to agriculture and rural development. In 2016, inclusive rural transformation and urban-rural linkages were at centre of our attention. In addition, in 2017 we were prepared to use the knowledge we collectively created and shared to promote a different way of doing development business. We are very much looking forward to our forthcoming Annual General Assembly on the empowerment of (rural) youth, who represent the greatest development resource of the future that we can bank on. Our efforts as individual development agencies and banks should aim at making the young generation key players in achieving the SDGs. Sharing our positions, exchanging lessons learnt and discussing the design of future programs to reach the young generation in concrete terms, will help us build a common vision for our collective efforts, for greater impact.

All actors, institutions and their knowledge and financial capital are crucial to delivering the multi-sectoral dimensions of the Agenda 2030. In 2017, we welcomed the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the International Trade Centre as new members of the Platform and we would be pleased for new partners to join the work of the Platform. We are certain that with the support of the members of the Platform, in 2018, we will continue to help effectively design and finance a new generation of development programs of the future, starting with the delivery of the Agenda 2030.



# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2017, the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development confirmed once again its strategic role in raising awareness for holistic approaches for food security policy and rural development, by promoting dialogue amongst donors and partners about the latest trends in agriculture and rural development sectors.

The year started with a vibrant Annual General Assembly (AGA) hosted by the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium. More than 100 participants gathered to discuss the future of rural development in the Agenda 2030 implementation process. We addressed the issue of complexity and the chances we should use to deal with the dynamics and turbulences of development. Members and partners agreed that there is a very strong case to boost sustainable agriculture and broaden the rural agenda by linking agriculture to other sectors, integrating crosscutting issues and considering rural-urban dynamics. For the first time the AGA included a high-level session, where directors of several member organisations elaborated on the impact of the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the new finance architecture created by the AAAA. They all modified substantially the development paradigm, putting extra pressure on ODA to create enabling factors to attract private finance for development. The members agreed that current development practices would not be sufficient to implement Agenda 2030 in rural areas. The discussions showed that the international community needs to develop flexible approaches to expand single project gains into long-term transformation. The debate around complexity, confirmed once again the importance of strategic partnerships, innovation and exchange.

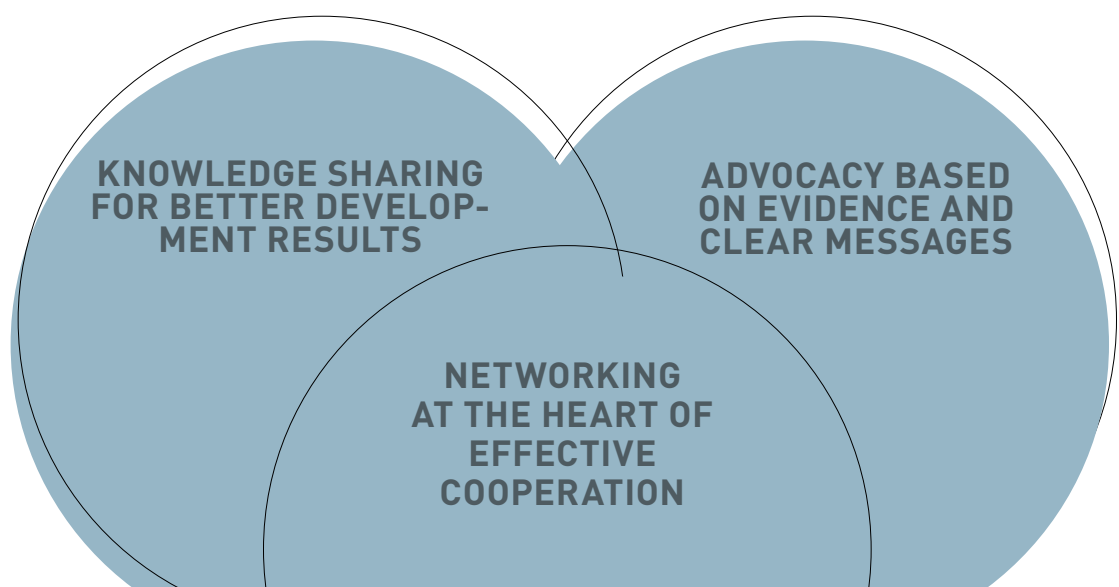
At the AGA pre-event, members and partners met to discuss the potential and challenges of promoting inclusive agribusiness. The participants represented not only private sector and academia, actively engaged in promoting social responsibility and the latter conducting research on the definition of inclusiveness, but also members who focus on trade for agriculture and rural development. It quickly became clear that there is a knowledge gap that can be partially closed by a tighter collaboration between the different stakeholders along the agricultural value chain. The members therefore agreed to organise an additional workshop in March, where the working groups on trade and on inclusive agribusiness decided to coordinate their activities. The newly merged group offers the possibility for members to exchange with partners and private sector on issues related to harvesting the potential of inclusive agribusiness and trade to contribute to poverty reduction, rural transformation, job creation and global food security.

In terms of advocacy, the Platform also maintained its good performance. Following the inclusion of a land indicator as part of the SDGs in 2015, the Platform's Working Group on Land celebrated another achievement with the re-classification of this indicator from Tier III to Tier II. The tier system refers to how well established is the methodology and to the availability of metadata for the SDG indicators. The Global Donor Working Group on Land provided continuous support to the custodian agencies of this indicator (UN-Habitat and World Bank) through contacts to experts in UN member state countries, methodological advice, promoting dialogue with civil society and raising awareness for the innovative aspect of this indicator as it also considers the perception, and not only documentation, of tenure security.



In addition, the Gender Workstream, reached a milestone in their efforts to promote innovation and knowledge exchange. Based on the experience, the Platform and different members gathered in discussions around inclusive agribusiness, as well as the decision taken by the Board to integrate gender in all activities of the Platform, the Gender Group commissioned a study to explore women's economic empowerment in agribusiness. The members of the working group shared the perception that there is a knowledge gap about the impact donor-supported agribusiness initiatives on the promotion of the gender transformative agenda. The study developed a methodology for analysing agribusiness projects from a gender perspective at field and in project management, which was well received by all donors and partners.

Our members continued to shape the debate on climate resilient agriculture and CAADP implementation. The Platform confirmed its role as a forum for discussions around crosscutting and emerging issues. Two new members joined in 2017, bringing their own experience and expertise to the discussions. Overall, the focus of the development cooperation agenda shifted from understanding the process of rural transformation to implementing it. Many international stakeholders, including several members of the Platform, have chosen to focus on navigating the process of rural transformation through creating youth employment opportunities. From the African Union to G20, IFAD, the Swiss and French Development Cooperation, all have launched strategies that stress the need to promote youth empowerment as key driver for development and entry point for food security. The Platform positioned itself as a place to exchange on initiatives, strengthen cooperation and promote innovations, therefore the upcoming AGA 2018 will offer the possibility to share first experiences and jointly shape innovative approaches to reach youth in rural areas.







## **2017 IN NUMBERS**

**15 International events**

**5 Platform events**

**5 Management meetings**

**2 Board meetings**

**2 Studies/working papers**

**40 Members**



## **SOME INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND PLATFORM'S EVENTS DURING 2017**

### **FEBRUARY**

- Brussels Briefing Agricultural Trade, Brussels, Belgium

### **MARCH**

- Inclusive Agribusiness workshop, Brighton, England
- ITC Inclusive and sustainable agribusiness development, Geneva, Switzerland
- World Bank Land Conference, Washington D.C., USA
- GDWGL side event on migration and land tenure dynamics, Washington D.C., USA
- 9th Physical Meeting of the GDWGL, Washington D.C., USA
- Brussels Briefing Rural Livelihoods, Brussels, Belgium

### **APRIL**

- OECD Development Forum, Paris, France
- KfW Finance in Motion, Frankfurt, Germany
- BMZ Youth Conference, Berlin, Germany

### **JUNE**

- 13th CAADP Partnership Platform, Kampala, Uganda
- GACSA and CFS OEWG meeting on urbanisation and rural transformation, Rome, Italy

### **JULY**

- Global Aid for Trade review, Geneva, Switzerland

### **OCTOBER**

- CFS44, Rome, Italy
- GDWGL side-event on the impact of increasing capital flows to rural areas, Rome, Italy
- 10th Physical meeting of the GDWGL, Rome, Italy
- Trade and Food Security in West Africa, the Hague, the Netherlands
- GIZ Agenda 2030 put into practice, Eschborn, Germany

### **NOVEMBER**

- SAFIN workshop, Rome, Italy

# PLATFORM THEMES

## AGENDA 2030 AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION

Rural transformation and the future of rural areas in light of the implementation of Agenda 2030 were at the centre of debate at the Platform's Annual General Assembly in January 2017. The Assembly titled "Agenda 2030 put into practice: what future for rural development?" facilitated a dialogue about "looking back from the future in 2030" asking more than 100 participants about the position of agriculture and rural development (ARD) after implementing Agenda 2030. The participants from different sectors related to ARD, offered their perspectives on how ARD should be addressed from now on until 2030, focusing on issues such as job creation and economic growth, trade and inclusive agribusiness, innovative financing mechanisms like blended finance of public and private sources and the important sources of climate finance. Platform members, partners from civil society and

farmer organisations as well as international institutions agreed that implementing Agenda 2030 calls for an inclusive process of rural transformation and sustainable rural development. This can only be achieved by addressing all SDGs that are relevant and not just SDG 2 on agriculture and food security. Reducing the complexity of rural transformation processes and building multi-sectoral approaches required for the implementation of Agenda 2030, is the new call for development effectiveness.

This year's AGA High-Level Forum offered the space for a profound political and strategic debate on the future support to ARD in times of shifting ODA priorities. The forum confirmed the renewed interest in the Platform and the joint engagement in inclusive and sustainable rural transformation. Additional efforts would be needed to ensure coherence and consistency between SDG objectives, programmatic approaches and new partnerships with institutions engaged in non-conventional sectors for agriculture like innovative financing instruments. The collaboration with emerging donors, the private sector and most importantly the support to and enhanced cooperation with national governments are the development topics in line with the Platform's mandate.

Following the call from the AGA, the Platform continued its analytic work on finance for agriculture and rural development considering OECD data on ODA flows and impacts, new investment priorities of donor agencies and of the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), like aid for trade or blended finance initiatives. The Platform engaged as an active partner in the new Smallholder Finance and Investment Network – SAFIN, which brings together a diverse set of actors on new financing instruments for smallholder farmers and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). The Platform also contributed to the close exchange between IFAD, SAFIN and OECD on the topic of blended

### HIGHLIGHTS:

**OECD-DAC blended finance principles**

**OECD deep dive study on blended finance in agriculture**

**Annual General Assembly**

**G20 Rural youth employment initiative**

finance in agriculture. This relatively new instrument is gaining more attention from the different donors and development agencies.

In the international discussion on finance for development ODA is closely linked to the blended finance. Thus, there is pressure to understand the correlations and take advantage of the opportunities this instrument offers to position agriculture better on the financial markets. DAC members have already recognised the opportunity and agreed on five blended finance principles to guide the integration of ODA into new financing arrangements and mechanisms.

Throughout the year, growing political attention and resources were dedicated to promoting youth employment as part of the food security agenda. There was a recognition that the young generation in rural areas face great difficulties in accessing productive assets such as land, finance and knowledge and are therefore uniquely disadvantaged.

## OECD BLENDED FINANCE PRINCIPLES

**PRINCIPLE 1: Anchor blended finance use to a development rationale**

**PRINCIPLE 2: Design blended finance to increase the mobilisation of commercial finance**

**PRINCIPLE 3: Tailor blended finance to the local context**

**PRINCIPLE 4: Focus on effective partnering for blended finance**

**PRINCIPLE 5: Monitor blended finance for transparency and results**

Source: OECD Blended finance principles 2017

**Rural youth can be the drivers of inclusive rural transformations that create opportunities for sustainable development that provide them with adequate quality life prospects.**

**G20 Initiative for Rural Youth Employment**

The German G20 Presidency 2017 set the political tone launching the New Rural Youth Employment Initiative at the conference in Berlin “The future of Rural World”. However, beyond youth employment there is a great need to support young farmers and entrepreneurs up the agricultural value chain to achieve the food security, which the future generation’s need. The Platform picked up on the interest of the members on the topic and is preparing its next Annual General Assembly 2018 on youth empowerment. Given the broad spectre of initiatives and the different ways to address the challenges and opportunities for rural youth, the secretariat compiled information from all the Platform members on their programs, strategies and policies that will be made available in a compendium in 2018. Based on the high political priority and the great level of commitment of many Platform members and partners, rural youth empowerment might become a longer-term policy priority for the Platform.

## GENDER

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) in the context of agriculture and rural development is a priority of the Platform's work. Since 2016, gender is no longer handled as a singular topic adjunct to the rest of the Platform's work. Rather, a complimentary approach to gender mainstreaming is employed, through aligning the Gender Group's priority areas with the thematic focus areas of the Platform. This, in turn, has enhanced the gender mainstreaming process by having a more crosscutting and collaborative approach to GEWE in all areas of the Platform's work.

In 2017, women's economic empowerment (WEE) and inclusive agribusiness was the nexus area of focus. This is because there is a knowledge gap on the extent to which donor-supported agribusiness initiatives engage with the gender transformative agenda. In order to gain a better understanding, the gender workstream commissioned a study on the gender responsiveness of donor-funded agribusiness projects. Carried out hand in hand with the Inclusive Agribusiness and Trade Workstream, the work aimed to map the different approaches donors use to address gender inequalities and promote WEE within the agribusiness initiatives they support, and to assess based on existing evidence, which approaches are most effective. The work, which was drafted by gender and rural livelihoods expert Clare Bishop, was published in the summer of 2017. As part of this work, a tool for assessing the gender-responsiveness of agribusiness initiatives was developed. A number of Platform partners such as Oxfam and ITC worked together closely with the Platform on this activity, with ITC going on to become a Platform member later in the year. Detailed recommendations for both field and policy levels can be found in the report, some of which reiterated that gender considerations must be at the centre of project design and WEE and should be seen as fundamental to the successful outcome and long-term sustainability of agribusiness initiatives. Moreover, introducing some of the more innovative field-level gender

transformative approaches into the design of the project and tracking impact to take the successful ones to scale is key. Additionally, strengthening the gender-responsiveness of project management to create an enabling environment for WEE; and sharing good practices and experiences on WEE is important.

A well-attended webinar took place to share the results of the study, and to hear from a number of donors – European Commission (EC), Canada and FAO – how the recommendations resounded with their current strategies. Since its publication, the EC has used the work to review its agribusiness portfolio and a number of the regional and headquarter gender teams have been briefed on the methodology. Global Affairs Canada equally arranged a briefing on the analysis results and the tool with their national, regional and global staff, while a number of other donors are in the process of adapting the methodology in order to review their agribusiness work.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

**WEE and Agribusiness report and the accompanying tool to assess gender responsiveness in agribusiness projects**

**Webinar with speakers from EC, Canada, FAO and Clare Bishop.**

**Gender session at inclusive agribusiness workshop in Brighton**

**InfoNote on the feminisation of agriculture**

**The sixty first Commission on the Status of Women**

**High Level Forum on WEE**





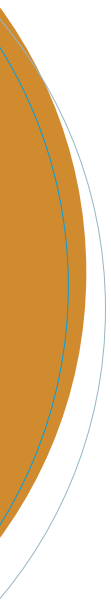
**Our ability to address the needs of women and girls who are living in rural areas is the biggest contribution we can make to ensure the Sustainable Development Goals are achieved in the best possible way for the majority of humanity.**



**Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**

Another notable activity in 2017 was an information note on the opportunities for gender in the transformation of the rural space. This brief added a gender lens to the Platform's work on rural transformation, which was the theme of the Annual General Assembly 2017. The brief concluded that women's share in agriculture is expanding in several regions, and women are already dominating agriculture in regions such as Sub Saharan Africa. As such, no discussion on rural transformation is complete without adequate consideration of what feminisation of agriculture means for policy, public investments, land rights, rural organisations, rural finance and others.

Looking to 2018, it is planned that the Platform will use the occasion of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to bring donors together to share their experiences and strategies on the empowering rural women and girls, both at field and at policy levels.



## LAND GOVERNANCE

In 2017, the Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL) played once more an important role in ensuring the appropriate address of land issues in the SDG framework. The Group concentrated its efforts on the re-classification of the SDG land tenure indicator 1.4.2 from Tier III to Tier II – which was confirmed in November 2017 at an official meeting of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicator (IAEG-SDGs). The tier system refers to how well established is the methodology and to the availability of metadata for countries to be able to report on progress by 2020.

The GDWGL provided continuous support to the custodian agencies of this indicator (UN-Habitat and World Bank) through contacts to experts in Member State countries, methodological advice, promoting dialogue with civil society and raising awareness to the innovative aspect of this indicator as it also considers the perception, and not only documentation, of tenure security. To update the broader development community on the re-classification process, the Platform set up a specific webpage dedicated to indicator 1.4.2.

The pursuit for coherence was also key element in this process. There was close collaboration between the custodian agencies of the SDG land indicator 1.4.2 and those of indicator 5.a.1 (under Goal 5, on gender equality) in the development of methodologies and metadata for the respective indicators. Moving to Tier I for both indicators is the next step, a priority to be taken up by the GDWGL in 2018.

Besides the intense work on the SDG land indicator, the Group continued to use their collective voice to draw attention to emerging and pressing issues that affect land governance and food security. Two side events were organised at the World Bank Land Conference and at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) 44, exploring the nexus between migration and land governance, and the increasing role of domestic investments in land. While the former topic was still high on the political agendas of many countries, donors felt the need to broaden the understanding of the root causes of migration and the connections with the rural space transformations. Hence, the choice at the CFS 44 to discuss domestic investments in land and expand the analysis of investment impacts beyond those of foreign land investments. As usual, back-to-back to the WB Land Conference (in March) and to the CFS (in October), the Group held its two physical meetings of the year – the occasion for members to exchange views on how the Group has been performing as a collective voice in strategic land policy issues, and to define future actions.

In March, members agreed to establish a smaller group (the Friends of the Custodians) to support custodian agencies of the SDG land indicator 1.4.2 to achieve the re-classification of the indicator by October 2017. The Friends group includes not only members of the GDWGL (DFID, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII)), but also partners like Omidyar Network and the International Land Coalition (ILC), to account for the diversity of perspectives in this important issue.



**Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure.**

**SDG land indicator 1.4.2, under Goal 1 (no poverty), strongly advocated by the Platform's Global Donor Working Group on Land**



In the second half of the year, the GDWGL organised a series of meetings back-to-back to the CFS 44. They included a working dinner on the SDG land indicator, the official CFS side event focusing on domestic land investments (aforementioned) and the internal workshop to design the new roadmap of the GDWGL. There, members decided to remain solely with an annual work plan where priority setting could be more flexible.

Interaction with GDWGL partners also remained high, offering opportunities for collaboration and a reality check of the priorities and activities set out by the Group. Examples include: information exchange with Land Portal regarding the SDG land indicator 1.4.2, submission of a joint paper with the Land Portal for the WB Land Conference in 2018. Additionally, the Group submitted a joint proposal with UN-Habitat for a special session at the World Urban Forum (7-13 Feb 2018 in Malaysia), following an earlier decision to raise the importance of land governance for better rural-urban transitions.

Finally, the Land Governance Programme Map, a database of worldwide donor-supported land projects maintained by the GDWGL, continued to grow. KfW joined this initiative, reporting their projects under Germany as a donor, and the number of programmes have increased from 638 in 2016 to 773 in 2017, out of which 260 are ongoing projects representing a total investment of USD 2.5 billion in land issues worldwide.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Re-classification of the SDG land tenure indicator 1.4.2 from Tier III to Tier II in November**

**Establishment of the “Friends of the Custodians Committee” by the GDWGL**

**New web-page with the Donor Platform website dedicated to updates on the SDG land indicator 1.4.2**

**Side event at the World Bank Land Conference 2017**

**Side event at the Committee on World Food Security 2017**

**A policy brief published by the GDWGL reaffirming donors’ commitment to monitor land tenure progress in the framework of the Agenda 2030**

## INCLUSIVE AGRIBUSINESS AND TRADE

The topic of inclusive agribusiness and trade remained substantial in donors' discussions in 2017, particularly as the SDGs show a strong accent on economic growth and call overall for more and more effective partnerships with the private sector.

Building on the State of Play report, commissioned in 2016, the Platform co-organised a workshop in March to consider specific research areas and knowledge exchange mechanisms for increased support by knowledge institutes, donors, business networks, academia etc. The discussions showed that there is a lot of knowledge on inclusive agribusiness sitting in different institutes and initiatives in various parts of the world, which are not being effectively synthesised. Even though the initial proposal was to converge the exchanges in a single channel, participants agreed that existing groups (e.g. the Platform workstream, the IBAN network, BEAM Exchange, Seas of Change etc.) also had their value and decided to continue to support them, but trying to find occasions in which the different networks could also learn from each other.

This observation and decision provided a good basis for dialogues later in the year in the Platform. An example was the Platform's webinar on 11 July about a DFID's internal analysis of successful agribusiness-oriented policy approaches to help identify areas for future programming and engagement. The webinar attracted participants from donor organisations, consulting firms and agricultural fund initiatives, who offered their views about challenges to establish a better engagement with smallholder farmers, the private sector and civil society. Participants particularly appreciated this webinar as it shared an internal report, not available on the web, and allowed for a rich dialogue with development officers responsible for IAB programmes facing similar challenges.

Another important result was the decision to merge the EU Working Group on Private Sector Engagement with the Platform's Inclusive Agribusiness and Trade Workstream expanding the composition to non-European donors. In 2017, the Platform's work in inclusive agribusiness was led by the EC.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

**Workshop "Towards a Global Research and Learning Agenda for Inclusive Agribusiness" in Brighton, UK on 7-8 March, jointly with BEAM Exchange and Seas of Change initiative**

**Webinar on "Policy approaches for successful agribusiness: a review by DFID"**

**Discussion paper on "Aligning agricultural and rural development and trade policies to improve sustainable development impact"**

On the issue of trade, the first analysis of policy coherence between trade and agriculture and rural development was finalised by consultant Paul Engel in close cooperation with ECDPM and following a detailed debate with the working group. This exploratory study highlighted various areas of contention between the ARD and trade workstreams of development partners. The ARD and trade community tend to agree on general objectives like food security and employment creation, but disagree on the way to achieve them. This disagreement produces an ongoing debate: which trade is good for development and which is not?

Under which conditions investment can have a positive impact? Even if some convergence is taking place, ARD for long focused mostly on the production and productivity side, while the trade community prioritised (external) markets and took the production side for granted.

Back-to-back to the CFS in October, the IAB and Trade Working Group members met in Rome and agreed on a list of webinars and other outputs to be implemented by the workstream in 2018.



**Inclusive rural development cannot focus just on that part of the rural farm population that is able to hook up with the specific agricultural value chain(s) that a particular donor or programme supports. It needs to increase the opportunities for other rural dwellers as well, by creating jobs within the agricultural value chain through industrialisation or, by developing alternative economic activity on-farm or off-farm.**



**Paul Engel, independent consultant and specialist in policy coherence for global sustainable development**



## CLIMATE FINANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



**The focus is on climate action that leads to real transformation. Where a community living in a state of vulnerability develops capacity to cope and meet the challenges of climate change. Where all these actions are underpinned by the principles of sustainability.**

**Ms. Hakima El Haite and Mr. Inia Seruiratu, COP23**



The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) as offered by all country Parties of FCCC to seal the Paris Agreement in 2015, are very ambitious when it comes to agriculture. Adaptation of the agricultural sector to climate variability is certainly the priority of many developing countries to ensure food security, but mitigation of climate-relevant emissions by land-use means is a much more complicated undertaking. Agriculture is one of the main contributors to climate change - CCAFS' scientific analysis shows that the sector contributes with up to 10-12% to global greenhouse gas emissions. However, FAO's analysis of the role of agriculture in NDC submissions of 2015/2016 shows that most developing countries see a great potential in mitigating climate change effects by sustainable land-use in agriculture and forestry.

Given the strong political will to expand the role of agriculture in the global climate regime, there was a call to include the sector in the financial allocations of the Green Climate Fund and other global financial providers like the World Bank.

Despite the clear connection, agriculture still accounts for rather few of the climate finance provisions, so the Platform focused the work of its Climate Resilient Workstream on the inclusion of agriculture into the financial provisions at global, regional and national level.

After the successful side event in Marrakesh at FCCC COP22, the Platform engaged in the Thematic Working Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Land Use of the NDC Partnership, which was founded in May 2017. The purpose of the group is to achieve the NDC through agriculture and support countries in setting up their strategies and programmes. It is a peer-learning and knowledge-sharing group focused on practical solutions, and the Platform reported regularly on the discussions.

The Global Alliance for Climate-smart Agriculture (GACSA) was engaging (inter alia) in a metrics exercise of climate-relevant finance for agriculture from ODA, private sector and foundations. The work will be carried on into 2018, but first results show a steady increase in finance for climate resilient agriculture from all sources.

The Platform got particularly busy following the decision by UNFCCC COP23 in Bonn 2017 to request the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) of the Convention to address “issues relating to agriculture”. This was a historic step forward in including agriculture into the decision-making processes under the Convention. Up to this decision, there was only limited consideration for agriculture as part of mitigation and adaptation measures eligible for climate finance. Platform members agreed to follow up on this decision by organising Platform discussions on how to address agriculture as part of the Convention and its financing opportunities.

Access to finance for climate-resilient agriculture as part of adaptation measures and agricultural mitigation schemes is complicated at any level. The administrative hurdles are high and convincing arguments still need to be sharpened to be successful. Additionally, line ministries like those charged with agriculture and forestry are not necessarily involved in the negotiations processes of the UNFCCC or the finance providers like the Green Climate Fund (GCF). This also means that climate considerations are not yet sufficiently integrated and mainstreamed into governmental programming for rural development.

The work ahead of the Platform for 2018 in supporting developing countries to get their NDC implementation financed need to be enhanced. Land-based solutions to adapt to and mitigate climate change need to be part and parcel of the future agriculture and rural development programmes.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

**COP23 requests subsidiary bodies to act on agriculture**

**FAO new strategy on climate change**

## NUTRITION-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE



**This ambition (SDGs) can only be fulfilled if agriculture and food systems become sustainable, so that food supplies are stable and all people have access to adequate nutrition and health.**



State of food security and nutrition report 2017

A growing number of donor agencies and development organisations are integrating nutrition into their agricultural programs. Many of them focus on education and support for farmers in adopting improved technologies and practices that increase the nutritional value of their production. Although the connection is well recognised, the exact pathways of which agriculture can influence nutrition-related outcomes are still unclear. Thus, the inclusion of nutrition-sensitive goals into agricultural programs presents a problem. In 2017, the Nutrition Working Group of the Platform organised a teleconference, where several donor agencies discussed the strategic and practical issues of pursuing nutritional goals with agricultural projects. Many of the Platform members are currently reviewing their agricultural projects and looking for ways to integrate nutritional goals. FAO published a report analysing several internationally recognised nutrition-sensitive indicators used by donor agencies to plan and report on their projects and there is a call for more research on best practice examples of linking the two sectors.

Crosscutting issues related to nutrition are gaining more international attention in 2017. In the focus of discussion were the interlinkages between nutrition and gender, agriculture, climate change and governance issues such as conflicts. International fora like CFS included special events on strengthening women's rights and their contributions to the implementation of SDG2, as well as the role of women in food crises and conflicts. The importance of crises and conflicts for nutrition was also highlighted by the 2017 report on the "State of food security and nutrition". The authors report that the number of

chronically undernourished people in 2016 in the world has increased to 815 million from 777 million back in 2015. The rise in the numbers is explained with the growing number of people living in areas and situations of conflict and areas exposed to extreme weather events. Although the overall state of food security and nutrition is better than in the beginning of the century, this development could be interpreted as the beginning of a negative trend.

With the increasing frequency and intensity of climate related events, as well as the rising number of conflicts, the report calls for urgent political reconsideration of approaches and interventions that respond to the new challenges. Given the different reasons for this increase, as explained in the report, nutrition should be addressed in relation to other issues rather than on its own. The Platform members see nutrition as a crosscutting topic that must be integrated in overall ARD policies, gender empowerment strategies and in climate adaptation and mitigation activities. Therefore, the Platform welcomes the exchange with other fora with expertise on national and international levels contributing to a better understanding of the contextual factors that play a role in the nutritional impact pathways.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

Teleconference with members discussing challenges of nutrition-sensitive agriculture

State of Food Security and Nutrition report highlights an increase of malnourished people worldwide

## CAADP

In 2017, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) process reached an unprecedented accountability level, as African countries prepared to report on the progress of African agriculture under the Biennial Review process. It was therefore essential for the Platform to support members and partners to better understand CAADP in the lead up to this important milestone.

In March 2017, upon request of current Development Partners Coordination Group (DPCG) chair USAID, the Platform secretariat arranged the March DPCG meeting held in Bonn. During this meeting, it was agreed that the Platform would continue its role in supporting the CAADP outreach and host DPCG documents on the Platform website. As part of this role, the Platform together with the GIZ CAADP support programme, commissioned an overview document on CAADP, which makes clear the policy framework, institutions, implementation, partnership architecture and financing of CAADP.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

Overview document on CAADP

Online archive of important CAADP-related documents

13<sup>th</sup> CAADP Partnership Platform outcome document

The document was prepared in September by the consultant Heike Ostermann and serves as a reference point for those development actors who are not part of the DPCG to quickly come to speed on how CAADP operates. It is designed as a “living document” which is updated as changes in CAADP arise. Additionally, also in cooperation with GIZ, the Platform developed an online archive of important CAADP-related documents for easy reference. The archive is hosted on the Platform’s website.

In the spring of 2017, the secretariat attended the 13th CAADP Partnership Platform held in Kampala, Uganda, where mutual accountability with a focus on the biennial review was discussed. Supporting the Biennial Review due in January 2018 was seen by the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency, the African Union members and the DPCG as the biggest priority of the year.



**We are noting with satisfaction that for the first time in history, African leaders have set themselves up for checks and balances to be instituted in Africa’s collective agricultural development efforts, through the Malabo Declaration.**

**Estherine Fotabong, NEPAD**

# CAPTURING KNOWLEDGE

2017 was the year that challenged our sectoral thinking and forced us to explore the connections of agriculture to other development related issues. The exchange between members and partners of the Platform intensified, re-affirming the importance of the Platform as a convenor and dialogue facilitator. Certain topics gained more importance like gender and inclusive agribusiness, members engaged in advocacy activities to keep the land indicator within the SDG indicator framework and develop a methodology to track the progress of the indicator. The Strategic Initiative Agenda 2030 and rural transformation continued to guide the agenda of the Platform and some strategic topics such as rural youth emerged. We gained two new members and engaged proactively with numerous partners on different topics, strengthening the cooperation and communication around the topic of agriculture and rural development. The secretariat is constantly adapting the communication tools of the Platform trying to better capture the respond to the needs of the members and partners.

## INTERACTING FACE-TO-FACE

In 2017, the Platform was present at many international development meetings and events, contributing to the discussion as an organiser of side-events, participating in discussion panels or reporting of discussions.

## PUBLICATIONS

The Platform, together with the GIZ CAADP support programme commissioned an overview document to serve partners and future supporters of CAADP to get an easy overview of the sophisticated programmatic and institutional landscape of this continent-wide programme. The document covers five major areas including the CAADP policy framework, institutions, implementation, partnership architecture and CAADP financing. Overall, the cooperation between the Platform and CAADP DPCG intensified throughout the year. Next to organising a meeting in Bonn, the secretariat also participated in the 13th CAADP Partnership Platform in Kampala, Uganda. Additionally, the secretariat, GIZ and DPCG, jointly developed an ONLINE ARCHIVE of important CAADP-related documents that is hosted by the Platform's website.

The work of the Gender Workstream fruited in a study that aimed to better understand the different approaches donors use to address gender inequalities and promote women's economic empowerment within the agribusiness initiatives they support. The group and the consultant Claire Bishop developed a new tool to assess, which approaches are more effective at delivering women's economic empowerment, including those, which address the underlying causes and structural barriers.

The secretariat also uses tools like INFONOTES and POLICY BRIEFS. In 2017, the secretariat released a Policy Brief summarising the joint advocacy messages of the Global Donor Working Group on Land with regard to the re-classification of the SDG land indicator 1.4.2. The adoption of all land related indicators, but especially the land indicator 1.4.2, is an important achievement of the international community and the Group has committed to actively support the development of appropriate data gathering methodology and the implementation process. The secretariat prepared three InfoNotes that looked at a number of important rural development issues that were growing in importance. In January, an InfoNote on the opportunities for gender in the transformation of the rural space looked at the trends and implications of the feminisation of agriculture. In July, the secretariat published an InfoNote exploring the policy and investment implications of linking agriculture and water sectors in the framework of Agenda 2030. Following the G20 Summit in Hamburg, in close cooperation with BMZ, the secretariat also released an InfoNote summarising the main action points and development opportunities for the rural spaces discussed during the summit. The paper describes the newly launched G20 rural youth employment initiative and the recommendations made by IFAD and the World Bank on the supply and demand side for jobs for young people in rural areas.

We shared our success stories through the Platform's newsletter – the eUPDATE – that goes out to more than 500 subscribers. With six newsletters throughout the year, the secretariat shared different information, knowledge pieces and videos on various topics related to the agriculture and rural development.

**ANNUAL REPORT.** The Platform's Annual report 2016 reflected on the work and achievements of the Platform during an important year of exploring the impact of rural transformation on the agricultural and all other related sectors. It captured the key knowledge exchange opportunities and networking activities amongst members and partners.

### **ONLINE COMMUNICATION TOOLS**

**WEBSITE:** The Platform launched its new website in January 2017. With the new design and revised structure, the activities of the Platform are better presented and easily reached by members and partners. The steadily growing numbers of site views and visitors to the website confirmed this and in 2017: we had an average of more than 1100 site views per month and nearly 3000 page views. We posted 33 webstories, six interviews and two webinars. The website was visited more than 34000 times, with an average duration of 2:57 minutes per visit.

### **ONLINE DEPOSITORIES**

The Platform is hosting one global donor database of land governance projects. The Global Donor Working Group on Land re-designed the map to display the gathered information in a more responsive way. The database offers information on the location, duration and scope of projects funded and implemented by the members of the group. The map was also integrated to the Land Portal, increasing the visibility and transparency of donor-funded land projects. The gender subpage is also housing a library for research and knowledge pieces on cross cutting issues related to gender, agriculture and rural development. On the CAADP webpage, users can find the online archive of CAADP relevant documents.

**TWITTER:** The secretariat team continued to connect and engage with members and partners through Twitter. The team has actively posted from events, re-tweeted messages and connected back to the website. The Platform's Twitter account has gained over 300 new followers and now has more than 3200 subscribers. In 2017, the Platform tweeted 453 new tweets.

**VIDEO RECORDINGS:** The secretariat's team recorded several panel discussions from the last CFS 44 in Rome. Following on the interesting inputs from the panellists, the secretariat arranged for several interviews that delved deeper into the issues of land governance and the methodologies needed to implement relevant SDGs' targets, into rural youth employment and the challenges of attracting youth to work in agriculture, and about the opportunities youth see in working in the agriculture and food sectors. The secretariat continued to facilitate the exchange between members and partners through the channel of virtual briefings. In September, the Gender Group organised a webinar to discuss the outcomes of the study on women's empowerment in agribusiness projects. Over 40 representatives from member and partner organisations joined the discussion about different pathways to integrate gender into policy and project designs and implementation. In November, Oxfam shared their research on the different opportunities to tap into agriculture and climate finance resource to support women's empowerment. The videos were posted on the website and on the Youtube channel of the Platform. Since then, thousands of people have watched them.

### **WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS IN 2017**

**Web articles created: 3**

**Virtual Briefings: 2**

**Calendar views: 4249**

**Site visits: 13,634**

**Page views: 34,524**

**Average visit duration: 2:57 minutes**

**eUpdate issues: 6**

**Twitter followers: 3289  
(307 new followers)**

**Tweets: 453**



# LOOKING AHEAD

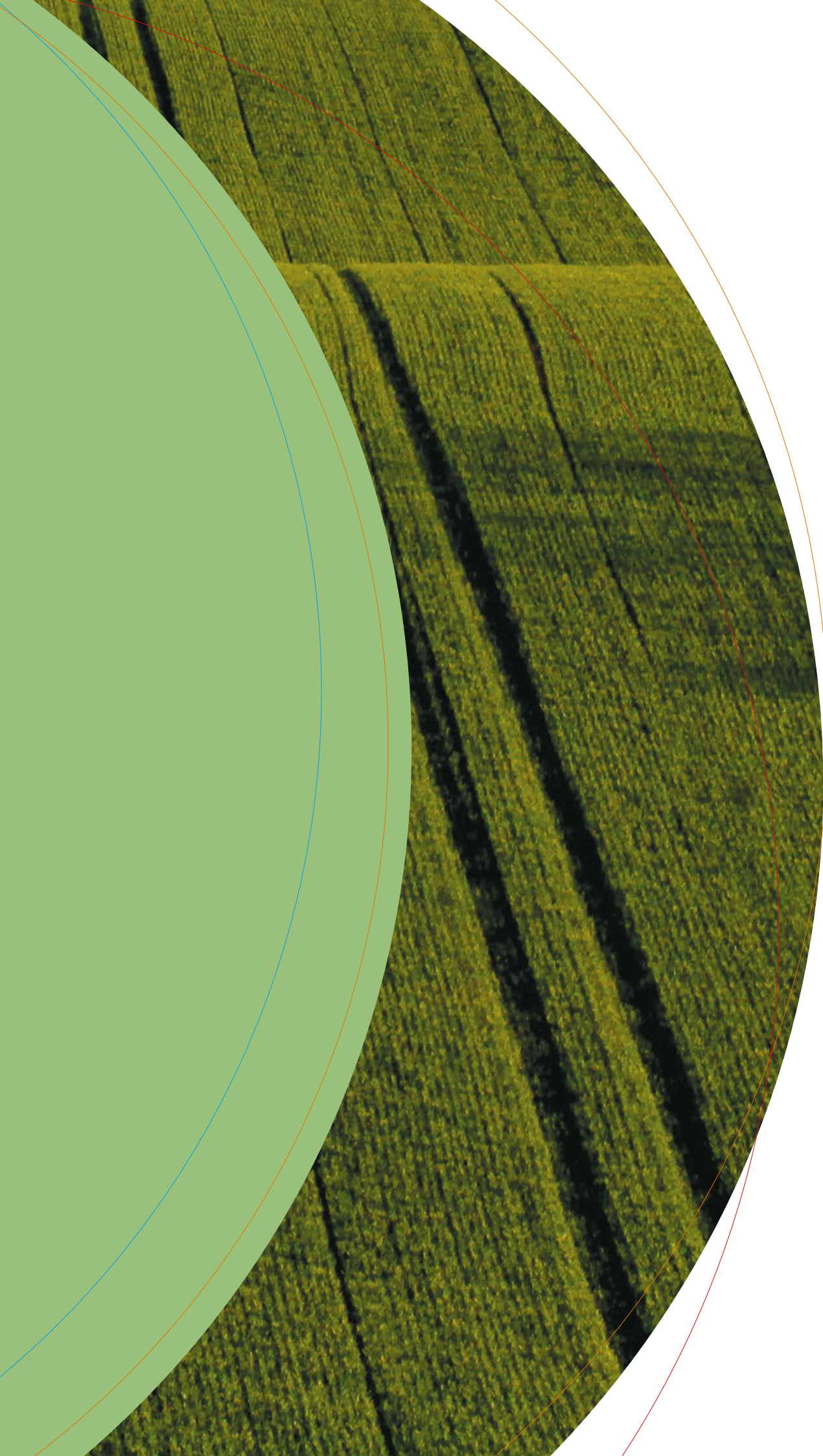
**Agriculture is a driver of prosperity and development. A strong agricultural sector is an important step towards modern and diversified economy. This is specifically important for many African countries; where close to 70% of the population is involved in agriculture. Thus, the sector is a key for creating decent jobs for the youth and driving inclusive economies.**

In Africa, some 380 million new working age people are expected to enter the labour market by 2030, majority of which from rural areas. Therefore, it is critical to make agriculture profitable, to enable the sector to harvest and distribute development opportunities and contribute to the food security and poverty reduction. In 2018, we will continue to advocate for a growing and more profitable agricultural sector that can absorb the labour force and harvest the potential of rural transformation and urbanisation.

Since the agreement on the SDGS, we analysed and advocated for the better positioning of agriculture in the process of the SDG implementation and in rural transformation. In 2017 our focus, while remaining on agriculture, shifted to exploring the multi-sectoral interdependencies and leveraging diverse expertise to achieve our mission and vision of prosperity in rural areas and for rural livelihoods. Many of the members of the Platform launched new policies and strategies, focusing on cross-cutting issues towards promoting sustainable development. Canada introduced its new Feminist International Assistance Policy and actively engaged in the Gender Working Group of the Platform by promoting the link between gender and inclusive agribusiness. The European Commission launched the new European Consensus on Development with its focus on productivity and trade in the agricultural sector. Australia shared their new Foreign Policy White Paper with a particular accent on strong agricultural markets and sustainable resource use, joining the Netherlands in promoting safe trade development.

The context of transformation in Africa is changing – migration is increasing, demand for food is growing and the young generation put pressure on economy and labor market. Business as usual will not be enough to drive an inclusive transformational process. Changes in behavior, consumption and the process of urbanisation open new development opportunities along the value chain and creating jobs in the broader agri-food system. High-value markets, regional trade relations, and promotion of small and medium enterprises will help make Africa food secure, reduce poverty and curb development.

**In 2018, we have chosen to focus on the future of agriculture and rural development – the young generation. We will employ our knowledge and expertise in different areas to bring young rural women and young rural men to actively shape the process of inclusive rural transformation. We will advocate for their voice to be heard and create opportunities for them to share their experiences and ideas, and develop solutions.**



# COSTS AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS REGARDING PLATFORM ACTIVITIES IN 2017

Funding of Platform activities is realized through annual membership contributions which are managed administratively by GIZ who is commissioned by the BMZ to fulfil this role.

As is defined in the Platform Strategic Plan 2016–2020, a minimum annual membership contribution of Euro 50.000 ensures a seat on the Platform Board. The annual membership fee serves towards the overall implementation of the Platform work plan. Members are also encouraged to provide supplemental funding which may be flagged towards activities of a particular working group or the Strategic Initiative Agenda 2030.

At the Brussels Board meeting held in early February 2017, the 2017 Platform work plan and corresponding indicative budget were adopted. As the initial indicative budget of a given calendar year is based on signed- and forecast contributions as well as on any roll-over budget from the previous year, the Platform indicative budget may be adjusted in the course of a year based on the development of contributions and/or activities. This was called for in May 2017 when the indicative budget was adjusted in agreement with the Platform Board to reflect some delayed contributions.

## CONTRIBUTIONS 2017

Eleven members have a signed contribution agreement regarding member year 2017. These include the African Development Bank: € 50.000 // Australia–Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: € 50.000 and an additional € 30.000 supplementary funding towards the Inclusive Agribusiness work group // Department for International Development-DFID: € 54.200,49 // Finland-Ministry of Foreign Affairs: € 50.000 // France-Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development: € 50.000 // German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development-BMZ: € 403.153 // International Fund for Agricultural Development-IFAD: € 50.000 // Italian Agency for Development Cooperation-IADC: € 50.000 // Netherlands-Ministry of Foreign

Affairs: € 50.000 // Swiss Development Cooperation-SDC: € 50.000 and an additional € 26.781 supplementary funding towards the Global Donor Working Group on Land // United States Agency for international Development-USAID: € 47.924,13.

Members tend to increasingly enter into a multi-annual agreement instead of concluding an agreement regarding a single member year only. This not only enhances Platform budget planning but also reduces administrative procedures. At the end of 2017, eight Platform members held an agreement for the purpose of the Platform which covered 2017 and a period directly before or beyond, these are: AfDB: 2016–2018 // Australia-DFAT: 2014–2017 // DFID: 2014–2018 // Finland-MFA: 2016–2017 // BMZ: 2016–2018 // Netherlands-MFA: 2016–2018 // SDC: 2017–2020-provided GIZ is commissioned // USAID: 2017–2018. Compare 2016:7, 2015:5.

Funds received from member contributions in GIZ bank account in 2017 totalled € 1.018.628,24. This includes a final payment in the amount of € 49.722 from the EU regarding an agreement which ended in 2016. It is noted that funds received in GIZ bank account in a given year do not necessarily correspond to the costs incurred in the same financial year as contributions may arrive with delay at times and/or be rendered in advance.

## INDICATIVE BUDGET AND COSTS 2017

Actual costs in 2017 totalled € 1.010.000,10 (please refer to the following table, audited figures). In terms of percent, this represents 89,5% of the total approved 2017 indicative budget which allotted per update May 2017 for up to € 1.129.112 in terms of plan costs.

Member contributions made possible the implementation and financing of a number of fruitful activities carried out in 2017 which are elaborated on throughout this annual report.

These include the operations of the Platform secretariat including staff- and governance costs, the implementation of the Annual General Assembly held in Brussels, the preparation and moderation of the Global Donor Working Group on Lands' Road Map 2017–2020, the sponsoring of speakers to attend specific events (e.g. CFS 44 side event), several webinars, the conduction of a study on Women's Economic Empowerment and Agribusiness as well as the maintenance of the Platforms website amongst others.

The external audit of the 2017 Platform costs and contributions was conducted in March/April 2018. The official audit report and financial statement will be forwarded to Board members in the course of May 2018.

<b>COSTS AND ENDORSED ACTIVITIES 2017</b>	<b>Euro</b>
Website, special event website, web-host, IT support	33.832,17
Annual General Assembly (Brussels)	60.949,02
Events	638,51
Consultants	20.260,63
Publications	8.319,95
Non-staff travels	8.306,24
Staff travels	26.929,24
Activities of the Inclusive Agribusiness work group	9.644,42
Activities of the Global Donor Working Group on Land	12.200,97
<b>Sub-total, Activity related budget items (I)</b>	<b>181.081,15</b>
<b>STAFF- AND MANAGEMENT RELATED BUDGET ITEMS</b>	<b>Euro</b>
Secretariat coordinator	
ARD advisor-1	
ARD advisor-2 (80%)	
Junior ARD advisor-1	
Junior ARD advisor-2	
Contracts- and finance manager	
Office manager	
Administrative officer 50%	
<b>Sub-total staff</b>	<b>641.940,24</b>
Office rent and communication infrastructure, office materials, courier	51.010,26
General admin and management	6.525,50
Independent external audit	13.248,25
<b>Sub-total, Staff- and management related budget items (II)</b>	<b>712.724,25</b>
<b>Total costs and outputs (I+II)</b>	<b>893.805,40</b>
GIZ Indirect Support Costs (ISC)	116.194,70
<b>Total costs 2017</b>	<b>1.010.000,10</b>







## IMPRINT

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