

# HIGH-LEVEL FOOD SYSTEMS EVENT

## Leveraging Change: The Role of Donors in Food Systems Transformation

9 September 2021, 12:30-15:00 CEST | [Register](#) for the virtual event



Donors play a key role in supporting initiatives that form the foundation for collaborative efforts across food systems through their innovations, programming and investments.

This [independent Food Systems event](#) of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD), co-hosted by the European Commission, IFAD and USAID, is a contribution to ensure **donors and their partners collaborate to realize the full leveraging potential of donor funding**.

**Optimizing the catalytic and leveraging potential of donor support will be key in responding to the outcomes of the FSS.** Donor investments in food systems are relatively small compared to the investments of farmers, food sector businesses and national governments, but they are crucial for enabling and incentivizing other actors to play their part.

The event will also launch the **GDPRD stocktaking report “Donor contributions to food systems”**, a mapping of the patterns and scale of food systems-related funding and an assessment of the extent donors are embracing a food system framing and aligning their investments to the UN FSS Action Tracks.

Key conclusions include the importance of **donor funding being focused on catalysing systemic change** to be effective. This entails that:

- **Limited donor funding** needs to be used to help address underlying structural constraints to a more equitable, nutritious and sustainable food system.
- **Donor investments are unique** in their contribution in setting global and national agendas, to influence policy and deliver global public goods including research.
- **Donors need to be focused** on mobilising additional investments from national governments and the private sector.
- **Donor investments and programmes** need to be designed and managed with an understanding of how complex adaptive systems behave.
- **Food systems transformation** will require societal-wide understanding and willingness for change and for donors to focus on the processes of change and how this can be catalysed and supported.

### The high-level food systems event will:

- **Highlight key elements of donor perspectives** on the food systems agenda in response to the UN FSS.
- **Discuss and seek agreement** on the key priorities for future donor focus.
- **Discuss some of the most effective modalities** for donor coordination going forward.

### Keynote Speaker:



**Jemimah Njuki**

Director for Africa, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

### Panelists:



**Gerda Verburg**

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Coordinator, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement



**Giorgio Marrapodi**

Director-General for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy



**Jim Barnhart**

Assistant to the Administrator, USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security



**Alvaro Lario**

Officer in Charge, Associate Vice-President for External Relations and Governance, and Associate Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer, International Fund for Agricultural Development, (IFAD)



**Carla Montesi**

Director, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission



**Martin Bwalya**

Ag Director, Knowledge Management and Programme Evaluation (KMPE), Africa Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)



**Andrew Campbell**,

Chief Executive Officer, Australian Centre International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)



**Jim Woodhill**

Director, AgriFoodNexus Consulting, and Honorary Research Associate, Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford



**Tristan Armstrong**

Senior Sector Specialist, Agricultural Development and Food Security, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia.  
Co-chair of the GDPRD



**Conrad Rein**

Policy Officer, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission.  
Co-chair of the GDPRD

### Moderator:



**Henry Bonsu**

International Broadcaster and Media Consultant

### Agenda

12:30-12:40 **Opening of event: GDPRD Co-Chair**

12:40-13:00 **Keynote Speaker: Jemima Njuki, IFPRI**

13:00-14:30 **High-level moderated panel**

**Moderator: Henry Bonsu**

**High-level speakers**

**Gerda Verburg**, SUN Movement

**Giorgio Marrapodi**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy

**Jim Barnhart**, USAID

14:30-15:00

**Alvaro Lario**, IFAD

**Carla Montesi**, European Commission

**Martin Bwalya**, AUDA-NEPAD

**Andrew Campbell**, ACIAR

**Launch of the GDPRD stocktaking report**

**Moderator: Henry Bonsu**

**Presentation by Jim Woodhill**, AgriFoodNexus Consulting

**Tristan Armstrong and Conrad Rein**, Co-chairs of the GDPRD



Secretariat of the Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

Hosted by the International Fund for  
Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Phone: +39 06 5459 2512

Email: [secretariat@donorplatform.org](mailto:secretariat@donorplatform.org)

[www.donorplatform.org](http://www.donorplatform.org)

The **Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD)** is a network/partnership platform of 40 bilateral and multilateral development agencies, international financial institutions, intergovernmental organizations and foundations. It was established in 2003 to lobby for increased public and private investments in agriculture and rural development.

Among its notable achievements in recent years, the Platform has contributed to some important milestones in the international land governance agenda, such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in 2012. The Platform has also spearheaded some important advocacy initiatives, including some in support of achieving SDG2, such as Ceres2030 or 50x2030.