

2014 Annual Report

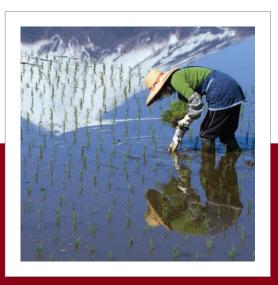
Food systems, gender & post-2015





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Promoting sustainable rural development

About us

The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development is a network of 38 bilateral and multilateral donors, international financing institutions, intergovernmental organisations, and development agencies. Members share a common vision that agriculture and rural development are central to poverty reduction, and that sustainable and efficient development requires a coordinated global approach. The Platform was created in 2003 to strengthen development assistance in agriculture, rural development, and food and nutrition security. It does so by facilitating the exchange of members' development know-how, resulting in a robust knowledge base for joint advocacy and for coordinating their policies and programmes.

Agriculture is the key to sustainable livelihoods

Agriculture and rural development provide one of the best opportunities for donors and partner country governments to leverage their efforts to directly support economic growth, as well as food and nutrition security. Platform members are united in the belief that donor coordination is essential to end hunger, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture - Sustainable Development Goal 2, expected to be endorsed by UN member countries in September 2015.

The Platform's board

The board is the Platform's main decision-making body. Led by the Platform co-chairs and comprised of focal points from member institutions, it approves the Platform's annual work plan, budget and long-term strategy, based on members' shared priorities. In 2014, the board decided to review the results achieved in the last 10 years of the Platform's existence and also commissioned an evaluation of these results. The evaluation report is expected to be finalised in May 2015.

With DFID joining the board again in 2014, there are currently 15 board members. Co-chairs Marjaana Pekkola (MFA Finland, and Nikita Eriksen-Hamel (DFATD-Canada), co-chair until February 2015, led the board and supervised the secretariat.

Three board meetings took place in 2014, with the first one immediately after the Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Paris in January, where Marjaana Pekkola was appointed as new co-chair of the Platform. The board also agreed to form a budget group, as well as an evaluation reference group, responsible for facilitating the evaluation process.

A second (virtual) board meeting took place in June, where it was decided to extend the Platform's Strategic Plan until the end of 2015. During the board meeting in Florence, it was decided to expand the key functions of the board budget group. The newly titled "Budget and Results Group (BRG)", comprised of the World Bank and DFID, has the key function of analysing and commenting on budget execution, namely whether

Platform members (As of 31 December 2014)

The Platform comprises 38 member institutions, each one represented by a focal point.

- African Development Bank (AfDB)*
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*
- Austria Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
- Belgium Directorate-General for Development Cooperation
- Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC)
- Canada Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada*
- Canada International Development Research Centre*
- Denmark Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- European Commission Directorate-General*
- Finland Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Co-chair)*
- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- France Ministry of Foreign Affairs*
- French Development Agency (AFD)*
- Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)*
- German International Cooperation (GIZ)
- Global Mechanism of the UNCCD (UNCCD GM)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)*
- Irish Aid Department of Foreign Affairs
- Italy Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Co-chair)*
- KfW Development Bank, Germany
- Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
- Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 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*
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Objectives statement

The Platform actively promotes effective policy and public and private investment, both external and domestic, in rural development as a central element of the international sustainable development agenda by:

- Advocating with policy- and decision makers
- Sharing knowledge among Platform members and all relevant actors
- Facilitating networking and cooperation with and between all relevant actors

funds have been used as planned and have achieved the expected outcomes.

All meeting minutes are accessible through the Platform website: minutes online.

Membership developments

Platform membership increased to 38 in August 2014 when the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) became a member. This shows that the Platform's outreach to the Asia-Pacific region is paying off.

New focal points __Focal points represent their organisation at Platform events, help formulate joint policy, and inform colleagues about Platform activities. New focal points were appointed for the Asian Development Bank, European Commission, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany's BMZ, the Global Mechanism of UNCCD, Inter-American Development Bank, Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its cooperation agency, UN Women, the World Food Programme, and the World Trade Organisation.

Partners__The Platform liaises with like-minded research institutions, as well as global and regional networks and initiatives. Partner representatives are invited to attend Platform events and to collaborate on policy advice and other activities. Partner organisations with gender expertise/interest contributed to the Platform's AGA in Florence as did the private sector, including Barilla, Lavazza, and the Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung.

Platform secretariat __ Based in Bonn, Germany, the secretariat is the service and management unit of the Platform, managed by German International Cooperation (GIZ). It serves, assists, and supports member organisations and their knowledge sharing, and ensures financial and institutional stability. It also supports the board and helps to ensure the successful implementation of the Platform work plan by providing information and analysis, and organising networking and advocacy opportunities.

Eight management meetings were held with the secretariat team to discuss operational and thematic issues. The secretariat provided all board members with the annual independent external audit report and its 2013 Annual Report in a new abridged format. The co-chair from MFA-Finland, Marjaana Pekkola, visited the secretariat in Bonn.

In 2014 the secretariat team welcomed Christian Mersmann as the new Policy Analyst and said goodbye to ARD Advisor Christian Schulze and Communications Officer Pascal Corbé (the latter is still engaged as a consultant).

The secretariat team in 2014 included Monika Midel (Secretariat Coordinator), Christian Schulze (ARD Advisor until November 2014), Pascal Corbé (Communications Officer until September 2014), Christian Mersmann (Policy Analyst since April 2014), Romy Sato (Junior Professional), Marion Thompson (Finance Administrator), Anna Froese (Finance Administrator), and Sonja Phelps (Office Manager). Programme interns and consultants supported the team with communications and thematic tasks.







Message from the Chairs

2014 was a crucial year for the international development community for setting the groundwork and course for various milestones of global development in 2015 and beyond. This was the case for the international community, but also for the Platform itself.

Even though the Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger is within reach, more than 800 million people are still undernourished globally. Most of them, as well as 70% of the global poor, live in rural areas. This year the international community is set to endorse the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a platform for donor collaboration, our network will play an important role to mobilise and facilitate discussion amongst actors. In 2014 the Platform set the ground for this, besides other activities, by releasing a study that explores the prospects for agriculture, rural development and food security and nutrition development assistance in a post-2015 world. Further knowledge sharing was facilitated by the Platform, where donor members updated each other on how their agencies are developing positions on targets and indicators for the SDGs.

As donors we are aware that in order to achieve sustainable agricultural and rural development, our efforts must go beyond the agreement of goals in international processes. While rural areas in developing countries experience a transformation, donors have to attune to a changing rural environment, where a decreasing global rural population will need to feed an increasing urban population - estimated to be nearly 70% of the global population by 2050. This development was picked up at the Platform's Annual General Assembly in Paris in January 2014, where opportunities for new partnerships and territorial approaches in a changing rural environment were intensively discussed. We all reckoned that territorial development – or a place-based approach to expand development opportunities and the potential of each territory - is still not a mainstream

approach guiding donors' investments, but that it offers great opportunities to catalyse donor coordination on the ground and enhance the effectiveness of our programmes.

And since territories are made of real people, our ARD interventions must also consider the different factors that expose them to insecurity. Countless people living in developing countries are not only exposed to undernourishment, but also to malnutrition and food safety issues, such as food contamination by mycotoxins, in particular aflatoxins. To address these issues we organised a side event at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in Rome, as well as an expert workshop meeting in Berlin, both calling attention to the impact of food safety on nutrition and improving donor knowledge on the issue.

To provide for sustainable rural development opportunities, donors are convinced that women need better access to resources, be it land or credit, and supporting institutions. Representing almost half of the agricultural workers in developing countries, women have a fundamental role as smallholder farmers. as well as entrepreneurs, development agents and policy makers. The question is no longer whether gender balance is important, but how to translate it into practice. The Platform decided to highlight this gap and search for lessons learned, and themed their Annual General Assembly in Florence 'Food Systems and Gender – Women's empowerment for food security and nutrition' in December 2014.

The Platform went through a major evaluation in 2014 that assessed its relevance and effectiveness. By also appraising the quality, demand and usefulness of its activities over the last 10 years, the evaluation aimed to guide the Platform's future development and provide the space for reflection on its added value to its different stakeholders. The final report will be available as this Annual Report reaches you. The development of the new Strategic Plan 2016-2020 will be firmly

based on the findings of the evaluation and will be coordinated with the revision of our joint document "On Common Ground". The Strategic Plan will fully respond to the SDGs of the UN, the means of implementation of the SDGs, and the new global financial architecture on Finance for Development. The UN decisions on the Post-2015 agenda will strongly impact on new ways to do business in development.

In 2014 the Platform was also busy with adapting to new developments and emerging issues. Changing global agricultural markets and new approaches to development assistance lead to growing discussions among Platform members. Some, such as on Aid for Trade, have sowed the seeds for more specific workshop and more detailed exchanges among donors in 2015. Furthermore, the manifold roles of agriculture with regard to climate change, as a cause, victim and potential solution, broadened our attention to climate-smart agriculture. We are particularly pleased with the strong engagement of the Platform's Global Donor Working Group on Land, supporting the international community in the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests, and providing a global map of donor programmes.

Enhancing the diversity of the Platform also demonstrates this network is effectively dealing with a new global reality where there is growing influence of emerging donors. We celebrated a fruitful outreach to the Asia-Pacific and were very happy to welcome the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) as our newest member.

By providing space for collaboration and merging forces where appropriate, as well as emphasising and positioning rural development issues in various influential and trendsetting meetings, we are confident that all our activities and efforts will continue to pay off.

Marjaana Pekkola and Nikita Eriksen-Hamel

Nikita AE



The year in review

As today's world leaders move on from the food crisis to prioritise the economy, job creation, urbanisation, and industrialisation, the Platform is working to keep agricultural and rural development on the agenda by demonstrating its critical role in eliminating poverty and strengthening economic growth.

The past year was a demanding, but also very rewarding year for the Platform. It started in Paris in January with the Annual General Assembly (AGA), hosted by the French Development Agency (AFD), focusing on territorial approaches, and ended in Florence in December with another AGA, hosted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC-Italy). The AGA in Florence was themed Food Systems and Gender - Women's empowerment for food security and nutrition because women's central role as smallholders in food and nutrition security and contribute as entrepreneurs, development agents and policy makers. On the second day of the conference, Platform members discussed how to translate the

acquired knowledge and the first day's results into policy and investment improvements as well as practical measures and actions.

Between these two milestones, the Platform undertook a thorough external evaluation, which provided valuable insight into the Platform's future and will serve as the basis for developing the new Strategic Plan 2016-2020 (see Looking ahead section on page 21). In response to the rapidly changing development context, the strategic initiative to position rural development issues in the Post-2015 process was renewed and some very active work streams, particularly on land, nutrition and private sector and trade, were supported. The vibrant

"It is very important that the Platform sets out why food, agriculture [and] nutrition are key priorities going ahead, not just in terms of the food crisis that we faced seven years ago."

- John Barrett, DFID

exchange between members in these work streams was demonstrated by the various conference calls that took place last year.

The Platform successfully organised 13 side-events and meetings, always attracting an audience of interested donors and ARD experts (see box).

It also produced and shared 29 interviews, 5 virtual briefings (or webinars) and a new knowledge product, Platform infoNotes, addressing topics such as food safety

Platform side-events & meetings in 2014

- Two Annual General Assemblies, in Paris and Florence
- Three meetings of the Global Donor Working Group on Land
- A session on "Integrating land governance into the Post-2015 agenda" at the World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty in Washington-DC
- A Platform roadshow at the EC-DEVCO in Brussels
- Co-hosting of the 15th IADG meeting on Pro-poor Livestock Research for Development in Seattle
- Expert Meeting on Food Safety for Nutrition Security in Berlin
- Two side events on Land Governance and Nutrition at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS41) in Rome
- Side event at the Global Landscapes Forum in Lima
- Side event on Gender, Climate Change & Agriculture in Florence, prior to the AGA

(nutrition), climate-smart agriculture, and the modernisation of ODA for Post2015 development, the role of the private sector in ARD, and the re-organisation of FAO towards results-based management.

Platform priorities

Food, agriculture, nutrition, and rural development including land governance and tenure continue to be key priorities in the fight against poverty and hunger. Platform members agree that Platform goals cannot be achieved without addressing the education and empowerment of women. The importance of building strategic partnerships with business representatives to create more efficient and equitable agricultural markets and to drive new technological, knowledge-based, financial and managerial resources and innovation is recognised.

The Platform's 2014 Thematic Areas

- 1. Aid effectiveness (including Post-2015)
- 2. Agricultural research for development
- 3. Climate change & resilience in agriculture
- 4. Gender & youth
- Land governance
- Livestock and pastoralism (including the IADG)
- 7 Nutrition
- 8. Post-harvest losses and food waste
- 9. Private sector & trade

Aid effectiveness

The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness has been the framing agreement for the Platform since 2005. Its active involvement in the subsequent Accra Triple A outcomes, the establishment of the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, and its first high-level meeting in Mexico City in 2014 continued to highlight the importance of agriculture and rural development for sustainability results, economic growth and poverty reduction. In parallel, the Platform observed and informed the membership about the efforts of OECD/DAC to revisit the concept of ODA and to broaden the scope of options for development finance. These processes are effectively informing the establishment of the sustainable development goals and their targets to be adopted by the United Nations in September 2015.

The Platform's Strategic Post-2015

Initiative__ Under the aid effectiveness theme, Platform members agreed on a special, overarching initiative to position rural development in the Post-2015 agenda and to achieve the recognition of agriculture as a major driving force for food and nutrition security. The publication Prospects_ ARD assistance in the Post-2015 development framework was presented at the AGA in Paris. Other highlights are listed in the adjacent box.

2014 was a year of preparations for a new global development agenda. For the Platform it started with the AGA in January, titled "Rethinking Rural Development - Opportunities for new partnerships and territorial approaches in a changing rural environment". This was the start of the internal discussion amongst members on how to implement the upcoming sustainable development goals and their targets in the rural space and what this would entail for the donor community and their tool boxes.

Aid effectiveness/Post-2015 highlights

- Julio Berdegué on The future of territorial approaches to rural development;
- InfoNote on "Modernising ODA for Post-2015 Development"

Interviews with:

- Lioba Weingärtner on the Importance of nutrition security for the post-2015 agenda;
- Estherine Fotabong on Donor and civil society engagement in future CAADP;
- Robson Mutandi on The Implications of the Malabo Declaration;
- Martin Bwalya on CAADP and the agriculture ministers conference;
- Guy Evers on The 10th CAADP Partnership Platform;
- Jeff Hill on How the next phase of CAADP will be different?

Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) The

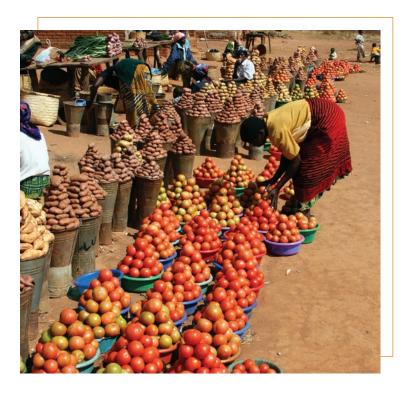
Platform continued its observer status in the Development Partners Task Team (DPTT).

The 10th CAADP Partnership Platform called for sustaining its momentum and broadening its approach to incorporate new, yet critical determinants such as climate change and nutrition. The Platform conducted an interview with Platform focal point Guy Evers (FAO) and Jeff Hill (USAID) on the future of CAADP.



The African Union Commission hosted the Joint AU Ministers of Agriculture,

Rural development needs to be recognised as a critical element of the international sustainable development agenda. (Tackling rural poverty together - Platform outreach statement)



Livestock, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development Conference in Ethiopia in May, where ARD ministers restated their commitment to the principles of CAADP, namely zero hunger, nutrition, trade, resilience and 10 percent public expenditure on agriculture. In an interview with the Platform secretariat, NEPAD's Martin Bwalya spoke of the many decades in which African agriculture had been viewed solely as a development sector rather than a business that can bring wealth to African nations.

Malabo declaration and implementation strategy Fully in line with the global process of SDG development focus, the Malabo declaration and its implementation strategy for Africa's 2015-25 agricultural growth and transformation agenda is one of the elements central to moving ahead with rural

transformation in Africa. Robson Mutandi (IFAD Ethiopia), in an interview about "The Implications of the Malabo Declaration," underscored the high-level political commitment of African leaders in support of rural transformation. In an interview with the Platform secretariat, Estherine Fotabong (NEPAD) addressed the need for donors to start speaking with one voice with a view toward supporting an African agenda. She also emphasized the importance of an active civil society to hold policy makers accountable to their promises, particularly with regard to climate change and gender considerations, and she stressed the need for youth to participate actively in economic life and in social institutions in the rural space. In this regard, a pre-AGA event was hosted by the Platform in December 2014 to present and discuss the new CAADP programme Gender, Climate and Agriculture based on analysis of the programme by World Bank, IFAD, FAO, UN Women, NORAD and GIZ.

Agricultural research for development (AR4D)

Agricultural research for development (AR4D) is gaining even more importance in the Post-2015 development agenda. The development community is currently enhancing the exploration of opportunities that new and profound data from non-traditional sources offer to policy makers, practitioners, and communities. The linkages between technological and agricultural innovation are seen as vital factors to achieve food and nutrition security in developing countries. The Platform is supporting the

"We need to work together with farmers, we need to bridge the gap between conventional science and traditional science because they are also scientists. As conventional researchers, we need to learn from the way that farmers do their business"

- Roberto Quiroz, International Potato Center, Lima

donors' efforts to exploit potential synergies between investments in agricultural research and national rural development efforts.

4th Annual LCIRAH Research Conference__

The conference brought together researchers from around the world to critically examine the impact of global, regional and national agri-food policies. Lawrence Haddad (IFPRI, USA) challenged the participants to think of ways to change the food system components and in doing so to facilitate the implementation of nutrition-improving outcomes. A reoccurring theme of the conference was the role of multi-sectoral governance and policy making in nutrition and health. Other speakers shifted the focus to missing research data and differences in interpretations by donor agencies. Several presenters highlighted the importance of context as an underlying determinant of nutrition, health and policy processes. Three agri-health initiatives were launched: Innovative Metrics and Methods for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions (IMMANA), Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy (ANHA), and Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition.

AR4D highlights

Interviews with:

- Report from the 4th Annual LCIRAH Research Conference
- Cindy Holleman on 'The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Protocol' and
- Roberto Quiroz on 'Scaling of proven action being the most important issue now'.

Climate change

Climate change will be a long-term stress for natural resources and for agriculture and rural development in particular. Besides the difficult political discussion on including

"There are enough solutions out there that can help farmers to address climate change."

- Olu Ajayi, CTA

agriculture into the global mitigation regime under UNFCCC, adaptation to climate change in the rural space is a day-to-day reality. Donor agencies are increasingly responding to various calls of developing countries and establish specific budget lines and programmes in this regard.

Climate-smart agriculture: increasing momentum__ In an InfoNote on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA), the Platform covered some of the major developments in CSA. The Platform aims to keep the membership informed about the numerous initiatives, programmes, and approaches. The focus of the Platform is the integration of climate risk reduction measures into ARD donor programmes which goes far beyond bio-physical improvements of action on the ground, such as enhanced water management and appropriate seed material. Adaptation to climate change includes index-based weather insurance, improved meteorological forecasts and other measures in a multifaceted approach that is new to the ARD donor community. In the end, climate change impacts will accelerate rural transformation, which

Climate change highlights

the donor community needs to support in line

with the new Post-2015 development agenda.

- Interviews with Rajul Pandya-Lorch on IFPRI 2020 Building Resilience Conference, Olu Ajayi on Scaling up proven practices to address climate change, and Nathan Russell on How the landscape approach can be a viable approach?
- InfoNote on Climate-smart agriculture_Increasing momentum
- Session at the Global Landscape Forum Landscapes under pressure: reconciling the needs of conservation, food security and economic development



Supporting the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA)__ To encourage more ambitious action by global and national leaders as well as international institutions, a high-level meeting was held in Abu Dhabi on 6 May ahead of the UN Climate Summit in September in New York. David Howlett of DFID filed a brief report for the Platform. Government representatives, the Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki-Moon, and UN agencies, businesses, and NGOs agreed to support 500 million farming families to mitigate the risks of climate impacts. Imminent personalities like Al Gore, Tony Blair, and Jeffrey Sachs seconded the call for action.

The Platform members supported the Joint Action Statement to launch the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA) at the UN Climate Summit in September 2014 and subscribed as an observer to the alliance.

The Platform reported on the 4th partner meeting of the alliance and contributed to the various documents of the alliance, such as the framework document focusing on the "triple win" objectives, which include productivity, resilience and mitigation. The GACSA working meeting, covered by the Platform, was held in December 2014 and a first Action Plan was established. Platform

members are increasingly engaging in the three action groups on knowledge sharing, enabling conditions, and investments.

In the context of the Platform's support to CAADP, the newly established African Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture, convened by NEPAD/CAADP, was equally observed by the Platform. CAADP, as a comprehensive programme for sustainable agriculture, offers excellent opportunities to integrate climate change risks into rural development planning. The Platform will increase its engagement in the African Alliance in 2015, based on the MALABO declaration of African heads of states, the new CAADP strategy, and the engagement of CSOs.

Global Landscapes Forum (GLF)__On 6 December in Lima, Peru, the Platform organised a session at the GLF titled "Landscapes under pressure" which examined the need to balance an increasing demand for natural resources and other services provided by ecosystems with decreasing resources and ecosystem services as well as pressure by climate change. Over the two days, there were 1,700 visitors from 90 countries who took part in 40 sessions, co-hosted by 95 organisations.



Gender & youth

Women's contribution to food systems is crucial to achieving SDG 2, because of their dominance as agricultural producers across much of the developing world. In 2014, the Platform worked to regenerate commitment, charge up political will, and reassert the relevance of rural women in development agendas. The Platform's flagship event, the Annual General Assembly, was dedicated to the subject of Food Systems and Gender.

Food Systems and Gender __ Over 90 participants convened at the Annual General Assembly in December to address the improvement of women's conditions as farmers and the advancement of their

"Women dominate agricultural production. Without their active engagement in developing countries, current production levels would not be possible."

- Jayati Ghosh, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

role as entrepreneurs, consumers, and catalysts for food and nutrition security. In particular donors debated how best to support women in decision-making for a in order to enhance their access to assets and markets, as well as their ability to improve the nutrition safety of their families.

Gender Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP)__ On

2 December, just before the Platform's Florence AGA on Food Systems and Gender, informal consultations on the implementation of the GCCASP were held to examine the nexus of gender, climate change and agriculture in rural development. GCCASP, designed by NEPAD with support from NORAD, is a five year programme, which focuses on empowering rural women to better cope with the adverse impacts of climate change and enhance their resilience to shocks. The vision of the GCCASP is to achieve an effective and more equitable participation of African women smallholder farmers, youth, and other vulnerable groups in development planning and decision making through policy changes and access to climate-smart agricultural technologies.

Making agriculture a promising option for

youth__In developing countries, where 70 percent of youth live in rural areas, the future of the agricultural sector is closely connected to the future of rural youth. However, this group often faces significant obstacles, including lack of access to land and credit, economic independence, and skills development, which hinder their capacity to secure their livelihoods. These are some of the issues explored in a recently published Platform infoNote, which compiles the latest developments of youth employment in rural areas. In an interview the Platform asked MasterCard Foundation's Alemayehu Konde

Gender & Youth highlights

- Interviews with Alemayehu Konde on 'Encouraging' rural youth to engage in agriculture', Ruth Meizen-Dick on 'Reducing the gender asset gap through agricultural development', and Estherine Fotabong on 'Gender, climate change, and CAAD`
- InfoNote on Youth employment in rural areas
- AGA on Food Systems and Gender
- Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme

how donors can help turn agriculture into an attractive option for young people. For Konde, donors have indeed a crucial role in supporting programmes that develop youth's capacities: "Creating opportunities for youth clearly underlines that if young people get adequate opportunities, demand-driven education and skill development, they can be successful in either getting into agricultural markets as farmers or entering in the value chain as entrepreneurs".



Nutrition

There are more than 800 million people suffering from hunger and two billion suffering from malnutrition, even though we produce enough food to serve the world today. With only 1 percent of ODA spent on nutrition and an increase in negative impacts, there is an urgent need to build resilient and secure agricultural systems to make sure all people have access to food in appropriate quantity and nutritional quality.

Nutrition highlights

- Expert Meeting, Food Safety for Nutrition Security
- Micronutrient Forum Global Conference in Addis Ababa
- Virtual briefings with Prof. Kangethe, Nairobi University, on 'Safe food means saving lives: How to deal with Aflatoxins' and with Delia Grace and Johanna Lindahl on 'Aflatoxins, animal health and safety of animal source foods'
- Conference call on the group's engagement in different nutrition events.
- Interviews with Marie Ruel, Local value chains for micronutrient rich foods, Howarth Bouis, HarvestPlus on Greater nutrition, higher yields: the benefits of biofortification, Pendo Maro on Nutrition, development and aspiring to be affluent
- InfoNote on Food Safety for Nutrition Security

Expert meeting "Food Safety for Nutrition Security"__ In October 2014 in Berlin, the Platform nutrition group organised a one-day expert meeting on nutrition and food safety. The meeting focused on aflatoxins and their

impact on human health, food, and nutrition security, as well as agricultural losses. Nearly 40 participants, both Platform members and partner organisations, attended the event and concluded that aflatoxin management should be prioritised within the field of food security and also be discussed in a broader context.



Side event at the CFS41__ The topic of food safety was discussed with a wider group of stakeholders at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 41) in

a side-event "Impact of food safety on nutrition security", organised by the Platform in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy. At this occasion, the Platform nutrition group shared their plan to develop a mapping tool, such as the map by the Land Governance group, to identify donors' current initiatives in aflatoxin control, as well as potential synergies and key information gaps. For this, the group will closely cooperate with the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) and the Platform for African European Partnership on Agricultural Research for Development (PAEPARD).

Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)__The success of the Expert Meeting earned the Platform an invitation to sit on a panel at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) in Rome in November. The Platform members welcomed the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action of the ICN2 and called for the refinement of existing methodologies on accountability to support the investment in nutrition information.

"Within one generation it is realistic to get rid of hunger completely and to reduce malnutrition considerably... it is doable if we all focus on it (donors and countries) and we all try to achieve that."

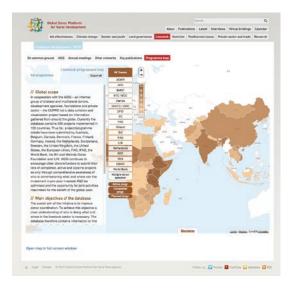
- Stefan Schmitz, Germany's BMZ, One World, No Hunger Initiative

Livestock and pastoralism

Many people in the developing world depend to some degree on animals for their daily livelihoods. The livestock sector is one of the largest and fastest growing parts of agriculture as it tries to respond to an increasing demand for meat and milk products from people in the cities with rising disposable income. This presents great opportunities for economic growth and for bettering the overall food security situation of rural and peri-urban livestock keepers.

IADG 15 Meeting Platform members who support livestock development are also engaged in the Inter-Agency Donor Group on Pro-poor Livestock Research and Development (IADG). The IADG's 15th Annual Meeting took place in Seattle-USA from 16 - 18 September, hosted by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation with Platform support. Around 50 representatives from donor organisations and partners met to inform, exchange ideas, and decide about the impact of donor investments in dairy research and development. They agreed there is a need to increase efforts to improve human health and development through animal source foods, such as livestock and dairy, which can have a tremendous impact on human nutrition and health.

Mapping of livestock initiatives__ Also at the IADG 15, the Platform launched the Livestock Programme Map, which builds



Livestock highlights

- Interactive donor map and database on livestock programmes
- IADG Annual Meeting in Seattle
- Interviews with Geert Westenbrink on Initiatives of the IADG for livestock research and a series on the State of meat production and dairy development with Pierre-Marie Borne, Jim Yazman and Jorgen Henriksen
- 3 conference calls by the steering committee for IADG15

on the experience of the Land Governance Programme Map and shares information on donors' livestock projects and programmes across the developing world. Currently the database contains 530 projects implemented in 100 countries. The database helps improve donor coordination by providing a clear understanding of who is doing what and where in the livestock sector. This information supports various stakeholders to identify opportunities to leverage their resources for greater impact in the efforts to improve the livelihoods of global livestock keepers, increase food security and nutrition, and promote economic growth.

"That is where we should be focusing: on this tremendous capacity of animal-sourced food markets and the tremendous growth in urban demand to transfer wealth back to households and to help families to really grow out of poverty."

- Jim Yazman, Livestock Specialist at USAID

Private sector & trade

The private sector including multi-nationals and small to medium enterprises in emerging societies is a key driver in our efforts to feed a growing world population—expected to reach 9.6 billion in 2050—in a sustainable way.

The Economist Conference Feeding the World

2014__The Platform secretariat attended The Economist conference "Feeding the World", which emphasised the importance of involving the private sector in food and nutrition security challenges. Most of the 230 participants in attendance represented the private sector, particularly the food and agricultural industry, such as Monsanto, Cargill, Nestlé, Elanco, Syngenta, and Yara International. Throughout the event, panellists focused very strongly on the need for Africa to increase its productivity and the potential of the private sector to support that.



Private sector highlights

- An Analytical Toolkit for Support to Contract Farming
- Interview and a virtual briefing with Paulus Verschuren Insights from The Economist Feeding the World conference and Dutch approach
- Interviews with Christina Blank on Endorsement of the RAI principles and Simon Hess on Aid for trade and the Enhanced Integrated Framework
- 1 conference call on Aid for trade in the Platform; and 2 on inclusive agri-food market development in Asia
- The Economist Conference, Feeding the World 2014
- InfoNote on The role of the private sector in ARD

Including trade to the Platform's portfolio__

In April 2014, members of the private sector work stream, including the World Trade Organisation, discussed the evolving role of trade instruments, such as "Aid for Trade", in promoting more equitable agricultural markets as an important condition for developing countries to overcome poverty traps and boost their rural economies. In the discussion, members spoke about the ongoing institutional changes in their agencies, which now include trade as part of their international development portfolio. They agreed to continue to exchange knowledge on this topic and eventually to form a working

"The role of the private sector for addressing food and nutrition insecurity is crucial because they are well positioned in building innovative nutrition solutions that meet consumer needs and wants, and to come up with innovations and services for smallholder farmers."

- Paulus Verschuren (MFA Netherlands)

group on trade & ARD as of 2015, with a first joint action as a side event at the 5th Global Review on Aid for Trade in June 2015.



Policies against Hunger conference ___

The Platform reported from the Policies against Hunger conference, held in Berlin from 30 June – 1 July, which

focused on the Committee on World Food Security's principles for responsible agricultural investments (RAI). As an informal consultation, participants analysed the central obligations and responsibilities of states, the private sector and other stakeholders to translate the principles into practice. The RAI principles were later endorsed by member countries at the CFS41 in Rome.

Role of the Private Sector in ARD___ The

Platform produced various communication pieces on the role of the private sector in ARD, including an infoNote, three interviews and a virtual briefing. An interview and virtual briefing were conducted with Paulus Verschuren (MFA-Netherlands) about the evolution of the private sector's role in promoting food security and the Dutch experience in cooperating with the private sector to promote food security and nutrition. According to Verschuren, donors should support value chain models that look at the poor not only as producers, but also as potential consumers. If the value chains are built around their aspirations and needs, the models will work for them and agriculture will be the means to ensure that their food and nutrition are secured.

Support to Contract Farming__ "An

Analytical Toolkit for Support to Contract Farming" was finalised in 2014 and shared with Platform members. The publication was led by the World Bank in 2013 with contributions by several other Platform members and provides guidance for donors and project leaders to support contract farming schemes and to analyse their sustainability.

Land Governance

"In addition to supporting national governments for ensuring good land governance, the Platform must encourage private sector and civil society organisations to be part of the solution as well"

- Barrie Bain, FERTECON.

Increasing food prices, climate change, and land use for biofuels have increased the interest in land in emerging-economy countries. In this context, the Global Donor Working Group on Land was established in 2013 and is facilitated by the Platform secretariat. The renowned group convenes donors working on land governance across the developing world to improve land governance transparency and enhance stakeholder coordination. An InfoNote was published to provide some insight into the group's achievements.

Land highlights

- InfoNote on Land Governance Programme Map and Global Donor Working Group on Land
- Policy brief Land target and indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Enhanced Land Governance Programme Map with VGGT implementation in different countries
- Virtual briefings with Duncan Pruett and Chris Jochnick on Oxfam's experience with the private sector in regard to land and Deborah Bossio (CIAT) on Transforming the global landscape
- 7 conference calls by the Global Working Group on Land
- Interviews with Iris Krebber (DFID) on The Donor working group land initiatives; Valerie Mueller (IFPRI) on Implications of community-based legal aid regulation for women's land rights, Gregory Myers (USAID) on Land Governance Programme Database & Map

The group held three physical meetings in 2014, two side events at the World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty, and at the World Committee on Food Security (CFS41), and also launched its Land Governance Programme Map & Database. This interactive mapping tool displays donors' land projects and initiatives across the developing world to promote donor coordination and support the implementation of FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests (VGGT).

World Bank Conference on Land and

Poverty__Held in Washington in March 2014, under the theme of "Integrating Land Governance into the Post-2015 Agenda: Harnessing Synergies for Implementation and Monitoring Impact", the conference focused on building a shared understanding of best practices in land governance and strengthening collaboration between diverse experts in land governance. In a conference panel session, the Global Donor Working Group on Land showcased selected G8 country partnerships on land, designed under the overarching goal of supporting the adoption of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines, along with the Land Governance Programme Map. The Working Group also held an internal meeting following the conference to discuss SDGs indicators and the Group's strategy and vision for the coming years.



Committee on World Food Security

(CFS)__ Following the endorsement of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI) during the CFS41, the Working Group on Land held a side-event to present the updated interactive Land Governance Programme Map and its upcoming priorities for improving land governance. These include supporting land-related information exchange and country partnership models, collaborating with the private sector and facilitating cross-cutting approaches. The priorities are outlined in the Group's three-year Road Map for 2014-2017 and were agreed on during its 4th physical meeting in Rome on 17 October.

Populating the Land Governance Programme Database & Map__ In 2014, several agencies, including DFATD Canada, IFAD, FAO and the Omydiar Network, started uploading additional data to the programme map. The secretariat developed a new demo, which allows users to filter the land projects by the different VGGT chapters. MFA-Netherlands, FAO, World Bank and USAID met in a subgroup to discuss the proposed enhancements and to draft a dissemination and engagement strategy to ensure that the tool is well known to the largest possible group of stakeholders and that its services are used for maximum impact.

Communication pieces__ In 2014, different interviews and virtual briefings discussed land governance issues. A virtual briefing was held with Oxfam's Duncan Pruett and Chris Jochnick on their Behind the Brand campaign, providing insight into the important role of policy advocacy to prevent the private sector from engaging in contentious land deals. They spoke about a number of important commitments on the part of the private sector, exceeding even those outlined in the RAI principles, including Coca-Cola's extensive "zero-tolerance for land grabs" commitment.

Capturing and exchanging knowledge

The Platform continued to build member capacity around networking and knowledge sharing, using innovative knowledge exchange tools to strengthen members' knowledge base and facilitate collaboration with different stakeholders. From conference calls, emails, electronic newsletters, reports and publications, to virtual briefings, video interviews and social media (Twitter, YouTube), the Platform's knowledge exchange mechanism captures and communicates critical issues to members, partners and the wider development community.

Interacting face-to-face

Annual General Assembly (AGA) Platform members convene each year to exchange knowledge, explore opportunities for collaboration to address some of the world's most pressing problems, and decide on key work themes in agriculture, rural development, and food and nutrition security. The Platform secretariat organises detailed coverage of the AGA, real-time Twitter conversations, video, photos and interviews.

International meetings__ International development conferences and events are important venues for Platform networking and discussion of critical issues related to agriculture, rural development, and food and nutrition security. Prior to any high-level meeting, the Platform and its members prepare briefing materials and organise preparatory

meetings to share concerns, develop key messages, and set the agenda collectively. The secretariat often reports live from these events, using video coverage and tweets.

Roadshows__ The Platform organises roadshows to introduce members to the work of the Platform and to facilitate dialogue on critical and emerging issues. The Platform organised a road show to Brussels on 5 September to meet with the European Commission (EC). Meetings with Platform focal points Maria Ketting and Raymond Lataste, as well as several thematic units highlighted the potential for enhanced cooperation between the Platform and the EC on advocacy, common positions, policies, and strategies.

Publications

Platform infoNotes__A new knowledge product, Platform infoNotes, was designed to gather the most recent information on key agricultural and rural development themes and policy processes. It received very positive feedback from members, rated as very helpful and informative.



"I see the Global Donor Platform playing a very important role as a locus of global knowledge management. If you do not think that this is very practical, believe me, it is one of the most practical things that can happen."

- Julio Berdegué, Latin-American Centre for Rural Development (RIMISP)

Electronic newsletter__ The Platform's electronic newsletter, eUpdate, provides subscribers with the latest information about Platform activities and achievements. Twelve eUpdates were disseminated to 464 subscribers in 2014. All eUpdates are available on the Platform website.

On Common Ground This joint publication summarises common ground among donors on the nine Platform themes. It is a living document that reflects the rapidly changing development context, donor thinking, emerging challenges, and priorities. A revision process of the joint publication was launched on 12 March under the leadership of SDC Switzerland. In the revision, expected to be finalised in 2015, Platform members plan to include new chapters on trade, Post-2015, territorial approaches, climate secure agriculture, and Rural Advisory Services.

Studies__GFAR's Global Foresight Hub was commissioned by the Platform to produce a study of different prospects for agriculture, rural development, and food and nutrition security assistance in the Post-2015 development framework. The study Prospects_ ARD assistance in the post-2015 development framework was presented at the Platform's AGA in Paris in January.

Annual reports__The Platform's 2013 annual report "Food, farmers & markets" outlines Platform achievements in knowledge exchange and networking among donors and other key stakeholders on tackling rural development challenges.

Online communication tools

Website__In 2014 the Platform website was upgraded for enhanced security and to give more prominence to focal points

through member cards. With 92 new stories, 144 calendar entries, 29 interviews and five virtual briefings or webinars, the site was visited 26,379 times, with the average visit duration of 4:14 minutes.

Online repositories__ The Platform houses a library for post-harvest losses (PHL) to provide research materials on post-harvest losses, as well as a global donor database of land projects and an online interactive map, which displays information on the location, duration, and scope of 588 projects in 127 countries.

Twitter__ The secretariat team continued to connect with and engage its members through Twitter, posting from events, re-tweeting messages from Platform members and the broader development community about interesting activities or developments to keep members and partners informed. In 2014, the number of Platform twitter followers continued to grow, with 3,049 tweets and 1,938 followers by year-end.

Virtual briefings and online interviews__

These interactive discussions provide Platform members with the latest developments in agriculture, rural development and food and nutrition security. In 2014, 74 videos were placed on the Platform's YouTube channel, including fivevirtual briefings, 29 online interviews and all of the AGA presentations.

Website/social media highlights

Web articles created: 92

Virtual briefings: 5 Online interviews: 29

Calendar entries created: 144

eUpdate issues: 12 Site visits: 26.379

Average visit duration: 4:14 mins

Twitter followers: 1.938

Tweets: 3.049



Looking ahead

Since 2003, the Platform has come far - from the call for increased donor support for ARD after a decade of dramatic decline to the priority of making the potentials of the aid effectiveness agenda work for ARD. Important strategic and thematic areas such as private sector and trade, gender and youth, land governance, and nutrition-sensitive agriculture are making headlines in the Platform and beyond. All thematic areas are feeding into the strategic initiative of the Platform on the Post-2015 development agenda.

Last year was the year of preparation for the anticipated major shifts in development cooperation. 2015 will be the year of enhanced action in preparation for the implementation of the sustainable development goals (SDG) in the rural space.

In this regard, the external evaluation conducted in 2014 provided valuable insights into the Platform's potential and revealed opportunities to be established

in the Platform's new Strategic Plan 2016-2020. Commissioned to the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), the evaluation stressed the Platform's relevance and ability to "...adapt to the evolving global aid setting, particularly the Post-2015 context". The report also stated that the network fills "a niche for members, to varying degrees, in enabling them to know what other donors are doing, and as a convening space for working together



and sharing knowledge and information and in helping to move agendas in a way that individual organisations are unable to".

Equipped with such encouraging findings, the Platform moves forward in its support to make ends meet in terms of a comprehensive rural transformation. In his brief analysis of the SDGs as presented in its draft form at the end of 2014, John Barrett, DFID alumni, stated at the AGA in Florence that most SDGs and their targets are highly relevant for the rural space if the necessary transformation is to be carried out in the spirit of the Post-2015 agenda.

Based on the thematic work of the Platform, the membership needs a space to discuss and agree on the way forward. The ODA modernisation debate at the OECD/DAC level and the agreements on the development financing need to be taken into account because an increasing number of countries are moving into the middle income category. This means that ODA or concessional loans and grants will no longer be available and other financial resource flows need to be tapped into, including climate finance and domestic resources, in particular. All of this changes the role of donor agencies in developing countries.

Implementing the Post-2015 agenda in the rural space needs focused priorities and new partnerships. The Platform is revising its Strategic Plan in the light of the new development agenda. As part of this process, SDC Switzerland has taken the lead in the process of revisiting the Platform document "On Common Ground" which outlines the basic agreements with regard to the thematic areas, including the Post-2015 Strategic Initiative. The Platform will have new partners and it will fulfil its mandate of networking, outreach, and providing a forum for debate by enhanced communication to engage effectively in turning the SDGs into a reality on the ground in the rural areas.

The Platform has been set up for increased investments into ARD and food systems for economic growth, social stability, and environmentally sound agriculture. Supporting millions of smallholder farmers to achieve better livelihoods through market-based production, making the private sector work better for rural development, working on the trade and market access issues that will unlock economic opportunity for the rural space—all of these considerations must go hand-in-hand with a wider political agenda, considering the necessary legal frameworks for land governance and civil society participation in economic transformation and job creation.

Looking towards the UN General Assembly at which the SDGs are expected to be agreed and formally launched, Platform members are getting prepared to ensure that agriculture, food security, and rural development remain high on the list of priorities of the world's leaders. The space for debate is created, the challenges known, and the objectives agreed upon. The Platform is known for its persistence to drive ARD support through difficult times. In Post-2015, the bar is set high in terms of sustainability and changing frame conditions at all levels - ARD has to show its socio-economic potential for the overall national development. The Platform remains committed to this objective.

"If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together"

- African proverb



Costs and financial contributions

for Platform activities in 2014

Activities of the Platform are funded by membership contributions towards the Platform trust fund which is managed by GIZ. The minimum annual financial contribution continues to be €50.000 for members to be eligible for a seat on the Platform board, the main decision-making body of the Platform.

The 2014 Platform work plan and budget were endorsed at the board meeting held in Paris in January 2014. The Platform Strategic Plan 2012-2014, which was extended by board decision to be valid for calendar year 2015, served as a guideline in planning.

Contributions 2014

The board was comprised of 15 members in 2014, three of whom joined the board that year: DFAT-Australia, DFID, and IDRC. In 2014, the sum total of signed member contribution arrangements exceeded the envisaged 2012-2014 Platform plan indicative budget. The extension of the Strategic Plan to 2015 allowed particularly the EC Agreement and also the BMZ contribution to be valid into 2015.

Funds received in the trust fund for the implementation of the Platform work plan totalled €685.263,33 (Table 2, audited figures) in 2014. While less than was received in 2012 (€1.712.278,70) and in 2013 (€745.601,07) this reflects that several members have already made their financial contribution for 2014 in 2012 and/or 2013.

Indicative budget and costs 2014

Cumulated costs in 2014 totalled €1.111.690,60 (Table 1, audited figures). This was less than the approved 2014 indicative budget of €1.509.567.

Overall spending in 2014 has been less than planned particularly in the activity area 'Learning events/roadshows/workshops' as fewer such events have been executed than were planned and because costs were kept low as logistics were conducted mainly by Platform secretariat staff. In addition, costs occurred under the budget line dedicated to evaluations have been significantly less than planned due to a time extension of an external evaluation of the Platform from 2014 into 2015 which will lead to costing in 2015.

At the same time, costs in the amount of €32.713,28 have occurred in 2014 for activities implemented in 2013 (incl. budget position items Website- and IT Support [26.222,22]. Policy Briefs [2.462,50] and Office rent and communication infrastructure [4.028,56].

The external audit of the 2014 Platform costs and contributions has been conducted in April 2015. The official audit report and financial statement will be forwarded to board members in May 2015.

TABLE 1: Costs and endorsed activities 2014	Euro
Activity areas	
Website and IT support (web presence)	83.557,76
Web conferencing (online- and telephone)	3.829,24
Annual General Assembly	59.166,98
Board meetings	315,20
Policy briefs (incl. consultants, layout, printing and dissemination)	31.690,37
Studies (incl. consultants, layout, printing and dissemination; topics as indicated in workplan, like Results indicators and Mapping)	36.511,98
Learning events/roadshows/workshops as identified in the workstreams (incl. consultants)	2.607,56
Development and running of issue/event websites	6.816,00
Side events/co-organisation at conferences as indicated by members	10.235,93
Annual Report	8.238,10
Sponsoring of travel/participation	0,00
Sub-total activity areas (I)	242.969,12
Secretariat. administration and management	
Secretariat coordinator (80%)	
Task leader ARD policy (ARD advisor)	
Communications officer	
CAADP task leader (new title: Policy analyst)	
Junior professional officer (Junior advisor)	
Office manager (70%)	
Contract- and finance administrator-1	
Contract- and finance administrator-2 (50%)	
Interns (programme and communications)	
Sub-total staff	581.525,75
Office rent and communication infrastructure	66.964,18
General admin and management	20.348,47
Independent external audit	11.935,36
EC-evaluations (for EC purposes only)	6.193,68
Staff travels	53.860,43
Sub-total secretariat, administration and management (II)	740.827,87
Total outputs (I+II)	983.796,99
GIZ indirect support costs (ISC)	127.893,61
TOTAL COSTS IN 2014	1.111.690,60

TABLE 2: Financial contributions to the Platform in 2014 (funds received)	Euro
African Development Bank (AfDB)	50.000,00
Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)	50.000,00
Department for International Development (DFID)	63.099,44
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	122.714,68
International Development Research Centre (IDRC)	50.000,00
The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	99.859,46
Italy - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC)	49.639,75
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	50.000,00
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	99.950,00
World Bank (IBRD)	50.000,00
Total financial contributions to the Platform in 2014 (funds received)	745,601.07

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