



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

2018 Annual Report





2018 Annual Report

Championing the transformation
of agriculture, food systems and
rural livelihoods



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development



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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 (ARD). The aim of the Platform is for donors and development actors to increase their commitment and expenditure in the areas of agriculture, rural development, and food security, thereby increasing the quality of life in rural areas in socio-economic sectors and improving the environment from a natural resources perspective. Targeted coordination between actors at international level aims to increase the effectiveness of programmes and policies on development cooperation.

Based on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the experiences of the international community since 2005 (Accra, Busan, and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation), the achievement of tangible development results, enhanced governance, and financial transparency and accountability are the key indicators for development effectiveness. The new paradigm under the Agenda 2030 will change the roles of donor agencies and international finance institutions and their programmes, policy priorities, and terms of engagement.

THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PLATFORM

The Platform offers a neutral convening space in which members are able to work together on issues of common interest, share experiences and expertise, and network informally with other ARD professionals. Effective knowledge-sharing means better development results. The Platform will strengthen its role in knowledge-sharing through systematising and streamlining its management of knowledge resources. Effective advocacy will be built upon solid evidence and clear messages from the Platform's own knowledge products around the strategic focus of the 2030 Agenda and ARD.

VISION

»Prosperous and sustainable rural communities underpinning global food and nutrition security«.

The Platform's members share a common vision framed around pathways to achieve »zero hunger« (SDG 2). These must be economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable, centred on the capacity of agriculture and rural livelihoods to generate employment and economic growth, to address inequalities, and to underpin national, regional and global food and nutrition security.

MISSION

»To enhance the impact of development investments in agriculture, food systems and rural livelihoods through informed policy and programming“.

The Platform's mission reflects its key roles in advocacy and knowledge sharing through a donor network to deliver effective knowledge and learning in support of agriculture, food systems and rural livelihoods. Its ambition is to be able to inform donor policy and programming in ARD in the public sector and to encourage more and responsible private investment.

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STRATEGIC FOCUS

The Platform's strategic focus is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The emergence of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development based on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets provides an overarching framework for the Platform's Strategic Plan 2016–2020. The Platform views the goals of economic, social and environmental sustainability through a rural lens under the Strategic Initiative Agenda 2030 of the Platform in view of rapid urbanization and massive migration.

AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION

The Platform's strategic focus centers on promoting the transformation of agriculture and food systems as part of a broader rural transformation approach. Rural transformation is the key process of improving economic growth, social inclusion and the management of the environment within which rural people make their living. This includes recognising the importance of rural-urban linkages, migration and remittances and the role of agriculture as one of the principal generators of economic growth of the rural space.

KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

Effective knowledge-sharing means better development results. Effective knowledge-sharing on donor approaches to ARD through peer learning, the analysis of different policies, instruments and programmes, contributes to better development results through better donor policy and programming. Knowledge-sharing is particularly important for smaller donors who are often knowledge ›takers‹, but is also valuable to donors who have the resources to generate knowledge, as a means of disseminating views to the donor community at large.

ADVOCACY

Effective advocacy is built upon solid evidence and clear messages. The Platform's advocacy is built upon its own knowledge products and strategic focus. It focuses on high level policy issues and targets the wider development assistance community including non-traditional donors, and the many stakeholders engaged in rural areas in developing partner countries such as the private sector, civil society, NGOs and farmer organisations.

NETWORKING

Networking is at the heart of the Platform's functions. The Platform was created out of the informal networking amongst senior staff in donor organisations that shared a common vision of the future of agriculture and rural development in tackling poverty reduction. This role is important to members as a way of reaching out informally to their peers as a ›community of practice‹ around agriculture and rural development issues.

LEARN MORE:

» [Strategic Plan 2016–2020](#)

THE PLATFORM BOARD

The Board is the Platform's main decision-making body, takes responsibility for the long-term strategic development of the Platform's future, and guarantees the quality of its outputs. It comprises the contact points of all Platform members who pay an agreed annual membership contribution. Board members have the opportunity to benefit from the Platform's convening role in knowledge-sharing, discussing important strategic issues, and contributing to learning and high level advocacy.

The Board meets formally twice a year. The first meeting is during the Annual General Assembly in order to approve the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) adopted by the members as part of a multi-year programme of work. The second meeting is mid-year to review the Platform's progress and, along with invited Associate Members, to participate in ›visioning‹ with thought-leaders to identify emerging strategic issues in agricultural and rural development (ARD). Two Board Meetings have been held in 2018: a virtual meeting in January and a face-to-face Board Meeting in June, back-to-back to the Annual General Assembly 2018 in Berlin.

Board Members elect two Co-Chairs who each serve for two years. David Hegwood (USAID) started his tenure as Co-Chair in October 2018, succeeding Shantanu Mathur (IFAD), who resigned as Co-Chair after his two years in office. The other Co-Chair is Patrick Herlant (EC). The Co-Chairs receive full support by the Secretariat, e.g., by organizing the AGA, two board meetings, regular management meetings, and several face-to-face meetings with members and partners.

All the meeting minutes are accessible through the Platform website

[» Home](#) [» About us](#) [» Downloads](#) [» Meeting Minutes](#)



MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Platform is a network of donor organisations. Membership of the Platform is voluntary and open to bilateral donor organisations, multilateral development institutions, and international finance institutions. Non-traditional donors, including foundations, UN agencies, and other intergovernmental organisations, are current Platform members.

In 2018, the platform had 40 members. Of these, 13 are full members and constitute the decision-making Board. New on the Board is the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). For membership in one of the Thematic Working Groups, membership in the Platform itself is not mandatory. The Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL) e.g. welcomed two organisations, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Omidyar Network, as new members.

FOCAL POINTS

Each member appoints a contact point to represent the respective organisation at Platform meetings and keep colleagues in their organisations and their NGO/private sector constituencies informed about new developments in the international community and the Platform outcomes. Contact points actively participate in the formulation of joint Platform policies and work programmes. They may speak on behalf the Platform at international events. The work streams of the Platform involve a great number of representatives of member organisations who are not the contact points.

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PARTNERS

The Platform works with different partners in each of the themes. The engagement with these organisations varies depending on the interest in the topic and their availability to contribute. The Platform enters into partnerships with research institutions, farmers' organisations, civil society organisations, global and regional networks, global initiatives, and private sector networks that share a common interest in agriculture and rural development. Each

partner organisation nominates a contact person to serve as the official link to the Platform. Representatives from partner organisations are invited to engage in the Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) of the Platform and attend Platform meetings.

In 2018, the Platform engaged with various partners, including: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), CAADP Youth Network, CDC, Cornell University, Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA), Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII), the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Inclusive Business Action Network, International Land Coalition, Land Portal, Mastercard Foundation, Namati, NAP Global Network, the NDC Partnership, the NDC Partnership Thematic Working Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Land-use, Prindex, Rockefeller Foundation, Smallholder and Agri-SME Finance and Investment Network (SAFIN), Vietnam Rubber Association and Village Focus International (Laos). In preparing the communications strategy and the agriculture and Aid for Trade policy coherence study, the Platform also benefited from substantial comments sent by partners International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM).

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SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat is the management unit of the Platform supporting the implementation of the annual work programme, for which it has executive authority. The Secretariat is hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and administered by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Bonn, Germany.

In 2018, the Secretariat continued to support the exchange between donors and their advocacy activities in many topics. The Secretariat provided services to the Platform members and the different TWGs in a variety of formats and activities. The Secretariat also participated in international events and reported about them to its members as well as to other target audiences. When and where appropriate, the Secretariat also communicated collective positions of the Platform.

In 2018, the Secretariat staff included Reinhild Ernst (Secretariat Coordinator), Christian Mersmann (Policy Analyst), Romy Sato (Policy Analyst), Jedi Bukachi (Policy Advisor), Martina Karaparusheva (Junior Policy Advisor), Marion Thompson (Finance Administrator), Svetlana Silova (Office Manager) and Simone Miller (Finance Administrator).

In June, Laura Barrington took up the position of policy advisor responsible for the SDG2 Roadmap Initiative, ARD Finance, and Climate-Resilient Agriculture. Starting in September, Oliver Hanschke joined the Secretariat team as communications advisor to oversee all communications activities, but also to support the new Rural Youth Thematic Working Group. Laura replaced Christian Mersmann, who left the Secretariat in June. The team also said goodbye to advisors Martina Karaparusheva and Jedi Bukachi, and to office manager Svetlana Silova, who moved to new roles in GIZ. Between May-September, intern Maria Ukhanova supported the Secretariat in various communications activities and during the AGA.

External consultants supported the Secretariat in thematic, event, communication, and IT related tasks.

» Home » About us » **Secretariat**

PLATFORM MEMBERS 2018

- African Development Bank (AfDB)*
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)*
- Austria – Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
- Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
- Belgium – Directorate General for Development Cooperation
- Belgian Technical Cooperation
- Bill & 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, United Nations (FAO)
- France – Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs*
- France – Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy
- Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- Germany – Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)*
- Global Mechanism of the UNCCD (UNCCD GM)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)*
- International Trade Centre (ITC)
- International Development Research Centre, Canada (IDRC)
- Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (IADC)
- Irish Aid – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- KfW Development Bank, Germany
- Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
- Luxembourg Development Cooperation (LuxDev)
- The Netherlands – Ministry of Foreign Affairs*
- Norway – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
- 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 Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)*
- The World Bank (WB)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Trade Organisation (WTO)

*Board member in 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

DAVID B. HEGWOOD (U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT) AND
PATRICK HERLANT (EUROPEAN COMMISSION)

FAO's 2018 report on Food Security and Nutrition in the World was alarming. For the third year in a row, there has been a rise in world hunger. Around one out of every nine people in the world suffers from hunger. For the global donor community, ending hunger and malnutrition is equally a commitment and an incitement for even greater efforts. Since its founding in 2003, the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development builds on a common vision for eliminating poverty, hunger, and malnutrition through sustainable agriculture-led growth. The SDG2 Roadmap Initiative, which gained further traction in the Platform in 2018, is a direct outcome of this impulse. The fruitful collaboration within the initiative demonstrates once more the core character of the Platform: provide a framework for coordination on key action areas, generate political support, and mobilise funding for agriculture, food security, and nutrition.

2018 was a vibrant year for the Platform's thematic work in many areas, resulting in important and well-received contributions. New international initiatives like Ceres 2030 and the 50x2030 Data Initiative, in which Global Donor Platform members are actively involved, showed us how crucial collaboration and data-sharing are for developing an evidence base for improved decision-making. Ceres2030 aims to evaluate the benefits, costs, and trade-offs of agricultural interventions to ensure effective action with respect to achieving SDG2. There is no one-size-fits-all approach, and clearly, any strategy can only be as good as the data it is built on. Producing reliable data to support strategies to boost the productivity and livelihoods of the world's 500 million small-holder farmers is therefore the goal of another important activity that started last year: the 50x2030 Data Initiative, which is supported by a group of Platform members.

Another important topic on which Platform members engaged last year is territorial approaches, which are gaining stronger recognition within international organisations, including Platform members and partners. Platform members BMZ and the European Commission released a white paper on territorial approaches in December 2018.

Other members and partners involved in the drafting process include AFD, CIRAD, GIZ, OECD, FAO, UN CDF and NEPAD, while other organisations have recently joined the group. The white paper contributes to developing a common understanding of territorial approaches. It also calls for a wider alliance between development practitioners, researchers, international organisations, donors, and governments that share one goal: supporting the adoption of territorial perspectives in policy, programme, project design, and implementation.

In 2018, we observed a trend toward more investments into trade and inclusive agribusiness as well as toward adaptation to climate change. In the area of finance, talks about 'blended finance' and the Smallholder Agriculture Finance and Investment Network (SAFIN) have delivered important insights. The Platform has continued to prove its role as a catalyser for emerging issues. Following on last year's Annual General Assembly, which highlighted the challenges and potential of rural youth to development, Platform members increased their commitment to rural youth. Hardly any other topic is better suited to demonstrate the Platform's orientation to the future. Furthermore, 'Rural Youth', like 'Gender' and 'Climate Change', is a perfect example of the cross-cutting character of the Platform's themes.

One key term that characterised the Platform in 2018, like in previous years, is diversity. The Platform has more diversified members than ever before, including the addition of foundations for the first time in 2018. A more diversified membership broadens the range of perspectives and provides new, inspiring input. The Platform offers a place for continuous learning from institutional knowledge and individual expertise. It is exciting to watch the Platform grow by finding the right balance between continuity and the exploration of new paths.

Over the last years, more people have learned about the Global Donor Platform and its mandate, as the Platform has been engaged in many high-level events. We know of no other place where

donors come together to develop strategic ideas and ensure coherence on the rural and development transformation agenda in an informal and productive setting, where ideas and concepts can ripen and synergies be created. In the language of marketing, this is the unique selling point of the Platform. From 2003 until today, the Platform has always been a promising place to develop new approaches and advance the international agenda for rural development. We are convinced that it will continue to play this role in the future.



YEAR IN REVIEW – 2018

By facilitating direct exchange and information sharing, the Platform continued in 2018 to enable members to coordinate and contribute to higher level of policy coherence. The Agenda 2030 priorities gained further traction in the Global Donor Platform as the Secretariat was requested to facilitate the work of the SDG2 Roadmap, an initiative of 14 donors – over one third of the Platform members – to raise political support and address data gaps for the implementation of SDG2 (= »End Hunger«). Discussions among Platform affiliates on the implications of the 2030 Agenda for future donor programs have continued.

In 2018, the Platform was present at many international development events and meetings, contributing to the international discussion either as organisers of side-events or as participants in discussion panels or reporters. These include the World Bank Land Conference, the UN General Assembly, the 45th Committee on Food Security (CFS 45), the Africa Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), the Wageningen University's »Toward Zero Hunger« Conference, and numerous smaller meetings and workshops.

The Annual General Assembly (AGA) in June once again set accents. Hosted by BMZ and African Development Bank (AfDB), it brought together more than a hundred senior level participants, Platform members and partners as well a young entrepreneurs and students to discuss opportunities for »Empowering Rural Young Generation«. High-level calibre speakers included Leonard Mizzi (EU), Stefan Schmitz (BMZ), Martin Fregene (AfDB), Cornelia Richter (IFAD). In panels and breakout sessions, members and partners discussed how to include young people in ARD policies and programmes. The setting encouraged participants to consider how to include young people in their ARD policies and programmes – and a compendium on Donor Engagement with Rural Youth, commissioned by the Platform in preparation for the AGA, provided an excellent basis for this exchange. The Compendium on Donor Engagement with Rural Youth was highly appreciated by members and has become a reference point for identifying synergies, assessing future activities and discussing

opportunities for collaboration ever since. The topic of Rural Youth has gained further momentum by the launch of a new Thematic Working Group, which was formed in autumn and now has its own virtual workspace on the Platform's website.



DATA IS KEY FOR UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF PLATFORM THEMES

The issue of data both to prove development impact and to better inform policies was recurring in 2018. Better data as well as increased transparency and comprehensibility have been the driving force of a global initiative that was launched last year and in which several Platform members play an active role: the 50x2030 Data Initiative. Launched at a UN General Assembly side event it correlates well into the framework of SDG2 Roadmap Initiative. The collection of agriculture and household data supported by the 50x2030 Initiative and the need for better data benefitted, for instance, the work of the Global Donor Working Group on Land and the Thematic Working Group on Inclusive Agribusiness and Trade. Aid for Trade, as well as for women's economic empowerment in ARD programs, and for better indicators to measure impact of inclusive agribusiness initiatives.

Other highlights were two roundtables on gender, organised at the sidelines of the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62) at UN headquarters in New York City, and on inclusive agribusiness, which was held back-to-back to the Annual General Assembly.

In 2018, various new and old partners have participated in the Platform activities in manifold ways, by organising events or providing speakers, sharing information on websites or mailing lists of the various Thematic Working Groups, sending papers to publications and meetings, or jointly submitting papers for conferences. The high level of cooperation that characterized the past year is in line with the target achievement level defined in the Strategic Plan 2016–2020 of the Global Donor Platform.

Following a Board decision, the Thematic Working Group on Nutrition was discontinued, as the topic is already being addressed in the SUN (Scaling-up Nutrition) network, in which many donors are active. Effective June 2018, the Board also decided to discontinue its analysis of ARD finance instruments. The decision was justified by the fact that the topic has already been sufficiently documented by other organisations. In compensation, the Secretariat will make relevant knowledge products on agriculture finance analysis available to Platform members through its website.

In summer 2018, the Platform conducted an extensive communications assessment in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the Platform's communication tools and formats and to update the Platform's communication strategy. The development of the new strategy and recommendations for implementation benefitted from strong feedback by members.

**YOUNG AND READY
TO MOVE:
EMPOWERING THE
NEW GENERATION IN
THE RURAL SPACE**



2018 IN NUMBERS

17 International Events

5 Platform Events

7 Side Events

3 Management Meetings

17 Donor Meetings

2 Board Meetings

1 Annual General Assembly

2 Studies/Working Papers

40 Members

13 Board Members

SOME INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND PLATFORM EVENTS IN 2018

JANUARY

- 30th African Union Summit | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Global Forum for Food and Agriculture 2018 | Berlin, Germany

MARCH

- World Bank Land and Poverty Conference 2018 | New York City, USA
- Donor Roundtable on Rural women and girls | Washington DC, USA
- Forum for the Future of Agriculture 2018 | Brussels, Belgium
- 11th Physical Meeting of the Global Donor Working Group on Land

APRIL

- 7th Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) Partners Meeting | Nairobi, Kenya
- OECD Global Forum on Development 2018 | Paris, France

JUNE

- Annual General Assembly 2018 | Berlin, Germany

JULY

- Webinar: Bridging the Gap on Land Governance and Tenure along the Urban-Rural Continuum

AUGUST

- SDG-conference ›Towards Zero Hunger – Partnerships for Impact‹ | Wageningen, The Netherlands

SEPTEMBER

- Data to End Hunger – Aligning country visions and donor commitments to deliver SDG 2 and grow enough food to feed the world | New York City, USA
- Global Land Forum 2018 | Bandung, Indonesia
- African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) 2018 | Kigali, Rwanda

OCTOBER

- Committee on World Food Security (CFS) 45 | Rome, Italy
- Realising the VGGTs and SDGs | Rome, Italy

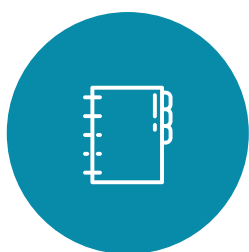
DECEMBER

- Global Landscapes Forum 2018 | Bonn, Germany

PLATFORM THEMES

LEVERAGING THEMES, FOSTERING COLLABORATION, SETTING IMPULSES

In 2018, knowledge exchange has been promoted in the following areas:



**AGENDA
2030**



**CLIMATE
CHANGE**



**RURAL
YOUTH**



GENDER



**LAND
GOVERNANCE**



**AGRIBUSINESS
& TRADE**



CAADP

- a. Strategic Initiative Agenda 2030 and rural structural change as a conceptual and strategic framework for the work of the Platform (>Agenda 2030<)
- b. Five thematic areas:
 - I Land and Land Administration (Land Governance);
 - II Climate Change and Agriculture;
 - III Inclusive Agribusiness and Trade;
 - IV Gender;
 - V Rural Youth and CAADP (not a separate working group, but cooperation in the Development Partners Coordination Group (DPCG)).

Gender is now treated as a cross-sectional issue and mainstreamed in the other themes. Workshop coordinators ensure that gender is considered in all workstreams and is being anchored accordingly.

THE KEY TASKS OF THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS:

- Develop and implement work plans for the respective Thematic Working Groups
- Share information and knowledge on policy and institutional developments and policies
- Organise physical meetings, side-events and other events upon request by members
- Commission studies and other knowledge products, (e.g. improvement of maps, databases, living documents) of the Thematic Working Groups

AGENDA 2030 & SDG2 ROADMAP

Thematic Working Group Leads:
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

In 2018, the importance of the overall Agenda 2030 agenda for the Global Donor Platform continued to grow. The Platform debate has moved beyond the substantive considerations of the new opportunities of the SDGs and is addressing issues to support their achievement, especially SDG2 – the goal to end hunger and malnutrition and double the productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers by 2030 – on whose success many other SDGs build.

The SDG2 Roadmap Initiative is backed by 14 donors, of whom more than one-third are Platform members. Its aim is to increase political support for significant progress to achieve SDG2 and to fill gaps in the instruments needed to ›End Hunger«.

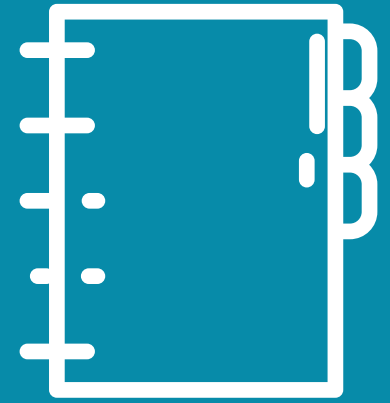
SDG2 ROADMAP

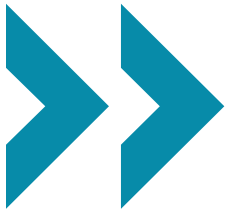
The group's work is carried out in seven areas of action, the progress of which the Secretariat regularly supports via e-mail, physical meetings or video and telephone conferences. The seven action areas of the SDG2 Roadmap Initiative are:

- Theory of Change (led by BMZ and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)
- Ceres2030 (led by BMZ and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and implemented by IISD, IFPRI und Cornell University)
- Innovation (led by BMZ and European Commission)
- 50x2030 Initiative (led by USAID, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, FAO, World Bank, IFAD)
- Donors SDG2 Results Reporting (led by The Netherlands-MFA)
- Mapping of SDG 2.3 Donor Projects and Programs (led by DFID)
- Private sector cooperation (led by Australia-DFAT, The Netherlands-MFA)

Two of these fields of action, the 50x2030 Initiative and Ceres 2030, have attracted widespread attention among donors. The 50x2030 initiative aims to carry out the largest data collection on agricultural development to date in 50 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America by 2030. In May, the SDG2 Roadmap Initiative drafted a joint donor statement, which was the basis for messaging at the launch of the 50x2030 Initiative at the UN General Assembly in September. In 2018, the group began to develop a Theory of Change – a living document to serve as the basis for key messages the members will use in their organisations' communications on SDG2, resilience, food security and nutrition. Ceres2030 represents a research partnership that quantifies the benefits and costs of agricultural interventions to achieve SDG2 to identify strategies that show the greatest possible impact per use of funds.

Along the year, the Secretariat supported seven group meetings, particularly by consolidating drafts, documenting and disseminating results of the discussions, website articles, tweets, newsletter items and others. The Secretariat also participated in key international conferences important for the 2030 Agenda and reported on them to the members, e.g. the ›Toward Zero Hunger-Partnership for Impact« conference (30–31 August) at the University of Wageningen. This conference was jointly supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the African Development Bank (AfDB), both members of the Global Donor Platform, and centred on SDG2 and SDG17. Other important conferences included the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) in Kigali, Rwanda (September 4–8) or the 45th Committee for Food Security (CFS 45), held in Rome from 15–19 October.





The gap between research on one hand and policy-making is widening; here we have opportunity to bridge that gap. The better research does its job to frame its results in a way that is useful for practical application and the more we policy-makers are able to inform researchers on what evidence is needed, we can close the gap and enter into a great collaboration.



**Dr. Stefan Schmitz,
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)**

The members have focused on selected political entry points to support the achievement of SDG2. By facilitating direct exchange and information sharing, the Platform enables its members to coordinate their development assistance.

While agriculture, food and nutritional security should remain a major focus of attention, world leaders increasingly realize the complexity of the challenges. Nurturing a sustainable future requires major transformations across issues and sectors, which can be achieved only by building bridges between disciplines, people, and territories.

For the Platform, this means to provide a forum for information sharing on donor policies, programmes and financial support towards agriculture and rural development within the Agenda2030 framework.

›BLENDED FINANCE‹ ON HOLD

The agricultural finance analysis was on hold due to staff change in the Secretariat. Subsequently in June 2018, the Board decided that the Platform should discontinue its analysis on instruments of ARD finance, as the topic has already been extensively documented. The Platform has taken note that Platform member GIZ is working on an agriculture analysis, which the Secretariat will make available for Platform members upon publication. The Secretariat continued to inform on new publications or activities around this topic.

Further information:

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December 2018

- » [Global Landscapes Forum 2018: Young people are key to landscape restoration](#)

November 2018

- » [Generation matters: Brussels Briefing n. 53 on the Role of Young Farmers](#)
- » [Working towards food security, moving away from silo-thinking](#)
- » [CFS Stakeholder Feedback on Critical and Emerging Issues in Food Security & Nutrition](#)
- » [The State of Food Security and Agriculture \(SOFA\) 2018](#)
- » [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(SOFI\) 2018](#)
- » [All Roads Lead to Rome: 45th Session of the Committee on World Food Security \(CFS\)](#)

October 2018

- » [Ceres2030: Sustainable Solutions to End Hunger](#)
- » [Global Hunger Index 2018 – Increased Efforts and Innovative Approaches Needed to Achieve SDG2](#)
- » [Donors Announce ›50 by 2030‹ initiative for Data to End Hunger](#)

September 2018

- » [Towards Zero Hunger SDG Conference in Wageningen: Partnerships key to achieve impact](#)

May 2018

- » [Swiss agency is looking for proposals](#)

April 2018

- » [Blended finance: bridging the investment gap for the SDGs](#)

February 2018

- » [Argentina sets the focus on improving soil productivity](#)

January 2018

- » [Focus areas on the way to sustainable rural development](#)
- » [SAFIN – the importance of investments for agricultural enterprises](#)



CLIMATE CHANGE

Thematic Working Group Lead:
France

The negative impact of climate change on agriculture and rural development is well documented and its severity well accepted. The importance of agriculture for climate protection and achieving the goal of halting global warming at 1.5°C is increasingly recognised. Agriculture contributes to the rise of the global greenhouse gas emissions. However, the agricultural sector is also strongly affected by the climate change.

The ›Climate Change and Rural Development‹ TWG offers a forum for a specific discussion on climate change and ARD as a contribution to the debate within individual member organisations (internal outreach) and in networking and external outreach as an engagement in boarder policy fora, programming exercises, and engagement of NGOs and the private sector. This TWG, like the others within the Platform, wishes to contribute specifically as a donor network without duplicating other fora, networks, or alliances.

Following the decision at the UNFCCC COP23 in Bonn that the Climate Convention will now address issues related to agriculture in a more substantial way, the Platform continued to address the issue of agriculture's role in climate change, with a special focus on National Determined Contributions (NDC) Finance given the emergence of the Green Climate Fund, the availability of climate finance in major multilateral development banks and development institutions like the World Bank, African Development Bank and many bilateral donor agencies.

A workshop planned in the spring of 2018 on the submission of a joint position in agriculture to the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) was cancelled due to low number of registrations. Regardless, MEFA France continued to be interested in leading activities on climate finance in 2018. Following further exchange with members and

gathering more material and information on new programmatic and institutional developments, especially FAO and IFAD, MEAE France drafted an concept note on the mobilization of climate finance for the agricultural and LULUCF (land use, land-use change and forestry) sectors. The initial planning included developing a compendium on selected activities of our members related to climate finance, to be presented and discussed in a broader, forward-looking context on the future of agriculture under climate change at an event under the French G7 Presidency in 2019. The Platform plans to develop a compendium on selected activities of our members related to climate finance, to be presented and discussed in a broader, forward-looking context on the future of agriculture under climate change at an event under the French G7 Presidency in 2019.

A stocktaking of the development community and donor reactions to the climate challenge in agriculture is continued and shared within the membership through reporting on the Secretariat's engagement in strategic partnerships: NDC Partnership, NDC Partnership Thematic Working Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Land-use, NAP Global Network and the GACSA. In particular, the Secretariat has been involved in the work of the NDC Partnership Thematic Working Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Land-use, Rome 5–6 March 2018 – agreement on a work programme 2018/2019 and official request to insert this working group into the NDC Partnership with regard to the emerging regional alliances on climate-smart agriculture.

Further information:

» [Home](#) » [Topics](#) » [Climate Change](#)

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November 2018

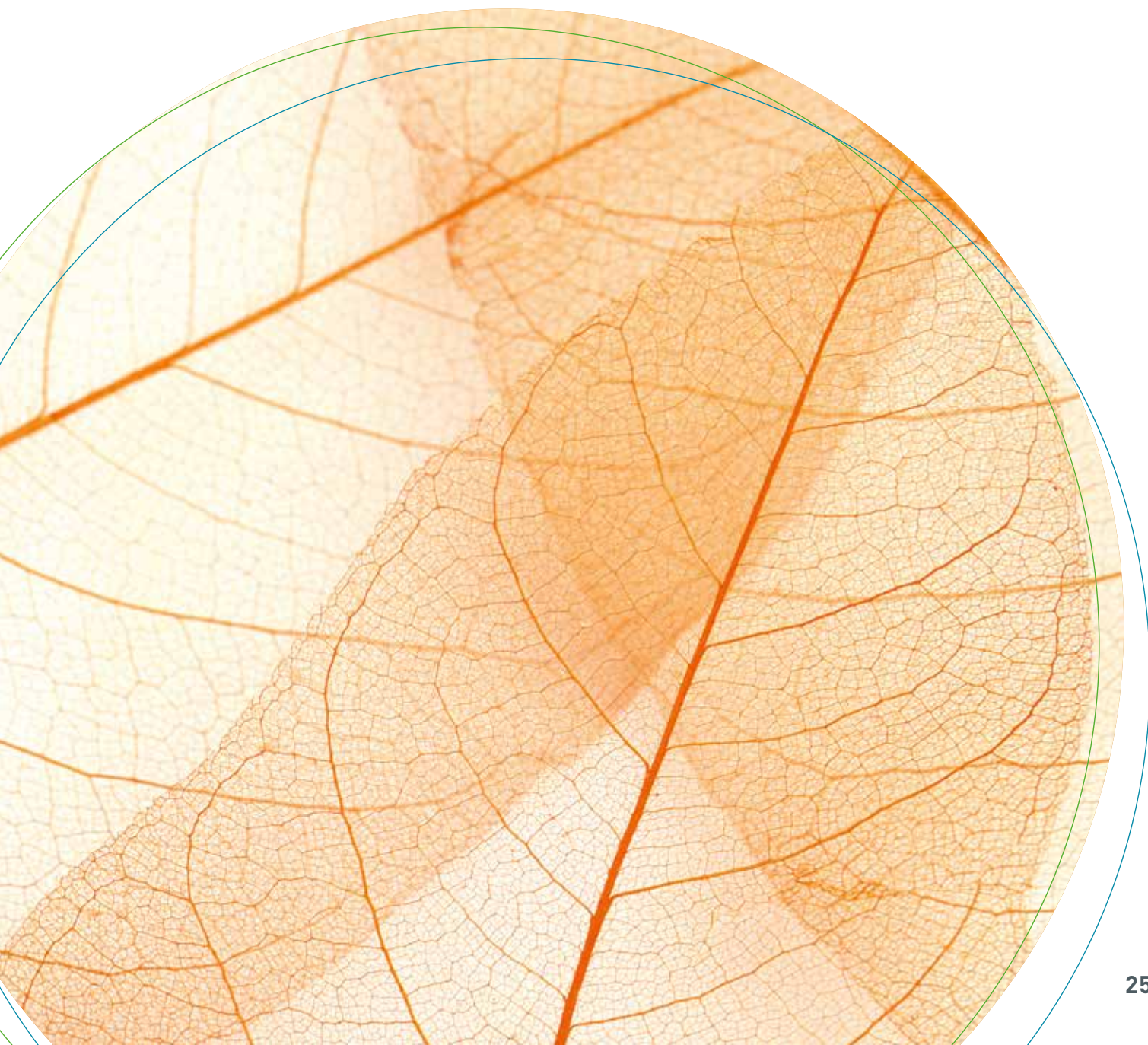
» [Far More than a Buzz Word: Agroecology is Gaining Momentum on the International Agenda](#)

March 2018

» [Achieving NDCs through Agriculture – peer learning and knowledge sharing for success](#)

February 2018

» [Driving agricultural research agenda with focus on the most vulnerable](#)



RURAL YOUTH

Thematic Working Group Leads:

United States Agency for International Development (USAID), African Development Bank (AfDB), Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (IADC), Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)

Youths account for one out of every six people worldwide. Globally, millions of young people are bound to engage in agriculture. These young women and men will shape the future of agriculture and rural development (ARD). Thus, addressing inclusive rural transformation entails bringing rural youth on board, empowering them to speak for themselves with their experiences and ideas, and creating the means for them to connect, share, and develop solutions for the challenges they face.

The Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Rural Youth is the Platform's newest working group, having been launched as a direct result of a Board decision in October 2018. The new TWG reflects the political commitment of the international community to empower youth in rural areas as expressed in the Youth Employment Initiative, which was launched at the 2017 G20 Summit. The TWG also directly builds on the Platform's 2018 Annual General Assembly (AGA) from 13–14 June in Berlin that focused on rural youth with the title ›Young and Ready to Move – Empowering the New Generation in the Rural Space.‹ The AGA provided a forum to discuss the strategic perspectives on the role of donors and international development agencies in this issue. In preparation for the AGA, the Platform commissioned a study, the ›Com-

pendium on Donor Engagement with Rural Youth‹, which was compiled by Maria Lee, an external consultant. Almost 50% of the Platform members interviewed for the compendium mentioned having a youth policy or youth as a priority in their strategy, but highlighted that there was a disconnect between ARD and youth employment programmes.

Addressing inclusive rural transformation entails bringing young rural women and young rural men on board into decision making processes, empowering them to speak for themselves, enabling them to bring in their experiences and ideas, and creating spaces for them to connect, share, and develop solutions. The TWG on Rural Youth introduces a partnership model that is unprecedented at the Platform in that the TWG is to be made up of 50% youth representatives and 50% development partners, demonstrating the need for donors and young agriculturists to collaborate, giving the latter a voice that can be heard by political decision makers.

The TWG held two conference calls (September and October) and plans to have regular calls every two months. A concept note was released in October in which next steps have been proposed for immediate action. In the meantime, the Secretariat has created a dedicated workspace on the Platform website, including relevant resources, knowledge sharing, and information on donors' work on rural youth. To assure continuity, existing content, such as that developed for the 2018 AGA, was migrated and upcycled for the new workspace.

Empowering youths in the agricultural sector extends beyond the creation of tailor-made opportunities and incentives for young people to engage in agriculture. The direct impact and economic benefits it will bring to young people and above all, addressing the youth unemployment titanic is perhaps the most important dimension.



Ibrahim Ceesay, CAADP Youth Network

Activities to formulate a work plan in form of a road map that correlates with the Platform's Strategic Plan 2016–2020 have been started. In addition, the development of a communication strategy are underway. The latter will include an effective system to share relevant information among GDPRD members and define general conditions for liaising with existing youth networks and other relevant platforms such as the ILO's Global Youth Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth and others that correspond with the scope of the TWG.

In October, a webinar on opportunities for the rural youth agenda was held, where members and partners came together to learn about donors engagement with rural youth as well as to learn about the youth driven CAADP Youth Network. This online discussion provided a chance to learn about donor directions towards rural youth, as well as to highlight the work of the CAADP Youth Network, which aims to make Africa a continent with a strong youth voice with the capacity to transform Africa's agricultural sector.

Further information:

» Home » Topics » [Rural Youth](#)

READ MORE:

» Home » Media » Latest » [Rural Youth](#)

November 2018

» Generation matters: Brussels Briefing n. 53 on the Role of Young Farmers

October 2018

» Opportunities for the rural youth agenda

September 2018

» Lead, measure and grow – the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) 2018



We need to be listening actively and engaging with youth and not just inviting them to the table but have them being active participants in our project design, in our implementation, in our monitoring and evaluation.

Meredith McCormack, USAID



HIGHLIGHTS:

Annual General Assembly 2018:

» **Young and ready to move: empowering the new generation in the rural space**

» [Learn more](#)

Publication:

Donor Engagement with the Rural Youth – Compendium.

The compendium highlights current approaches, trends and remaining questions in donor engagement with rural youth.

» [Learn more](#)

GENDER

Thematic Working Group Lead:
Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO),
United Nations

Women provide family and wage labour critical to farming. Yet they are often vulnerable or disadvantaged stakeholders in agriculture and rural development. However, issues related to gender vary across countries and agricultural systems, even within countries. The gender workstream of the Platform works towards strengthening gender equality through selected initiatives that foster transparency, responsibility and accountability by all stakeholders in line with the SDGs.

The Gender Working Group organized a roundtable with donors in March 2018 at the CSW 62 in New York. It emphasized the need to put gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) at the center of development activities rather than as an annex to other programs. In addition, attention was drawn of the problem that donors and implementing organizations have formulated their own guidelines and checklists, which often makes implementation

difficult in practice. Also addressed were gaps in the data and the lack of sex-disaggregated data (SDD). It was recommended that the latter should be firmly integrated into the reporting of donors and that, in the case of larger programs, gender expertise in program implementation should be specifically ensured.

According to the Board's decision, gender is a cross-cutting issue that is firmly embedded in every working group. The SDG2 roadmap's 50x2030 initiative is supported to include gender-specific data queries in their data collection. At a working meeting of the 50x2030 initiative from 12 to 14 November 2018, it was defined more precisely which data is required in this regard and how the corresponding questionnaires must be designed.

However, this can only be realized if women have access to water, land, seeds, information, finance and markets – and if they are actively bound in decision-making.

Further information:

[» Home](#) [» Topics](#) [» Gender](#)



**Financial inclusion is key
for economic empowerment!
Access to savings is one of three
proven ways to empower women**

Karl Deering, Care International



READ MORE:

» Home » Media » Latest » **Gender**

» From Gender Responsive to Gender Transformative: Combating Climate Change with Gender Strategies

September 2018

» Addressing gender in climate change policies for agriculture

March 2018

» Gender equality and women's empowerment should take centre-stage in donor policies



Gender responsive climate policies are urgently needed! We are not going to make the 1.5 degrees unless we reach gender equality!

**Fleur Newman, Lead Gender Officer
in the UNFCCC Secretariat**



LAND GOVERNANCE



The diversity of perspectives, of data providers should allow for actors who are only visible at the local level to also be visible at the global level. Good practices towards the democratization of data include creating metadata and standards, but above all be willing to be open with your data.

Ward Anseeuw, Senior Technical Specialist at ILC Secretariat/CIRAD

Thematic Working Group Leads:
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) – until October 2019;
Department for International Development, UK (DFID) – starting October 2019

Land is one of the most valuable resources a rural family can own to secure its livelihood. Without secure land tenure, families and communities are vulnerable to expropriations and face many challenges to access natural and financial resources, markets, and other services. The Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL) aims to increase the coordination and knowledge exchange on land governance programmes and jointly advocate with our members the relevance of land issues in policy processes that affect international development.

In 2018, the GDWGL continued to draw global attention to the SDG land indicator and, in particular, the need for re-classifying it from Tier II to Tier I by 2020. In different occasions (CFS45, World Bank Land Conference), the GDWGL raised the need for better coordination amongst different data initiatives, which benefits reporting both on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGTs), as well as contributing to general impact evaluations of land governance interventions. The group also highlighted the role of Direct Foreign Investments (DFIs) as well as domestic investments in responsible land governance.

Another area of activity was country-level donor coordination. Some members of the GDWGL have established a regular dialogue with African institutions to better coordinate the implementation of global, but also national and regional land policies in African countries. Key to this is the cooperation with the Africa Development Partners Roundtable on Land (ADPRL) initiated by the Swiss SDC and GIZ. The ADPRL facilitates regular meetings with the African Land Policy Centre (an institution under the African Union Commission) to improve collaboration on land governance at the country level.

As in previous years, the GDWGL organised a session at the Land and Poverty Conference of the World Bank. The session, 'Influencing the next tier of companies – promoting responsible land-based investment through investors or investment frameworks', explored new ways donors and other actors can reach and influence the practices of companies investing in land at national level. It looked at key incentives and constraints faced by investors in influencing the practices of investees and tools they use to assess and manage tenure risk. In addition to contributions from panellists, Harold Liversage (IFAD, GDWGL chair) gave the introductory remarks and Chris Penrose-Buckley moderated the session (DFID, GDWGL vice-chair).

In July, a webinar on the nexus between land rights and the urban land continuum ('Bridging the Gap on Land Governance and Tenure along the Urban Rural Continuum') attracted more than 60 participants. In September, the GDWGL contrib-

uted to the Global Land Forum in Indonesia by organising a side event to broaden the knowledge and perspectives about how domestic investors are shaping land governance in countries.

In October, the GDWGL, in partnership with the International Land Coalition (ILC), the Land Portal, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII), the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), and other partners, organised a side event (›The Role of Data Ecosystems, People-Centered Monitoring and Impact Evaluation to Achieve Global Development Goals‹) at the Committee for Food Security (CFS) 45 in Rome. The event focused on the role of data ecosystems, people-centred monitoring, and impact evaluation to achieve global development goals. During the CFS 45, the GDWGL held its 12th GDWGL physical meeting. At this occasion, the Group's leadership passed from IFAD to DFID, and the Group decided on different priority areas for 2019, including the engagement in the Global Campaign for Women's Land Rights (led by Landesa), and exploring more strategically how to promote progress towards achieving the SDG land goals beyond the efforts of measurement and re-classification of the land indicator.

Further information:

» Home » Topics » **Land Governance**

HIGHLIGHT:

Webinar: Bridging the Gap on Land Governance and Tenure along the Urban-Rural Continuum

The webinar reviewed land governance and tenure security challenges arising in peri-urban areas during the transformation from rural to urban, to guide policy and land administration interventions.



READ MORE:

» Home » Media » Latest » **Land Governance**

October 2018

» More data, better governance of land tenure?

September 2018

» How domestic investors are transforming land governance in developing countries

March 2018

» Influencing the next tier of companies: promoting responsible land-based investments

INCLUSIVE AGRIBUSINESS & TRADE



We (and the OECD-DAC) consider aid to develop agriculture (and other productive sectors) to be a subset of A4T. Hence, A4T is not about helping our own trade, it's about helping developing countries participate in trade.

Julie Delforce, DFAT-Australia

Thematic Working Group Lead:
European Commission (EC)

In 2018, donors and partners in the Thematic Working Group of ›Inclusive Agribusiness & Trade‹ (IAB&T) shared their knowledge in two complementary areas: the ability of small farmers to successfully operate their agricultural business while achieving food security; and how to improve policy coherence between trade and agriculture, which should ultimately improve the conditions for farmers to trade their products effectively.

The group held a donor roundtable in June, back-to-back to the Annual General Assembly, to discuss challenges and share experiences of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in value chain development/inclusive agribusiness initiatives. Representatives from donors, implementing agencies, and knowledge institutes discussed challenges and areas for improvements in how to measure results in projects, including the difficulty in attributing

impact from these interventions to improve food security of vulnerable groups. Several members and partners, including the European Commission, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) – Australia, International Trade Centre (ITC), Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Korean Development Agency (KOICA), the World Bank, and UN-Women shared project examples and their perspectives. In the discussion, the participants pointed out that given the high level of informality in the agricultural sector, it was difficult to measure indicators, such as formal jobs resulting from integrative projects in the agricultural sector. The consensus was that M&E systems must clearly highlight how and why the different stakeholders can benefit from the projects and thereby develop ownership.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Webinar: Facilitating safe trade: lessons and experiences from STDF's work – July 2018

In cooperation with the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), the Global Donor platform organised a webinar about safe trade facilitation.

Publication: » Strengthening Agriculture and Aid for Trade Development Impact

Agriculture and aid for trade (AfT) are two key areas of development cooperation that share many synergies and seek similar or the same development objectives; however, there is a lack of coordination between the two areas. A new study, co-authored by Paul Engel and released by the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, looks at ways to bridge this gap.

In June, the working group organised a webinar to provide participants with the work and functioning of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF).

One of the highlights in 2018 was a dive deeper into the nexus of agriculture and aid for trade (AFT). Agriculture and AFT are two key areas of development cooperation that share many synergies and seek similar or the same development objectives; however, there is a lack of coordination between the two areas. This gap widens in comparing the agriculture agenda (as part of Official Development Assistance) and trade agenda of some donor countries. The group commissioned Paul Engel with an analysis study and published his findings in a discussion paper ›Strengthening Agriculture and Aid for Trade Development Impact-Opportunities for Alignment Policies and Programmes‹. The study, presented in a webinar on 13 December, clearly shows that there are still significant gaps in coordination between agriculture and trade promotion and recommends key areas where there is greater policy coherence and programme complementarity (e.g. capacity building, financial-innovation or the sustainable use of natural resources, etc.). For 2019, more far-reaching voting, meetings, and telephone calls on the topic are planned with working group members.

The following members participated in the IAB&T thematic working group in 2018: the European Commission (EC), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)–Australia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs–the Netherlands, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Luxembourg Development Cooperation (LuxDev), International Trade Centre (ITC), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the World Bank (WB). They were joined by the partners International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM).



Further information:

» [Home](#) » [Topics](#) » [Inclusive Agribusiness and Trade](#)

READ MORE:

» [Home](#) » [Media](#) » [Latest](#) » [Inclusive Agribusiness and Trade](#)

December 2018

» [Better aligning agriculture and aid for trade](#)

October 2018

» [What was heard about private sector and inclusive agribusiness in CFS45](#)

June 2018

» [Acting on inclusive trade for LDCs](#)
» [Donors discuss challenges and good practices to measure success of inclusive agribusiness](#)

February 2018

» [Launch of news portal to raise awareness of trade development in Least Developed Countries](#)
» [Aligning ARD and Trade Policies to improve sustainable development impact](#)

January 2018

» [Unpacking inclusive agribusiness and sustainable food systems](#)

CAADP



We need young people to see agriculture not just as work that is backbreaking and unfulfilling [...] but as one of the greatest opportunities to create wealth.

Fred Swaniker, Founder and CEO, African Leadership University



CAADP is not a Thematic Working Group. However, the Platform Secretariat continues to house and maintain a CAADP document archive on the Platform website and has an observatory and outreach function within the Development Partners Coordination Group (DPCG).

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is the African Union's strategic policy framework for the agricultural transformation of the African continent. The African Union (AU) and NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development Agency) established CAADP in 2003. The Platform engages in CAADP and the Development Partners Coordination Group (DPCG) as an opportunity for donors to cooperate at global, regional and national levels in line with the Malabo Declaration and Implementation Strategy and Roadmap to achieve the 2025 vision on CAADP.

In 2018, the 2nd updated version of the CAADP programmatic and institutional overview was released. Coordinated by the Global Donor Platform in collaboration with the GIZ CAADP Support Programme in South Africa, the overview serves partners and future supporter of CAADP to better understand the sophisticated programmatic and institutional landscape of this continent-wide programme for food and nutrition security, economic growth, and job creation. As a ›living document‹, it will be updated regularly as changes in CAADP arise. In close cooperation with GIZ, the Platform will provide an archive of all CAADP-related important documents on its website for easy reference. One example of this was the first biennial CAADP report on the implementation of the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods.

HIGHLIGHT:

Webinar CAADP Youth Network | October 2018

The webinar introduced the CAADP Youth Network, which operates in Africa as a ›network of networks‹, aims at mainstreaming youth issues into CAADP processes.

Strong political and financial commitments crucial for agriculture sector in Africa

The Platform Secretariat participated in the 8th African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) in Kigali, Rwanda. Leaders from government, business, and research and development spheres came together from 4–8 September 2018 to discuss sustainable agricultural and economic growth across the African continent. A number of Platform members, including those who are engaged in the DPCG, also took the opportunity to meet on the sidelines with youth organisations. Speakers at the conference emphasised that agribusiness in Africa needs to match Africa's needs, with value chains that go downstream to have a real impact on the smallholder farmers, particularly their access to inputs and markets. However, private sector actors face challenges in Africa because the majority of agricultural activity is in the form of small-scale farming and therefore adds to the risk of investing into agriculture.

»Lead, Measure, Grow« – under this motto, the discussions highlighted the importance of political guidance in championing policies that are conducive for food systems to flourish, as well as the importance of promoting accountability mechanisms which help to measure progress and growth in the agricultural sector. The forum also gave room for the topic of rural youth employment in agriculture and food systems, creating synergies with the Platform's new Rural Youth thematic working group. One of the findings was that the quality of rural education and training does not match labour market needs, which needs to be re-assessed. Furthermore, access to finance for youth remains challenging and in a session entitled »Entrepreneurial Youth in Agriculture: New Skills and Technologies«, young entrepreneurs urged development partners and financing institutions to believe and invest in them, which would better enable them to become employers in the agricultural sector themselves.

In October, the platform hosted a webinar presenting and discussing the work of the CAADP Youth Network (CYN) 2018 as a cross-cutting opportunity for the Platform's themes.

Also in the fall of 2018, the CAADP DPCG, together with the AUC and NEPAD, formed the CAADP working group to organize regular coordination meetings with the aim of jointly prioritizing and coordinating policies to support and accelerate the CAADP agenda.

Further information:

[» Home](#) [» Topics](#) [» CAADP](#)

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October 2018

[» Opportunities for the Rural Youth agenda](#)

September 2018

[» Lead, Measure, Grow: The Africa Green Revolution Forum \(AGRF\) 2018](#)

January 2018

[» AU Summit: 1st Biennial Review on the Status of Agriculture in Africa triggers unique momentum](#)



COMMUNICATIONS AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

The past year saw further strengthening of the Platform's communication activities. Platform members intensively used the communication products and tools provided by the Secretariat in 2018. Knowledge, information, and news relevant to the Platform's themes and members' positions have been shared with increasing outreach through the Platform's communications channels, especially e-mails, web articles, twitter, meetings, conferences calls, and the eUpdate-Newsletter.

PLATFORM WEBSITE – CENTRAL COMMUNICATION TOOL FOR THE PLATFORM'S THEMES

The Platform website was a central tool for communications in 2018. After a thorough redesign and relaunch in January 2017, the website has a more modern and sleek design that streamlines information and supports an intuitive navigation. In 2018, 35 new web articles were published, while a further six articles were prepared with a thematic reference to 2018. With 17,076 visits, the Platform website enjoyed growing popularity (+ 25% compared to 2017) and managed to hit its target audiences.

The Platform also hosts a global donor database of land governance projects. The database provides information on the location, duration, and scope of projects funded and implemented by members of the group.

eUPDATE – REVIVAL OF THE PLATFORM'S MOST POPULAR FORMAT FOR NEWS DISSEMINATION

The eUpdate, the Platform's electronic newsletter, played an important role in cross-communicating institutional news on the Global Donor Platform. It provides direct links to the Platform website to best capitalise the latter and direct more traffic to it. Six eUpdates have been sent to 493 regular subscribers, but the actual outreach by forwarding the newsletters is significantly higher. In the fall of 2018, the eUpdate became a monthly release with a revised content structure that focused on reader friendliness and increasing further dissemination.

FACE-TO-FACE IS KEY: EVENTS, SIDE-EVENTS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER EXCHANGE FORMATS

In a feedback survey, members rated in-person events as the most effective and most appreciated way to exchange knowledge and network. In 2018, the Platform was also active in organizing meetings and exchange formats: six donor meetings were organized in the year under review, including the Annual General Assembly in Berlin. Seven side events were held at international conferences, such as the WB Land Conference, the Global Land Forum, UNGA, and CFS45. Four webinars were held, a compendium on donors' engagement with rural youth and a study on strengthening the impact of agriculture and agriculture trade assistance and options for aligning policies and programs were commissioned.

SOCIAL MEDIA WITH A FOCUS ON WHAT WORKS

With regard to social media, the Platform focused its activities on selected formats, enjoying good basic social media presence with its Twitter. The Secretariat has been using Twitter regularly, especially when attending conferences or workshops. With 283 new followers, the number of Twitter followers and subscribers has increased to 3,572 (+ 9% compared to 2017). The Platform's LinkedIn account has also continued to be utilized, as has its YouTube channel. Activities regarding the latter, such as uploading webinars and video interviews, have been reduced due to it being less popular with our target audiences, resulting in fewer resources devoted to this communication tool for much of 2018.

DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY AND EFFECTIVE USE OF COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS AND TOOLS

In the Summer of 2018, Marchmont Communications, a UK based communications consultancy, was commissioned to analyse the current communication work of the Platform. The comprehensive communications assessment (consisting of member interviews, a communications audit, and a member survey) has shown that the tools in place perform well for the vast majority. In the survey, the Platform was most positively ranked for knowledge sharing, followed by networking and advocacy. Ninety percent of respondents viewed the overall effectiveness of the Platform (including communications) as positive/fairly positive. Following-up on the recommendations resulting from the assessment and on the reflections by the membership, the existing communications strategy was updated in order to respond to the needs and demands of the membership in an effective and innovative manner. The strategy is a living document subject to regular monitoring

and continuous verification based on the idea of »proof of concept«.

The new communication strategy clarifies target audiences and communication objectives, and it defines the tools that are best suited to meet the communication objectives in a user friendly, efficient, and effective manner. It envisages a stronger role for the tools that have proven to be successful, particularly the website and the eUpdate, and introduces new formats that add to servicing the information and communication needs of the Platform members, e.g., an interactive event calendar and members' toolbox. Key characteristics of the revised Platform communications strategy are better reader-friendliness through a more journalistic style and higher relevance by broadening the scope of news themes and frequency, e.g., regular website updates and monthly releases of the eUpdate.

The Secretariat started implementing some elements of the communication strategy in late 2018, before approval of the entire set of measures at the Board Meeting in January 2019.

Further information:

LATEST

An overview of the latest stories reporting on specific topics and agriculture and rural development relevant news. One can also find the latest members updates here.

[» Home](#) [» Media](#) [» Latest](#)

PUBLICATIONS

A list with the latest agriculture and rural development related publications, including reports and studies commissioned by our members and by the Platform.

[» Home](#) [» Media](#) [» Publications](#)

WEBINARS

The webinars explore operational examples and experiences of project implementation. Participants and presenters exchange about initiatives on the ground and discuss topic specific agriculture and rural development issues.

[» Home](#) [» Webinars](#)

eUPDATE (NEWSLETTER)

The eUpdate is the Global Donor Platform's regular newsletter. It brings you the latest in the Platform's Thematic Working Groups, ranging from the Agenda 2030, Climate Change and Inclusive Agribusiness & Trade, over to Land Governance and up to Gender and Rural Youth. It provides you with interesting insights into current donor strategies and activities.

[» Home](#) [» Newsletter](#)

LOOKING AHEAD

The Platform was formed in 2003 through the collective action of a group of donors who agreed that agriculture in developing countries was neglected. The founding was based on the evidence that investing in agriculture is the most effective way to reduce poverty. An independent External Evaluation of the Platform in 2015, twelve years later, concluded that the Platform is ›relevant‹, operates ›efficiently‹, is ›effective‹ and, notwithstanding the fragile nature of its funding, is ›sustainable‹. Operating under the Strategic Plan 2016–2020, the Platform stays on course.

The launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development shapes Development Assistance for another 12 years from now. The aim to end all poverty and achieve ›zero hunger‹ by 2030 continues, and the fact that 70% of the poor and food insecure in agriculture-based low-income countries live in rural areas makes the SDG challenge central to the mission of the Platform. This alone, however, may not be sufficient in a rapidly changing world. The Platform has started to explore a new narrative, going beyond agriculture and including new elements, e.g. youth. The aspect of social responsibility is likewise gaining importance. There is a need to look at how poor people are reinventing their way of living by going back to agriculture. Noticing those interesting voices is also within the scope of the Platform. We will also have to pay more attention to food systems as a whole.

The recognition that businesses particularly in the agri-food sector are playing a growing role in the development of rural areas and, consequently, in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are leading many governments, international organisations and other groups to engage in partnerships with the private sector. However, the notion of ›doing no harm‹ in a system as complex as the agri-food sector is not so straightforward and deserves clarification.

Digitalisation is no longer only a trendy buzzword but it is shaping our everyday lives. The key questions is how can rural areas keep pace with digitalisation. The ongoing digitalisation changes dynamics as well as in the way the society functions. Digitalisation offers both opportunities and challenges, and Platform members are at the forefront of this development. Two examples: This year's Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (›Agriculture Goes Digital – Smart Solutions for Future Farming‹), in which a number of Platform members participated, attended by many members, demonstrated that digital technologies could help feed the growing world population more effectively while better conserving the planet's resources. This year's African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) puts its conference under the topic of digitization. The organisers are confident: Given the unprecedented growth and adoption of digital technologies, Africa has an opportunity to leapfrog the agricultural transformation trajectory of the past and revolutionise life by overcoming isolation, speeding up change, creating jobs of the future and taking success to scale.

In 2019, we expect to hear more from Ceres2030 and the 50x2030 Initiative. Many Platform members and partners are involved in these important initiatives. We expect to be able to report on further member initiatives next year. For example, in January 2019, the European Commission and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation launched a joint initiative to drive research and technical innovations across agricultural and food systems in developing countries. The focus of the research initiative will be set on smallholder farmers. It aims at generating knowledge and creating the evidence needed to build policies and interventions that support farmers in adapting their practices to climate change impacts.



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND COSTS REGARDING GDPRD ACTIVITIES IN 2018

As is defined in the Platform Strategic Plan 2016–2020, the activities of the Platform, including Secretariat operations, are financed through member contributions in the form of core- and supplemental funding. A minimum annual contribution of € 50.000 ensures a seat on the Platform Board.

While core funding finances the overall implementation of the Platform's yearly work plan, supplemental funding may be provided towards ear-marked activities of a specific work stream.

Contributions are formalized by concluding a contribution agreement between the respective member organization and the organization of the Platform Secretariat. The BMZ has been the hosting organization of the Platform Secretariat since 2003. Since then, GIZ has been commissioned to manage the Secretariat, including funds management, for several project cycles. The current BMZ hosting arrangement extended to GIZ is valid until December 31st, 2019.

The 2018 Platform work plan and indicative budget were adopted at the virtual Board meeting in January 2018. As the initial budget ceiling is based on signed- and forecast contributions as well as on any roll-over budget, the budget may be adjusted in the course of a year to reflect the development of contributions and/or activities.

CONTRIBUTIONS 2018

Twelve members have signed a contribution agreement for member year 2018 while the conclusion of one 2018 agreement yet extends into 2019:

African Development Bank: €50.000 // Australia-Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: €50.000 // The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, who newly joined the Platform Board in 2018: €50.000 // Department for International Development-DFID: €56.572 // European Commission: €750.000 // Finland-Ministry of Foreign Affairs: €50.000 // France-Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs: €50.000 // German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development-BMZ: €318.254 // International Fund for Agricultural Development-IFAD: (tbd., conclusion of 2018

agreement lapping over into 2019) // Italian Agency for Development Cooperation-IADC: €50.000 // Netherlands-Ministry of Foreign Affairs: €50.000 // Swiss Development Cooperation-SDC: €50.000 // United States Agency for International Development-USAID: €52.636.

Multi-annual agreements are generally encouraged as opposed to single-year agreements since they enhance the outlook on Platform budget planning while minimizing administrative procedures. At the end of 2018, nine Platform members have such a multi-annual agreement: AfDB: 2016–2018 // Australia-DFAT: 2018–2020 // DFID: 2014–2018 // European Commission: 2018–2019 // Finland-MFA: 2018–2019 // BMZ: 2016–2019 // Netherlands-MFA: 2016–2018 // SDC: 2017–2020 // USAID: 2019–2022. Note: agreements with a duration beyond 2019 become valid for 2020 and beyond only with a corresponding BMZ-commission.

Funds received from member contributions in GIZ bank account in 2018 totalled € 1.577.462 (rd.). Received funds do not necessarily match incurred costs of the same financial year as contributions may arrive with delay at times and/or be rendered in advance.

ACTIVITIES FINANCED IN 2018

Member contributions ensured the financing of a number of measures implemented in 2018, which have been elaborated on throughout this annual report.

Besides financing the overall Secretariat operations and management related items, member contributions financed general- and thematic activities within the scope of the yearly work plan. This includes: the GDPRD Annual General Assembly held in Berlin with the focus on the topic of Youth: ›Young and ready to move – empowering the new generation in the rural space‹, Secretariat support of the facilitation of the SDG2 Road Map Initiative, the publication of a Compendium on Donor Engagement with Rural Youth, the maintenance and further development of the GDPRD website, the development of a new Communication Strategy, the publication of a paper on policy coherence

between agriculture and Aid for Trade, the Platform presence/facilitation at a number of international events including organizing a donor roundtable on women's economic empowerment at the sidelines of the CSW in New York, amongst others.

Costs incurred in 2018 totalled € 1.165.930,05 (audited figure, please refer to the following table for details). Board members will be provided with the yearly external audit report and financial statement in May/June 2019.

COSTS AND ENDORSED ACTIVITIES 2018

ACTIVITY RELATED BUDGET ITEMS	Euro
Website, special event website, web-host, IT support	26.212,78
Annual General Assembly (Berlin)	85.149,18
Events	224,88
Consultants	37.062,27
Publications	2.400,00
Non-staff travels (except AGA)	0,00
Staff travels	39.019,42
Activities of the Inclusive Agribusiness work group	16.904,58
Activities of the Global Donor Working Group on Land	11.499,03
Miscellaneous items	1.157,88
Sub-total, Activity related budget items (I)	219.630,02
ACTIVITIES RELATED TO STAFF- AND MANAGEMENT COSTS	Euro
Staff cost*	717.470,08
Office rent and communication infrastructure, office materials, courier	59.699,72
General admin- and Management	21.748,43
Independent external audit	13.248,25
Sub-total, Staff- and management related budget items (II)	812.166,48
Total costs and outputs (I+II)	1.031.796,50
GIZ Indirect Support Costs (ISC)	134.133,55
Total costs 2018	1.165.930,05

* Note: For data protection purposes, individual staff costs are summarized in one line and sum total.





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