



**7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the  
Global Donor Platform for Rural Development**

Bonn, 21 July 2006

**Minutes**

**Participants:**

Mushtaq Ahmed (CIDA), Jim Harvey (DFID), Christoph Kohlmeyer (BMZ), Nwanze Okidegbe (World Bank), Michael Wales (FAO), Sonja Bartelt (Platform Secretariat),

**Visitors:**

Antti Seelaff – WDR liaison; Sebastian Homm - BMZ intern (Bonn)

**Agenda:**

**1. Update on Platform activities**

- Platform publications: JDRC, 10 hot topics, Platform interview series, SWAp study fase II
- Applications RD advisor
- Activities pilot countries
- Miscellaneous: External peer review of Platform products

**2. Follow-up Paris**

- IFAD –led study: Rural Focus of PRSPs
- EC/FAO facility: Advocacy: EU Berlin Forum 2007; Mobile stand in design; Shared learning: study on indicators and M&E; Berlin policy workshop Sept 06
- Special Focus on WDR 2008:
- USAID contribution;
- NEPAD/CAADP collaboration
- Miscellaneous: Platform self-assessment; Magazine “Agriculture & Development”

**Topic 1: Update on Platform activities**

**The Secretariat informs SC:**

**Platform publications:**

**JDRC, 10 hot topics:** Cate Hill has finished and submitted the JDRC and the revised 10 hot topics to the Secretariat. The paper went through the Secretariat peer review.

**Platform interview series:** Tim Nater conducted further Platform interview series with Willi Graf, Philip Mikos and Jim Harvey. Together with short news articles on the WDR and CADP, they will be published on-line.

**External Facilitation note:** The Secretariat has updated the external facilitation note and the document has gone through peer review process, including our international facilitators, Klaus and Richard.

All four papers are now sent to the Focal Points for final approval. Due to the summer holidays the time for final comments is prolonged from ten days to one month, with the last deadline by August 21.

**SWAp study fase II**

SB informs that after the initial contact to the lead donors in the research countries there has been positive responses to go ahead with the studies, apart from Vietnam who has not responded yet. Nicaragua as well as Tanzania have visitors freeze until September, which will delay the proceeding of



the study. MW informs that Alison Evans will remain responsible for conducting the research, although she changes her position from IDS to ODI.

- **Applications RD advisor:**

The announcement of the vacancy has been sent to all Platform FPs, is posted on the website and has been published over the livelihoods connect site of ODI. So far, there has not been an application yet, however the deadline is until the end of the month.

- **Activities in the pilot countries**

Klaus Talvela and Richard Anson just finished their missions to Nicaragua and Cambodia respectively.

In Cambodia, Klaus has developed together with the partners and local donors a Road Map for the further formulation of the PBA. Cambodia has sent their official request for support to the Platform and is now searching for a national facilitator.

In Tanzania, rural strategies and PBAs are now well formulated, and a multi-donor programme is approved, posing new opportunities for Platform assistance to in-country harmonization processes. There is consensus that in the case of Tanzania the assistance should be reformulated in supporting the application of the programme. Guy Evers and Jim Harvey have agreed to travel to Tanzania in September to explore this opportunity. This visit shall be timed with the SWAP research team to avoid an overlap and use the study as entry point to explore where the Platform can support the implementation phase.

- **Miscellaneous: External review of Platform products**

There was consensus that there is the need for an independent peer review process for Platform products to complement the Secretariat peer review process. The peer reviewer shall not focus so much on the academic content, but should be able to do a good editorial and policy review. It was agreed to approach and sub-contract IDS for this task.

## **Topic 2: Follow-up Paris:**

- **IFAD –led study: Rural Focus of PRSPs**

SB informs that as of today, the Secretariat had not received a final proposal for the study as officially requested by a letter going out to IFAD on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June, asking for a coherent proposal with concrete indicators on harmonizing the study's conceptual approach.

MW informs that as of this morning, the proposal was submitted by IFAD. All SC members expressed their concern about the last minute submission by IFAD.

There was concern that by the time study is online and approved, the focus and relevance of the study have passed and will make it irrelevant. However, to fully understand the development in our pilot countries, this objection was dropped. CKo has noted that the bad management of the study has led to irritations on higher levels within the BMZ.

Next Steps: After further discussion and taking note of the above points, the consensus is that the Platform will endorse the further procedure of the study by IFAD and agree to finance the study via the EC/FAO Facility with \$123.000. The further endorsement of the study will only be approved with the condition that IFAD will be held responsible for the management and the implementation of the study. CKo has agreed to discreetly contact IFAD to explore the possibility of a quiet change of management. NO and JH have agreed to review the proposal and if necessary make suggestions to ensure that the research question is still relevant and forward looking.

- **EC/FAO facility:**

**Advocacy:** For the **EC Berlin Forum** on Rural development, Gareth Williams has been identified as Coordinator for the event; position should be supported through the FAO Facility.



**Mobile stand design:** The mobile conferences stand as proposed by MW is in design, complete cost might be around 20.000€

**Shared learning: study on indicators and M&E:** NO will provide the ToRs for the identified study on indicators and M&E by September.

**WDR:** Derek Byerlee is still to come up with ToRs for regional consultation workshops and submit to the Platform.

- **USAID contribution:**

Susan Thompson is meeting with IFPRI this week to identify the topics where IFPRI provide policy advise to the Platform. As of MW's suggestion, these topics are compared with the WDR chapter outline and the ten hot topics to identify possible synergies and focus on these topics to no duplicate efforts and provide sth substantial for the Platform and the WDR. Susan Thompson will inform us with her meeting with IFPRI for the identified topics.

- **Special Focus on WDR 2008:**

SB informs that the Platform has continued the contact to the WDR team. Antti Seelaff is the liaison person and is organizing a telephone conference to specify the input by the Platform. As agreed in Paris, these include:

1. Coordinating (where necessary) the member Organisation contributions of best practices, i.e. evaluation-based examples of successful donor interventions in A&RD,
2. Contributing thematic input on new aid modalities,
3. Organising regional consultation workshops,
4. Following up the aid effectiveness work with deeper analysis and small workshops
5. Elaborating a dissemination strategy for WDR messages, and its use as a teaching tool.

There is agreement that the SWAp study can contribute a lot of first-hand knowledge raised on new aid modalities, which can contribute into the report.

Next steps: AS and Secretariat will keep us informed about further activities.

- **NEPAD/CAADP collaboration:**

SB informs about the last conversation with Andrew Kidd, exploring the possibilities for developing a framework for better donor cooperation to support and interact with CAADP. AK has agreed that part of the CAADP funding theme will be used as DFID membership to the Platform. The Platform Secretariat can provide input on behalf of the donor group into the CAADP partner Forums, taking the views of the Platform members and feed them into the process, while also conveying the link for the donors to CAADP. The Platform Secretariat would need to identify/hire a representative to fulfil this task. Similarly, the Platform's African pilot countries, Burkina Faso and Tanzania can play an important role in feeding into the CAADP process.

Next steps: Submit by last week August a two-page concept to DFID with the link of the wider donor group and CAADP with an indicative budget for three years to organize part of the CAADP budget line as Platform contribution in order to support the coordination efforts towards CAADP. The CAADP partner Forum meeting will start by September/October and it is advisable that the Platform has a presence and function to fulfil at this meeting. If by then no person has been hired to fulfil this role, the Platform should delegate responsibility to one SC member or Secretariat. SC should forward ideas for more concrete proposal to Platform Secretariat by August 21.

**Miscellaneous:**

- If there are other suggestions for activities to be financed by the FAO Facility, SC members and FPs should come forward with a proposal.
- For the end of this year and latest the beginning of next year, the Platform must engage in complementary work on Platform evaluation and self-assessment, in order to monitor the performance of the Platform. NO has suggested to include a first proposal for a self-assessment in the concept note of the study on indicators and

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M&E. CKo added that he will be part of the OECD/DAC workshop in September on Developing Principles and Standards for the Evaluation of Global and Regional Partnership Programs. CKo will inform SC about the transfer of knowledge for the M&E process of the Platform from this workshop.

- CKo informs SC that the last international development magazine “agriculture & Rural Development” has budgetary problems. He suggests to find ways to support the magazine. He will send a short proposal to SC after the summer break to illustrate the situation.

**Upcoming meetings:**

**September 5-6: GTZ Eschborn Dialogue: “Knowledge is development”.**

Possible Platform meeting on September 7 in Eschborn. Contact: Sonja Bartelt

**September 4-6:** International Policy Workshop on the World Development Report, Berlin. Organized by InWent/BMZ.

Contact: Christoph Kohlmeyer, Sonja Bartelt

**September 29/30:** UNCD/ GTZ Food Security committee meeting

**October 17-18: World Food Day “Investing in Agriculture for Food Security”.**

Possible side-event or SC/Platform meeting. Topic tbc.

Contact: Michael Wales.

**November 6-9:** Rural Week, Worldbank Washington DC; November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>: A&RD.

**To dos/follow-ups:**

✿ Final approval of Platform publications	FPs by August 21
✿ Approach IDS for external peer review	Secretariat
✿ ToRs for use of EC/FAO facility Fund	Nwanze Okidgbe, Derek Byerlee/Michael Wales
✿ Fix dates for Jim Harvey/Guy Evers visit to Tanzania to explore roles for Platform assistance	Jim Harvey /Guy Evers /Secretariat/IDS
✿ Inform IFAD about Platform endorsement	Secretariat/MW
✿ Contact IFAD to discuss further management of study	CKo
✿ Review proposal to ensure relevance of research question	JH/NO
✿ NEPAD/CAADP: submit two page concept to DFID specifying donor cooperation in CAADP process	DFID/Secretariat
✿ Submit proposals to Secretariat for specifying this role	All SC
✿ Come forward with proposals for funding by EC/FAO Facility	All
✿ Include indicators for Platform Self-assessment in M&E study	NO
✿ Proposal to rescue A&RD magazine	CKo to SC
✿ Continue dialogue with Kevin Cleaver/Worldbank to coordinate in-country facilitation workshop in DC in November	Secretariat
<b>!!!Next SC meeting via VC last week August, 3 -6 pm Bonn time (to be confirmed) !!!</b>	