



8th Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

Bonn, 07 September 2006

Minutes

Participants:

Mushtaq Ahmed (CIDA), Laura Garagnani (EC), Jim Harvey (DFID), Nwanze Okidegbe (World Bank), Michael Wales (FAO), Sonja Bartelt (Platform Secretariat),

Visitors:

Andrew Kidd (DFID), Marc Debois (EC), Sebastian Homm - BMZ intern (Bonn)

Agenda:

1. Intensifying collaboration with regional entities: NEPAD and RUTA;
2. Platform representation at CAADP PP on September 28/29;
3. Update on in-country activities, special focus on continuing our work in Tanzania and Burkina Faso and challenges in Cambodia;
4. Update on WDR collaboration; follow-up on activities to EC Berlin Forum 07, Platform studies and other activities;
5. Upcoming meetings and events, special focus on Platform representation/SC meeting at Rural Week in DC, November

Topic 1: Intensifying collaboration with regional entities: NEPAD and RUTA

The SC discussed the concept note send out by the Secretariat; the note was preliminary outlining the possibilities on how the Platform might engage in and support the NEPAD/CAADP process. It outlines that the GDPRD and its members aim to strengthen their collaboration with regional entities in order to vertically link the knowledge and coordination management at global level with the regional and the national level. This will help to avoid the duplication of activities and support regional efforts in the eradication of rural poverty, ensure food security and will maximize ODA effectiveness. In particular, the GDPRD aims to support NEPAD in its CAADP implementation. The GDPRD aims to strengthen the connection to the CAADP Partner Platform, which is to be the interface between donors engaged in African Agriculture and NEPAD / Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on agricultural issues.

The SC endorses the intensified collaboration and welcomes DFID's offer to financially support this process as their membership contribution over the next three years. However, since it is a complex Agenda, it was agreed to keep the following points in mind to fine-tune the concept note and add value to the CAADP process:

- the role of the GDPRD will primarily be to make the link between the Country Round Tables and function as a mediator and facilitator to support mutual learning and strengthen the links between the countries;
- the local donor representatives in the countries are in the lead for implementing the CAADP Roundtables – the GDPRD shall only play a minor role in representing a harmonized donor approach unless otherwise specified and much more focus on being an “active communication tool” between the countries.



DFID's contribution only covers 50% of the coordinating role. It was agreed that at the upcoming CAADP PP in September, opportunities for other donor agencies to support such a facilitating role shall be explored. Similarly, it shall facilitate to narrow the goals of the engagement and specify the role of the coordination. The Platform Secretariat together with DFID will coordinate a pre-meeting on the 27th in SA to introduce the Platform and take first steps to explore this opportunity.

Topic 2: Platform representation at CAADP PP on September 28/29

In the line of increasing collaboration with NEPAD and local donor representatives engaged in the implementation of the CAADP process, it was agreed that a representative of the GDPRD will be present at the CAADP PP. Micheal Wales (FAO) indicated his possible attendance, Andrew Kidd (DFID) will attend in his function as Head of the Africa Growth team DFID and Sonja Bartelt (Platform Secretariat) will attend the CAADP PP meeting in Midrand, South Africa. It was decided to have a preceding side event at the 27th to align strategies with local donor organisations (see above).

Topic 3: Update on in-country activities

Nicaragua:

Apart from the ongoing H&A processes in Nicaragua, the Platform supports a cross-country workshop to exchange lessons learned between Nicaragua and Honduras, who are endorsing an agricultural SWAp. In collaboration with RUTA under cost-sharing theme and under the guidance of the Platform's international facilitator Richard Anson, the first visit of a honduran team joins the third joint mission of PRORUAL in Nicaragua in September.

Similarly, the Platform's international facilitator for Cambodia, Klaus Talvela, has proposed a visit for the exchange of experiences with the Nicaraguan and Cambodian government. Mr. Mauricio Gomez, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nicaragua and main actor in the country's aid architecture will visit Cambodia in the end of November to talk about the experiences of his country in the harmonization processes with his Cambodian counterparts. The exchange will be financed by local donor representatives, led by the GTZ.

Cambodia:

The TWG Land together with Klaus Talvela have established a Code of Conduct for the joint implementation of the road map of the Sector Program Land and is on the verge to be signed. The recruitment processes for a national facilitator are endorsed and should be functional by the next visit of Klaus Talvela in the beginning of October to support the sector's engagement for increased H&A. Based on various informal sources, the Secretariat informed SC, that several partners in Cambodia reported difficulties in harmonising their development strategies with the local WB task-team officer. SC discussed on how to deal with such a situation when country representatives might not be cooperative – generally there was agreement that if possible and this is a proven situation, the issue should be transparently discussed and solved in a consortium, giving HQ backing to country processes. As a next step, Nwanze Okidegbe agreed to inquire within WB in more detail and get back to SC.

Tanzania:

Following the discussion and decision to explore the opportunities to support the implementation of the Mutli-Donor Trust Fund in Tanzania, Jim Harvey informed SC that he might not be able to join the mission, if the timing of the visit will fall into October. A possible second person next to Guy Evers could be Brian Baldwin (IFAD) or Odd Arnesen as representative of a bilateral agency. The Secretariat will follow-up the team composition for the visit once the research team of the SWAp study have published their dates to visit Tanzania.

Burkina Faso:

The representation of the local donor group changed from Germany to Denmark, the new contact point is Antony van de Loo. He informed the Secretariat that the local donor group is still positive for the



support of the GDPRD. However, they will receive a training from Train4Dev in sector-wide approaches and would prefer to continue the collaboration with the Platform once having a clearer picture what to ask for after the capacity development is completed in January 2007.

Miscellaneous:

SC asked the Secretariat to provide a status report on keeping everyone informed on the progress of activities. In the light of the increasing scope of activities, it was agreed to establish a Matrix, giving a comprehensive overview of timelines, activities and progress.

Miriam Heidtmann will be back from maternal leave in October, which will support the Secretariat in this activity and especially for the pilot country activities.

Topic 4: Update on WDR collaboration; follow-up on activities to EC Berlin Forum 07, Platform studies and other activities

WDR: The International policy meeting to the WDR in Berlin on 4-6 September, which was attended by Antti Seelaff and Christoph Kohlmeyer, was perceived as very constructive; an info mail will be circulated within the next week. The Platform's input will be the collection of best practice reports, as well as policy briefs prepared by IFPRI as USAID's in-kind membership contribution to the Platform. The topics will be: i. The future of smallholder farms, ii. The rural/urban interface and iii. Aid modalities.

EC Berlin Forum 07: Gareth Williams and the agency "Policy Practice" have been contracted to establish the concept note for the "Second European Forum on Sustainable development", to be held in Berlin 2007. It was agreed to establish a consultation paper for the EU Heads of Rural Development meeting in order to define scope and thematic focus of the Forum. The financing of the Forum will mainly come from the GDPRD Facility.

Rural Focus of PRSP: The research team under the lead of IFAD had a kick-off meeting in Rome on September 2 and 3 in order to harmonize the country research teams. The team decided to support the analysis with "e-Val", an electronic evaluation tool developed by the GTZ. As the use in all countries will cost additional €70,000, IFAD will send a separate short proposal to the SC to be financed by the GDPRD account for fast disbursement.

Global SWAp study: The country teams will start work about one month later as planned. There is a delay in Vietnam, as the local donor group gave a negative response to support the study at country level. Mike Wales informed that they are in talks with the donor group and will keep SC informed.

Follow-up editorial review of Platform publications: The Secretariat has contacted the UK-based service provider Scriptoria to review Platform publications. While Scriptoria has substantial expertise in the field of development work, there is no reference to their work, keeping the peer-review mechanism of Platform FPs still to be developed.

Miscellaneous:

Laura Garagnani informs SC that the EC country delegations have vetoed the support of the PRSP study in Mozambique and Burkina Faso. While this mainly constitutes an internal EC problem, it will affect the smooth implementation of the study at country level and might even hinder the research. While this shows the problems of HQ initiatives to the implementation at country level, it also calls for a stronger coordinating role of the Platform and illustrates areas for lessons learned in the overall spirit to harmonize inter- and intra-agency activities. It remains unclear whether this will hinder the financial support of the study as the EC might not release the funds to the GDPRD Facility.



- Nwanze Okidegbe reaffirms the need for independent evaluation of the Platform by the end of 2006/ beginning 2007, especially considering that the World Bank Tranche I and II have been released and need to be audited.
- Jim Harvey strengthened the idea to circulate and exchange plans on policy work and projects to keep everyone within the donor community informed of activities. These shall be posted on the Website as well.
- Willi Graf, SDC, announced that after a further consultation phase on the JDRC, the SDC plans to adopt the concept paper as the agency's rural development strategy paper. The information was welcomed by the SC as a great achievement in the efforts to harmonize policies on a global level.
- **Personell changes:**
Due to new structures at the EC, Laura Garagnani will cease to be the Focal Point for the GDPRD. Marc Debois, Head of Sector for Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development will act as the new Focal Point within the EC. The SC members valued the constructive input Laura gave to the Platform and welcomed Marc Debois as new actor on board.

Topic 5: Upcoming meetings and events, special focus on Platform representation/SC meeting at Rural Week in DC, 4-6 November, Others

Rural Week World Bank, November 2006:

Nwanze Okidegbe informs SC that this year due to the changes in personell within the Bank and the restructuring process, the Rural Week will only take place as an internal meeting. However, there will still be the opportunity for a session of the GDPRD, with different options to pursue: i) launch the work on indicators, ii) use it as SC and wider GDPRD meeting, ensuring to invite a broader audience of FPs who might be attending the Week in DC and iii) collaborate in the donor consultation workshop of the WDR similarly planned for the Rural Week. Nwanze will come back with more detailed timing.

World Food Day, October 16th and Committee of Food Security, October 30-31:

Mike informed SC that for both days side-events can be organized for representing the Platform. For the WFD, the Platform will be present with a mobile stand.