



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

Platform Update

No. 4 // January 2010

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Contact

T: +49 228 24934 165
F: +49 228 24934 215
E: secretariat@donorplatform.org
I: donorplatform.org

Tackling rural poverty, together

2009 in brief

Linking agriculture and climate change

COP15, Copenhagen. Getting agriculture into the negotiations at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC was a major focus for the Platform in 2009.

Despite Copenhagen's shortcomings, several important inroads for agriculture and rural development were forged

- Recognition that the agriculture sector needs to be reflected in an eventual climate change agreement
- Activation of a REDD Plus mechanism that recognises marginal farmers as managers of forested landscapes
- Pledges of \$21 billion to a Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases by 21 countries

ARD Day, Copenhagen. The Platform sought to raise the profile of agriculture at the climate change negotiations in Copenhagen via this parallel event, co-organised with CGIAR, IFAP and others.

Participants at ARD Day formulated a set of messages for climate change negotiators

- A climate change deal needs to recognise the adaptation and mitigation potential of agriculture
- Parties should establish a work programme on agriculture under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)

These messages were fed into an official COP15 side event, co-hosted by agriculture and forestry stakeholders.

See donorplatform.org/ARDD, agricultureday.org

Advancing agriculture in a Copenhagen agreed outcome and beyond, Brussels.

A roadmap for Platform engagement leading up to Copenhagen was established at this EC-hosted event in June.

Participants agreed that influencing the UNFCCC negotiations would require

- Consistent messaging
- Thorough tracking of the evolving UNFCCC negotiating text
- Engagement at key events



A deal without agriculture is no deal for Africa," – L. Sibanda of FANRPAN in Brussels.

Platform Issue Papers. A Platform Working Group on Climate Change published eight Issue Papers leading up to Copenhagen.

Besides tracking the evolution of pertinent passages in the UNFCCC negotiating texts, the papers advocate the potential contribution of agriculture to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and the double dividend to be gained by channelling climate change finances into agriculture and rural development.

See donorplatform.org/agriculture-climatechange

Advocating ARD on global agendas

G8 Summit, L'Aquila. The Summit produced a Joint Statement on Global Food Security. The Statement – to which the Platform is listed as a signatory alongside over 30 governments and international organisations – demands urgent and decisive action to combat food insecurity, increasing poverty, and climate change in developing countries. Donors responded with over \$20 billion in new aid commitments to agriculture and rural development.

G20 Summit, Pittsburgh. The Summit called upon the World Bank to draw up a framework document for a Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP).

The draft document requests the Platform to organise annual workshops on behalf of a GAFSP Donor Committee to communicate the programme's results to a broader constituency.

Strengthening donor coordination around CAADP

Donors and Partners meeting, Addis Ababa. Setting a new precedent by gathering donors and CAADP institutions for the first time under a single roof, the meeting paved the way for the Guidelines for Donor Support to CAADP Process at a Country-Level.

Endorsed by representatives of 18 African countries, Regional Economic Communities, CAADP Pillar Institutions, the African Union Commission/New Partnership for Africa's Development and several development partners, the Guidelines are expected to have far-reaching positive impacts on the way donors respond to the imperatives of agriculture in Africa.

4th and 5th Partnership Platform meetings, Pretoria/Abuja. Two such meeting were held in 2009, enabling development partners to undertake deeper discussions with AU institutions entrusted with CAADP oversight.

Whilst the 4th Partnership Platform firmly laid the ground for more robust and coordinated engagement of country-level development partners with the CAADP agenda, the 5th Partnership Platform saw an official commitment of development partners to utilise the Guidelines for Donor Support to CAADP Process at a Country-Level, and to institute a CAADP Mutual Accountability Framework. A Partnership Platform Standing Committee was also established. Composed of African stakeholders and Platform members, the Committee will oversee the organi-

sation of future Partnership Platform meetings.

CAADP Day, Tripoli. Co-organised by the Platform on the eve of the 13th African Union Summit, which deliberated on 'Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security', the meeting reaffirmed the commitments of key CAADP stakeholders in Africa and the international development community.

See donorplatform.org/CAADP

Linking with partner communities

Agribusiness Forum 2009, Cape Town. 'Empowering the private sector to boost productivity and growth' was the topic of this meeting, where the EC, FAO and IFAD represented the Platform.

The meeting focused on the creation of partnerships throughout the entire value chain, the need to continue to enact supportive agricultural policies and recognised the pivotal role of agricultural research and development and market accessibility.

CSO Outreach, Prague. As part of its outreach to CSOs, the Platform was represented at two events hosted by the Czech EU presidency in 2009.

- Effectiveness in Aid to Agriculture: Czech action to strengthen food security. AFD, EC, DFID and Platform secretariat delivered presentations at this seminar. They highlighted the importance of donor coordination, and outlined best strategies and approaches for development effectiveness

- CSO Development Effectiveness Conference. Representing the Platform at this international conference, CIDA delivered a presentation advocating for improved donor-CSO coordination in line with the Accra Agenda for Action

15th Annual Consultation Meeting of the Neuchâtel Initiative, Assisi. Hosted by FAO, the meeting took steps to design and initiate a Global Platform for Rural Advisory Services (GPRAS).

The draft concept note identifies the Platform as a possible link between the new body and the donor community. GPRAS is due to be launched at the GCARD 2010 in Montpellier.

EIARD-Platform joint workshop, Eschborn.

The Platform continued to strengthen linkages with the research community through a joint workshop with the European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development (EIARD).

Workshop participants underscored the importance of

- Greater investment in agricultural education and extension
- Strengthening demand-driven research that serves the needs of smallholders and representative farmers' organisations, and is accountable to them
- The Platform and EIARD agreed to join forces towards interacting with and contributing to the GCARD 2010

See donorplatform.org/newsevents

Development Partners CAADP Task Team

Composed of 17 Platform members, the Task Team operates informally. Consensus and mutual respect form the basis for agreed actions in support of CAADP.

On average, every two weeks the CAADP Task Leader organises telephone conferences to interact on issues of donor support to CAADP. Whenever feasible, side meetings are organised close to major agricultural conferences and workshops. Such meetings typically focus on

- Operationalising of the CAADP Multi-Donor Trust Fund
- Organising of CAADP Partnership Platform

meetings, institutional strengthening of core CAADP institutions in Africa

- CAADP links with global/continental agricultural and aid effectiveness initiatives,
- Information exchange on current and upcoming events of significance for CAADP

Task Team accomplishments

- Advocacy support for political buy-in of CAADP at global level
- Enhanced drive towards enabling Platform members provide greater support to key CAADP actors such as farmers' organisations

- Established communication lines between CAADP and global initiatives and networks on African agriculture
- Provided planning and organisational support to CAADP Partnership Platform meetings
- Supported conceptualisation and development of regional CAADP compacts
- Directly engaging with country-level agricultural donor working groups on the role of development partners in the CAADP process
- Provided political, organisational and technical support to CAADP-generated investment appraisal processes at country level

Member-driven, results oriented

About us

Expanding membership

New members, stronger connections, more knowledge to share. Platform membership expanded to reach a total of 33 internationally respected organisations by end of 2009.

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA-Sp), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Food Programme (WFP) joined as associate members, while the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) became a full member.

A new partnership was launched with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). Dialogue towards formalising partnership with the European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development (EIARD) has also begun.

These developments enrich the scope of knowledge and diversity of perspective to be shared and built upon within our network. We look forward to receiving several of our associates as full members in 2010.

Note from the Chair

Dear Colleagues and Friends

Reflecting on our achievements in 2009, it is clear that the Platform has emerged as a respected actor in the agriculture and rural development arena – and will continue to gain momentum in 2010.

Over the course of the past twelve months the Platform has actively pursued its dual pillars of evidence-based advocacy and knowledge sharing. Engaging in dialogues covering a wide thematic range and diverse policy spheres, it has created valuable space for donors to discuss and influence leading debates affecting global governance and aid architecture.

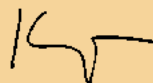
From its efforts to contribute to the UNFCCC negotiations in Copenhagen, and inputs into the High Level Meeting on Food Security for All in Madrid, to its support of the work of the High Level Task Force on Food Security; from facilitating exchanges between members on the margins of the FAO World Summit on Food Security, and inputs into G8 food security commitments in LAquila – In all these activities, the Platform has demonstrated agility and competence in its capacity to convene development partners around common objectives, helping them reinforce their work by acting in tandem.

The Platform has continued to support donor harmonisation and alignment at various levels. In addition to its ongoing facilitation of donor coordination around CAADP, last year we saw the endorsement of the Joint Donor Principles for Agriculture and Rural Development Programmes and the Guidelines for Donor Support to CAADP Process at a Country-Level. Adding to a growing list of Platform products capturing and building upon latest knowledge, these documents are already impacting the way donors act at headquarter level and in the field.

Finally, operating on the basis of a results-based management and reporting system, the Platform has transacted in a manner that is increasingly open and transparent to its members, while remaining flexible enough to respond quickly to emerging issues. The eight Issue Papers, released at crucial junctures in the UNFCCC negotiating process, provide a prime example of this core maneuverability.

As I conclude my term as Platform Chair, amid renewed global emphasis on agriculture in development paradigms, I am inspired by my Platform experience. With its proven ability to convene donors and partners towards tackling major global challenges, I am confident that the Platform provides a vital tool through which we can accomplish our common objectives.

Sincerely yours,



Christoph Kohlmeyer, Platform Chair

Secretariat staff turnover

The Secretariat underwent substantial transformation in 2009.

- CAADP Task Leader Yihene Zewdie relocated to Addis Ababa
- Christoph Langenkamp succeeded Sonja Palm as Secretariat Coordinator, and was succeeded as ARD Policy Expert by Raşit Pertev
- Marion Thompson succeeded Mark Witzel in Finance and Administration
- Shaughn McArthur succeeded Ada Hakobyan as Junior Professional Officer
- Pascal Corbé succeeded Daniel Gerecke as Communications Officer
- In January 2010, Astar Sobol succeeded Carsten Habacker as intern

Our members

Board members

Christoph Kohlmeyer, Chair
 Brian Baldwin, Co-chair
 Mushtaq Ahmed (CIDA)
 John Barrett (DFID)
 Marc Debois (EC)
 Fionna Douglas (WB)
 Benoit Faivre-Dupaigre (MFA-Fr)
 David Hegwood (USAID)
 Lasse Krantz (Sida)
 Christian Mersmann (UNCCD GM)
 Nwanze Okidegbe (WB)
 Sabine Schenk (SDC)
 Stefan Schmitz (BMZ)

Associate members

Mateo Ambrosio-Albalá (MFA-Sp)
 Alwyn Chilver (AusAID)
 Joseph Coomson (AfDB)
 Monique Calon (MFA-NI)
 Jürgen Fechter (KFW)
 Damien Fontaine (DGDC-Bel)
 Albert Engel (GTZ)
 Jacques Flies (MFA-Lux)
 Jean-Yves Grosclaude (AFD)
 Karim Hussein (OECD)
 Nancy Jesurun-Clements (IDB)
 Katsuji Matsunami (ADB)
 Lars Christian Oxe (MFA-DK)
 Waltraud Rabitsch (ADA)
 Jorge E. Rios (UNODC)
 Maria Pia Rizzo (MEF-It)
 Manfred Schnitzer (MFA-At)
 Ben Siddle (IA)
 Garry Anthony Smith (FAO)
 Fjose Sveinung (MFA-N)
 Sanna-Liisa Taivalmaa (MFA-Fi)
 Jean Sibire Zoundi (OECD)
 Focal Point to be nominated (WFP)

Secretariat Staff

Pascal Corbé – Communications
 Christoph Langenkamp – Coordinator
 Shaughn McArthur – Junior Officer
 Raşit Pertev – ARD Policy Expert
 Marion Thompson – Finance/Administration
 Yihene Zewdie – CAADP Task Leader

As of December 2009

Acting on emerging issues

Outlook 2010

Planning ahead

Platform membership Annual General Assembly, Rome. Members and partners at the Platform Annual General Assembly – hosted by IFAD and the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD on 26-27 January 2010 in Rome, will be asked to provide input on the Platform's achievements, and elaborate on advocacy and knowledge sharing priorities for the future. The feedback will be used to finalise the Platform's Work Plan 2010 in line with its Strategic Plan 2009-11. The Work Plan 2010 will be released in the first quarter of 2010.

Advocacy and outreach

3rd European Forum on Sustainable Rural Development, Segovia/Spain. The effects of the food price crisis on poverty reduction, food security and aid effectiveness will form the subject of consultation and enquiry at this major event.

Co-organised in the wake of the Spanish EU presidency by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the European Commission and the Platform, the Third Rural Forum has been scheduled with a view towards the possibility of feeding outputs into a high level meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, to be held later in the month in New York.

From Copenhagen to COP16. The sixteenth Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC will take place in Mexico City in December 2010. The conference will pick where Copenhagen left off, with a view towards finalising a binding global climate change deal. Encouraged by progress made toward getting agriculture on the negotiating table at COP15, the Platform Working Group on Climate Change is apt to continue its work up to Mexico City and beyond. Guidelines for this work will be sketched at the Platform General Assembly in Rome.

Aid effectiveness and Seoul. The Platform's Aid Effectiveness work is expected to pick up pace again in 2010, as Platform members prepare for the 4th High Level Forum in Seoul in 2011.

Knowledge sharing

Donor Support to CAADP. The Platform will continue to facilitate donor coordination around CAADP in 2010 through three principal activities

- Supporting the implementation of Guidelines for Donor Support to CAADP Process at a Country-Level
- Developing and implementing a CAADP Mutual Accountability Framework
- Providing planning and organisational assistance to the convening of CAADP Partnership Platform meetings.

GCARD 2010, Montpellier. The first of the Global Conferences on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) will be held in Montpellier 28-31 March.

GCARD aims at revitalising international agricultural research for development as an open and accountable process, driven by tangible results for poor farmers.

Knowledge management strategy. Platform members are committed to sharing information and knowledge around development practise long retained within their institutions.

As understood in the Platform's Strategic Plan, sharing know-how and experience increases development effectiveness. Knowledge sharing is central to the Platform's *raison d'être* as a network of actors seeking to add value to the work we do in agriculture and rural development. Led by World Bank Focal Point Fionna Douglas, with support from the Secretariat's Pascal Corbé, the upcoming knowledge management strategy aims to link the key elements of the members' existing knowledge management systems into one inter-institutional knowledge super-structure.

Platform website. After months of planning and technology trials, the Platform is preparing to launch a new website.

Building on our experience as an institutional network, the new website will be more consistently structured, easier to navigate, and will form the centrepiece of our knowledge management system.

Featuring a dynamic new library and the latest audio-video technology, it will enable us to bring authentic first-hand opinion and feed-

back into the public sphere, hence expanding our outreach and broadening our appeal.

Platform publications. In late 2009 the Platform signed a framework contract with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). Under the agreement, three Platform Knowledge Pieces will be carried out in 2010 and 2011

- Agriculture and policy coherence
- Volume and structure of donor finance for food security and agricultural development
- Strategic role of private sector in ARD

One or more Platform member organisation and their focal points shall be designated to oversee the work of each Knowledge Piece with support from the Platform Secretariat.

Platform Publications 2009

Harmonisation and alignment

Platform Joint Approaches

- Joint Donor Principles for Agriculture and Rural Development Programmes: Incentives for Change
- Guidelines for Donor Support to CAADP Process at a Country-Level

Aid modalities

Platform Study

- Sharpening the Rural Focus of Poverty Reduction Strategies: Context, Lessons and Way Forward

Agriculture and climate change

Platform Issue Papers

- No.1: Taking Stock after the Bonn Climate Change Talks
- No.2: Addressing the technicalities
- No.3: An ARD Roadmap to Copenhagen
- No.4: Why and How to Include Agriculture in a Post-2012 Agreement
- No.5: Agriculture in the LCA
- No.6: Agriculture in the Climate Change Negotiations
- No.7: Issues for Barcelona
- No.8: Agriculture and Copenhagen

Research linkages

Platform Discussion Papers

- No. 1: Maximising the Contribution of Agricultural Research to Rural Development
- No. 2: Strengthening the Demand Side of Agricultural Research

Co-published with EIARD

About the Platform

More and better aid to ARD

- Strategic Plan 2009-11: Achieving increased and more effective aid for agriculture and rural development
- Annual Report 2008
- Platform flyer: Tackling rural poverty, together
- Brochure: Strengthening the Impact of Aid