

Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

Outputs and Products Proposed for Initial Phase (1st Year)

Output 1. Advocacy of the needs and opportunities of the rural poor and the agriculture agenda will be raised by the members of the platform at international, regional and national levels (including contributing to policy debates, presenting the relevance of rural development and agriculture within the context of the MDGs). To do this requires some cooperation and coordination. Opportunities have included the World Food Summit, and will include POVNET, the UN Hunger Task Force, and the UN's Economic and Social Council among others.

Product 1.1 Synthetic Analytical Paper on MDGs and Agricultural Development

This document would be a well substantiated analytical piece that is short and easy to read. It presents the case for the role that agriculture needs to play in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

==> Explore the possibility that the work that the World Bank is already planning to undertake in this area may be transformed into a Platform initiative; i.e. one that is reviewed, agreed upon and adopted by Platform members collectively as opposed to a Bank paper.

Product 1.2. Collection of materials on MDGs and Rural and Agricultural Development is collated, presented and shared through the Platform Website.

==> Members will help identify related materials for inclusion in the Website.

Output 2. Quality and impact of rural development investments raised through shared learning, innovation and better practice (including networking, shared learning, collation and dissemination of innovation, joint training and missions).

Product 2.1. Synopsis or Reference Document that: i) presents areas and kinds of interventions where a consensus has built up amongst donors regarding what works in practice; ii) identifies hot issues that are still contentious or otherwise need to be further studied, i.e. where the search for "best practices" needs to be intensified; iii) identifies other remaining information gaps.

==> Prepare Terms of Reference and commission the preparation of the paper.

Product 2.2. Collection of documents and links on best practice studies prepared by Platform members and by others are presented and shared through the Platform Website.

==> Members will help identify materials and links for inclusion in the Website.

Product 2.3. Documentation of Topics of Special Interest to Platform members.

Some topics will prove to be of particular interest to some Platform members only and reaching a consensus about joint action may prove difficult. The website may serve as a vehicle for information-sharing to begin a dialogue. An example is the West African Cotton initiative. In such cases, the interested Platform members would assume responsibility for collating and presenting pertinent information.

==> A process to be followed for vetting "Special Interest Topics" and assigning "input keys" to Topic Leaders responsible for the corresponding section of the website needs to be finalized. In principle, members proposing a Special Interest topic will be expected to provide an Issue Paper for the topic proposed, as a justification for including it as a suitable topic of discussion under the Platform. This paper will be vetted by members; with a majority of respondents providing sufficient grounds for inclusion in this section. Inclusion of a topic in this section is not synonymous with endorsement by consensus from the Platform. The possibility to have discussions on these special topics by Platform members should be provided for by the Website design.

Output 3. Collaborative effort at country level fostered (including joint efforts on support to national rural strategies, harmonization of procedures and practices in the context of DAC/OECD donor alignment efforts, monitoring of impact). Most donor coordination at the country level involves country level processes that the donor platform is unlikely to intervene in. However, the Platform can coordinate the preparation of national rural development strategies in developing countries.

Product 3.1. Identify two or three countries where donor co-operation is proceeding along smoothly and document their experience and further support their effort. The purpose of this exercise is: i) to determine what is possible and what is not in practice; ii) to identify what are the conditions that abet donor coordination in practice; iii) to identify key ways in which donor coordination at global level can give support to country level coordination; iv) propose an Operational Code of Conduct for donors.

==> Identify the countries, define the process to be followed, prepare Terms of Reference and commission and carry out the assignment (to be completed by end of 2004).

