



GLOBAL DONOR PLATFORM FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Platform-Info (4): World Development Report 2008

Donor Consultation Workshop

The date for the WDR consultation workshop with donor organizations, the 8th of December, is coming closer. Together with Derek Byerlee, co-editor of WDR 2008, we agreed to arrange four sessions. In the first one, Derek will give an overview on the current works on WDR 2008.

In the second session “Critical elements of a Strategy for Africa”, Alain de Janvry, also co-editor of WDR, will give an opening input based on the South- and East Africa regional consultation, which took place mid November in Nairobi. He will present the key elements of an agriculture-for-development strategy for Africa, which has been developed so far:

- Secure agricultural growth among a broad class of entrepreneurs, including women;
- Foster employment and food price reduction effects, safety nets and education to maximize the broad sharing of growth benefits with the poorest households;
- Need attention to non-farm rural activities, and on education and health;
- Emphasize more regionalized and decentralized approaches for participation and empowerment of local populations to ensure a broad sharing of growth;
- Strengthen capacity and build on home-grown initiatives rather than parallel donor driven systems.

A second input to this session, which will be moderated by Jim Harvey (DFID), will be a brief summary of the discussions on the donor support to the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP).

The third session “Moving forward on the Global Agenda” will highlight the problems of coordination at the global level. Christoph Kohlmeyer (BMZ) will provide an opening input on critical elements of donor coordination at national and global level, approaches and bottlenecks for moving forward with respect to this concern. A second aspect, which we would like to cover in this session, is the under-investment in global public goods. These global issues, which will be subject of Chapter 11 of WDR 2008 “Towards National and Global Agendas”, are trade rules, livestock diseases, genetic resources, climate change, and aid coordination. Although we will not be able to cover all of these aspects, we hope to draw useful conclusions on aid coordination and possibly one or two of the other topics.

In the fourth session “Public and Private Investments” we will discuss various questions concerning allocation of resources, and the frame conditions which may provide incentives or hinder allocation decisions. Resource persons to provide inputs still need to be confirmed. Key questions for this session, which will be moderated by Michael Wales (FAO), are:

- Why is there continuing mis-investment (subsidies versus core public goods), and what can be done about it?
- How underinvested are we in agriculture?
- What are the key elements of the investment climate that give incentive or impede private investment in rural areas?

We are looking forward to have a workshop with interesting and fruitful discussions, providing the editors of WDR 2008 with rich and useful inputs!



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Best Practices / Case Studies

We now receive best practices from our member organizations almost day by day. Up to now, we have received ~ 40 contributions that already represent a large spectrum of interventions in Agriculture and rural development. Many thanks to those of you who already contributed success stories to us!!!

Last week we have submitted the “first tranche” of the case studies to the WDR-team who will choose candidates for the first draft of the WDR 2008. This first draft will be finalized in March 2007, so the process of analyzing selected best practices more detailed will start within the next weeks. A second possibility for the inclusion of your case studies will of course be the final report, which will be finalized in July 2007.

Since many of our member organizations already have asked for additional time – and indeed, the identification of best practices and elaboration of project descriptions takes quite a while – we will extend our call for best practices. Taking into account the time necessary for collecting more detailed information on the interventions, getting into contact with persons involved, and the analysis of this background information, **we will extend the deadline up to beginning of March 2007.**

Although the contributions so far already reflect a large diversity of interventions, certain aspects of the WDR 2008 up to now are only partly or not at all covered:

- Information and communication technology for accessing untapped markets
- Innovations in financial services to enhance the competitiveness of smallholders (Microfinance and insurance schemes for risk management)
- Rural infrastructure
- Improving the investment climate for the private sector
- Innovations in accessing land and the role of land markets and land reform
- Innovations to enhance the effectiveness of rural producer organizations
- Migration, population transitions, and exits from agriculture
- Options for reducing chronic food insecurity

So herewith, we would like to encourage you to further scan the institutional experience of your organization for successful interventions. Since some of our member organizations have not contributed any best practice yet, you may wish to take this extension as a possibility to reinitiate the collection process within your organization.

Database “on what works in Agriculture and Rural Development”

As a side product of our collection of empirical evidence for the WDR 2008, we aim using the whole collection of best practices for a database. Depending on the resources to be spent, and also the question, who should be the main target group / the users of such a database (experts within the Platforms member organizations, research institutions / universities, developing partners, the public), we have different options of how to design the database.

Currently, we are in dialogue with other agencies and organizations which have elaborated similar databanks to profit from their experience, and analyse the “market” for this kind of databanks. As soon as possible we will approach the Steering Committee with descriptions of the different options for the database in order to decide which way to go.



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Overview on Consultations for WDR 2008

Topic / Region of Consultation	Date
Consultation with European representatives during ESSD Meeting in Paris	June 13-14, 2006
Consultation with the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE,) Gold Coast, Australia	August 16, 2006
International Policy Forum with Participants from Academic and Research Institutions in Berlin, Germany	Sept 4-6, 2006
Consultations with Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) in Norway and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) in Sweden	Sept 7-8, 2006
Consultations with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in Ottawa, Canada	Sept 25, 2006
Seminar series with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on Biofuels, in Washington, USA	Sept 27, 2006
Workshop on Political Economy in Washington	October 16-17
Seminar series with IFPRI "Capacity Strengthening for Agricultural Development – Missing Links and Institutional Challenges", Washington, USA	Oct 25, 2006
Rural Producer Organization Consultation in Paris, France	Oct 30-31, 2006
Consultations with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Tokyo, Japan	Oct 31, 2006
India Regional Consultation in New Delhi, India, hosted by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)	Nov 2-3, 2006
South- & East Africa Regional Consultation in Nairobi, Kenya, hosted by International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)	Nov 13-14, 2006
Donor Consultation Workshop in Washington, organized jointly with the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development	Dec 8, 2006
NGO Consultation in Toronto, Canada*	January 24-25, 2007
West Africa Regional Consultation, hosted by West Africa Rice Development Authority (WARDA)*	January (anticipated)
Latin America Regional Consultation, hosted by Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CITA)*	(anticipated)
South-East Asia Regional Consultation*	(anticipated)
Middle East & North Africa Regional Consultation*	April (anticipated)

* These consultations are subject of the Platform's financial contribution to WDR 2008

We are looking forward meeting you in Washington!
 Provided by the
 Platform Secretariat

Bonn, November 28th 2006