

Platform Dialogue_Food Security in the face of Climate Change

Summary Report

// Sida, Stockholm, 7th June 2012, 12:00-15:30

SPEAKERS: Agnes Andersson Djurfeldt, David Howlett, Elywn Grainger-Jones, Marion Guillou

MODERATORS: Melinda Sundell, Matthew Fielding

ATTENDEES: 45 in person, 300 via webstream

RECORDING: <http://www.donorplatform.org/activities/climate-change/dialogue>

// GETTING TO KNOW THE PLATFORM

Welcome (Kerstin Jonsson Cissé, Sida)

Kerstin welcomed all participants – present at the venue and virtually online – on behalf of [Sida](#) and the Platform and then outlined the afternoon's agenda.

Kerstin related that, even before the Platform was established in 2003, Sweden had been actively involved in donor collaboration on an agriculture and development agenda initiated in the 1990s. As a 'test case', this 'roadshow event' meant to bring the Platform to the doorstep of its members and 'users'. After all, the potential effect of the Platform was much greater than that of each individual member.

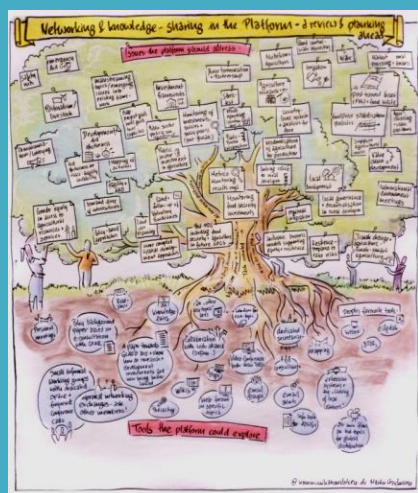


Introduction (Melinda Sundell, SIANI)

Melinda of the Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative ([SIANI](#)) introduced the programme by noting that SIANI had supported the CCAFS Commission on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change report [Achieving Food Security in the Face of Climate Change](#) since it produced its first Summary for Policy Makers in November 2011 and had co-organised a training event with FAO in December 2011 using the report's seven recommendations as a frame.

About the Platform (Brian Baldwin, Platform Co-chair/IFAD)

Brian introduced the work of the [Platform](#), which had been raising the profile of agriculture and rural development since its formation in 2003, now facilitating between 34 bilateral and multilateral member institutions. The Platform supported international agendas on aid effectiveness (Paris, Accra, Busan) and agriculture, rural development and food security.



The 'Platform tree' visualises the way in which knowledge exchange tools (the roots) nourish the members (the tree's trunk) with information so their collaboration on thematic areas (the fruit) can be harvested. The Platform's nine thematic areas for 2012 are:

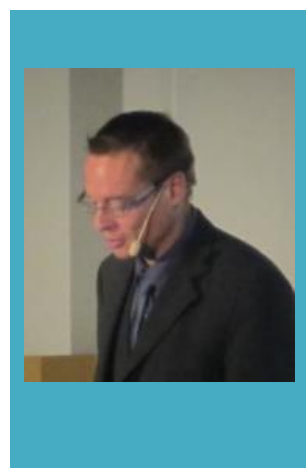
- Aid/Development Effectiveness/Results
- Agriculture Research and Development
- CAADP
- Climate Change/Resilience in Agriculture
- Gender Equity (and Youth)
- Nutrition in Agriculture
- Pastoralism/Livestock
- Post-Harvest Losses
- Private Sector Collaboration

Brian invited members – especially those present in the room, Finland and Sweden, to make more use of the Platform for collaboration.

Platform Knowledge Exchange Tools (Pascal Corbé, Platform secretariat)

Pascal introduced communications and knowledge exchange as what the Platform was all about. Knowledge was retained in the organisations and knowledge exchange tools were the 'fabric' linking members, allowing them to discuss how they work and coordinate future work with each other in advance. The secretariat's job was to facilitate this flow.

Pascal introduced virtual tools, face-to-face and combined media currently used by the Platform. Showcased tools included an extensive [calendar](#) of international ARD-related events and conferences (on which events like the Dialogue show around 1000 hits), Platform electronic updates ([e-Updates](#)), [virtual briefings](#) (online presentations and discussions among members made available to a wider audience on [youtube](#)) and online file-sharing facilities for members.

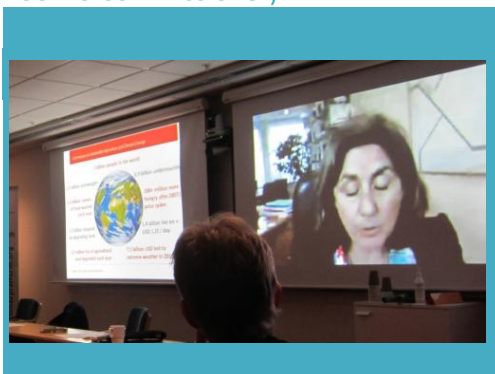


Q&A

Following the introduction of the Platform all attendees – regardless if present in person or joining via webstream – were invited to pose questions to the presenters. Questions focussed on the practical work of the Platform. The presenters highlighted the fact that actions taken and content provided by the Platform are determined by its members.

// FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Achieving Food Security in the Face of Climate Change: The Critical Role of Global Donors (Marion Guillou, CCAFS Commissioner)



Marion reminded the audience that, while our planet produced sufficient food for all, 1 billion went hungry and 1.5 billion were overweight. A third of the food produced was lost or wasted. Interventions to strive for food security should be planned collaboratively, and so [CCAFS](#) brought 13 Commissioners together from different countries and institutions to produce the report [Achieving Food Security in the Face of Climate Change](#). Guillou presented the report's [seven key recommendations](#) and cited situations in different countries that called for action as well as good practice examples.

Q&A

Questions posed via twitter and from the onsite audience addressed a variety of issues. In her answers, Marion stressed the need to improve agricultural production in the fight against hunger as well as the necessity to provide information to the financial markets efficiently for prohibiting abnormal speculation in food markets. In addition, she defined the term *sustainability* in relation to agriculture and the way it was used by the CCAFS commission: providing the necessary quantity to feed all while being careful about environmental impacts.

Response from SIANI (Agnes Andersson Djurfeldt, Lund University)

In response to Marion's presentation, Agnes stated how positive it was that the Commission's recommendations focussed on smallholders. She reacted to the report on the basis of the research she was carrying out in collaboration with the [The Afrint Project](#), which asked the question how food security in sub-Saharan Africa could be achieved in the face of climate change, also taking gender issues into account.



Agnes observed that sustainability was an ethical, economic, political and practical issue. She outlined the situation in Africa, where 65% of the population lived in rural areas, indicating an overlap between poverty and rurality. Cheap food imports were threatening internal markets, while at the same time net consumption needed to exceed local production, making livelihoods susceptible to import prices as well. There are two opportunities to address the situation:

- Enable smallholder producers to produce more food
- Encourage production for the market

The research, interviewing 4000 farm households from 2002-2008 in nine African countries had indicated yield gaps at between 50%-60% for the staple crops, maize, sorghum and rice. Gender-based discrimination was part of the problem, and lack of access to fertilizers and suitable markets were also explanations. Agnes emphasised that the global level should not overlook the connection between food insecurity and non-food systems.

She observed that, while the Commission's recommendations had to be macroscopic, their 'one size fits all' approach was sometimes too general for local level interventions. Further, the recommendations supported for labour intensive agricultural techniques which were likely to shift additional labour onto women. Finally, the potential politicization of some of the initiatives that were mentioned needed to be carefully dealt with.

Q&A

At the beginning of the discussion, Marion noted that it was impossible to be exhaustive in a short report, and that local-level, practical examples were in fact given throughout the report. Before being able to tackle food insecurity, a specific diagnosis of its sources was needed.



Other questions addressed the policymaker outreach aspect of Agnes' research and rural-urban links in terms of hunger. Agnes explained that some measures had been taken to reach the policy level but she also stressed the challenges involved here. On urban-rural linkages, she explained that more research was needed to make food transfers visible for generating knowledge on who was in need most urgently.

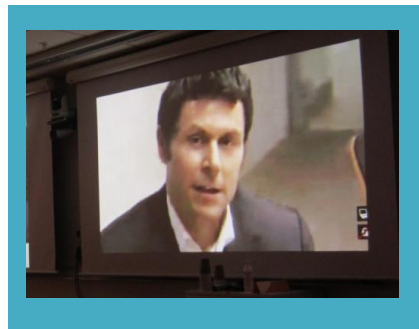
Climate Change Initiatives at IFAD (Elywn Grainger-Jones, IFAD)

Elywn welcomed the Commission's bringing together a clear storyline on food security and climate change. A

few years ago, climate change was still seen as an issue for the carbon markets. Today, the view was much broader: climate change was something that transformed the contexts for everything we did as agriculture practitioners.

Introducing IFAD's new climate change strategy, Elwyn was often asked by country project managers whether it was not "old wine in new bottles", indicating that a demystification of the topic was essential. Elwyn said that he answered that it was 80% old wine and 20% new – using familiar response techniques in new ways. In reality, climate change was transforming the risk profile for all work in agriculture and development. It was necessary to look at longer-run risks. The uncertain nature of climate change impacts meant that it was necessary to build adaptive capacity as opposed to a full investment in a single measure. The way of thinking about agriculture had had to shift to a systems and landscape approach.

IFAD's [Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme](#) (ASAP) was working to use climate finance in a grant form to increase IFAD's overall climate resilience portfolio, investing about \$1billion a year and trying to direct this towards better landscape management. This was where IFAD could use the Platform's help: IFAD had the technical knowledge, but changing mindsets was the main challenge, which required a collective effort around knowledge management and advocacy work. For this reason, partnerships were essential.



Q&A

Questions posed to Elwyn allowed him to further highlight the importance of climate smart agriculture and the necessity of including climate change responses in the agricultural sector. He emphasized the value of rewarding smallholder farmers for produced carbon sinks but also stressed that the debate should not focus on financial incentives only. He recommended a new publication of IFAD on the subject: [Climate-Smart Smallholder Agriculture: What's different?](#)

Climate Change Initiatives at DFID (David Howlett, DFID)

David noted that, while Elwyn had offered insights into the work of IFAD, a multilateral organisation, he would now detail what the UK ([DFID](#)), as a bilateral, was doing on the subject of agriculture and climate change.

DFID worked closely with the UNFCCC, supporting the productions of NAPAs, NAMAs, and so forth. Further, having met its financial commitments made at the G8 Summit in l'Aquila in 2008, and having established the [International Climate Fund](#) after the Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen in 2010, DFID was now looking to:

- Mainstream climate change into agricultural policies and programmes
- Mainstream climate change into policies and finance



As Elwyn emphasised, climate change was 'business unusual'. A results focus was essential, so figures such as the number of people better able to cope with the effects of climate change, or the number of people able to access clean energy were important measures of success. Howlett also introduced DFID's priorities in adaptation projects, concluding that with an investment of £38 million in climate-resilient agriculture in Africa, DFID was expecting to help raise five million people of food insecurity by 2020. And if the world failed to adapt to climate change – DFID projected that 5% of the world's GDP would be lost by 2050.

Q&A

During the round of questions, Howlett emphasised the need to create an agricultural working group within UNFCCC dialogues. When asked for ways to engage the private sector in rural development, he mentioned

the [Enterprise Challenge Fund](#) as good in managing cooperatives at the private sector-civil society intersection. He also underlined that several initiatives were underway in the UK to involve big businesses in development issues.

// Closing Remarks (Kerstin Jonsson Cissé and Brian Baldwin)

Brian observed that the event had demonstrated how the Platform brought knowledge to people and how members networked among themselves. The many presentations via video link had demonstrated how easy international facilitation could be when the technology works. Guillou had provided a great overview, and it had been good to hear some first critiques of the report as well from Agnes' research. Brian thanked Elwyn for emphasising the role the Platform would play in IFAD's work on climate change, and David had shown how essential providing solid results of Platform work was. The UK would be hosting the G8 Summit in 2013; Brian called on the audience to reflect on what could be achieved if climate-smart agriculture were on its agenda.



Kerstin thanked the organisers, moderators and participants. She emphasised the necessity of bringing climate change into agriculture and agriculture into climate change. Sida had done so in its 2012 annual plan, focussing on recurrent crises, resilience and disaster risk reduction. The Platform had shown itself as an easy and efficient network to work through.

Finally, CCAFS' [How to feed the world in 2050](#) video was presented.