

## Work Programme 2016 – Inclusive Agribusiness

Inclusive agribusiness is one perspective or “lens” from which to view transformations in the agriculture and food sectors. This perspective recognises the critical role the private sector, from small local businesses to large international corporations, can play in contributing to poverty reduction. It also recognises that the resources of donors and development agencies must be used in catalytic ways to help drive solutions to poverty that can achieve scale through smart use of market solutions. However, public investments and enabling policies are also critically important - the private sector cannot succeed on its own. So, inclusive approaches require the matching of public and private investments to achieve both commercial and public good outcomes.

**Vision:** Donors, development organisations and private sector agrifood business firms are collaborating and co-investing in ways that optimise the potential for inclusive agribusiness to contribute to poverty reduction, rural transformation (including jobs) and global food security.

**Purpose of Donor Platform engagement:** Improve development policy and programming on IAB through an enhanced knowledge and learning network between donors, private sector platforms and other development organisations, as well as through providing a space for debate and articulation on global policies relevant for IAB (e.g. CFS RAI principles).

### Description of objectives, activities and their relevance

#### **Objective 1: Establish a Donor Platform supported inclusive agribusiness learning network with donors and other key actors.**

There is a long history of donor support for agricultural value chain and market systems development projects. More recently, there is increasing private sector engagement in the issues of inclusive and sustainable agriculture. At times these two “worlds” are intersecting and reinforcing each other, and at other they are operating in parallel and not necessarily sharing the lessons they could. Further there are networks of “market systems” that do not engage specifically on agriculture, yet often provide significant support to this sector

- **Activity 1.1:** Identify and assess the needs and interests of key donors, IAB networks, business platforms and knowledge institutions
- **Activity 1.2:** Convene IAB event during 2016 AGA.
- **Activity 1.3:** Convene 3 teleconferences with interested groups
- **Activity 1.4:** Hold a learning event on a key topic of interest (to be determined by the needs assessment) in late 2016.
- **Activity 1.5:** Link the Donor Platform work on IAB with key meetings, through presence and side events. Such meetings include BEAM Exchange, CFS, Transformation Leaders Network, Sustainable Food Lab Summit



## **Objective 2: Develop and gain support for a knowledge and learning agenda on inclusive agribusiness**

While there is a growing body of experience and knowledge about how agricultural markets can help to tackle poverty and encourage sustainable practices, this is not being optimally tapped, synthesised, communicated or utilised. This limits the capacity to tackle the ongoing structural barriers to taking inclusive agribusiness initiatives to scale. Further there has been little effort to systematically undertake case study and impact assessment work that could provide a more robust evidence base and advice for investment decisions by business, governments and international organisations.

These challenges of a weak evidence base, fragmented knowledge and limited sharing are compounded by the difficulty that support for inclusive agribusiness is often dispersed across different thematic work areas of development agencies. For example, across agriculture and food security, rural development, market development, financial inclusion, business environment, trade and private sector engagement.

- **Activity 2.1:** Review the current status of IAB and the nature of donor programs and produce a synthesis document and provide recommendations on how to enable better learning and coordination
- **Activity 2.2:** Support the preparation and sharing of a handbook led by the World Bank of M&E of agricultural projects, including indicators on IAB (support will be provided by facilitating contacts with Platform members and “marketing” of the handbook)
- **Activity 2.3:** Focus on two priority themes in quarters 2 and 3, and hold teleconferences (2), online interviews/webinars (at least 1) and plan for a 2017 event together with the World Bank
- **Activity 2.4:** Consult work stream members on the need to support a knowledge and learning hub which already exists and could provide services (coordinating knowledge and learning needs) to the Donor Platform. Depending on the response, identify the hub and what kind of support could be provided.

## **Objective 3: Establish a 3-year strategy to guide donors’ support for inclusive agribusiness**

Members of the Donor Platform currently support a wide array of initiatives that in various ways link with inclusive agribusiness. However, this work remains fragmented with engagement from donor agencies often coming from different thematic areas including agriculture, private sector engagement, market development, rural development and food security.

At the same time private sector driven and donor driven efforts are not always connecting or reinforcing each other. There are a number of valuable market and private sector development knowledge and networking platforms, including BEAM exchange, DCED, SEEP Network, the PPPLab. However, these initiatives are focused on markets and enterprise development in general and not specifically on the opportunities and challenges in the agrifood sector.

A third layer in this picture in how private sector and donors efforts are (or not) connecting to globally endorsed policies, such as the Principles for responsible agriculture and food investments (RAI), approved at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in 2014.



The Donor Platform is in a good position to provide an audit of donor efforts supporting inclusive agribusiness and to identify opportunities for greater synergy and collaboration on cross-cutting research, policy and program strategy issues.

In particular, the Donor Platform work stream could:

1. Help to strengthen donor linkages across thematic areas of agriculture, trade, market development, financial inclusion and private sector engagement as they relate to inclusive agribusiness.
2. Explore the potential for greater donor collaboration on inclusive agribusiness research and impact assessment.
3. Deepen understanding of effective policy and program strategy for optimising public private partnerships in the agrifood sector.
4. Strengthen learning networks between donors, private sector initiatives, NGOs and research.

Overall, realising the promise of inclusive agribusiness will to a large extent hinge on effectively aligning public and private investments and sound policy development. The Donor Platform can play a valuable role collating and sharing strategic knowledge on the development of inclusive agribusiness to help inform donor policies and program strategies. It can also play a role in making the case for specific agriculture and food sector issues in the more general discussion on inclusive business.

- **Activity 3.1:** Through consultation with donors and other key parties clarify the niche for the Donor Platform in IAB relative to the Platform's functions of networking, knowledge brokering and advocacy
- **Activity 3.2:** Draft a strategy for consideration by the board
- **Activity 3.3:** Follow up on the implementation of the CFS RAI principles by the different groups and provide a space for debate on this topic

## Timeframe & need of budget

Leaders	Objectives / Activities	Secretariat tasks	Timeframe	Work Plan activity*	Budget needed?
Jim Woodhill	<b>Activity 1.1:</b> Identify and assess the needs and interests of key donors, IAB networks, business platforms and knowledge institutions	Assist with donor engagement	May	C2	Covered through Jim's ongoing contract
Jim Woodhill	<b>Activity 1.2:</b> Convene IAB event during 2016 AGA (Geneva)	Organisation of pre-AGA	Jan	C3	Same as above
Jim Woodhill	<b>Activity 1.3:</b> Convene 3 teleconferences with interested groups	Organise and document teleconferences	May - Dec	C1	Same as above
Tbd	<b>Activity 1.4:</b> Hold a learning event on a key topic of interest (to be determined by the needs assessment) in late 2016	Assist with organisation	Nov	C3	Yes
Jim Woodhill	<b>Activity 1.5:</b> Link the Donor Platform work on IAB with key meetings, through presence and side events. Such meetings include BEAM Exchange, CFS, Transformation Leaders Network, Sustainable Food Lab Summit	Identify key meetings and ensure GDRD representation	Throughout the year (until May – Jim)	C1	Covered through Jim's ongoing contract
Tbd	<b>Activity 2.1:</b> Review the current status of IAB and the nature of donor programs and produce a synthesis document + recommendations	Review drafts and assist with final publication	May	C2	Yes
WB, Secretariat + others tbd	<b>Activity 2.2:</b> Support the preparation and sharing of a handbook led by the World Bank on M&E of agricultural projects, including indicators on IAB	Facilitate contacts with Platform members and “marketing” of the handbook	June – Dec (depends on WB)	C1	No
WB, Secretariat + others tbd	<b>Activity 2.3:</b> Focus on two priority themes in quarters 2 and 3 through: - Teleconferences	Support organisation	Dec	C1/C3	Maybe



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Online interviews/webinars</li> <li>- Plan for a 2017 Event with the World Bank</li> </ul>				
Tbd	<p><b>Activity 2.4:</b> Consult work stream members on the need to support a knowledge and learning hub which already exists and could provide services (coordinating knowledge and learning needs) to the Donor Platform. Depending on the response, identify the hub and what kind of support could be provided.</p>	Approach work stream members or develop ToR (in case it is agreed to hire a consultant)	May - Dec	C1/C2	Maybe
Tbd	<p><b>Activity 3.1:</b> Through consultation with donors and other key parties clarify the niche for the Donor Platform in IAB relative to the Donor Platform functions of networking, knowledge brokering and influencing</p>	Engage in discussions	May	C1/C2	Maybe
Tbd	<p><b>Activity 3.2:</b> Draft a strategy for consideration by the board</p>	Review drafts and seek board feedback	Jun	C2	Yes
Secretariat	<p><b>Activity 3.3:</b> Follow up on the implementation of the CFS RAI principles by the different groups and provide a space for debate on this topic</p>	Review documents and websites and host conference calls	May - Dec	C1	No

\*It refers to the activities (A1, A2 etc.) in the generic Platform Work Plan 2016