

Inclusive Agribusiness and Trade Work stream

Work Programme 2017-2018

Inclusive agribusiness (IAB) 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, development agencies and national governments must be used in catalytic ways to help drive solutions to poverty that can achieve scale through smart use of market solutions. Hence, inclusive approaches require the matching of public and private investments to achieve both commercial and public good outcomes.

The engagement of the donors in trade issues relies on the assumption that sustainable development can be best enhanced if trade and market access can serve as a driver of economic growth, job creation and public/private investments into today’s social and environmental challenges in developing countries.

The role of the Donor Platform

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

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

Purpose of Donor Platform’s Inclusive Agribusiness and Trade Work Stream: Improve development policy and programming on IAB and Trade through an enhanced knowledge & learning network between donors, and between these and private sector platforms, knowledge institutes and other organisations operating in the agriculture and rural development sector. Additionally, the work stream may provide a space for debate and articulation on global policies relevant for IAB and Trade (e.g. CFS RAI principles, the Global Review on Aid for Trade etc.).

Operating structure: a separate set of activities is proposed to cover the two topics (trade and inclusive agribusiness). Even though the topics are very interconnected, colleagues from the donor agencies have expressed so far the wish to have at times more focused conversations. However, to build synergies, some activities will also explore the impact of trade in inclusive agribusiness and vice-versa.

Inclusive Agribusiness

Focal areas for engagement in mid-2017 to mid-2018: in order to allow for effective and helpful exchange between participants, the work stream activities will focus on three main areas of engagement, based on ad-hoc consultations with members of the work stream between Jan-Jul 2017:

1. Problems and obstacles to IAB in particular places & defining “inclusiveness”

2. Approaches to improve the enabling environment for IAB
3. Impact assessment of IAB initiatives and policies
4. Sustainable finance for IAB

Description of activities

Focus area 1: Problems and obstacles to IAB in particular places

- Select specific countries or regions where to focus the analysis of problems and obstacles to IAB
- Conduct short survey with donors to define the particular problems and obstacles in the selected countries/regions on which to plan for conference calls, webinars etc.
- Organise 1-2 webinars with specialists to explore the particular problems and obstacles in the selected countries/regions

Focus area 2: Approaches to improve the enabling environment for IAB

- Select the key areas of the enabling environment to focus the discussions (e.g. land access, credits, advisory services, infrastructure etc.)
- Hold a side-event at a major conference (e.g. on youth, on land etc.) where a selected enabling area for IAB is discussed in-depth

Focus area 3: Impact assessment of IAB initiatives and policies

- Webinar on survey conducted by GIZ on how many beneficiaries are their projects reaching
- Organise a 2-day workshop for donors to exchange their systems for impact assessment of IAB initiatives (September/October 2018 tbc)
- Based on the results of the workshop, 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 dissemination) – *activity tbc with the WB*

Focus area 4: sustainable finance for IAB

- Webinar on development financing institutions – how are they coping with environmental and social standards in their investments? (possible webinar with KfW and others)

Trade

The calls for enhanced trade for development come from developing countries like in the recent Malabo Declaration of African Heads of State, the 4th EU-Africa Summit Declaration of 2014 and many regional and bilateral trade agreements. Until recently, however, trade and ARD were a world apart. With the switch from aid dependency to independent trade for development, a common understanding of the changing roles of institutions and actors in donor countries, developing countries and regional/international institutions is needed. The theory of change underpinning this transformation is intellectually easy to understand in its basic parameters, but complicated in its implementation due to the many barriers like the lack of synergies between trade and ARD policies and institutional coherence

as well as the engagement and support of the private sector of all sizes.

The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development established its work stream “Trade and ARD” in 2014 with the desirable outcome of effective donor initiatives that promote synergies between ARD and trade policies in developing countries.

The following focus areas are proposed under trade:

Description of focus areas

1. Trade facilitation for IAB and regional integration by IAB (see also WTO Facilitation Agreement, the alliance and the facility as well as Trade Mark East Africa and other donor engagements)
2. Standards and phyto-sanitary standards - (see also WTO STDF) and Enhanced Integrated Frameworks for better IAB (see also WTO EIF work for LDCs).

Activities

- Paul Engel's consultancy funded by the EC on policy coherence of trade and agriculture and rural development;
- The following webinar topics and speakers have been identified as of 31 Jan 2018:

Topic: New aid for trade strategy of BMZ

Daniela Zehentner-Capell Division Trade-related Development Cooperation, BMZ;

in cc: Gina Burger, Division Trade-related Development Cooperation, BMZ and Gerlinde Sauer, SEWOH and Heike Höffler, GIZ

Topic: Trade-related capacity development for food security and nutrition - project in six countries

Eleonora Canigiani, FAO Trade Division

in cc: Jamie Morrission

Topic: Agricultural trade in Enhanced Integrated Frameworks - institutional/inter-ministerial cooperation and trade volume impact

Simon Hess, WTO EIF secretariat

in cc: Violeta Gonzalez, WTO EIF executive secretariat

Topic: Fostering product standards and phyto-sanitary standards as w prerequisite for market access

Melvin Spreij, WTO STDF secretariat

Topic: Trade facilitation in action - experiences and challenges in cross-border trade of AG products

Anthe Vreijlandt, Trade Mark EastAfrica

Topic: Alliances for Action - linking small-scale producers and fair markets

Hernan Manson, ITC

in cc: Sabrina Herzog, ITC

- Other topics for future webinars, depending on interest, are:

- (i) Role of digital revolution - how can donors support IT connectivity for enhanced IAB?
- (ii) Donors and their focus on trade and IAB - how are agricultural value chain programmes changing?