

Rural Youth Employment Working Group meeting: 10 June 2021



Participants:

- Alessandro Cordova, GPRD
- Anna Befus, FAO
- Elisenda Estruch Puertas, ILO
- Elvis Beytullayev, ILO
- Frank Bertelmann, GIZ
- Jane Lowicki-Zucca, USAID
- Ji-Yeun Rim, OECD
- Julie Rødje, Spire
- Lise Saga, GPRD
- Marie Balse, ART
- Myline Macabuhay, AFA
- Odd Arnesen, NORAD
- Sven Braulik, GIZ
- Silje Maria Hanstad, NORAD
- Tom Mwangi Anyonge, IFAD

Welcome and Introduction of New Members

Marie Balse from the International Network for Agricultural and Rural Training (ART) and Myline Macabuhay from Asian Farmers Association (AFA) for Sustainable Rural Development joined the meeting for the first time. The organisations will be presented in a later call. The TWG has a new intern, funded by NORAD, Lise Saga from Spire, who will support the work of the TWG for the next six months.

1. TWG – Modes of Collaboration

It was agreed that the MS Teams platform is useful and should be used more intensively. However, some members are still experiencing difficulties with accessing the MS Teams platform. The backup plan is to send out e-mails, but the Teams platform is preferred for working jointly on documents. The tagging function should be used to notify members about updates.

It was informed that the Platform Secretariat will hire a communication specialist, starting in a couple of weeks. The Secretariat will propose a new structure for the website and update the information. TWG members will be informed about the new concept and feedback will be gathered once it is available.

2. Joint UNFSS Independent Dialogue.

The TWG is arranging an Independent Dialogue to the UNFSS with the title “African youth as drivers for job creation in sustainable food systems” **on 30 June 2021, from 14:00 – 16:00 CEST**. The dialogue will centre around two specific game changers proposed by FAO and Nourishing Africa to make a strong connection to the structure of the FSS and ensure that the feedback content that will be provided to the FSS system is relevant for further processes. Four breakout sessions with different topics are prepared; (1) ‘youth agency’

prepared by Sven, Lise and Nourishing Africa, (2) 'youth capacities and skills' prepared and facilitated by FAO and Anna, (3) 'youth and local food systems' prepared by Ji-Yeun from OECD, (4) 'more and better jobs' by Elisenda from ILO. More information on the structure of the dialogue can be found in the UNFSS Independent Dialogue channel on Teams.

This event is a good opportunity for the TWG to increase outreach to important stakeholders and to gather input for the white paper that will be developed by the Global Donor Platform.

- The next step is to mobilise participants. Members of the TWG are encouraged to share the invitation widely among their networks. The aim is to reach broad participation of youth, public and private sector, global partners, entrepreneurs, and NGOs. Participants should be committed to actively take part in the discussions.
- The invitation will be shared with the TWG members by e-mail, including a flyer which can be distributed on social media. The dialogue will also be announced on the official website of the UNFSS.

3. TWG Webinar with the ILO

The TWG is arranging a webinar with the title "Towards More Inclusive Pathways of Structural Transformation for a Brighter Future of Work for Youth in Rural Areas" **on 22 June 2021 from 14:30 – 16:00 CET**. The invitation is ready to be distributed. It includes a link to the keynote article that will be the foundation for the webinar and discussion and the author, Bernd Mueller from ILO, will present the main findings. Representatives from the African Union Commission, Young African Researchers in Agriculture (YARA), the ILO regional office in Africa and Jane from USAID will participate in the panel. Maurizio will be the moderator. The webinar will end with a Q&A with the participants.

- It was agreed that the members of the TWG will distribute the webinar invitation widely among their networks.

4. News from USAID

Jane Lowicki-Zucca, the senior youth advisor within the Bureau of Resilience and Food Security within the USAID, presented the US Government's involvement in processes leading up to the UNFSS. While working across the action tracks, and under action track 4, USAID proposes a 150 million strong project for 'better youth jobs in food systems by 2020', joining forces with the ILO work on the topic of better jobs. Creating links between game-changing solutions and forming clusters is the next step in the FSS process. Solutions will be presented as clusters at the pre-summit and the aim is to present the concept and findings during that event.

- It was agreed that Jane will share a write-up of the content of the initiative with the TWG.

Elvis informed on the ILO related work in the Action Track 4.2 on decent work for youth in food systems. A corresponding game-changing solution is not yet complete. It was discussed

that the possibility to develop synergies and form a coalition on youth employment should be explored.

- Regarding the Independent Dialogue prepared by the TWG, it was decided that ILO will bring in the idea of the game-changing solution during the breakout group discussion. It will not be presented during the opening session.

Anna informed that FAO's game-changing solution is part of Action Track 4.1. The game changing solution will be pitched as part of a solution clusters at the pre-summit, and there might be potential to form a coalition for pushing solutions under Action Track 4.1

- Information about how the pre-summit will be organised is still scarce. The TWG will follow up on the possibility to form a coalition for the pre-summit. It was decided that a Teams Channel will be added to share updates on developments within the FSS processes and members involvement in the Action Tracks.
- A suggestion was made that FAO and ILO present for the TWG on the processes and practices of actions tracks, game-changing solutions, gamechanger clusters and contributions of the independent dialogues at the next TWG meeting.

5. Tour de Table

- **OECD** invites to an expert meeting **on 17 June** on the potential for creating decent jobs along the agro-food value chains focusing on local food systems. Registration: https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUuduGtqD0jH9HM3j3iRqVUothe_Efv_Wl8
- **FAO** is part-taking in a high-level event on child labour at the International Labour Conference for the World Day against Child Labour (12/06), taking place simultaneously with the TWG call. Child labour in agriculture represents 70% of child labour worldwide.
 - It was suggested and agreed that the working group could arrange a webinar on the topic of child labour, which is easily connected to the theme of rural youth employment.
- **Spire** and other organisations are working to make links between the different high-level processes of the UN in this year. The topics of the UNFSS and the Conference Of the Parties (COP) Biodiversity Conference and the Climate Change Conference are highly interlinked.
- **USAID** is working on a new climate change strategy with listening sessions as a starting point focusing on intersections between employment and climate change in food systems. Jane will bring relevant points into the work in the TWG. OECD, ILO and FAO are also involved in work on green jobs, green skills development and rural youth employment in the food systems.
 - It was agreed to set up a Teams channel for collaboration on the topic of green jobs.

6. Miscellaneous

Jane asked about how the TWG interacts with and relates to the Civil Society Mechanism. The Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) for relations with the CFS is the largest international space of civil society organizations (CSOs) working to eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition. The purpose of the CSM is to autonomously facilitate civil society participation in policy processes of the CFS. They do not support the FSS process and are therefore boycotting the meeting. Spire follows the ongoing in the CSM but is also taking part in the FSS. Julie emphasizes how the Civil Society Mechanism does present some valid concerns to the inclusiveness of the process of the FSS.

So far, there was not direct contact of the TWG with the CSM. Related to the CFS, the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) is working on a paper on youth employment and engagement. GIZ and other members of the TWG contributed to the zero draft. The next draft report will be launched on 5/07. The HLPE report and the foreseen “policy recommendations” to be endorsed at the next CFS meeting in October are highly relevant for the TWG and provide a good opportunity for coordinated action.

Next call:

It was proposed to have the **next call towards mid-end of July, e.g. on 15 / 22 or 29 July.**

Regarding the upcoming holiday season, pls. indicate your availability for the suggested dates, you can vote again in the MS Teams platform.

It was proposed that AFA and ART prepare 10-minute introductions to their organisations for the upcoming calls of the TWG.