

MINUTES OF MEETING: TWG Rural Youth Employment Call

DATE: 29 July 2021

PARTICIPANTS

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- Cyriaque Hakizimana, YARA
- Elvis Beytullayev, ILO
- Frank Bertelmann, GIZ
- Jane Lowicki-Zucca, USAID
- Julie Rødje, Spire
- Mariangels Fortuny, ILO
- Marie Balse, ART
- Mukulia Kennedy Ayason, AUC
- Peter Wobst, FAO
- Rahmat Eyinfunjowo, Nourishing Africa
- Sven Braulik, GIZ
- Maurizio Navarra, GDPRD Secretariat
- Petronilla Wandeto, GDPRD Secretariat
- Alessandro Cordova, GDPRD Secretariat
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AGENDA

1. Update from the Secretariat
2. Nourishing Africa presented Game-Changing Solution (PowerPoint attached)
3. UNFSS Pre-Summit
4. Presentation of the Agricultural and Rural Training Network (ART)
5. Ideas for upcoming activities

KEY HIGHLIGHTS/ISSUES

1. Update from the Secretariat

- The 2020 Annual Report of the GDPRD has been released, with a dedicated section on the TWG RYE. [Read it here.](#)
- The GDPRD's first contribution to the food systems agenda is a **stocktaking report on donor contributions to food systems**. The report will be launched on 9 September during a high-level event to which the members will be invited. The main findings of the report were that (1) the food systems framing is not just semantics, (2) more coordination is needed, and (3) coordination of donors' contributions is hampered by the trend of shifting from multilateral to bilateral initiatives. Donors' contributions must focus on catalysing systemic change.
- The Stocktaking report will be followed by a **Declaration of intent on food systems**, which will be presented during the [Food Systems](#) Summit in September. Following will be the development of a **White Paper on donor coordination**, which will build on the findings of the stocktaking report and the Food Systems Pre-Summit. It will provide a clear set of responses and priorities for donors to engage in food systems.

The visibility of the working group on the GDPRD website was also reviewed and the Secretariat explained that the website will be restructured to highlight the work of the TWG, enhance the design and content, and to harmonize the sections of the different TWGs of the Platform.

2. Nourishing Africa presented Game-Changing Solution

Nourishing Africa presented their game-changing solution on a "Coalition for Youth in African Agriculture", proposed to the UNFSS Secretariat, to receive feedback from the group. The solution proposed a continent-wide coalition for SMEs, young professionals, and rural youth in Africa, based on the need to amplify cooperation and make a stronger link to investors. The great number of existing youth associations in Africa today is working in fragmented environments, and by bringing them together in one platform, one would be able to enhance their collective outreach. Feedback was given

on the potential steering structure of the network, and on the need for market analysis for the potential of such a coalition. There was an agreement on the great potential of such a network and a mapping of existing associations, which is highly relevant for the TWG as well. A link was made to the ongoing process of establishing coalitions for the Food Systems Summit.

Several TWG members expressed the interest in further coordination and cooperation with Nourishing Africa for the implementation of the Game Changing solution on Launching a Coalition for youth in African Agriculture (PowerPoint attached). Implementation will be taken forward by Nourishing Africa regardless of the coalitions and processes under the UNFSS.

3. UNFSS Pre-Summit

A recap of the Pre-Summit (26-28 July) raised the potential to create a **coalition for youth engagement** and employment for the UNFSS. ILO have joined the already-established *coalition on decent work*, and since the number of coalitions is already very high, the merging of the coalition for youth with this group was also discussed. At the Pre-Summit, Amina Mohammad (UN Deputy Secretary-General) emphasized the need for representation of actors (e.g., youth) in every coalition.

Nevertheless, a dedicated potential coalition on youth is on the official summit list, so the prospect for an independent youth coalition is still pending. There are uncertainties associated with the process and organization of the Food Systems Summit – the date for the Summit is not set (*although, as of 2 August, it was announced that the Summit would take place on 23 September 2021*), and the functions of the coalitions are not clear.

4. Presentation of ART

Representatives from the Agricultural and Rural Training Network (ART) participated in a few meetings of the TWG recently and presented their work for the group. The network was established informally in 2005 for agricultural and rural training practitioners in French-speaking African countries. Today they feature 17 member countries and 1800 participants, with a secretariat in Montpellier. The network became an institution in 2012. The activities have evolved to involve advocating for agricultural training in national policy, promoting training programmes, financing projects, collecting, and developing expertise, assisting in training engineering, and accompanying workshops. They are in the process of developing a mapping tool for training centres in the member countries and aims to also extend the network into new countries.

Members of the TWG pointed to other existing initiatives on agricultural training in AU and FAO, which could be relevant for ART.

5. Ideas for upcoming activities

The TWG has completed activities on the work plan. A big thanks was given to all who contributed to the webinar on inclusive pathways of structural transformation and the UNFSS Independent Dialogue. See the action points for the activities remaining on the work plan, which could be started during the holiday season.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Agenda item/Issue	Action	Timeline	Responsible Person(s)
(1) Update from Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lise will share the documents on the restructuring of the website for the members to give feedback. ➤ Contributions from the members for news articles, events and resources is requested, so that the website can be a tool for sharing and finding relevant content. Items can be shared on the Teams platform or with Lise (lise.saga@donorplatform.org). 	Continuous process of sharing updates	Lise All members

Agenda item/Issue	Action	Timeline	Responsible Person(s)
(2) UNFSS Pre-Summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It was proposed to set up a specific session on the potential creation of a coalition on youth engagement and employment for the Summit – at the end of August/September. 	August/September	Co-chairs
(5) Ideas for upcoming activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To make an updated overview of youth networks, following up on the research done by the James/the TWG in 2019. ➤ Make an overview of approaches and best-practices. This could be brought forward with identifying knowledge gaps and ideas for a potential study in the future. ➤ Last meeting, it was proposed to organise a webinar on <i>Child Labour</i> by FAO in September. 	<p>Coming weeks</p> <p>September</p>	<p>Lise</p> <p>FAO</p>
	<p><u>Next call:</u> It was proposed to have the next call on 16 September.</p>		