



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

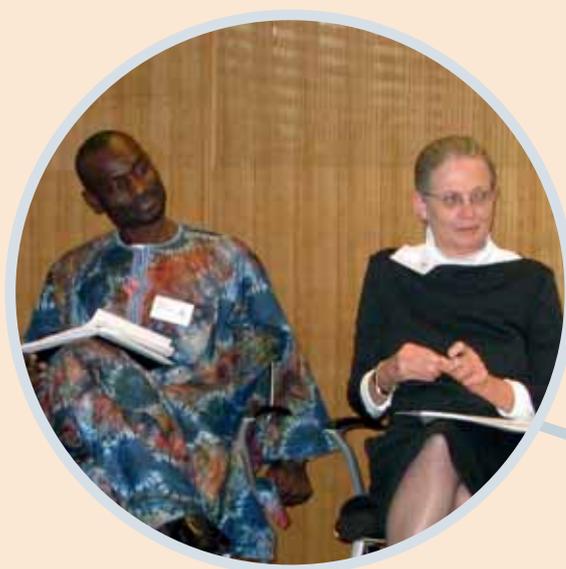


Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

Annual Report 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Platform and its objectives	01
Platform structure and membership	02
Platform members and partners 2008	03
Acronyms	04
Foreword	06
The Platform in action	08
Platform members in action	14
Platform management and governance	48
Looking ahead to 2009	51
Platform budget and expenditures 2008	52
Financial tables	53
Publications 2008	55
Platform milestones 2002–2008	56



THE PLATFORM AND ITS OBJECTIVES

The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development is a joint initiative of the international donor community and development organisations. The member organisations of the Platform work together in solidarity towards their common goal. In so doing, every Platform member is regarded as equal, irrespective of available resources, whether human or financial.

The overall objective of the Platform is to reduce poverty and enhance sustainable economic growth in rural areas in developing countries through improved donor cooperation, collaboration and coordinated dialogue with partner countries.

The purpose of the Platform is to promote more effective investment in agriculture and rural development. To do this, members support sustainable rural development, including decentralisation and empowerment, particularly with a view to ensuring food security.

In order to achieve its purpose, the Platform organises its work around three outputs:

Advocacy and outreach

The members of the Platform advocate and provide a voice for rural poverty issues in policy debates at national, regional and international fora, in order to bring more public and private investment into rural areas. This includes contributing to policy debates and highlighting the relevance of agriculture and rural development within the context of the Millennium Development Goals.

Knowledge management and innovation

The members of the Platform facilitate inter-agency learning, communicate research and provide intellectual leadership in rural development so as to raise the quality and impact of rural development investments.

Aid effectiveness

The members of the Platform facilitate better harmonisation and alignment in agriculture and rural development (ARD) in line with the recommendations of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD-DAC). Platform members work collaboratively to refine aid effectiveness principles for agriculture and rural development programmes. To do this they debate and agree on common principles, and disseminate and apply the principles at international, regional and country levels.

This Annual Report is organised around the major outputs of Platform work as outlined in the Work Programme for 2007–2008.



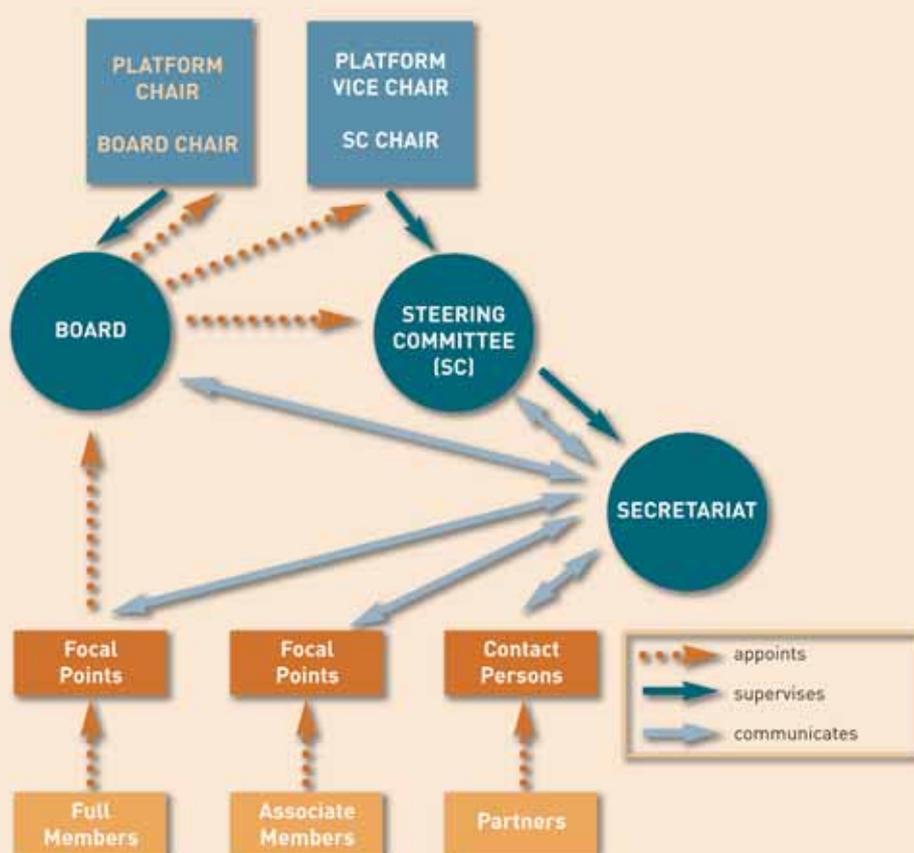
PLATFORM STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

As of December 2008, the Platform network consisted of ten full members, nineteen members and nine partners. The decision-making body is the Board, made up of the Focal Points of the ten full members and headed by the Platform Chair, Christoph Kohlmeyer (BMZ).

Full members are organisations that contribute financially to the Platform. As of December 2008, the Board members were the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID), the European Commission Directorate-General for Development (EC-DG DEV), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Global Mechanism of UNCCD (GM), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Bank (WB). The Board meets at least once a year to consider the long-term strategy of the Platform and approve the annual budget and work plan.

The Steering Committee, headed by the Platform Vice Chair, Brian Baldwin (IFAD), consists of five Board members. Steering Committee members were elected by the Board for a two-year period during the March 2008 Board meeting. They are Mushtaq Ahmed (CIDA), Brian Baldwin (IFAD and Chair of Steering Committee), John Barrett (DFID), Marc Debois (EC-DG DEV), Florence Lasbennes (French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs) and Nwanze Okidegbe (WB). The Steering Committee is responsible for day-to-day supervision and guidance of the Platform Secretariat.

The Secretariat is the central management unit of the Platform and is currently hosted by the BMZ in Bonn, Germany, and managed by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ).



PLATFORM MEMBERS AND PARTNERS 2008

Board members (full members)

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
Department for International Development, UK (DFID)
European Commission – Directorate General for Development (EC-DG DEV)
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany (BMZ)
Global Mechanism of UNCCD (GM)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
World Bank (WB)

Associate members

Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation – Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGDC)
Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
French Development Agency (AFD)
German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
Irish Aid – Department of Foreign Affairs
KfW Development Bank (KfW)
Ministry of Finance and Economy, Italy
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Partners

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Natural Resources Institute (NRI), Overseas Development Institute (ODI), New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Regional Unit for Technical Assistance in Agriculture (RUTA), World Vegetable Center (AVRDC), Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) and Neuchâtel Initiative (NI).

ACRONYMS

AAA	Accra Agenda for Action
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFAAS	African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
AG	OECD-DAC Advisory Group on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
APF	African Partnership Forum
ARD	Agriculture and rural development
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
A4T	Aid for Trade
AUC	African Union Commission
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CACILM	Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CFA	Comprehensive Framework for Action
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIRDAP	Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSIF	Comprehensive Strategic Investment Framework
CSO	Civil society organisation
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation – Centre Technique de Coopération Agricole et Rurale
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
EAFF	Eastern Africa Farmers Federation
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDD	European Development Days
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FCPN	Food Crises Prevention Network (Réseau de Prévention des Crises Alimentaires, RPCA)
GDCC	Government-Donor Coordination Committee
GIEWS	Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture
GM	Global Mechanism
GNP	Gross national product
GPAFSN	Global Partnership on Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition

HLF3	Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Accra, September 2008
HLTF	High-Level Task Force
IDA	International Development Association
IFS	Integrated Financing Strategies
ISFP	Initiative on Soaring Food Prices
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MDTF	Multi-Donor Trust Fund
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
ODA	Official development assistance
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PBA	Programme-based approach
Platform	Global Donor Platform for Rural Development
PP	Partnership Platform of CAADP
PROPAC	Central African network of farmers' organizations
PVOs	Private voluntary organisations
RECs	Regional economic communities
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
ROPFA	Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organisations of West Africa
RUTA	Regional Unit for Technical Assistance in Central America
SACAU	Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SC	Steering Committee
SWAC	Sahel and West Africa Club (OECD)
SWAp	Sector-wide approach
TC	Technical cooperation
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
TWG	Technical Working Groups
UEMOA	Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (West African Economic and Monetary Union)
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
WDR	World Bank World Development Report
WTO	World Trade Organization
YARDS	Young Ambassadors for Rural Development



FOREWORD

The world has made strong and sustained progress in reducing extreme poverty, but this is now being undercut by higher prices – particularly of food and oil – and the global financial and economic crisis. According to the UN Millennium Development Goals Report 2008,

“The imminent threat of increased hunger would have been lessened if recent decades had not been marked by a lack of investment in agricultural and rural development in developing countries.”

The soaring food prices in early 2008 thrust agriculture and rural development (ARD) to the top of the development agenda. The food price shock caused riots across the world and toppled a government in Haiti. The crisis moved hunger to centre stage in international development thinking. This prioritisation of food and hunger is quite new.

Though food prices have fallen significantly from their peak, they remain high. And, with hundreds of millions of people (mostly women and children) still suffering as a result of hunger and food insecurity, action clearly needs to be taken. Though prices have dropped, the key drivers that boosted demand for commodities and drove them up in the first place remain: growing populations, changing diets and new biofuel policies, for example.

So how are farmers and donors responding? Higher prices present opportunities for farmers. Increased demand and higher prices of staple foods are encouraging farmers to grow more, and worldwide cereal production was expected to reach a record high of more than 2,200 million metric tons in 2008. But, these increases are mainly in developed countries, as farmers there have been able to respond quickly to higher prices, and so benefit from them. Farmers in developing countries just haven't been able to react as quickly to market trends. As a result, while cereal production grew by 10.3% in developed countries in 2008, it increased by only 0.9% in developing countries.



Donor organisations responded strongly to the crisis in food prices with immediate short-term measures. Specifically, the High-Level Task Force (HLTF) on the Global Food Security Crisis, established by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, played a significant role with its Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA). Platform Focal Points provided critical policy advice as member organisations sought to take action.

However, it's clear that donors now need to focus on longer-term actions, such as developing smallholder farming and putting in place social protection safety nets. These will put small-scale producers in Africa, Asia and Latin America in a better position to benefit from the opportunities offered by higher commodity prices.

Amidst the multiplicity of initiatives that were launched in response to the food and energy price crises, the external evaluation of the Platform came at an opportune moment. The crises, and the stimulus they gave to reawakening interest in agricultural development, underlined the importance of positioning the Platform where it could make most impact.

As an outcome of the evaluation, the Platform has, collaboratively with stakeholders, developed a strategic plan. The strategy emphasises firstly, advocating for increased and more effective aid in ARD and, secondly, capturing and exchanging knowledge to help members effectively support ARD – in effect, to respond to the ‘challenges and opportunities of the day’.

The external evaluation and the strategic planning process confirmed that the Platform occupies a unique niche in the increasingly complex aid environment. The global development aid system is undergoing significant changes. On the one hand there is growing global commitment to meeting the international development aid target of allocating 0.7% of gross national product (GNP) to official development assistance (ODA). On the other hand there is growing recognition of the need for partner country ownership and leadership, harmonisation and alignment, and mutual accountability. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, 2005, embodies these principles. The Accra Agenda for Action of September 2008 reiterated that donors need to cooperate to make investments more effective. This is exactly what the Platform is doing. The Platform serves the donor collective, enabling them to provide their support to ARD more effectively than they could when acting on their own.

The Platform’s success in ensuring that ARD were firmly on the agenda at the Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra reaffirm the value of collective, concerted action by Platform members. Collective action is also bearing fruit in coordinating ARD in Africa under the umbrella of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The Platform’s work on engaging civil society, harvesting experiences and developing joint principles is also moving ahead. For the first time, the Platform annual report includes contributions from members. We are delighted that Focal Points have responded to the invitation to contribute with reports of what their organisations did in 2008 in response to the crisis in food prices and in support of ARD and aid effectiveness issues in this sector. The members are the Platform and their contributions show in detail the impact that member organisations are making.

In order to succeed in the fight against poverty and chronic food insecurity, development partners must step up efforts to address inconsistencies in development policies, and allocate more resources to increase efficiency. At the same time, partner countries must take full ownership of the development process.

In the coming years the Platform will work to increase the share of members’ ODA going to ARD. We want to achieve tangible progress in the implementation of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action at country level. We aim for an increase in the use of programme-based and sector-wide approaches in ARD, and the rationalisation of ARD support by members in selected countries.



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Christoph Kohlmeyer, Platform Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brian C Baldwin' in a cursive script. Below the signature is a solid horizontal line.

Brian Baldwin, Platform Vice-Chair

THE PLATFORM IN ACTION

Advocacy and outreach

In 2008 the Platform advocated strongly for more effective and increased investment in agriculture and rural development (ARD) to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF3), held in Accra, in September, was a key event for Platform advocacy.

The Board and Secretariat strategically addressed key stakeholders and new players in the international policy arena. These included the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), China, Japan and India, the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), and the African Development Bank (AfDB). Delegations and meetings to discuss policies have led to a stronger network of professionals and agencies.



The road to HLF3 Accra

The Platform recognised the importance of the Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF3) for assessing how far the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness had progressed and for addressing critical new challenges. The decision to engage with HLF3 processes recognised that the implementation of the Paris Declaration and its principles is having a major impact on all sectors in development cooperation.

The Platform worked hard in the run up to the HLF3 to ensure that the agricultural sector was firmly on the agenda and that Platform members had opportunities to advocate for more effective and increased investment in ARD. The Platform developed clear policy messages, and identified key targets and strategies to deliver the messages.

Putting agriculture and rural development on the HLF3 agenda

Initially, the HLF3 process focused on tracing aid effectiveness in three sectors: health, education and infrastructure. But it was important for aid effectiveness in ARD to be part of the discussions leading up to and at HLF3.

The Platform was deeply involved in the preparations for Round Table 8 'Enhancing results by applying the Paris Declaration at sector level'. With support from stakeholders, the Platform prepared a paper, 'Agricultural sector experiences in implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness', summarising agricultural sector experiences in implementing the Paris Declaration. The Platform also provided input to the Round Table 8 outcome paper 'Enhancing results by applying the Paris Declaration at sector level'. This was published in August 2008 and assesses aid effectiveness in the health, education, agriculture and infrastructure sectors.

Highlighting the importance of civil society organisations in the aid effectiveness process

Donor agencies are not alone in improving their effectiveness as development actors. Civil society organisations (CSOs) are also taking up the challenge. Recognising this, in 2007, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) invited the Platform to support the Advisory Group on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness of the OECD-DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness in preparing a paper on best practices in the field of CSOs and aid effectiveness in ARD.

The Platform supported this process, which was led by CIDA and implemented by FAO, by organising consultations in 13 countries. Findings were presented in the report 'Civil society organisations and aid effectiveness in agriculture and rural development: Synthesis report of a 13-country consultation.' The findings of the study were presented and discussed at the International Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Gatineau, Canada, in February 2008.

Following the Forum, a Platform workshop in March 2008 developed a strategy to ensure that aid effectiveness in ARD, and the role that CSOs play, would be on the agenda at HLF3. The Platform's follow-up to the 13-country consultation led to the inclusion of agriculture in the OECD Progress report on the implementation of the Paris Declaration tabled at HLF3. This progress report was the outcome of comprehensive consultations and meetings, and, furthermore, it proposed that CSOs should be included as full members in the OECD Working Party on Aid Effectiveness.

In June 2008, at an Exploratory Meeting on CSO Effectiveness in which the Platform took part, participants agreed to launch a global Open Forum. Guided and managed by a CSO Global Facilitation Group, this Open Forum brings together stakeholders from around the world to develop principles and guidelines for the role of CSOs in aid effectiveness. The Open Forum also advocates for the development of a fair, negotiated agreement between governments, donors and CSOs on development effectiveness. The Forum aims to have the agreement endorsed at the Fourth High-Level Forum, to be held in Beijing in December 2011.

Agriculture and rural development at HLF3

The result of advocacy and engagement by Platform members and the Secretariat was that agriculture and the important role of CSOs was on the agenda in key sessions at HLF3:

❖❖❖ **Round Table 8 – Enhancing results by applying the Paris Declaration at sector level; and Marketplace of Ideas.**

The Platform furthermore provided input to:

- ❖❖❖ **Round Table 1 – Country ownership;**
- ❖❖❖ **Round Table 6 – The role of civil society organisations in advancing aid effectiveness; and**
- ❖❖❖ **CSO Parallel Forum.**

At the end of HLF3, ministers from developing and donor countries, and heads of multi-lateral and bilateral development institutions endorsed the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA). In an important and ambitious step forward, the AAA recognises that country ownership of the development process is critical, that more effective and inclusive partnerships for development are needed, and that delivering and accounting for development results is essential. The important roles that civil society and the private sector play in development in general, and in ARD in particular, are highlighted. By strengthening and focussing the Paris Declaration, the AAA will underpin Platform members' work towards more effective development assistance in ARD that reflects local conditions, builds on local systems and strengthens inclusive country ownership.



Because of soaring food prices, ARD featured prominently in plenary sessions, for example in the speech by the President of the World Bank. The Platform took full advantage of this to emphasise the importance of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as the framework for agricultural development in Africa.

Conferences

The Platform coordinated Platform participation at key international conferences during the year. This meant ensuring that Focal Points and Secretariat staff had opportunities in side events, panel discussions and information sessions to advocate for appropriate consideration of the needs of the rural poor and the food insecure in development debates.

The Platform also organised several international events. These enabled the Platform to step up advocacy for the application of aid effectiveness principles in ARD programmes.

Key international conferences and events 2008

The Platform participated in the following international conferences:

- The International Forum on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness, Ottawa, February
- CAADP Pillar Review, Pretoria, February
- HLF3 African Countries – Regional Preparatory Event, Kigali, April
- EMRC AgriBusiness Forum 2008, Rome, June
- High-Level Conference on World Food Security and the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy, Rome, June
- Brussels Development Briefings: New Drivers, New Players in ACP Rural Development, Brussels, July
- Green Revolution Conference, Oslo, August
- Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Accra, September
- 2008 Development Marketplace, Washington DC, September
- 12th Africa Forum, Addis Ababa, September/October
- Brussels Development Briefing – Rising Food Prices: An Opportunity for Change? Brussels, October
- European Development Days 2008, Strasbourg, November
- Investing for Agriculture in Africa/ECOWAS Agricultural Policy, Paris, December

The Platform also organised or co-organised the following international events:

- Third CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting, the Seychelles, March
- Strategic CSO–Platform Pre-Accra ARD workshop, Brussels, March
- CAADP partners and donors meeting, Oslo, August
- Platform General Assembly, November

Young Ambassadors for Rural Development (YARDs)

To reach out to young people, the Platform supported Young Ambassadors for Rural Development (YARDs) at the European Development Days (EDD) meeting, 15-17 November 2008. YARDs are ambassadors for rural development and its fundamental role in the fight against poverty and hunger. They speak on behalf of young people from rural areas all over the world, like Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mongolia, Poland, Tanzania, Indonesia and Uganda.

The European Development Days conference is Europe's prime meeting of development cooperation practitioners and decision-makers. Each year the EDD host 3,000 participants from every continent, representing over 1,200 organisations in the development community.

YARDs participated in the Dialogue of Generations session and also met with European leaders to advocate for the importance of agriculture and rural development and to voice their concerns and ideas on how rural areas should develop.



Knowledge management and innovation

The exchange of lessons learned and research findings between Platform members helps raise the quality and impact of rural development investments. An important role of the Platform is to facilitate this inter-agency learning, communicate the results of research, and provide intellectual leadership in rural development. In 2008, the Platform published several papers, further developed the Platform website as a tool for sharing information, and arranged several learning events.

Policy briefs

Platform Policy Brief No. 2 'The future of smallholder agriculture', published in October 2008, deals with challenges, issues and opportunities related to smallholder development. Making the case for donor funding for smallholders is a major challenge and the policy brief provides key policy recommendations. One of the recommendations is that forums that encourage government, private enterprise, farmer representatives and civil society to discuss issues need to be strengthened. Another recommendation stresses that instruments currently in favour for delivering aid need to recognise that, as regards smallholders, support is as much about providing resources, forums, and time for facilitation and coordination as it is about spending on public goods.

Harvesting studies and how they inform the debate

Important facets of the Platform's work are to consolidate its experiences and the lessons learned to refine the Platform's products, and then to make them available both to Platform members and stakeholders. Two studies, 'Agricultural sector experiences in the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness' and 'Harvesting the Platform's in-country experiences' were followed up with a new report, 'Harvesting the Platform's experiences' – analysis and synthesis.' These three studies compile experiences and learning from the first three years of the Platform's work, key information from other reports and studies published by the Platform, and information from other unpublished documents.



Agricultural sector experiences in the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

This paper, published in May 2008, summarises experiences in implementing the Paris Declaration in the agricultural sector. It draws on the experiences of Platform members and partner countries, as well as on other relevant studies, and provides an overview of how agriculture can deliver on key MDGs. The study shows the progress towards meeting Paris Declaration partnership commitments in the ARD sector. Progress includes the development of sector-wide or programme-based approaches, and the integration of ARD objectives into development partner Joint Assistance Strategies.

But, the paper shows that efforts to improve the effectiveness of aid need to be tailored to the specific context. In the agricultural sector, contexts are extremely diverse, and vary by country and region. The paper recommended the development of a code of conduct or joint principles on donor harmonisation specifically for agriculture. These principles would support sector management and capacity development (both technical and institutional), monitoring and evaluation, and mutual accountability. By helping to establish clear objectives for the agricultural sector, all stakeholders would be more accountable for delivering. The study proposed that the Accra Agenda for Action should shift the focus from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness.

Harvesting the Platform's in-country experiences

This study, published in September 2008, documents important learning from the work the Platform has done to facilitate the harmonisation and alignment of development assistance in ARD in pilot countries. The rationale for harmonising and aligning development assistance is that 'business as usual' will not deliver what is needed. But, development agencies and country institutions need support to change the way they operate. This report makes the important lessons learned available, as a global public good, to policy makers and practitioners alike.

The study summarises the experiences of the Platform in Cambodia and Nicaragua, describes how support evolved in the two countries, and makes suggestions for future action. The lessons learned will be used to inform future Platform support for implementing the Paris Declaration principles in the ARD sector. They will also contribute to international best practices for applying the Paris Declaration in agriculture and rural development in partner countries. The study also informed the external evaluation of Platform effectiveness undertaken in 2008.

Harvesting the Platform's experiences – analysis and synthesis

This study, published in September 2008, brings together Platform experiences and the lessons learned in the first three years of its existence. The aim is to share these experiences with all Platform members and stakeholders at country level. The study draws on all the reports and studies published by the Platform, as well as draft documents.

The report highlights the need to help governments, development partners and CSOs to come together at country level. This will be helped by the Platform's work to seek agreement on 'joint principles' for partnership and, ultimately, a code of conduct between development partners and governments setting out how they will work together in ARD. The report has been valuable in formulating the Platform Strategic Plan and the Joint Donor Principles.



Informing the debate

These three studies knit together the arguments put forward in Platform products and the findings from other studies as a broadly consistent and coherent message on the need to support ARD. The studies are a way of triggering debate on issues concerning the Platform's mandate. The aim is to stimulate discussion, especially at country level, about the challenges and opportunities in ARD and, in particular, the issues related to enhanced aid effectiveness in the sector.

The harvesting studies are targeted specifically at senior-level national policy makers and their counterparts in development agencies. They are being disseminated to development partners in the field and to government ministries in the developing world. The work is a solid foundation for developing a Platform-wide knowledge management and communication strategy.

Platform web tools

During the year, the Platform made significant progress in further developing the website as an interactive tool for exchanging knowledge and managing Platform activities. Tools such as wikis, blogs and comment functions were integrated to encourage open and interactive exchange of information and knowledge. For example, the website was used to gather input for the development of the Platform Strategic Plan and feedback on drafts from members and stakeholders. Further resources were added and the web page on thematic issues, including food prices, was expanded.

During 2008, the website received nearly 50,000 page views. The pages that were viewed the most were the home page, which received around 15% of the views, and the resources page which received about 10% of the views.

In addition, the Platform regularly sent members email updates summarising the key findings of important reports, such as the latest poverty data, the FAO State of Food and Agriculture 2008, FAO State of Food Insecurity 2008 and the World Development Report 2008.

Joint learning events

The Platform arranged several video learning events during the year. Topics included policy responses to rising food prices, and the Accra HLF3 and its implications for ARD.

The Platform also used video learning to facilitate an exchange of experiences between representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture of Rwanda, in-country donor stakeholders and international resource persons on the formulation and implementation of the Rwandan agricultural SWAp.

Aid effectiveness

Throughout the year the Platform engaged in debates on the application of aid effectiveness principles to ARD. The debates informed the drafting of the Joint Donor Principles which the Secretariat refined and mapped against the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The Platform has re-launched the process to agree on the Joint Donor Principles after Accra and to finalise them.

The Platform also worked to increase the effectiveness of aid channelled through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) by developing a detailed plan of work to coordinate donor efforts. This had three thrusts. First, the Secretariat facilitated communication between partners and stakeholders on CAADP, for example at the third CAADP Partnership Platform meeting. Second, the Platform shared information regularly with African stakeholders, and with the agriculture and rural development divisions in Platform member organisations. The third thrust was to prepare an overview of donor activities in support of CAADP.

The Platform supported consultations in 13 developing countries and the development of a report on including CSOs working on ARD issues in discussions on aid effectiveness that contributed to HLF3 and the Accra Agenda for Action.

The Platform also worked with national facilitators in Nicaragua and Cambodia on the final reports synthesising experiences in each country.

In Cambodia, the Platform brought in-country facilitation to a close in August 2008. The Platform activities in Cambodia had focused on support for drafting a Comprehensive Land Policy Paper (white paper), on preparing Partnership Principles and on developing a programme-based approach.

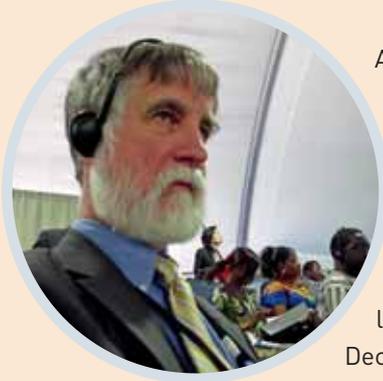
In Vietnam, the Platform completed and published a joint study with the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development: 'The contribution of partnerships to sector coordination and aid effectiveness – The case of ARD partnerships in Vietnam'.

Joint Donor Principles

The Joint Donor Principles for Agriculture and Rural Development Programmes are the result of a collective effort (facilitated by Platform members) to draw up a set of 'joint principles for providing effective assistance in agriculture and rural development'. The consultations to draft the Principles began in 2005. Successive drafts have taken on board extensive feedback gathered at key events and in partner countries over the last three years. The Board was to agree on the finalised Principles at the Board meeting to be held in March 2009.



The Principles are a code of conduct for processes and methods involved in creating more effective ARD programmes. The Principles do not dictate the content of sustainable ARD programmes but seek to deal with the specific challenges faced by the ARD sector. They are not meant to be binding but, rather, to inspire donors and their partners.



Amongst other things, the Principles highlight the need to include stakeholders in all new plans and actions, to ensure that policies are coherent, and to coordinate planning and action across ministries. They also call for countries and donors to step up efforts to align their activities internally, and for donors to align with decentralised levels of government.

The goal is to create a common understanding of the ARD sector and its particularities. To this end, the Principles have been built on key tenets of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action – ownership, harmonisation, alignment, mutual accountability and managing for results. Importantly, however, in creating the Joint Donor Principles for Agriculture and Rural Development Programmes, these tenets have been adapted specifically to the context of ARD.

Support for the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)

Africa, in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), has set its own development objectives. Coordinating support for CAADP has been a major thrust of Platform activities in 2008. The Platform set up a CAADP Development Partner Task Force and organises and facilitates regular technical cooperation CAADP meetings.

The Platform strongly supports the establishment of a CAADP Trust Fund. Support for multi-stakeholder mechanisms, such as the CAADP Partnership Platform meetings that track progress on CAADP every six months, is also a key activity. The Platform is, furthermore, helping to draft the CAADP monitoring and evaluation framework.

To enlist greater support for CAADP, the Platform organised a 'CAADP Road Show' to France, Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands, and advocated for CAADP in Japan. The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Africa Pacific Foundation (APF) and other global initiatives and networks on African agriculture were also approached with a view to strengthening engagement with CAADP.

In addition, the platform organises and moderates regular audio conferences of the CAADP Development Partner Task Force. Through the Task Force, Platform members can track progress and share information on activities related to CAADP. At least 15 countries have made significant progress towards developing evidence-based planning in line with CAADP values and principles. As part of this effort, the Platform also collected and synthesised information on coordination of aid by donors in agriculture at country level. The draft report was shared with Platform members and African partners.

12th Africa Forum on Rural Development

The Platform was instrumental in forging links between the organisers of the 12th Africa Forum on Rural Development, held in Addis Ababa in September, and NEPAD-CAADP. Discussions with the organisers and the NEPAD Agriculture Unit were held about how to broaden the appeal of the CAADP agenda in the Africa Forum. As a result, the agenda at the 12th Africa Forum was reoriented to issues of direct relevance to the CAADP pillars and the implementation of CAADP at country level.

CSOs and aid effectiveness

Civil society organisations (CSOs) are an important and integral element of the international aid architecture. As such, they need to be part of the discussions on the effectiveness of international aid. The report 'Synthesis report of a 13-country consultation: CSOs and aid effectiveness in agriculture and rural development', published in May 2008, is the result of a collaborative consultation process to better understand the obstacles that CSOs working on agricultural issues and in rural areas face in effectively fulfilling their roles in development.

Designed to support and inform the work of the OECD-DAC Advisory Group on Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness, the collaborative process sought ways to include CSOs working on ARD issues in the new aid architecture. Consultations in 13 developing countries involved more than 600 representatives from over 20 local, national and international CSOs, nearly 50 developing-country ministries, and 30 donor organisations. The process was led by CIDA, implemented by FAO, and organised by the Platform.

The main findings highlight the many challenges facing CSOs working in ARD. A key issue was democratic ownership of aid. Consultations with CSOs to frame development agendas are limited and local (and particularly rural) CSOs are seldom consulted. Insufficient consultation leads to policy gaps that are then manifested in ownership gaps in development processes. Weak governance in rural areas is another challenge. Governments and donors need to allow CSOs a greater voice on behalf of their constituents.

This report and its recommendations informed and enriched the larger OECD-DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness discussions and the process towards the Accra Agenda for Action and beyond.

Adjusting to the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security

Several high-level fora (G8, UN HLT, Accra HLF3) put forward the idea of a Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security (GPAFS). This would be a means for all stakeholders, developing countries, donor countries, international institutions, the private sector, NGOs and civil society to work together towards a comprehensive and coordinated international response to hunger. Such a Global Partnership could help to coordinate and maintain political momentum at the global level for local leadership and for efficient and effective support for country-led processes and institutions. The Partnership, whose initiation the Platform strongly supports, is likely to be launched in 2009.

Contributing to monitoring and evaluation in agriculture and rural development

In partnership with the FAO and the World Bank, the Platform published 'Tracking results in agriculture and rural development in less-than-ideal conditions: A sourcebook of indicators for monitoring and evaluation'. This book contributes to ongoing efforts to improve monitoring and evaluation in ARD programmes, both nationally and globally.

The Sourcebook pulls together common sense tips and recommendations based on actual practices and experience around the world. The aim is to help strengthen monitoring and evaluation capacity at the national and sub-national levels. To do this the Sourcebook advocates a consistent approach and methodology. This will allow for comparison between countries and help monitor ARD programmes and goals at the international level.

The Sourcebook gives guidance on topics such as building national capacity to monitor and evaluate programmes effectively, and identifying and collecting data on key indicators. It suggests approaches that can be used to determine which indicators to select, given the availability of data and the different types of information that might be relevant to different agricultural and rural activities, projects and programmes. The Sourcebook also provides a set of standard ARD indicators.



THE PLATFORM MEMBERS IN ACTION



Asian Development Bank

Response to the food crisis

In 2008, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) analysed the cyclical and structural factors in agriculture and rural development (ARD) affecting the surge in food prices in Asia and the Pacific. Based on these analyses, ADB developed immediate and medium-term responses to the global food security crisis.

ADB approved emergency food assistance and technical support of US\$35 million for Cambodia and US\$170 million for Bangladesh, two of the hardest hit countries in Asia and Pacific.

In Mongolia, US\$12 million was approved for grants for a food stamp programme for 100,000 of the poorest households, to strengthen social welfare systems, and to establish a mechanism for early detection and rapid response to food crises and similar emergencies. Budgetary support to Pakistan of US\$500 million was also provided, which earmarked funds for food security policy measures and food safety net programmes.

A total of US\$1.2 billion was invested in ARD projects for inclusive and sustainable economic growth. These include support for rural infrastructure, development of agribusiness, irrigation and water resource management, rural finance, development of food supply chains and development of agricultural technology.

Aid effectiveness in ARD

To coordinate ARD efforts and link with external development partners, ADB established an ARD and Food Security Unit in the Regional and Sustainable Development Department. The Unit will oversee the Bank's ARD support, and provide proactive knowledge management and development through networks and partnerships, both within the Bank and with external development partners. Additionally, ADB prepared a draft ARD operational plan for 2009–2011.

In 2008, ADB supported public financial management improvement in Cambodia and Sri Lanka to improve sector-wide public spending in ARD. In Cambodia, this will be done through policy reforms and capacity development of ministries engaged in ARD.

Throughout the year, ADB continued to play a key role in the Greater Mekong Sub-region through the Working Group on Agriculture, which brings together six countries, and multilateral and bilateral donors. ADB and donor partners worked together on the delivery of the Core Agriculture Support Program (2006–2010).

Looking ahead to 2009

ADB is committed to increasing its ARD investments, both in lending and non-lending products, to approximately US\$2 billion in 2009. Three climate change studies on agriculture, migration, and energy will be released. The study on Building Climate Change in the Agriculture Sector of Asia and the Pacific looks at the impact of climate change on agriculture in Asia and the Pacific using modelling scenarios and country case studies. It will examine the major issues in terms of risks and vulnerabilities in developing economies in these regions and provide adaptation measures key to enhancing the resilience of the agriculture sector to climate change. The findings of the study will be presented in a regional workshop to be held in Manila.

An ADB Agriculture and Rural Development Sector Report will be released in 2009. The report will give the status of investments in the sector in the past two years, and look at the prospects of ARD engagement in the context of ADB's Strategy 2020.

Response to the crisis in food prices

As an immediate response to the high food prices in 2008, Austria made additional allocations of funds primarily to support partner countries, such as Burkina Faso and Ethiopia. Projects selected from responses to a call for proposals were implemented by non-government organisations.

Apart from the short-term provision of food aid targeted at particularly vulnerable groups, Austria continued its long-term interventions in rural development aiming at structural reform. In this respect, Austria invested in agricultural production and marketing to support local value chains, small-scale basic infrastructure in rural areas, and social and economic public services (i.e. adapted agricultural research and demand-driven extension).

Moreover, Austria in all its partner countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Nicaragua and Mozambique amongst others) and regions (such as Southern Africa, West Africa and Central America) focused on small-scale farmers and the promotion of organic agriculture, as well as access to local, regional and – in the case of fair trade arrangements – international markets. In this respect, equal access to natural resource management and inclusive land management, preferably at decentralised level, were also supported in order to achieve socially and ecological sustainable production of food.

Flagship publications

Austria elaborated two focus papers on the food crisis. One deals with food aid (defining criteria for provision of food aid) as an immediate response option in crisis situations. The other analyses food security (defining mid- to long-term strategies) as an internationally agreed human rights goal. Moreover, Austria took the opportunity provided by the presentation of the World Development Report 2008, Agriculture and Development, to hold a half-day workshop in Vienna on the challenges in agricultural development and its potential impact on poverty reduction.

Aid effectiveness in ARD

Austria is involved in agricultural SWAp sector budget support in two countries. In Mozambique, Austrian funds are earmarked for Sofala province (the priority region of the Austrian Development Cooperation) while in Nicaragua, Austrian programmes are integrated within the Nicaraguan SWAp ProRural.

In Ethiopia, Austria supports an integrated rural development and sustainable resource management programme (focussing on food security) in North Amhara province, which is executed by national partner institutions.

In Burkina Faso, the second phase of a rural development and sustainable resource management programme in Boucle de Mouhoun will start in 2009 and is to be implemented by officials at provincial level.

Looking ahead to 2009

In 2009, Austria intends to develop two more focus papers. One will deal with rural development and its links to poverty reduction, food security and sustainable resource management in general. The other will analyse land issues and land management planning, which are considered indispensable in terms of improved social and economic opportunities and ecological sustainability, more specifically.

Response to the food crisis

As a response to the crisis in food prices, Belgium increased its food aid budget in 2008 by € 5 million. Most of the extra funds were donated to the World Food Programme. Special attention was given to initiatives that purchased food aid locally.

An additional contribution of € 4 million was made to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for the Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture Project in Rwanda. Agriculture was selected as one of the two sectors in the new long-term Indicative Cooperation Agreements that were concluded in 2008 with Niger, Mozambique, Benin, Bolivia and Mali. Earlier agreements with five other countries, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador and Morocco, already specify agriculture as one of the main sectors of activity for Belgium's future bilateral cooperation.

The Belgian Survival Fund is a parliamentary initiative specifically aimed at integrated rural development in Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2008, through this multi-actor programme, € 32 million was allocated, involving bilateral cooperation, international organisations and NGOs.

The Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries received € 32 million for its new Small and Medium Enterprises Fund (2008–2011). Half of these funds will go to the agro-industrial sector, particularly to projects aimed at food provisioning.

Aid effectiveness in ARD

Belgium's attachés for development cooperation in partner countries participated in local coordination structures (partner country, donors and implementing agencies) on rural development where such initiatives exist.

A 'focal point' for all issues related to agriculture and food security was appointed in the policy support unit of the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGDC). A platform, hosted by the DGDC, was created in 2008 to discuss Belgian development assistance to agriculture and food security quarterly with other national actors. Participants in the platform include representatives from government, administration, NGOs, universities and farmers' associations.

Looking ahead to 2009

The Minister of Development Cooperation intends to substantially increase the percentage of Belgian Official Development Assistance (ODA) that is spent on ARD. The objective is to attribute 10% of ODA to these sectors by 2010. By 2015, ARD should receive 15% of all ODA.

To realise this objective, the food aid budget will increase further, the budget for structural bilateral programmes concerning ARD will be strengthened, and the contributions to IFAD and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) will be raised significantly.



Response to rise in food prices

As an immediate response to the rise in food prices, Canada's Minister of International Cooperation announced on April 30 2008 that Canada would be spending at least Can\$230 million on food aid in the fiscal year 2008–2009, a Can\$50 million increase compared to the previous year.

Also in 2008, Canada opened 100% of its food aid budget to international procurement, with a special emphasis on local or regional procurement in developing countries. Untying of food aid helps promote the development of local and regional markets, and helps ensure that the needs of vulnerable populations are met in a timely manner. It should also give Canada's food aid partners more flexibility to buy commodities at lower prices and save transport costs.

In April 2008, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) established an agency team of representatives from humanitarian assistance, bilateral and multilateral programmes, agricultural experts, health and nutrition experts, and policy analysts to analyse the trends and review existing programmes to address food security. All bilateral programmes reviewed their existing strategies to see if additional efforts could be undertaken to address food security.

Following Canada's immediate emergency food aid response in April 2008 the Agency began examining medium- to long-term responses to the food price crisis and food insecurity in general. This involved completing stocktaking and portfolio analyses of past and current food security programming. The Agency is now identifying policy, programming and research opportunities for medium- to long-term responses to global food insecurity.

CIDA has ongoing programmes to address food insecurity in three broad areas: food aid, agriculture and nutrition.

Support for agriculture

In the agricultural sector, CIDA programmes address five key areas:

- Building national capacity – by supporting sector policy formulation and strategic planning (including trade policy), building capacity in developing countries to respond to international agriculture-related treaties and protocols, and by building capacities of producers, processors and distributors, as well as of their professional organisations.
- Creating and using new and traditional knowledge for development – by strengthening national, regional and international agriculture research and extension capabilities, enhancing the efficiency of natural resources management, and increasing the food and feed value of staple crops of the poor.
- Enhancing food security, productivity and income – by improving access to, and management and administration of land, diversifying and intensifying agricultural systems, reducing post-harvest losses, and by improving food safety, nutrition education and utilisation of available foods.

- Agricultural sustainability and natural resource management – by reversing current trends of land degradation and promoting integrated natural resource management at farm, community and watershed levels, and promoting water use efficiency.
- Developing efficient markets – by supporting agro-based processing and rural entrepreneurship, strengthening local market organisations and institutions, promoting rural agricultural education and agricultural services through cooperatives, and promoting access of farmers in developing countries to international markets.

CIDA provides almost Can\$200 million a year in agriculture. Spending in agriculture increased by 49% in the six years 2002/03–2007/08. Africa's share of CIDA's disbursements in agricultural programming continued to grow in 2006–2007, reaching 55% of the total. CIDA engages with The World Food Programme Executive Board, the Food Aid Convention, IFAD and FAO at the global level and has regular dialogue with food aid partners and other donors at the field level.

Response to the crisis in food prices

The UK led international efforts to respond to food price spikes and rapid price movements in 2008 in developing countries. In April the Prime Minister wrote to the G8 urging a coordinated international response, an action which resulted in the UN quickly putting together a High-Level Task Force to draw up a Comprehensive Framework for Action drawing together all stakeholders.

DFID worked hard to ensure people have enough to eat. On top of the £1 billion portfolio of programmes already in place to address food vulnerability and agriculture, in 2008 DFID also committed £868 million in additional funding and emergency relief to tackle the food crisis.

The first step was to make immediate humanitarian assistance available to those in need. DFID contributed £91 million, including £30 million for immediate humanitarian assistance, to the World Food Programme, double the amount contributed in 2007. In addition, DFID contributed a further £42 million for the Horn of Africa where the UN estimated 17 million people were in need of emergency assistance because of impending famine.

The second element of DFID's strategy was to tackle other immediate needs of developing countries through social protection programmes. For example, in July DFID announced an extra £22 million for the Ethiopian Productive Safety Nets programme. Because of this programme, three-quarters of households surveyed consumed more and better quality food, and three in five recipients managed to avoid selling assets to buy food. Bangladesh received £14 million, with an additional £70 million from 2009, and Mozambique £20 million for social protection programmes. Ongoing budget support to key countries including Ghana (£160 m), Uganda (£35 m) and Malawi (£22 m) also supports social protection programmes.

The third strand of the approach was to boost agricultural productivity over the longer term, making developing countries less prone to price volatility. To help, DFID is doubling its investment in international agricultural research to £400 million over the next five years.

Aid effectiveness in ARD

DFID is also working to get the international community to respond and work together more effectively. This is the aim behind DFID's proposal to establish a Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food. This international compact will bring a wide range of stakeholders together behind key national and regional strategies. It will hold people to account on their promises and help facilitate access to finance. The proposal has already been widely endorsed.

At its Annual General Meeting in November, the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development agreed to support and work towards the proposed Global Partnership. DFID hosted a follow up meeting in London in December, at which Platform representatives, G8 members, the HLTF and Spain engaged with representatives from the African Union's Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) to build their understanding of and support for the initiative.

CAADP is the Africa Union's programme for addressing the first Millennium Development Goal (growth and hunger) in Africa. Through CAADP, African governments are committed to raising agricultural productivity by at least 6% per year. DFID supports CAADP because it is Africa-led and focuses on maximising the impact of aid on food security and economic growth. DFID gives £5 million to CAADP's regional work, in addition to country support and research funding.

Upcoming developments in 2009

To address the long-term need to improve agricultural productivity, DFID will continue to invest in and support agricultural sectors in poor countries with more research (£400 million over 5 years), improving transport, and boosting incomes including through cash transfers and other social protection methods.



Response to the crisis in food prices

The soaring food prices led to a policy response from the European Commission (EC), stressing two lines of action: first, mitigating the effects on the poorest consumers, and second, encouraging a positive supply response from the agricultural sector.

Additional funds were made available to respond to the challenges in developing countries from existing humanitarian (€ 140 million) and development instruments (€ 250 million). Moreover, the 'Food Facility' was adopted, a three-year facility operational from 1 January 2009 that will make available an additional € 1 billion for agriculture and food security in about 50 developing countries.

Support to ARD in 2008

The EC enhanced its involvement in agriculture and rural development in various ways in 2008. The programming exercise for the 10th European Development Fund was concluded in 2008 and resulted in agriculture, food security and/or rural development being an important sector for cooperation for the period 2008–2013 in more partner countries (25 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries) than in the previous period.

With the adoption of the Communication Advancing African Agriculture in 2007, the EC is aligning its support in Africa with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). In support of CAADP, it concluded an agreement to support the CAADP Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) with an amount of € 5 million. In line with the important role attached to farmer organisations in CAADP, the EC also concluded an agreement for € 5 million in support of four African regional farmer organisations: Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF), Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU), Central African Network of Farmers Organisations (PROPAC), and Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organisations of West Africa (ROPPA).

In terms of agricultural research for development, the EC concluded an agreement for support to the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) for € 67.5 million, covering the period 2008–2010 in support of pro-poor research, including that on biodiversity, improved genetic resources, international policies, and climate change and food security. Furthermore, the EC also concluded an agreement in support of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) for € 10 million as the first contributor to a Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) in support of FARA with an aim to jointly align African research agendas with CAADP Pillar IV. Through FARA, the EC also commenced its support to the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS) of € 1.5 million. Moreover, the EC provided € 10 million to the MDTF in support of the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA).

Aid effectiveness in ARD

To enhance aid effectiveness, the EC has increasingly used multi-donor trust funds in its channelling of financial support (e.g. to CAADP, FARA, AFAAS and ASARECA). It is also supporting SWAs and using (sectoral) budget support (e.g. Mozambique; Burkina Faso and Benin for cotton; several countries for sugar support) wherever feasible. Budget support will also be used in several countries that will benefit from the Food Facility starting from 2009.

Furthermore, enhanced cooperation and coordination between UN Agencies and the World Bank has been stimulated. This happened in the framework of the Food Facility, where coordinated UN/World Bank programmes will be supported. It is also an intrinsic feature of the All-ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States) Agricultural Commodities Programme (€ 45 million programme in support of agricultural commodities) in which five agencies (Common Fund for Commodities, FAO, the International Trade Centre, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Bank) work together to support the competitiveness of commodity chains. In 2008, a series of regional strategy workshops contributed to this goal.

The Rural Hub in Dakar, Senegal, is already recognised as an efficient tool to improve coherence of policies and programmes, and was a regional case study for the role of CSOs in managing aid for rural development. During the second phase of the Hub the EC will provide support to strengthen cooperation with Platform partners.

Looking forward to 2009

- The EC will commence a revision of the EC Food Security Policy.
- The Brussels Rural Development Briefings, co-organised with CTA and other partners, will continue on a bi-monthly basis.

Response to the crisis in food prices

In response to the crisis in food prices and food price volatility the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) increased its focus on rural development, agriculture and social security systems, committing more than € 600 million to this sector. This includes bilateral as well as multilateral commitments, and emergency as well as structural investments focussing on food aid, agriculture and rural development. About one-third is dedicated to projects focusing on sustainable, market-oriented and decentralised agricultural development, irrigation, rural infrastructure, food security, land management, poverty reduction, credit systems, climate change and biodiversity.

The BMZ supports the World Food Programme with a regular annual contribution of € 23 million. In addition, food security programmes for Ethiopia, Kenya, Afghanistan and Yemen amount to € 33 million. Moreover, in direct response to the acute food crisis and the rise in food prices, the BMZ made an additional € 90 million available for emergency and food aid. About 60% of funds for food security are dedicated to countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2008, the BMZ increased its support to the NEPAD-CAADP process to a total of € 5 million. The support consisted of three components: encouraging pan-African reform processes, establishing CAADP REC and country teams, and continental knowledge transfer.

Additionally, the BMZ supports specific medium- and long-term rural development programmes in developing countries through its bilateral development cooperation. This focuses on increasing small-holder productivity and securing rights of ownership, use and transfer, and equitable access to land. Measures to protect the soil and teach appropriate cropping methods are also priorities. Furthermore, Germany supports the CGIAR, contributing € 17.5 million in 2008 and € 21 million in 2009.

At multilateral level, the German government contributes funds to World Bank and EU programmes for agriculture and food security. The BMZ was actively involved in drafting the World Development Report 2008, Agriculture for Development.

Aid effectiveness in ARD

The BMZ commissions, among others, GTZ and KfW to implement German development projects. (For more information, please refer to the GTZ and KfW contributions in this report.)

Germany leads the agricultural donor working group in Cambodia. Cambodia is one of the countries which have been the focus of intensive donor harmonisation and alignment efforts since 1992. There are 17 Technical Working Groups (TWG) under the Consultative Group mechanism, for example Food security and nutrition, Agriculture and water resources, Land Management, Forestry and Fisheries. In addition, a Government-Donor Coordination Committee (GDCC) ensures coordination among the 17 technical groups. All TWGs are co-chaired jointly by government and donors.

In Ethiopia, the GTZ and the Netherlands share the leadership in implementing a joint rural development strategy.

Looking ahead to 2009

In 2009, the BMZ will reassess and redraft its 2001 sector policy paper on rural development. This will build on internationally agreed policy papers such as the Global Donor Platform Joint Donor Concept on Rural Development 2006, and pay particular attention to the causes and consequences of the food price crisis and food price volatility.

An international conference, 'Urban-rural linkages and migration – a potential for poverty alleviation in developing countries?' jointly organised by GTZ and ReKomEnt (a working group for regional development), in cooperation with the Dortmund University of Technology will take place 16-17 September 2009.

The aims of the conference are to outline the state of knowledge of migration and development in rural areas, and to discuss the potential for international cooperation on appropriate interventions.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Response to the crisis in food prices

In July 2007, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) warned of the then developing food price crisis and, in December 2007, launched its Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP) to respond to the urgent needs of the most vulnerable farmers. The main objective of the initiative was to “support access to production inputs by small farmers, especially those who are net food buyers ...”. FAO, with a total ISFP envelope of US\$103 million, including FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) funding of US\$36 million, is currently engaged in 95 countries, in most cases supporting food production with the supply of improved seeds, fertilisers and other agricultural inputs.

In 2008, more than 400,000 smallholder farmers and their families – around two million people – benefited from FAO projects. FAO also coordinated 31 inter-agency assessment missions which resulted in the development of country action plans for the medium and long term. Another 37 rapid assessment missions were commissioned by the EC in the framework of the € 1 billion Facility Fund.

FAO has significantly scaled up monitoring of food prices at consumer and wholesale level, of degrees of food insecurity in vulnerable countries, and of the impact of rising food prices at the global, regional and country level through its Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS). FAO also contributed with important food security knowledge and studies, such as SOFA 2008: Biofuels – prospects, risks and opportunities and SOFI 2008: High food prices and food security opportunities and challenges, and guidelines on country policies, fertiliser and seed use.

Comprehensive Framework for Action

In April 2008, the UN Secretary-General set up a High-Level Task Force with members from the United Nations system, Bretton Woods institutions and other international organisations, to provide a unified response to the food crisis. The FAO Director General was appointed as Vice-Chairman of this Task Force, to which FAO contributed significantly. The Task Force prepared a Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA), a common tool for the UN agencies, Bretton Woods institutions, World Trade Organisation (WTO), OECD and others to jointly engage in actions with countries confronted by the food crisis. The CFA defines the common position of its members on actions to be implemented in the short, medium and long term to deal with the crisis and to improve food and nutritional security at national, regional and global level. The focus is on two fronts: in the immediate term, resolving emergency food problems and, in the long term, promoting agricultural production and productivity.

High-Level Conference on World Food Security

In June 2008, FAO coordinated the High-Level Conference on World Food Security: The Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy. The Conference, attended by 42 heads of state and government, 100 high-level ministers and 60 non-governmental and civil society organisations from 181 member countries, concluded with the adoption by acclamation of a declaration calling on the international community to increase assistance for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and those that are most negatively affected by high food prices.



In October 2008, the FAO convened the 34th Session of the Committee on World Food Security which focused on the impact of high food prices and policy responses that countries have taken. In addition, several side events further explored the drivers and impact of high food prices from various perspectives, including nutrition, rural producers, the private sector and civil society, as well as discussing options for the establishment of Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food.

World Summit on Food Security 2009

FAO has subsequently proposed to the heads of state and government of the FAO Member States the convening, at the level of heads of state and government, of a World Summit on Food Security in 2009 to forge a broad consensus on the final and rapid eradication of hunger in the world.

Response to the crisis in food prices

GTZ responded to the crisis in food prices by setting up a special Task Force (TF). The TF assessed the effects and impacts of the crisis, prepared management briefs, communicated the results of the assessment to German development institutions, and provided support to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in formulating the position Germany takes on the crisis at international events.

BMZ surveyed emergency needs and identified Ethiopia, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Niger as priority countries for receiving additional resources. The TF helped country programmes in these four countries to draft proposals for using the additional resources.

Support to CAADP and regional economic communities

The GTZ support programme to CAADP for 2008–2011, commissioned by BMZ, was increased from € 2 million to € 3 million. In addition, € 2 million will be contributed to the CAADP Multi-Donor Trust Fund during this period.

In April 2008, the NEPAD Secretariat asked Germany to provide more support to implement the CAADP process, particularly for regional and national implementation teams. GTZ support will strengthen the capacity of the NEPAD Secretariat to manage the CAADP process and the Multi-Donor Trust Fund effectively and, in turn, will help regional and national CAADP teams to build capacity.

GTZ will second long-term and short-term experts to advise the CAADP unit at NEPAD, selected regional economic communities (RECs) and African Union member states. Advice will focus on developing coherent procedures and instruments through which NEPAD, the RECs and national governments can manage the CAADP process, establish CAADP national and regional teams, and exchange knowledge. In addition, GTZ will provide training, assistance with materials, and grants to local executing agencies for workshops, seminars and training.

GTZ participated in the CAADP emergency meeting on the Food Price Crisis in Africa in May 2008 in Pretoria and the donor coordination meetings organised by the African Development Bank in June 2008 in Tunisia. GTZ also organised, together with NEPAD, the 12th Africa Forum 'Making agri-business work for rural livelihoods', in Addis Ababa, in support of CAADP implementation at country level.

Support for ARD

The themes GTZ focuses on in ARD are policy advice on agriculture and rural development, agricultural markets and trade, quality standards and sustainable economic activities, aquatic resources, agricultural research and rural services, climate change and agriculture, access to land, and sustainable biomass use and agricultural production systems.

GTZ is cooperating with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to boost cotton, cashew and cocoa production in Africa with a total amount of € 40 million, and is looking for potential co-financing arrangements with partner organisations in West and East Africa.

In 2008, GTZ also organised a meeting on 'Shaping globalisation – Impacts of voluntary standards' in Berlin and published Land conflicts – A practical guide to dealing with land disputes.

Aid effectiveness and sectoral approaches in ARD

GTZ's approaches take into account the principles set out in the European Commission EuropeAid Sector Approaches in Agriculture and Rural Development and in the Global Donor Platform Joint Donor Principles for Agriculture and Rural Development Programmes.

- GTZ actively participates in ARD sector donor coordination groups, chairing such groups in Benin, Ethiopia and Kenya and acting as vice-chair in Ghana. In Nicaragua, GTZ participates in the rural SWAp.
- GTZ also participated in sector review missions and the preparation of a programme-based approach (PBA) in Laos.

Looking forward to 2009

GTZ and NEPAD-CAADP will co-organise the 13th Africa Forum to be held in Kenya. Forthcoming publications include Water for Agriculture and a completely revised third edition of the Rural Extension Manual.

Global Mechanism of UNCCD



The Global Mechanism (GM) is an innovative entity that responds to the Monterrey Consensus and Paris Declaration through its support to country Parties of the UNCCD in a number of areas. These include the mobilisation of financial resources to address land and natural resource degradation, rural development and poverty reduction, as well as food production, food security and resilience to climate change, all in the context of sustainable use of land.

In 2008, as a broker and capacity builder in financing mechanisms and instruments, the GM organised several regional and national consultations and capacity building events on financing. The GM also assisted countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe to establish Integrated Financing Strategies (IFS), bringing together international development partners, government bodies, civil society organisations and the private sector. The establishment of IFS leading to Integrated Investment Frameworks at national level ensures an effective, coherent and aligned flow of funding from all partners.

Agriculture is the most climate-sensitive of all the economic sectors. As a specialist on financial sources and mechanisms related to climate change adaptation and mitigation – including adaptation funds, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD), and the Voluntary Carbon Market – the GM has been working at the policy level to advocate for and mainstream agricultural sector and land issues into international climate change debates.

The GM has also been working in the context of Aid for Trade (A4T) to integrate sustainable land management into trade processes and related financing mechanisms. For example, in Least Developed Countries the GM is focussing on how to use the Integrated Framework (IF) in order to increase investments into sustainable conservation of the land.

Throughout 2008 the GM has been involved in and supported various sub-regional initiatives and partnerships. The GM has been one of the main drivers of the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM) initiative and is currently involved in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) climate initiative. The GM supports other sub-regional processes including the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). As a partner of TerrAfrica, the GM is contributing towards the harmonisation of processes and instruments for better servicing sub-Saharan countries. In this regard, the GM's IFS approach has become an integral part of the conceptualisation, preparation and revision of the Comprehensive Strategic Investment Framework (CSIF). The GM also became a full member of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development in 2008.

Looking ahead to 2009

In 2009, the GM will continue to support developing countries in mobilising financial resources for sustainable land management. It will thereby support the agricultural and rural sectors in affected countries through partnership building and support to international and regional processes, such as those on climate change and food security, and through capacity building on financing. The GM will expand its work in training and consultations on financing and continue to support the establishment of Integrated Investment Frameworks. Sixteen capacity building events at regional/national level are planned.

The GM is also planning to establish regional platforms of exchange on resource mobilisation through, for example, South-South cooperation.

Response to the food crisis

In September 2008, the Bank announced that US\$500 million of Bank resources would be available through the Credit Facility for Responding to Food Price Increases created for this purpose. The Facility will rapidly finance individual loan operations specifically directed towards alleviating the effects of food price increases on the poor and boosting the production of food in the region.

In addition, the Bank set aside US\$20 million from the Special Program for Employment, Poverty Reduction and Social Development in support of the Millennium Development Goals (Social Fund) to grant non-reimbursable technical cooperation operations. These will assist in financing social protection networks to help respond to the food crisis within the framework of the Social Fund.

The Bank also established a Food Price Crisis Response Strategic Thematic Fund (hereafter 'the Fund'). This is made up of a Special Program for Food Price Crisis Response (IDB Food Price Crisis Response Fund), to be financed with resources from the Ordinary Capital, and a Multi-Donor Food Price Response Trust Fund.

The IDB Food Price Crisis Response Strategic Thematic Fund was established for an initial period of three years with US\$15 million from the Special Program/Grants of Ordinary Capital. The Multi-Donor Food Price Crisis Response Trust Fund was established with contributions from both borrowing and non-borrowing member countries of the Bank. In addition, the Multi-Donor Food Crisis Response Trust Fund is set up to receive contributions from non-member countries and other international organisations, as well as the private sector.

The purpose of the Fund is to provide rapid and effective assistance to Bank borrowing member countries most negatively affected by the increase in the price of foodstuffs. This will be done by financing non-reimbursable National and Regional Technical Cooperation (TC) operations that directly assist the poorest and most vulnerable populations, increase the production of foodstuffs or address food crisis trade-related issues. The resources of the Multi-Donor Food Price Crisis Response Trust Fund may also be used to finance investment grant pilot operations.

Support for agriculture

Under its ordinary financial and non-financial operations, the Bank continues to support the development of the agriculture sector in borrowing countries. The Bank aims to increase competitiveness and promote creation of income opportunities for the rural population. Operations cover productive infrastructure investments such as irrigation, modernisation of technology and innovation systems, sanitary and phytosanitary systems, direct support to producers, land titling, marketing and export capacity.

Response to the crisis in food prices

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a specialised UN agency, and a member organisation of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, works to eradicate rural poverty in 115 countries. Its 2008 operating programme of work of US\$650 million was devoted to a programme of loans and grants totalling some 200 projects, especially in remote, drought-prone rural areas like sub-Saharan Africa. In the face of a worsening worldwide food-price crisis, IFAD led a campaign to convince governments and donors that developing country small farmers are now essential to ensure food security, spur economic growth and help mitigate climate change.

At IFAD, the immediate job was to ensure that the next growing seasons yield more production. In the meantime IFAD kept up the fight to strengthen whole smallholder-based agricultural systems, especially in Africa and parts of Asia.

Rural Focus of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers

IFAD led the development of a Platform-commissioned study on Sharpening the Rural Focus of Poverty Reduction Strategies. It focussed on the following questions:

- ❖ What are the root-causes for the identified weaknesses in Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) processes, in particular with regard to the limited participation of rural stakeholders, and the observable disconnects between poverty assessments and the prioritisation of policy public action and resource allocation? In the light of experience to date, how can PRS processes be strengthened to improve long-term development impact?
- ❖ The PRSP case studies conducted in selected countries – Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Bolivia and Cambodia – have been successfully completed. The synthesis of these studies from the editorial group of experts from ODI, GTZ, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and IFPRI was finalised in late 2008.

As co-chair of the Platform, IFAD participated in the Accra High-Level Forum in September 2008 and led the analysis of the agriculture sector's response to the key indicators of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness.

Looking ahead

IFAD hopes, with co-financing, to attract US\$6 billion for a programme of investments for 2010 through 2012. Together with the international community, IFAD is adapting 2009 programmes to the crisis situation and to support emergency measures to produce more food in the next planting season. As part of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on the global food security crisis IFAD, together with the Platform, is supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Framework for Action, hosting the Secretariat and facilitating the implementation of a financial coordination mechanism to channel additional funds to the countries most affected.

Response to the crisis in food prices

Ireland tackled the extreme rise in food prices in two ways, firstly by immediately increasing humanitarian aid, and secondly through institutional responses.

In the short term, Irish Aid provided € 3 million to the World Food Programme Special Market Mitigation Account in 2008. Other programme country-level responses included an allocation of € 1.1 million to the Ministry of Agriculture in Tanzania for a food price crisis mitigation programme jointly run with the WFP and FAO. In general, the food price crisis has accelerated the trend in submissions and funding for disaster risk reduction programmes.

In terms of institutional responses, Irish Aid prioritised hunger and food security across all programmes. The main findings of Ireland's Hunger Task Force Report, published in September, were endorsed by the Minister of State for Overseas Development, Mr Peter Power. Irish Aid is committed to addressing the main recommendations and will focus on governance issues (political will and related aid/development architecture), small-holder agricultural production, and maternal and infant nutrition.

Irish Aid is currently exploring how to respond further to the root causes of the food price crisis. Ireland is broadly supportive of the creation of an improved financing mechanism within the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, and has contributed € 250,000 to the running costs of the UN High-Level Task Force.

Irish Aid is particularly active in agriculture and rural development in Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Tanzania. The Irish Aid office in Malawi is new, and the Country Strategy there focuses heavily on food security.

In addition, Irish Aid continues to support the CGIAR centres and IFAD.

Aid effectiveness in ARD

Irish Aid is the lead donor in the agriculture sector in Tanzania and provides funds for the agricultural SWAp. Irish Aid is also a signatory to the donor MoU in Tanzania.

In Mozambique, Irish Aid contributes funding to the agricultural SWAp, is a signatory to the donor MoU, and acts for DFID in a silent partner relationship.

As part of the Division of Labour exercise, Irish Aid has withdrawn from the agriculture sector in Uganda.

In Ethiopia, Irish Aid is a joint funder of the Productive Safety Nets Programme and a signatory of the donor MoU.

Looking forward to 2009

In 2009, Irish Aid will mark World Food Day with a series of events in Dublin and in New York in liaison with FAO. The events will provide a platform for Irish Aid's support for agriculture and the rural development sector as well as other activities related to hunger undertaken in response to the recommendations of the Hunger Task Force Report.

Response to the crisis in food prices

KfW responded to the crisis in food prices with € 30 million for Immediate Reaction on Food Crisis and Catastrophes in Afghanistan, Yemen, Ethiopia and Haiti.

Support for ARD in 2008

With respect to ARD, KfW emphasises social and environmental aspects while focusing on supporting increases in production.

In sub-Saharan Africa, KfW provides support for ARD to Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Ethiopia and South Africa.

In Asia, focus countries are Afghanistan and India.

In Latin America KfW provides support for ARD to Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Guatemala, and in the Middle East and North Africa, to Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt.

In 2008, a total of around € 246 million was allocated to all rural development projects. These included infrastructure development and credit facilities, as well as agriculture and the environment.

KfW did not significantly increase support for agriculture in 2008. Contracts were agreed for agricultural projects worth € 50 million in Burkina Faso, Kenya, China and India, and for environmental projects with links to sustainable agriculture worth € 32 million for Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, China and Peru. These projects were mainly financed by BMZ.

Looking ahead

In the coming two to three years, KfW is preparing to undertake agricultural projects estimated at around € 314 million, in irrigation, out-grower systems and rehabilitation of degraded land. Environmental projects relating to agriculture amounting to around € 80 million are also being prepared. These will emphasise resource management, ecosystem protection, biodiversity and park management.

Ministry of Finance and Economy, Italy



Response to the food crisis

In 2008, Italy gave US\$100 million to the World Food Programme (WFP) for emergency assistance in response to soaring food prices. Italy also responded promptly to International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) initiatives to address the crisis in food prices by contributing € 40 million to their trust funds for medium- to long-term projects on ARD.

Support for ARD

Italy's development agricultural policy pays particular attention to diversifying the farm and non-farm sources of income of smallholders. Initiatives take sustainability and environmental impact into account while taking advantage of the opportunities offered by globalisation.

From 2005–2008, Italy's multilateral support for agricultural development, both through the UN and through non-UN organisations, has been based mainly in three areas: food security, water use in agriculture and normative activities.

Italy takes a regional and sub-regional approach, collaborating with regional economic organisations to address food insecurity amongst their member countries: the UEMOA Commission in West Africa, the CARICOM Secretariat in the Caribbean Region and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat in the Pacific Region. Initiatives support regions in re-focusing their strategies towards achieving food security through:

- commercialising and generating income throughout the entire value-chain;
- developing agriculture into a modern, diversified and competitive commercial sector; and
- supporting smallholders and farm-based organisations to take advantage of trade liberalisation and of regional trade agreements.

Aid effectiveness in ARD

Italian cooperation recognises the need to promote a more inclusive approach among all actors involved in agricultural policies, not only among development actors. Italy is trying to increase ODA for agricultural development. The focus is on strengthening food security, particularly for smallholders, in collaboration with Regional Economic Organisations.

Italy actively participates in EU discussions and decision making on long-term planning and strategies, and works towards better coordination among Italian institutions and other Member States.

Looking ahead

Italy recognises that global challenges such as food security and climate change require global responses. In the medium and long term, Italy will align with the UN High-Level Task Force (HLTF) on the global food security crisis in shaping and establishing the Global Partnership on Agriculture and Food Security and Nutrition (GPAFSN).



Response to rise in food prices

As a response to the food price crisis Denmark allocated more than DKK 100 million extra for food security related humanitarian assistance in 2008. As part of the revision of the Danish strategy for humanitarian support, Denmark took the initiative to arrange a conference on humanitarian assistance, food security and climate change in cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP) and a Danish NGO.

The Danish response to the challenge of food security is reflected in the national finance bill for 2009. This bill provides for increases in humanitarian support through the WFP and Danish humanitarian NGOs. Furthermore, increased support for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and strengthened support to business and agricultural development, in particular in Africa, is included. In total the allocation to bilateral business and agricultural development in 2009 is DKK 1.2 billion.

Furthermore, a campaign has been launched to increase the awareness among Danish businesses with regard to existing business instruments in Danish development assistance – with a view to promote opportunities for engaging in investments in agricultural development, and food production and processing in developing countries.

Aid effectiveness in ARD

In 2008, Denmark chaired the agriculture donors group in Burkina Faso and was an active partner in donor coordination in all other countries where bilateral support is provided to the agricultural sector (Benin, Mali, Niger, Mozambique, Kenya, Uganda, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Bangladesh and Vietnam).

In a number of the above countries Denmark supports national programmes of various types (e.g. Proagri in Mozambique).

Looking ahead to 2009

The Danish Prime Minister chairs an Africa Commission, which focuses on economic development through employment generation, with specific focus on youth and women. The Africa Commission will present its recommendations in May 2009, with expected focus on promoting the development of agricultural value chains, research and innovation as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs) amongst others. The recommendations will be followed-up by initiatives financed by Denmark. Other donor agencies are also expected to finance some of these initiatives.

A new DKK 400 million five-year programme of Danish support to the agricultural sector in Uganda is expected to be approved in 2009. The programme – U-Growth – will focus on the public sector as well as the private sector and build on multi-donor support to the programme components. Particular emphasis will be placed on enhancing women's engagement in economic activities related to the sector.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

Response to the food crisis

The main aim of Finland's Development Policy is to promote poverty eradication through ecologically sustainable development. Rural development, agriculture and ecologically sustainable development are among the main focuses in the Development Policy and play a central role in responses to the food crisis.

In addition to long-term development assistance, Finland provides support to food crises through humanitarian assistance, with the objectives of saving lives, alleviating suffering and maintaining human dignity during and in the aftermath of crises. Finnish Humanitarian Assistance is also underpinned by the concept of systematic linkage between relief and development.

Finland has increased donations to international agricultural and rural development organisations (IFAD, FAO and the CGIAR) in order to facilitate their work in response to the food crisis.

As a humanitarian response to the food crisis, Finland channelled in 2008 € 18.8 million altogether to the World Food Programme. Finland also supported UNICEF's programmes, which include nutrition components, with an allocation of € 3.2 million.

Aid effectiveness in ARD

Finland discusses with each country whether or not current funds should be channelled to a larger extent to rural development and agriculture. Decisions are made on a country-by-country basis.

Looking ahead to 2009

Finland will start several new projects in agriculture and rural development in 2009. The level of Finnish Humanitarian Assistance will be maintained at about the same level as in 2008 (approximately € 67 million).

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France



Response to the crisis in food prices

At the High-Level Conference organised by FAO, 3-5 June 2008 in Rome, President Sarkozy proposed a global partnership to respond to the crisis in food prices. The partnership would be built on three pillars: governance involving all relevant stakeholders (international institutions, government and non-government actors); a network of independent international experts and scientists; and mobilisation of funds to benefit agriculture in developing countries. The idea has been endorsed by the G8 and merged into the UN Global Partnership on Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition (GPAFSN), promoted by the High-Level Task Force.

In 2008 France contributed € 0.5 million to the GPAFSN through FAO.

Food aid is a very relevant instrument in crisis situations. In 2007, France provided € 32 million in food aid and raised this to € 53 million in 2008. France also provided half of the 200,000 tonnes of cereals agreed at the London Convention. In addition, the Ministry of Finance granted € 15 million for other measures to respond to the food crisis.

Agriculture is again becoming a priority for development aid. In 2008, France made new commitments of € 200 (€ 1,000 million over 5 years) to expand its portfolio of rural infrastructure, microcredit and agriculture projects. France increased funding for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), from € 23 million over 3 years to € 35 million over 3 years.

France is contributing up to 16% of € 1,000 million over 4 years to the European Commission Facility for Food Security.

France organised two major conferences related to food security 'Who will feed the world?', held at the European Parliament, Brussels, 3 July 2008, and the High-Level Meeting on ECOWAS agricultural policy, held in Paris, 9 December 2008.

Aid effectiveness in ARD

In 2008, France led the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) West Africa donor committee and played an active role in donor coordination in Madagascar.

Looking forward to 2009

In 2009, France will contribute one expert and € 0.25 million to the United Nations High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis and two experts to FAO in support of the Global Partnership on Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition (GPAFSN).

France will also support ECOWAS in finalising its agricultural policy and organising, in October, a pledging conference in West Africa to fund its policy.

As regards food aid, France will commit around € 35 million in 2009 and € 40 million in 2010.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development – Sahel and West Africa Club



Since its creation in 1976, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC/OECD) has been encouraging policy dialogue at the regional and international levels and the building of Sahelian and West African capacities related to food crises prevention and management. In partnership with the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (Comité Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel, CILSS), the SWAC Secretariat created in 1984 the Food Crises Prevention Network (FCPN, Réseau de Prévention des Crises Alimentaires, RPCA), a framework for strategic thinking, analysis and facilitating decision-making.

Response to the crisis in food prices

In April 2008, the SWAC/OECD and its West Africa partners organised an FCPN meeting at OECD headquarters. At this meeting, the definitive assessment of food production in 2007 was drawn up and recommendations were made for vulnerable populations to have better access to food products.

At the 24th annual FCPN meeting held in Dakar, Senegal, in November, an assessment of the food and agricultural situation in 2008 was drawn up. In addition, the effects of state responses to the sharp rise in prices were analysed.

SWAC also produced a briefing note analysing the coherence between energy and food policies in West Africa.

Aid effectiveness in ARD

In 1990, with SWAC/OECD and CILSS support, Sahel countries and their main donors adopted the Food Aid Charter. In 2006, the FCPN started a process of revision of the Charter to take account of the emergence of new donors, the evolution in the nature of food crises and response tools, and the need to take into account the responsibilities of regional economic organisations (ECOWAS, UEMOA), as well as the Paris Declaration. Co-led by the SWAC/OECD and the CILSS, the revision process has two stages. Stage 1 is an analysis of the new food crises context and Stage 2 is negotiation and adoption of the revised Charter.

In 2008 Stage 1 was completed and a draft revised text was drawn up. The draft revised Food Aid Charter will serve as a basis for Stage 2.

Looking ahead to 2009

In 2009 SWAC/OECD will facilitate the negotiation and the adoption of a revised Food Aid Charter for West Africa. With ECOWAS, SWAC/OECD will co-organise a Regional Livestock Forum, 29 January–4 February 2009, to adopt a Guidelines Note on the Prospects for livestock development in the Sahel and West Africa.

SWAC/OECD will also support the formulation of a Regional Programme on Agricultural Investment (PRIA) within the framework of the implementation of the ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) and NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). SWAC/OECD will also publish a document entitled *Can West Africa feed itself?*

Response to the food crisis

Sweden allocated an additional US\$10 million to the World Food Programme in response to the food price crisis. This brought Sweden's total contribution to the World Food Programme to US\$70 million. Sweden continued to support the CAADP process with an annual Swedish contribution of US\$2 million.

In addition, new, more programmatic cooperation with FAO was initiated.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) followed up the launch of Agriculture for Development, the World Development Report 2008, with a series of seminars involving Swedish researchers, decision-makers and the media.

In 2008, the Sida position paper on Natural Resource Tenure continued to be disseminated widely.

Aid effectiveness in ARD

Sida Director General co-chaired Roundtable 8 at the Accra High-Level Forum.

During 2007/2008 Sida was lead for the ProAgri donor group in Mozambique and also led the agricultural donor coordination group in Zambia.

Sida extended Sweden's contribution to the second phase of the agricultural sector support programme ProAgri in Mozambique until 2011.

Sida continued to support the ProRural Common Fund in Nicaragua.

Looking ahead to 2009

Sida will present a number of new policies and other policy documents in 2009. These may influence future Swedish support to agriculture. The documents will include a new regional cooperation strategy for Africa, new cooperation policies for economic growth, climate change and the environment, and the conclusions and recommendations of the Swedish initiated Commission on Climate Change and Development.



Response to crisis in food prices

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) responded to the crisis in food prices in the short term by providing humanitarian aid. SDC committed an additional CHF 11 million to the World Food Programme (WFP), CHF 2 million in un-earmarked funds, and around CHF 6 million for emergency operations and protected relief operations.

In Latin America, Switzerland committed an additional CHF 1.25 million to Nicaragua for the rural development SWAp to strengthen agricultural production and an additional CHF 1.2 million for emergency relief in Haiti.

Switzerland also seconded support to the UN High-Level Task Force on Food Security. Currently, reallocation of funds in the long term is being discussed. One option being considered is to reallocate around CHF 240 million for the next three years to food security, focusing on supporting smallholders in Africa and activities related to CAADP.

Aid effectiveness

Switzerland contributes to the rural development SWAp in Nicaragua. In 2008, Switzerland supported the International Year of the Potato and, in Bolivia, the Third Latin American Event for Organic Agriculture.

SDC has created a Global Programme on Food Security as a new policy and thematic unit at headquarters. The mandate of the new unit is to develop a specific programme for food security.

SDC is also stepping up the focus on food security in East Asia, Eastern and Southern Africa, and West Africa. In Africa, SDC is exploring stronger alignment with the regional strategies of ECOWAS, SADC and CAADP.

Looking forward to 2009

In 2009 SDC will further develop strategies to reallocate funds, align support to regional strategies, and step up the focus on food security.



Response to the crisis in food prices

In April, 2008, the Chief Executives Board (CEB) of the United Nations established a High-Level Task Force (HLTF) on the Global Food Crisis, under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General. The Task Force brought together the Heads of the UN specialised agencies, funds, and programmes, the Bretton Woods institutions and relevant parts of the UN Secretariat. The HLTF developed the Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA), which was adopted by the General Assembly in September 2008.

In response to the severity of the crisis and the need for prompt action, the World Bank set up a US\$1.2 billion rapid financing facility under the Global Food Price Crisis Response Program (GFRP) in May 2008 that is providing Bank financing and technical advice to countries affected by the food crisis.

The continuing World Bank response has been articulated in coordination with the United Nations' High-Level Task Force on food security. Through its response, the Bank is supporting the implementation of the joint Comprehensive Framework for Action.

GFRP projects from Bank funds – either Board-approved or well along the pipeline for Board approval – amounted to US\$1.17 billion in 36 countries as of March 13, 2009.

The Bank is engaged in policy dialogue with more than 40 countries to help them address the food crisis and is equally active at the regional level.

A Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) has been created to facilitate the involvement of a broad range of development partners in supporting country efforts to address the crisis.

The Bank has mobilised US\$189 million in external funds for activities under GFRP. These funds will be provided as grants to 16 countries.

In addition to GFRP, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) has invested more than US\$1.4 billion (financial year 2008) in agribusiness supply chains to boost agricultural production, increase liquidity in supply chains, improve logistics and distribution, and increase access to credit for small farmers.

The World Bank Group is also working to help countries develop financial market insurance products and risk management strategies to ensure increased capacity to respond to future price increases.

Investments in agriculture and rural development

In 2008 (financial year), World Bank investments in agriculture and rural development were US\$2 billion (8% of total Bank lending), down from US\$3.1 billion in the financial year 2007. Agriculture and rural lending in the financial year 2009 is expected to be higher than in the financial year 2008.

Translating the World Development Report (WDR) 2008 Agriculture for Development into action

The WDR 2008, the result of extensive consultation around the world, provided the overall framework for the World Bank's current and future support for agriculture. World Bank actions will emphasise reducing risk and vulnerability, raising agricultural productivity, linking farmers to markets, value addition, facilitating rural non-farm income and exit, and strengthening environmental services and sustainability. The combination of actions emphasised across these six areas will likely differ across the WDR 2008's three worlds of agriculture: agriculture-based, transforming, and urbanised economies.

Looking ahead to 2009

GFRP will have disbursed \$732.8 million out of \$866 million in 30 countries by March 2009. An additional \$308 million is being earmarked for programmes in nine countries.

Support for agriculture and rural development

In Southeast Asia, UNODC has been implementing Alternative Development (AD) projects in Lao PDR and Myanmar in ethnic highland communities that have hitherto depended on the cultivation of opium poppy. The projects support socioeconomic development and provide opportunities for sustainable alternative livelihoods by increasing agricultural production and identifying opportunities for generating income.

In Lao PDR, a joint UNODC and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) project in Oudomxay province has a total budget of US\$2,348,500. In Phongsaly, UNODC funds a US\$1,880,000 project and in Houaphanh Province a project with a budget of US\$1,000,000.

In the Wa region of Myanmar, UNODC funded a 10-year comprehensive agricultural development project with a total budget of US\$15.9 million from 1998 to 2008.

In addition, the UNODC Global Partnership on Alternative Development Project (US\$1.5 million) works to reduce illicit crops in Lao PDR, Myanmar, Peru, Bolivia and Colombia.

UNODC also supports projects in Afghanistan and Latin America (Bolivia, Columbia and Peru).

In Afghanistan, UNODC, in cooperation with the Ministry of Counter Narcotics, supports Capacity Building on Alternative Livelihoods at Central and Provincial Levels. The project Training on Needs Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation of Alternative Livelihoods Programmes for Civil Servants increases general awareness and promotes institutional strengthening of the Afghan Government in rural development. The total budget is US\$2,246,600.

In Bolivia, two UNODC projects support rural development: a US\$4,155,564 Vocational Training and Micro-Enterprises project in the Cochabamba tropics and a US\$8,500,000 Sustainable and Integrated Management of Natural Resources project.

In Colombia, four UNODC projects support rural development: Environmental Conservation through Illicit Drug Crop Eradication and Indigenous People's Practices Consolidation (US\$9,810,100), Strengthening Alternative Development within the framework of integrated rural programmes (US\$9,810,100), Strengthening Social Ties and Productivity (US\$3,667,931) and Support to Monitoring and Evaluation of Sustainable Drug Crop Reduction and Alternative Development (US\$67,441,104).

Projects in Peru address Alternative Development with an Environmental Approach (US\$7,633,400) and Reforestation (US\$26,081,855).

Major publications

Major publications from the Global Partnership on Alternative Development Project include Sustaining Opium Reduction in Southeast Asia: Sharing Experiences on Alternative Development and Beyond, Mainstreaming Alternative Development in Lao PDR, Myanmar and Thailand: a Process of Learning and National Drug Control Master Plan (2009-2013): A Five Year Strategy to Address the Illicit Drug Control Problem in the Lao PDR.

The publication Desarrollo Alternativo en el area Andina. Guia Tecnica (March 2009) describes UNODC activities to support alternatives to production of illicit crops in the Andean region.

Aid effectiveness in ARD

In support of aid effectiveness in ARD, UNODC country offices organise regular fora, meetings and field visits for representatives of donor countries, embassies and funding agencies to meet and discuss priorities for development assistance and coordination through the Mini Dublin Group mechanism.

At the regional level, UNODC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Drug Control with Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. In addition, the ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) provides for broader regional cooperation. UNODC has also signed agreements with many member states regarding development assistance for areas where illicit crops are grown and MOUs on technical assistance with local governments.

All mechanisms to improve aid effectiveness at the country and regional levels include alternative development (where agricultural development is an important component) as one of the main pillars in the action plans and agenda. To leverage and maximise development assistance in agricultural and rural development UNODC makes efforts at both national and international levels to incorporate development interventions aimed at providing alternatives to illicit crops into broader poverty reduction strategies and country assistance strategies.

Looking forward to 2009

Most UNODC projects are long term. The activities described above include not only those carried out in 2008, but also ongoing activities that began before 2008 and will continue after 2008. Because environmental crime has a major impact on development, the UNODC programme is widening its focus on the environment and working with national governments on the inter-related issues of illegal logging, deforestation, trafficking in wildlife and exotic species, and illegal mining.

Response to the rise in food prices

The US Government responded to the sharp rise in food prices in 2008 with an estimated US\$200 million in emergency food assistance from the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust, US\$1.245 billion in additional PL 480 Title II food aid assistance, US\$195 million in additional International Development Association (IDA) emergency assistance, and US\$200 million in additional development assistance.

Financial re-allocations were also made to shift funds to address high food prices. Missions reviewed their 2008 budgets and moved funds where appropriate from other programmes. The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) was allocated US\$20 million of the IDA funds specifically appropriated for 'famine prevention and relief' to disseminate 'on the shelf' food staple technologies in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. For 2009, US\$15 million urgent action supplemental funds were programmed as part of the 2008 response to the food crisis, targeting highest priority CGIAR research and development activities associated with reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience in regions most affected by high food prices.

On the policy front, the US supported alignment of development and humanitarian assistance programmes in six West Africa countries and the regional programme to increase staple food production and link areas of potential surplus with areas of chronic food insecurity through trade and transport corridors. Funding was made available specifically for local and regional procurement of food assistance globally. In East Africa, a programme on making markets work for African farmers, particularly smallholders, will facilitate the development of systems for the local and regional procurement of food aid, which will strengthen, rather than by-pass, sustainable market institutions.

CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme) enables USAID to form partnerships with a wide variety of institutions, including African governments, the private sector, private voluntary organisations (PVOs) and local NGOs, as well as other donors. Through the CAADP Partnership Platform which USAID supports, the Agency coordinates activities with these partners to achieve CAADP objectives. USAID, through its Initiative to End Hunger in Africa, is building the institutional capacity of government organisations and regional economic communities, including policy and research groups; private sector organisations, including trade and finance groups; and civil society groups to lead and manage CAADP.

Aid effectiveness in ARD

The US Government is active in the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, CAADP Partnership Platform, CAADP Task Force on High Food Prices, Global Task Force for Early Action, UN Standing Committee on Nutrition, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), World Food Programme, World Food Programme Executive Board, FAO and its various committees, including the Committee on Food Security, and the UN General Assembly.

The US is working with other countries and international organisations to set up the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security (GPAFS). The G8 Experts Group on Food Security has met twice and made significant progress in preparing for the launch of GPAFS and beginning to monitor fulfilment of G8 commitments.

Upcoming developments concerning ARD in 2009

Going forward, 2010 funding and policies will be decided by the incoming Administration. Items under discussion include policy changes to better align humanitarian and development assistance to address chronic food insecurity and a revised food security strategy.

PLATFORM MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

The Platform is managed and governed according to the Platform Charter. The Charter sets out policies for financial and contract management, providing policy advice, and Board, Steering Committee and Annual Meetings. In 2007, the Platform started a process to revise its Charter. One of the outcomes was the creation of the Board, which first met in December 2007. The revised Charter was adopted in March 2008. The Platform Steering Committee holds regular video conferences to discuss progress and prioritise Platform activities.

In general, Platform activities in 2008 were carried out according to the work plan. As directed by the Board, activities were adjusted to allow the Platform to prepare for the Accra HLF and to react flexibly to the crisis in food prices and make appropriate responses. Ongoing priorities were an external evaluation of the Platform, and developing a Platform Strategic Plan.



The independent external evaluation of the Platform took place between January and April. In response to the evaluation, the Board agreed that a three-year strategic plan should be developed. Work and consultations on this began in July 2008 and were carried through to the first quarter of 2009.

New Board Member

The Platform welcomed the Global Mechanism of UNCCD as a new member of the Board. The strengths of the UNCCD-Global Mechanism in analysing new financing instruments in aid effectiveness, such as basket funding, direct budget support and sector-wide approaches, will be particularly valuable to the Platform.

Board meeting and retreat

During the Board meeting and retreat in Petersberg, Bonn, in July, the main items on the agenda were the findings of the external evaluation of the Platform.

In view of the rapidly changing aid architecture and in line with recommendations of the evaluation, the Board decided to embark on a strategic planning process to position the platform where it can have most impact. The Board charged the Platform Steering Committee with providing guidance and feedback in the strategic planning process through video conferences.

The Board also identified priorities for the remaining half of 2008:

- Support for the strategic planning exercise;
- Support for the preparation of the Platform 'Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy';
- Participation in, and follow up on the outcomes of Accra HLF3;
- Development of the Joint Donor Principles;
- Support to CAADP;
- Preparations for the Platform General Assembly;
- Immediate positioning in the evolving aid architecture;
- Recognition by OECD-DAC PovNet.

Additionally, the Platform website as well as the Platform finances and membership contributions were identified as ongoing priorities.

Platform General Assembly

The Platform General Assembly in November provided an opportunity for fruitful discussions and valuable input to the planning process. Members took advantage of this to network and share information on recent developments.

The first part of the meeting focused on current changes in the global governance in the ARD sector, particularly the implications of the Accra Agenda for Action and the challenges and opportunities presented by the Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) of the High-Level Task Force on Food Security and the Global Partnership on Agriculture and Food Security (GPAFS). Donors and development partners are joining forces and steadily progressing to reform the international development assistance architecture. Participants from partner countries, UN agencies, CSOs and NGOs greatly enriched the discussions.

The second part of the meeting focused on the strategic direction of the Platform and the strategic planning process. Discussions addressed the objectives, roles and functions of the Platform, its governance and its potential outputs. The discussions provided valuable inputs to the Board Meeting on November 20.

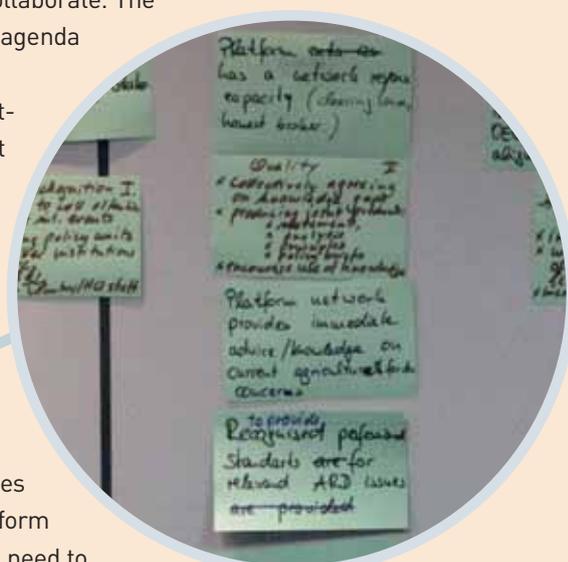
Platform external evaluation

Between March and June 2008, the Canadian evaluation firm Universal Management Group Ltd. reviewed the Platform's work and progress to date with the goal of helping the Platform to identify the best directions to take in the future. The Universal Management team interviewed and surveyed around 70 people. They also reviewed and analysed relevant background and internal documents, minutes of meetings and Platform products.

The findings of the evaluation were very positive. As a network, the Platform is making a valid contribution to the ARD sector worldwide. Global problems are complex because the factors that affect them, such as the environment, climate change, international trade and high food prices, are inter-related. In this context, the Platform, as a joint donor initiative, has a unique niche as the only global mechanism for donor coordination in agriculture and rural development.

The evaluation acknowledged that the Platform is relatively new and, because of its youth, is still building its influence on the international stage. However, members confirm that the Platform is already a successful knowledge broker and is enhancing their efforts to coordinate and collaborate. The Platform is also making great strides in its work to influence the global agenda by successfully lobbying for the inclusion of the ARD sector in Accra, for example. In addition, the Platform has capitalised on its connections, network and contacts, for example in contributing to the World Development Report 2008. The Platform is increasingly recognised by key development donors and agencies as a global mechanism for implementing aid effectiveness principles in ARD.

The evaluation pointed out areas where the Platform could improve its performance. By undertaking many activities in a wide range of areas, for example, the Platform has fuelled unrealistic expectations among stakeholders. Another crucial area that needs to be tackled is that Focal Points are volunteers and many are not given sufficient time and resources by member institutions to fulfil their roles in the Platform. Since the Platform depends on Focal Points for governance and operations there is clearly a need to find better ways of working.



Conclusions and recommendations of the Platform external evaluation 2008

Conclusions

- The current global context suggests that a network such as the Platform is relevant in the institutional framework of the agriculture and rural development sector.
- Given its stage of evolution, the Platform has had some degree of success and is starting to be recognised in the global community, but it is not yet an influential player.
- Platform has undertaken many activities in a wide range of areas. This has fuelled some unrealistic stakeholder expectations.
- The Platform's governance and operational structures are based on assumptions that are currently not completely valid.
- The status quo is not a sustainable option for the Platform.
- Winding down the network would be not only a disappointment to current members, especially the highly devoted core group and some energetic newcomers, but would be a missed opportunity in the current global context.

Recommendations

- The Platform Board should immediately take steps to make the network more focused and strategic.
- It should initiate a strategic process aimed at clarifying the Platform's role and objectives and should culminate in strategic and operational business plans to guide the Platform's future development.

Strategic planning



In response to the external evaluation, the Board appointed a Working Group to develop a three-year strategic plan. The strategic plan will guide the development of the operational plan (work plan, budget, and monitoring and evaluation) for 2009–2011.

The Working Group, made up of representatives from eight member institutions and Secretariat staff, led by the Chair of the Steering Committee, and backed up by a technical consultant and a strategic planning adviser, drafted the Platform Strategic Plan 2009–2011. The Working Group consulted widely with Platform members and with non-member development organisations. The process was fully inclusive to ensure that members were wholly involved in discussing and deciding on the strategic options and the implications.

The draft strategy was presented to Platform members at the Platform General Assembly in Geneva, November 2008, and will be put to the Board for endorsement in 2009. The focus of the strategy is on the role of the Platform in the global aid architecture, which is evolving rapidly in reaction to the crisis in global food prices and the Accra Agenda for Action. The strategy addresses five key areas: the positioning of the Platform, its role, governance, programmes and results-based management.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2009

Possible priorities for 2009 identified by Platform members at the General Assembly in November included the following, which the Platform Board will reflect on and adopt into the 2009 Work Plan as appropriate:

Networking

- Support Italy in its upcoming G8 Presidency;
- Develop a position on the Food Aid Convention; and
- Support the High-Level Task Force and GPAFS with respect to responses to international food price volatility.

Advocacy

- Increase the visibility of the Platform in member institutions at director level;
- Co-host an OECD event on high food prices;
- Prepare a common position paper on reform in the CGIAR and FAO;
- Follow up on the outcomes of the Accra Agenda for Action; and
- Organise information on key international meetings and national level events.

Knowledge Management

- Collect and synthesise evidence-based information in support of ARD programming;
- Synthesise key reports;
- Share information and lessons learnt on specific topics, including social protection/safety nets, climate change, food security, and nutrition;
- Analyse the behaviour of donors in terms of decisions on financing mechanisms;
- Track pledges and disbursements;
- Compile information on lead donors in the agricultural sector in developing countries (based on the experience in Africa);
- Develop a position on agriculture and climate change for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 15) in Copenhagen, 2009; and
- Provide ARD input to the World Development Report 2010.



PLATFORM BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES 2008

As laid out in the Charter, members make financial or in-kind contributions to the Platform. Financial contributions are handled in the Platform Trust Fund, which is administered by GTZ. The funding includes untied core funding and funds allocated to specific activities. All budget allocations for activities are managed by the Secretariat in accordance with the work plan endorsed by the Steering Committee. In-kind contributions include taking on tasks initiated and commissioned by the Platform.

Budget

The projected budget for planned Platform activities in 2008 amounted to € 2,510,098. Platform expenditures in 2008 totalled € 1,577,272. This is a reduction of roughly 18% compared to the 2007 expenditures. The reduction is mainly due to the phasing out of Platform in-country programmes, which were the largest budget items in previous years.

Also, because of the crisis in food prices and the focus on the Accra HLF3 in September, budgeted activities such as the Joint Policy Briefs and regional knowledge dissemination workshops were reduced or postponed. The evaluation and subsequent strategic planning process deferred activities such as the development of an advocacy plan, the refinement of the Joint Donor Principles and the cross-country exchanges. The YARDs campaign, although not budgeted at the beginning of the year, was financed with unspent funds from the Second European Forum on Sustainable Rural Development 2007 in Berlin.

The total available budget for the Platform amounted to € 1,579,010. This included € 215,150 in the FAO Investment Centre, € 1,291,636 member contributions in the Platform Trust Fund, which included a balance of € 435,482 from 2007, and a World Bank in-kind contribution of € 72,224 (monetarised).

Un-tied financial contributions to the Platform totalled € 1,378,586 in 2008. The European Commission contributed through the FAO Investment Centre. The Swiss Development Cooperation, the World Bank, BMZ, CIDA, DFID, France, IFAD and USAID (through a World Bank Trust Fund) transferred funds directly to the Platform Trust Fund.

In-kind contributions to the Platform included the World Bank's support for the indicator study totalling € 72,224 (US\$101,802).



FINANCIAL TABLES

Table 1. Planned budget and expenditures by endorsed activities

	Planned Budget €	Expenditure €	Exp. in % of Planned Budget
OUTPUT 1: ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH			
Advocacy Plan	10,000	0	0
Organisation of international events	0	0	
Annual Meetings	40,000	28,164	70
Communication strategy	35,750	44,720	125
Accra High-Level Forum	80,000	37,439	47
Documentation, reports, web, press, etc.	20,000	17,942	90
YARDs campaign	99,726	84,992	85
Sub total (I) OUTPUT 1	285,476	213,257	75
OUTPUT 2: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND INNOVATION			
Joint Policy Briefs	120,000	4,340	4
Refinement of website	30,000	30,220	101
Harvesting experiences (Synthesis Analysis)	25,000	13,000	52
Regional dissemination workshops	255,000	0	0
Indicator Study (WB in-kind contribution)	75,000	72,224	96
Video learning events	10,000	1,000	10
Strengthen collaboration with regional networks	0	0	
Layout & print jobs	32,000	29,903	93
Sub-total (II) OUTPUT 2	547,000	150,687	28
OUTPUT 3: AID EFFECTIVENESS			
Refinement of Joint Principles	20,000	0	0
Cross country exchanges	30,000	0	0
Publications in-country harvesting	10,000	0	0
Nicaragua (Phasing out)	50,000	45,632	91
Vietnam (Partnership study)	40,000	40,984	102
Cambodia (Phasing out)	60,000	59,199	99
CSO study/ FAO Facility	215,150	235,917	110
CAADP regional activities	150,000	82,423	55
Sub total (III) OUTPUT 3	575,150	464,154	81
DONORPLATFORM – MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE			
Management staff costs			
Secretariat Coordinator	90,000		
Task Leader ARD Policy	90,000		
Task Leader CAADP	90,000		
Junior Professional Officer	42,000		
Communications Officer	72,000		
Platform Interns	12,000		
Finance Administrator (60%)	48,000		
Office Manager	4,500		
Total Staff costs	448,500	304,000	68
Strategic planning	20,000	16,450	82
Independent external evaluation	100,000	109,300	109
Regular TCs and VCs	0	9,023	
Publications	10,000	11,961	120
Running costs (Office rent, communication)	67,200	20,867	31
Travels of Platform staff (Tickets and travel costs)	160,000	83,446	52
Procurement (Office equipment (server, computer, etc.))	8,000	12,670	158
Subtotal (IV) Management and Governance	813,700	567,718	70
Total OUTPUT I+II+III and IV	2,221,326	1,395,816	63
Overheads (13%)	288,772	181,456	
Total estimated budget and expenditures in 2008	2,510,098	1,577,272	63

Table 2. Management of resources and expenditures

	Available Budget €	Expenditure €	Balance €
Available budget in FAO Investment Centre	215,150	215,150	0
Available budget in Platform Trust Fund	1,291,636	1,289,898	1,738
WB in-kind contribution: Indicator Study	72,224	72,224	0
Available budget and total expenditures	1,579,010	1,577,272	1,738

Table 3. Annual financial and monetarised in-kind member contributions

	Financial contributions received in 2008	Financial contributions received in 2007 and balance available for 2008
FAO Investment Centre		
European Commission	215,150	
Subtotal FAO Investment Centre	215,150	
Platform Trust Fund		
Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)	10,000	0
USAID through WB Trust Fund	0	107,327
DFID	87,533	157,629
MAE France	0	42,326
IFAD	50,000	0
World Bank	128,810	0
BMZ - GTZ	480,000	0
CIDA	99,811	0
BMZ – GTZ (unspent funds of 07 to be used for the YARDs campaign in 08)	0	28,474
DFID (unspent funds of 07 to be used for the YARDs campaign in 08)	0	55,796
DEZA (unspent funds of 07 to be used for the YARDs campaign 08)	0	24,091
Irish Aid (unspent funds of 07 to be used for the YARDs campaign 08)	0	19,839
	856,154	435,482
Subtotal Platform Trust Fund		1,291,636
Total financial resources of the Platform for 2008		1,506,786
In-kind contributions (monetarised)		
WB contribution (Indicator Study)	72,224	
Total in-kind contributions	72,224	
Total Platform resources		1,579,010

PUBLICATIONS 2008

Civil society organisations and aid effectiveness in agriculture and rural development:

Synthesis report of a 13-country consultation Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (24 pages), May 2008

Agricultural sector experiences in implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (12 pages), March 2008

Progress Report 2007 Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (32 pages), May 2008

The contribution of partnerships to sector coordination and aid effectiveness: The case of agriculture and rural development partnerships in Vietnam Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (16 pages), June 2008

Aid effectiveness in agriculture after the Accra HLF Global Donor Platform for Rural Development discussion paper (1 page), September 2008

Platform Policy Brief No. 2: The future of smallholder agriculture Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (6 pages), October 2008

Platform News No. 3 Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (6 pages), November 2008

An overview of agricultural donor coordination structures at the country level in Africa

Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (19 pages), December 2008

Tracking results in agriculture and rural development in less-than-ideal conditions: A sourcebook of indicators for monitoring and evaluation Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, The World Bank (158 pages), 2008

All publications are available at <http://www.donorplatform.org>



PLATFORM MILESTONES 2002–2008

2002

JUNE: World Food Summit, Rome: first discussion of the concept of donor coordination and the importance of agriculture to reduce hunger.

SEPTEMBER: First European Forum on Rural Development Cooperation, Montpellier. The World Bank, in the framework of its new rural strategy, introduced the idea of a Global Forum for Rural Development and spoke about harmonisation and donor coordination as pillars of the new World Bank strategy.

2003

MARCH: Rural Week, Washington DC. The decision is made, by the WB and BMZ, together with FAO, CIDA, the Netherlands and IFAD to operationalise the idea of the Forum. BMZ obtained the money to start the project and arranged to host a Secretariat in Bonn.

DECEMBER: Platform foundation meeting, Bonn, hosted by BMZ. BMZ and FAO agree to co-chair the Platform.

2004

MARCH: Discussion paper Improving donor coordination for rural development and presentation of the Platform at Rural Week, Washington DC.

JUNE: Second Platform Meeting, Paris, France. Theme: Establishing a work plan.

DECEMBER: Third Platform Meeting, Bonn, Germany. Theme: Selection of four Platform pilot countries.

2005

FEBRUARY: Country pilot projects begin (assessment studies).

APRIL: Fourth Platform Meeting, Washington DC. Theme: An action plan for Platform support to in-country harmonisation and alignment efforts in the four pilot countries.

JUNE: Fifth Platform Meeting, Paris, France. Theme: Endorsement of the Platform governance charter and creation of the Steering Committee (SC).

SEPTEMBER: First retreat of the Platform Steering Committee, Ottawa (Wakefield), Canada.

SEPTEMBER: Publication of The role of agriculture and rural development in achieving the MDGs: a joint donor narrative; G DPRD.

2006

APRIL: First Platform Annual General Assembly, Brussels.

APRIL: Platform-convened Donor Consultation Workshop for CAADP, Geneva. Theme: Devising ways and means to support the CAADP Framework.

NOVEMBER: Donor Consultation Workshop on CAADP, Geneva.

DECEMBER: Second Platform Annual General Assembly, Washington DC.

DECEMBER: Donor Consultation Workshop on the World Development Report 2008, Washington DC.

2007

JUNE: Second European Forum on Sustainable Rural Development, Berlin.

SEPTEMBER: Second retreat of the Steering Committee, Poggiovalle, Italy.

DECEMBER: Third Platform Annual General Assembly, Paris: presentation of new Charter, creation of the Board, election of Steering Committee, election of chairs.

DECEMBER: Beginning of the external evaluation.

DECEMBER: End of engagement in Nicaragua.

2008

JANUARY: Internal gender assessment final report.

FEBRUARY: Internal evaluation final report.

MARCH: Strategic CSO–Platform workshop.

APRIL: Beginning of harvesting exercise.

JULY: Board retreat, Petersberg, Germany.

SEPTEMBER: Accra HLF

NOVEMBER: Fourth Platform General Assembly, Geneva.

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