

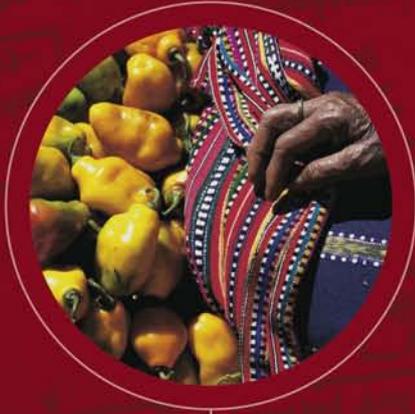




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# ↘ Tackling rural poverty together



## // About us

The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development is a network of 34 bilateral and multilateral donors, international financing institutions, intergovernmental organisations, and development agencies.

Members share a common vision that agriculture, rural development and food security (ARD and FS) is central to poverty reduction, and a conviction that sustainable and efficient development requires a coordinated global approach.



Following years of relative decline in investment in the sector, the Platform was created in 2003 to increase and improve the quality of development assistance in ARD and FS.

The Platform promotes the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action for sustainable outcomes on the ground, and the Busan Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. The Platform provides a forum in which members and partners come together to build consensus around critical or emerging issues and formulate joint approaches.

The Platform adds value to its members' efforts by facilitating the exchange of their development know-how, which consolidates into a robust knowledge base for joint advocacy work.

## // Evidence-based advocacy

Members use the Platform to generate and promote common messages that raise the profile of ARD and FS in policy debates, conferences, and workshops on international, regional, and national levels.

Platform members emphasize advocacy for inclusive agricultural development.

## // Knowledge exchange

By providing information and space for policymakers and practitioners to share knowledge, Platform members enhance their capacity to effectively support their clients in ARD and FS. Cutting-edge knowledge in ARD and FS is often dispersed between agencies, leading to duplication of efforts and delays in the uptake of best practices.

## // Platform board and member focal points

A board, headed by the Platform chair and comprising focal points (full member representatives), meets at least once a year to consider the Platform's long-term strategy. A steering committee comprising six board members oversees the work of the secretariat, which has four full-time and three part-time staff members.

The Platform welcomed several new focal points in the past year: Lourdes Adriano (ADB); Jean-Luc François (AFD); Nikita-Eriksen-Hamel (CIDA); Chantal Symoens (EC); Flavio Lovisolò (Italy); Manuel Tonnar (Luxembourg); Marylaure Crettaz (SDC); and Mari Albiñ (SIDA).

## // Platform secretariat

Based in Bonn, Germany, the Platform secretariat is the service and management unit of the Platform. It is in charge of the network's coordination, communication and organising the implementation of activities. It is hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and managed by the German International Cooperation (GIZ).

The secretariat moved to a new location in Bonn this past year: Godesberger Allee 119, 53175 Bonn. It welcomed several new staff members including Monika Midel as secretariat coordinator; Augustin Wambo, who works full time on CAADP; interns Ina Yanakieva, Alina Kleinn, Selina von Schultendorff; as well as short-term ARD consultant, Ute Hübner. The secretariat bid a fond farewell to secretariat coordinator Christoph Langenkamp and Junior Professional Shaughn McArthur.

## // Platform members (as of 31 December 2011)

- African Development Bank Group (AfDB)\*
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)
- Austria – Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs
- Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
- Belgium – The Belgian Development Cooperation
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)\*\*
- Denmark – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- European Commission – Directorate-General for Development (DG DEV)\*\*
- Finland – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- France – Ministry of Foreign Affairs\*\*
- French Development Agency (AFD)
- Germany – Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)\*\*
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- The Global Mechanism of UNCCD (UNCCD GM)\*
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (Vice-Chair)\*\*
- Irish Aid – Department of Foreign Affairs
- Italy – Ministry of Foreign Affairs\*
- KfW Entwicklungsbank
- Luxembourg – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Norway – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Netherlands – Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Chair)\*\*
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Spain – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation\*
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)\*
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)\*
- United Kingdom – Department for International Development (DFID)\*\*
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)\*
- The World Bank\*\*
- World Food Programme (WFP)\*
- World Trade Organisation (WTO)

\*Board Member \*\* Steering Committee Member

## // Message from the Chair and Vice-Chair

Monique Calon, The Netherlands - Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Chair)

Brian Baldwin, International Fund for Agricultural Development (Vice-Chair)



**In 2011**, Platform members were very busy—developing new strategies to improve agricultural production, increase access to markets, manage risk, and improve the livelihoods of rural people. The 2011 Platform annual report is only a snapshot of what we as members are doing to help our partners in developing countries to deal with critical issues affecting agriculture, rural development, and food security (ARD and FS). What is clear is that it is not business as usual. The landscape for development of agriculture is rapidly changing. New actors—the private sector, emerging countries—are expanding their outreach to put more food on the market thereby creating opportunities but also engendering risks for small holder farmers, pastoralists, and small businesses in developing countries. The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (the Platform) is a forum where members exchange experiences and develop—to the extent possible—a common understanding of the issues at stake and appropriate responses—responses that will protect the livelihoods of vulnerable groups while getting the most out of investments in agriculture.

As donors, the financial crisis has affected, and may continue to affect, our ability to respond effectively to challenges such as droughts in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel. We need to improve existing practices to achieve results with limited means. On the other hand, the private sector and investors from emerging

economies are investing heavily in agriculture and food security opening up new opportunities for partnerships to feed and nourish a population of 9 billion in 2050.

In this report, we reflect on events aimed at redefining the role of donors, not only as development fund providers, but also as catalysts for innovation through agricultural research and information sharing, through new instruments to engage with governments, the private sector and civil society, and through global efforts to better understand the changing face of agriculture and food security in a global economy. There are no silver bullets. Debates about issues such as access to natural resources, especially land and water, responsible investment, global public goods and the right to food need to be brought out in the open and discussed between donors and with other stakeholders. These discussions should be evidenced based—free from political agendas—and reflect a common understanding of the issues at hand with solutions that can make a difference for the poor.

This is the main objective of the Platform. This is our *raison d'être*. The Platform cannot dictate what politicians do, but it can collectively influence the political agenda through knowledge sharing between its members and advocacy to convince politicians that mutually agreed solutions will have the greatest impact on food security throughout the world.

Developing countries need and want to be self-sufficient. They want their citizens to prosper and be a part of the global economy. Inclusive growth is the buzzword that we should embrace in our collective efforts. As donors we have committed to spending 0.7% of our national incomes for development cooperation. Very few countries have been able to meet this target. We must therefore first look at our own efforts: Are they effective in reaching

the goals we have set including the MDGs? Is our development assistance effective? Do we have the right tools and knowledge to ensure our development assistance reaches the poor and builds the foundations for sustainable economic development in our partner countries? How can we, as donors in the face of our own fiscal challenges, continue to provide effective support to our compatriots in developing countries? Addressing these challenges is what the Platform is all about.

The Platform's work to promote ARD and FS was initially low on the political agenda for development cooperation. It has now moved to centre stage. As members, we must respond to the challenge and prove that we do have credible solutions.

The member contributions to this report are clear evidence that we are on the right path. Austria and the WTO for example are focusing on agricultural value chains and addressing issues of inequality in access to markets. The African Development Bank is looking for ways and means to reduce post-harvest losses through improved business environments and infrastructure in rural areas. The Netherlands, the US and Canada have successfully negotiated concessional loans to fund agribusiness with IFC. Australia is focusing on making it easier for emigrants to transfer money to their families in Pacific Rim developing countries (worldwide remittances amount to more than 330 billion USD). Finland is exploring the use of ICT to integrate smallholder farmers in lucrative value chains. A number of members including the FAO are focusing on pastoralist livelihoods, an important issue affecting millions in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel. Many more examples of how members are developing new strategies to make development cooperation more effective are included in the Highlight on members section (see pages 24-48). The Platform is proud to be able to report that its members have fully embraced agriculture, rural development, and food security, as a top priority in their development agendas, and that they are seeking new ways to respond to the challenges developing countries face in their quest to become self-sufficient.

The Platform provides a meeting place for members to share experiences and develop

common strategies that advocate for more effective ARD and FS support to developing countries. The Platform's 2011 Annual General Assembly held in January 2012 focused on strategies to build resilience among vulnerable groups in developing countries. The meeting was a resounding success with most agencies participating and new priorities emerging for the work of the Platform in the coming years. These include work streams that focus on reducing post-harvest losses, engaging with the private sector to leverage private investment, improving the quality and relevance of agricultural research, enhancing the nutritional status of children and women, and engaging with Africa's efforts to improve agricultural productivity as well as domestic and foreign investments in agriculture and food security.

We consider the Platform to be more than the sum of its members. Together we can achieve more than individually. Some of the examples in this report attest to this. The CAADP Development Partner Task Team for example has successfully united donors around CAADP challenges with a unified voice and message; the multi-donor trust fund is a good example of donor coordination.

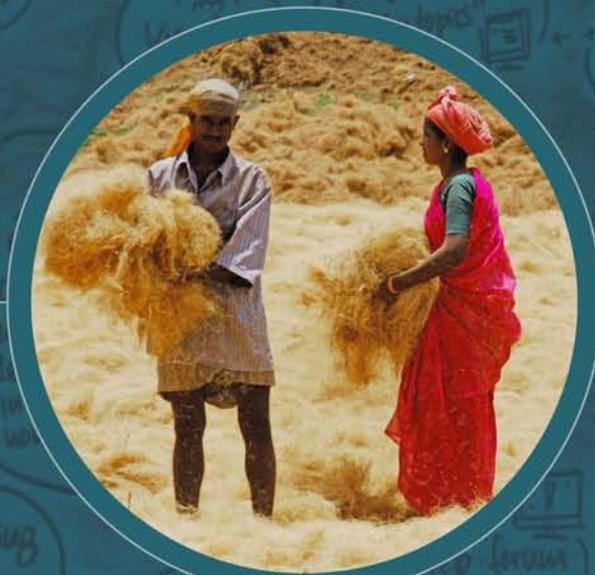
“ In this report, we reflect on events aimed at redefining the role of donors, not only as development fund providers, but also as catalysts for innovation...

The Platform is ready to meet these challenges, bearing in mind that its members make the Platform. Active involvement of members and a willingness to engage and share are what make the Platform unique and add value to our individual efforts. We hope that the spirit of sharing and collaboration that defined the success of our annual general assembly in January 2012 will continue to inspire Platform members to share experiences and engage in, sometimes, difficult debates on what works and what doesn't in the coming years.

# ➤ The year in review



Over the past year, the global economic downturn, spikes in food prices, food shortages and drought pushed another 100 million people into poverty and put many countries at risk of humanitarian crisis. This is in addition to the 1.2 billion people already living below the extreme poverty line of USD 1.25 a day. Three out of every four of these poor live in rural areas and almost all remain dependent upon agriculture.



“ Our objective is to tackle rural poverty through cooperation, dialogue, and knowledge sharing.

In developing countries, especially in those with agriculture-based economies, there is strong evidence that ARD and FS is more effective than other sectors in reducing poverty among the poorest of the poor. Although governments and donors have taken important steps to bring ARD back onto the global development agenda, and investments have risen, more focussed efforts are required, especially in results management and reporting, and the inclusion of all stakeholders in a better accountability mechanism.

With only three years left until the 2015 Millennium Development Goal target date, increasing aid to ARD will not be enough. Amid competing development agendas and limited resources, it is through donor cooperation that the way ahead must be paved. Development agencies can no longer afford to work in isolation if they expect to make inroads in the fight against hunger and poverty.

### // Twin pillars of advocacy and knowledge sharing

In 2011, the Platform continued its dual role as advocate and knowledge broker. With its members, it worked to keep ARD and FS on the development agenda, advocating for increased and more effective aid. It also promoted knowledge exchange among its members to reduce duplication and enhance capacities to deliver more effective and coherent support to ARD and FS in developing countries.

### // 2011 at a glance

#### // Capturing and exchanging knowledge in ARD

- Valuable information base created (Platform Knowledge Pieces and policy briefs) and shared
- United community develops key messages and advocates ARD as highest priority for MDG1

### // Platform focus areas

#### // Keeping agriculture, rural development, and food security on the aid effectiveness agenda

- Greater coherence in donor assistance as members work more closely together
- Widespread alignment with national strategies/ country systems for programme implementation
- Greater participation in sector-wide and programme-based approaches in the ARD sector
- Evidence of ARD progress and challenges included in HLF-4 agenda
- Enhanced predictability of aid through AFSI, L'Aquila Food Security Initiative
- Increased emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches, including environmental sustainability, natural resource management, gender equity and nutrition

#### // Supporting African agricultural reform

- Harmonised donor technical and financial support
- Bridges built between global, regional and country-level processes
- Enhanced country ownership through CAADP technical framework and inclusive processes

### // Platform watch areas

#### // Promoting climate-smart agriculture

#### // Improving pro-poor land acquisition and tenure rights

#### // Engaging the private sector as stakeholder in development

- New global partnership for development created at HLF-4 to strengthen cooperation with CSOs and the private sector
- Emergence of public-private partnerships and new funding mechanisms

#### // Sharing best practices in agricultural research and new technologies

# ↘ Capturing and exchanging knowledge

Knowledge exchange is an integral part of the Platform's work to strengthen member capacity to support ARD and FS. Only through an effective knowledge exchange mechanism can Platform members strike up a dialogue, share experiences, exchange ideas, highlight innovations, strengthen collaboration, develop coherent policy, and advocate common messages.

Across a diverse community of practice, the Platform captures and communicates ARD and FS best practices, lessons learned, and challenges to its members and other practitioners and decision makers. To do so, it uses various face-to-face, print, and online knowledge exchange tools, including an interactive website, blogs, eUpdates, video interviews, virtual briefings, telcos, workshops, conferences, policy briefs, reports, and case studies.

## // 2011 Knowledge exchange highlights

### // Aid effectiveness

- European Forum for Rural Development
- Platform Knowledge Pieces, Evidence Paper
- High-level Forum 4 (Busan), 4 ARD events
- Annual General Assembly
- Blog and video interviews

### // African agricultural reform (CAADP)

- 7th Partnership Platform
- CAADP Development Partners Task Team
- First Grow Africa Forum
- InfoNote

### // Agricultural research

- Platform Working Group on Agricultural Research for Development
- IFAD Agri-Knowledge Share Fair
- IFPRI/FARA Conference on Agricultural R&D in Africa
- Dedicated web pages
- Policy brief

### // Agriculture and climate change

- Durban, South Africa (COP17, ARD Day, Forest Day, Africa Day)
- Commission on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change (CCAFC)
- Achieving Food Security in the Face of Climate Change
- Video interview
- Virtual briefings

The Platform provides space for discussion and debate on controversial and topical issues, and fosters research into the "best solutions" for addressing ARD and FS challenges. It thereby helps practitioners to further develop their expertise and capacity.

Where there are gaps in advocacy or knowledge, the Platform acts as a catalyst, using its convening powers to bring critical issues to the attention of the development community in collaboration with one or more members.

## // Interacting face-to-face

### // International meetings

By bringing together a high number of influential stakeholders, the course for development policy is frequently determined at high-level international fora such as the CFS or HLF on Aid Effectiveness. The broad audience and the dynamism of the dialogues held, both within and outside the meetings, make these important venues for the Platform's advocacy. Frequently at international meetings, ARD and FS fall behind more tangible sectors such as healthcare. It is therefore the aim of Platform members to attend and actively participate in the agenda setting by organising side events and providing advocacy material.

### // Platform Annual General Assembly (AGA)

The **AGA** is the Platform's flagship event for networking and exchanging knowledge. Hosted by Germany and held at the GIZ and KfW Berlin offices in January 2012, it became a productive two-day discussion under the

## “ Strengthening resilience means strengthening the capacity of vulnerable individuals and communities

### header **Strengthening resilience in ARD.**

David Nabarro, Coordinator of the UN High Level Task Force on Food Security and Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Food Security and Nutrition, delivered the keynote address, setting out the broader issues in strengthening resilience in ARD and the role of the international community. Focussing on four areas—climate-smart agriculture, food price volatility, food security, and aid effectiveness—debates revolved around member efforts to strengthen ARD, emerging issues and innovations. AGA participants shared lessons learned in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Honduras, Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

In world cafés, space was given for in-depth discussions of issues such as leveraging the private sector, promoting policy coherence in ARD, post-harvest losses, aid for trade, knowledge sharing, investing in small producers, agricultural research, and land degradation. Key messages from the AGA include the importance of knowledge networks, resilience frameworks, safety-net programmes, local capacity building, and measures to prevent investments from undermining resilience.

## // Publications

The Platform produces evidence-based pieces to synthesise important topics in ARD and FS, reviews seminal publications for the benefit of its members, and prepares policy briefs to provide concise tangible recommendations and options for members on specific topics in ARD and FS.

### // Platform Knowledge Pieces

In 2011, the Platform published three Knowledge Pieces to inform and guide policy makers and practitioners in the delivery of ARD and FS assistance. PKPs are relevant for the development and implementation of partner country strategies (see also section on Aid Effectiveness, pp. 10-12).

### PKP1 – Policy Coherence for ARD

### PKP2 – Aid to ARD and Food Security

### PKP3 – Strategic Role of the Private Sector in ARD

## // Online communication tools



The Internet is a powerful avenue for exchanging knowledge around the world in a timely and efficient manner, promoting connections and interactions

with likeminded groups and individuals. The new **Platform website** launched in February 2011 showcases the work of Platform members and makes ARD and FS material and analyses accessible. The Platform secretariat also takes advantage of the latest knowledge exchange tools, establishing a **Twitter** account (@donorplatform) and **YouTube Channel**, producing regular eUpdates, organising world cafés, holding eDiscussions and virtual briefings, and conducting online interviews.

### // Virtual briefings



In 2011, the Platform secretariat introduced a new briefing tool with which interactive presentations can be delivered for an online audience. Enabling

both the sharing of documents and presentations, and the active participation of all attendants, this communication tool bridges the geographic gap between Platform members. It allows both the sharing of knowledge, as well as an exchange of critical opinion in the online discussion that follows the briefing.

Five virtual briefings were conducted in the past year: Three on the PKPs, one on the Platform Evidence Paper on ARD for HLF-4, and another on the outcomes of the HLF-4. Recordings of the virtual briefings are available on the [Platform website](#) in the form of podcasts.

### // Interviews

The same technology used to conduct virtual briefings is used to conduct online interviews, which are essentially presentations to an online audience. [Platform interviews](#) are an effective way to inform members of the work that other members are involved in. The Platform conducted four online interviews in 2011: three on climate-smart agriculture and one on the CCAFS Commission report.

### // eUpdates

The Platform publishes a quarterly electronic newsletter, which provides subscribers with the latest information about Platform activities and achievements. It is also a means of facilitating informal exchange

between Platform focal points. All eUpdates are available on the [Platform website](#).

### // CAADP DP TT InfoNote

Also in 2011, communications between the Platform CAADP Task Team and in-country Agriculture Donor Working Groups were strengthened through the creation of the [InfoNote](#). InfoNotes, available in English and French, relay donor-specific information on activities, lessons learned, regional support initiatives, planning and policy tools, recent business meetings on CAADP investment plans, programme design workshops, the Horn of Africa crisis and CAADP results and success stories. InfoNote has reached over 200 subscribers.

### // Telcos

Telephone conferences, or telcos, are used as effective tools for collaboration and coordination among CAADP Development Partners Task Team. The Platform's Agricultural Research Working Group held six telcos in the past year.

The Platform uses various knowledge exchange tools, including blogs, eUpdates, video interviews, and telcos to capture and communicate ARD and FS best practices, lessons learned and challenges to its members, other practitioners, and decision makers.



## // Keeping agriculture, rural development, and food security on the aid effectiveness agenda

Agriculture, rural development, and food security (ARD and FS) provide the best opportunity for donors and partner country governments to leverage their efforts in the fight against poverty. However, the potential of ARD and FS to reduce poverty is poorly understood and underestimated. Cutting-edge knowledge of these issues is

often scattered among organisations, leading to competition, duplication of efforts, and delays in the uptake of best practices.

Furthermore, agriculture is a challenging case for the principles of aid effectiveness. Unlike social sectors, such as health and education, which are almost exclusively in the hands of the public sector, agriculture is

overwhelmingly a private sector activity. This background makes it both difficult to measure results, and, as a study commissioned by the Platform has shown (see PKP2 below), to directly attribute investments to results.

Over the past decade, the international community has been exploring ways to make aid more effective. The 2003 Rome Declaration, the 2005 Paris Declaration, and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action have transformed the way aid is managed, delivered, and coordinated. These declarations encourage local ownership, alignment of development programmes

with a country's development strategy, harmonisation of practices to reduce transaction costs, the avoidance of fragmented efforts, and the creation of results frameworks.

**The Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4)**, held in Busan, South Korea from 29 November to 1 December 2011, led to the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, a framework for development cooperation that is backed by traditional donors, emerging economies, South-South co-operators, civil society, and private funders.

## // Platform Knowledge Pieces

Through the Working Group on Aid Effectiveness, the Platform members worked to keep ARD and FS on the aid effectiveness agenda and vice versa. We prepared an **Evidence Paper on ARD** prior to the Busan HLF-4 in an effort to get agriculture on the conference agenda. During the conference, we presented three Platform Knowledge Pieces (PKP), which capture Platform members' knowledge on key issues affecting the delivery and impact of aid in ARD and FS:

- PKP1: Policy coherence for agriculture and rural development
- PKP2: Aid to agriculture, rural development and food security – Unpacking aid flows for enhanced effectiveness
- PKP3: The strategic role of the private sector in agriculture and rural development

**Platform Knowledge Piece 1** explores whether soaring food prices, food security, water scarcity, energy and climate change have made it more difficult to achieve coherent policies. It includes interviews with staff at seven leading development agencies, and 16 policy and programme case reviews from Cambodia, Honduras, Mali, and Mozambique. It finds that policy coherence can be achieved, but relies on establishing partnerships between those who have a real stake in a project. It also makes a case for strong country leadership and local capacity building.

**Platform Knowledge Piece 2** investigates current aid measurement and tracking procedures and discusses the need for improving transparency and accountability in ARD and FS. It is the outcome of studies on donor agency practices with aid measurement in the UK, US, Germany, and the World Bank, on country practices in Malawi, Nicaragua, and Vietnam, and desk studies on IFAD and non-DAC donors and private foundations in ARD and FS. It finds several impediments for indentifying and classifying aid to agriculture and makes suggestions for improved measurement.

**Platform Knowledge Piece 3** is based on country case research in Ghana, Vietnam, Thailand, Tanzania, and Peru, and assesses the role of the private sector in reducing poverty in rural areas. The study looks at the impact of the "rolling back" of direct state involvement in the agricultural sector in terms of the changing role of the state, the response from the private sector and the impact upon agriculture growth and the livelihoods of rural households. It finds that a significant proportion of investment in ARD comes from the domestic private sector, and investigates the implications of these profound changes in the rural sector for aid policy.

All three PKPs are available online. They were introduced through the new easy-to-access virtual briefing facility, providing opportunity to receive first-hand information on these comprehensive studies and to discuss key findings with the authors. The Platform's Evidence Paper on ARD for HLF-4 Busan helped to secure the inclusion in HLF-4 of quantitative and qualitative evidence of progress and challenges in implementing specific Paris commitments. All of these publications created a valuable base of information for Platform member preparation and participation in international fora.



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“Agriculture, rural development, and food security are powerful tools for achieving Millennium Development Goal 1, eradicating extreme hunger and poverty.

In the lead up to HLF-4 Busan, a multi-stakeholder workshop was held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania in April 2011 to develop a set of recommendations and key messages for improving aid effectiveness in agriculture and rural development.

During Busan, Platform members provided a space for dialogue and collaboration between policy makers and practitioners to share best practices and lessons learned. It co-organised and/or sponsored four ARD-related events:

- Scaling up agriculture results with multi-stakeholders
- Better aid through inclusive policymaking
- Agriculture, food and nutrition – getting the results
- Sustainable rural development convergence

The [Platform secretariat reported via website](#) on these and 13 other ARD-relevant events. A summary of ARD implications was filed to members from Busan and a virtual briefing was conducted immediately afterwards. While the outcome document and the speeches in the opening ceremony did not mention ARD, the ARD community displayed itself as united behind its main messages and succeeded



부산 세계개발원조총회  
4<sup>th</sup> High Level Forum  
on Aid Effectiveness  
29 Nov – 1 Dec 2011, Busan, Korea

in getting better recognition when conference attendees agreed that ARD is a subject of highest priority for achieving MDG 1.



Earlier in the year, from 28 March – 1 April 2011, the Platform co-hosted the third [European Forum for Rural Development, in Palencia, Spain](#). The forum brought together 500 rural development practitioners—of which over a hundred were sponsored by the Platform—to draw lessons and make recommendations on how poverty and hunger can be reduced through rural development initiatives. It examined the need for biodiversity, agricultural research, gender equity and smallholder farmer approaches, private sector engagement, climate-smart agriculture, national leadership, social protection, and accountability. Platform Vice Chair Brian Baldwin spoke on behalf of the Platform and the secretariat hired a blogger to report from the event, including video interviews (see [www.ruralforum.wordpress.com/](http://www.ruralforum.wordpress.com/)).

“Substantial progress has been made in enhancing aid effectiveness at the government-to-government level, with the principles of ownership, alignment and harmonisation broadly accepted and applied.

## // Supporting African agricultural reforms

Regional initiatives offer unique opportunities for knowledge exchange and advocacy. With a dedicated staff member, the Platform secretariat works to facilitate member participation and collaboration in the Development Partner Task Team to support the **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)**, an ambitious and comprehensive reform framework to reduce poverty and hunger through agriculture. Entirely African-owned and led, CAADP aims to increase public investment in agriculture to a minimum of 10% of national budgets and achieve an annual agricultural growth rate of 6% by 2015.

Further national and regional roundtables are being organised in additional countries to engage all stakeholders in developing a shared vision for their agriculture sectors. This roundtable process leads to the articulation of Compacts signed by the governments, donors and key stakeholders in national agricultural development. This in turn leads to investment plans that help each country better integrate agriculture and rural development in their poverty reduction strategies.

**The CAADP Development Partners' Task Team** is an informal group of donors who work to ensure coordinated and effective support to the CAADP and to provide a dedicated link between donors and the CAADP process. In 2011, it focused on CAADP implementation at country level, mainly in support of investment plans. It facilitated the development of a set of guidelines for non-state actor engagement with CAADP as well as a mutual accountability framework to enable African partners and donors to discuss and review their performance.

### // African agricultural reforms: What has been achieved so far?

- Eight countries have reached the target of 10% of national budget allocations to agriculture.
- Nine of the reporting countries reached expenditure shares of 5 to 10%.
- At the end of 2011, 29 countries have CAADP compacts and 21 have translated them into investment plans.
- Many countries are now focusing on translating investment plans into specific programmes for implementation, entailing detailed design work and ensuring the necessary capacity and finance is available.

One joint action group of African partners and development partners is providing targeted technical support to countries that want to strengthen such systems. The expansion of high-quality Joint Sector Reviews is expected to be particularly important for strengthening national planning cycles for agriculture and food security. Joint Sector Reviews (JSRs) can strengthen accountability and drive improvements to development effectiveness. However, their methodology must include analysis of donor performance, rather than simply focusing on the government as they have done in the past. CAADP's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Mutual Accountability Joint Action Group is developing guidelines on "good practices" for CAADP country teams, and supporting their implementation, starting with a pilot phase. The working group will review the guidelines with a few African

“ CAADP's goal is to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty through agriculture. To do this, African governments have agreed to increase public investment in agriculture by a minimum of 10% of their national budgets and to raise agricultural productivity by at least 6%.

“ The CAADP Partnership Platform is held each year for development partners to share knowledge and experiences in African ARD.

countries, prior to applying them through a pilot exercise in support of some JSRs.

The CAADP Partnership Platform is becoming an important mutual accountability platform for CAADP stakeholders. The high turnout and quality of outcomes at the Seventh Annual CAADP Partnership Platform held in Yaoundé, Cameroon from 23 to 24 March 2011 demonstrate Platform member commitment to ARD in Africa. Key successes include capacity development, programme design, M&E and mutual accountability work, the Grow Africa Forum, climate-change strategy linked to COP17, response to the Horn of Africa crisis, the Agricultural Science Agenda for Africa, a tertiary education strategy and support for new compacts, investment plans, and business meetings.

The CAADP Development Partners' Task Team was also involved in a high-level meeting on mobilising private-sector investment in African agriculture at a special session of the

World Economic Forum in Cape Town, South Africa in May 2011. WEF launched its New Vision for Agriculture Initiative, in collaboration with the African Union and NEPAD, leading to the creation of the Africa Agriculture Growth and Investment Task Force. This high-level task force mobilises partners to support country initiatives.

Platform members and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency discussed ways to broaden the Platform's support to African agriculture, including the [Rural Futures programme](#), and collaboration on climate change and aid effectiveness.

The need to boost trade, especially at the regional level, is widely acknowledged. Platform members such as Global Mechanism are working with NPCA and CAADP partners to strengthen policy dialogue between agriculture, trade, and environment sectors at the regional and national levels. As part of its efforts to unlock private sector resources for agribusiness value chain, the NPCA has met with Illovo Sugar Industries to explore possibilities of replicating Illovo's smallholder models in other member states, such as Mali, and strengthening current operations in South Africa, Zambia, Tanzania, and Malawi.



“ Seventy percent of the world's poor live in rural areas, where agriculture is the main source of income and employment. Trade can turn agriculture into a major growth sector.

## // Promoting climate-smart agriculture

The overall impacts of climate change on agriculture threaten global food security. Higher temperatures, increased demand for water, and changes in rainfall - floods and drought - reduce crops and encourage weeds and pests. But agriculture is not only vulnerable to climate change; it is also responsible for 14% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate-smart agriculture—namely, better management of natural resources through conservation, integrated pest management, agroforestry, and sustainable diets—will help to both achieve food security goals and mitigate global emissions.

During the past year, the Platform promoted sustainable, economically-viable, and environmentally-sound agriculture through knowledge exchange and support to the international [Commission on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change](#).

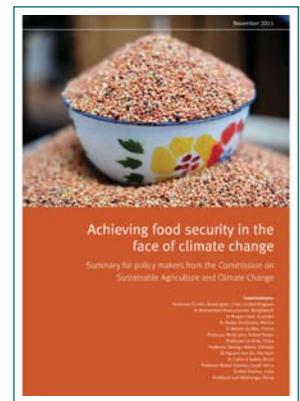
In a November 2011 video interview conducted by the secretariat, the Commission's coordinator, Christine Negra, speaks about the **Global Science Conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture** held in Wageningen and the importance of bringing together the research community to focus on best practices for food security.

The Commission, which is based in Washington D.C. and chaired by UK chief scientist Sir John Beddington, brings together 12 eminent natural and social scientists from around the world to examine agriculture's

“ Climate change, water shortages, and land degradation pose serious threats to food security.

potential to increase food production, decrease poverty, and mitigate gas emissions.

Drawing upon the Commissioners' expertise and resources, the Commission identifies policy changes and actions needed to help the world achieve sustainable agriculture. It recently released a set of concrete recommendations to policy makers on how to achieve food security in the face of climate change. Entitled **Achieving food security in the face of climate change**, the report addresses the need for investment, innovation, and deliberate effort to empower the world's most vulnerable populations to build a global food system that adapts to climate change and ensures



### // What is climate-smart agriculture?

The FAO defines climate-smart agriculture as agriculture that sustainably increases productivity, resilience (adaptation), reduces/removes greenhouse gases (mitigation) while enhancing the achievement of national food security and development goals.

“ It's about reorienting the whole global food system – not just agricultural production, and not just in developing countries. We need a socially equitable, global approach to produce the funding, policy, management and regional initiatives that will deliver nutrition, income and climate benefits for all.

**Prof. Sir John Beddington, Chair of the Commission**

“ Africa has no plan B. Our focus is agriculture in the context of CAADP.

Prime Minister of Ethiopia on behalf of African countries delegates

food security while minimising greenhouse gas emissions and sustaining our natural resource base. The report outlines crucial policy responses to the global challenge of feeding a world confronted by climate change, population growth, poverty, food price spikes and degraded ecosystems. The report's seven high-level recommendations include significantly raising the level of global investment in sustainable agriculture and food systems in the next decade; sustainably intensifying agricultural production on the existing land base while reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and reducing losses and waste in the food system.

The Platform's Agriculture and Climate Change Working Group held virtual briefings and information exchange sessions to strengthen members' understanding of climate-smart agriculture and the initiatives that shape the agricultural research for development landscape, such as CGIAR reform, G20 outcomes, GCARD and initiatives on Agriculture Innovation Systems.

Platform members, including the World Bank, EU, Irish Aid, DFID, WFP, AfDB, Germany, France, and Global Mechanism, attended the COP 17 conference in Durban, South Africa, which meets each year to assess progress in dealing with climate change. The Platform's ARD for Africa Task Leader produced live daily reports from Durban on the various ARD issues at stake.

Platform members co-organised **ARD Day** (3 December 2011) which ran – similar to **Forest Day** (4 December 2011) where members were also active – parallel to COP17 activities to promote the importance of agriculture in sustainable development policies.

**Africa Day** was the culminating point in the weeklong series of side events at the African pavilion, where decision makers discussed key messages related to climate change policy, research, practice and development, with a specific focus on opportunities for a meaningful outcome.

## // The Durban Conference outcomes

- Official parties set 2015 as a deadline to establish a set of measures and tools to help track individual commitments to limit global warming at 2 degrees.
- Developed countries pledged USD 1 billion a year by 2020 to create the Green Climate Fund for adaptation and mitigation efforts in developing countries.
- Countries such as China, USA, India, Russia and Japan, representing altogether half of global GHG emissions, committed themselves to a second round of the Kyoto Protocol.
- African leaders attended COP17 as a united regional block to speak with one voice. They presented ARD as their number one priority and promoted climate-smart agriculture.
- Agriculture is being considered as a standalone session for COP18 in Doha, Qatar.

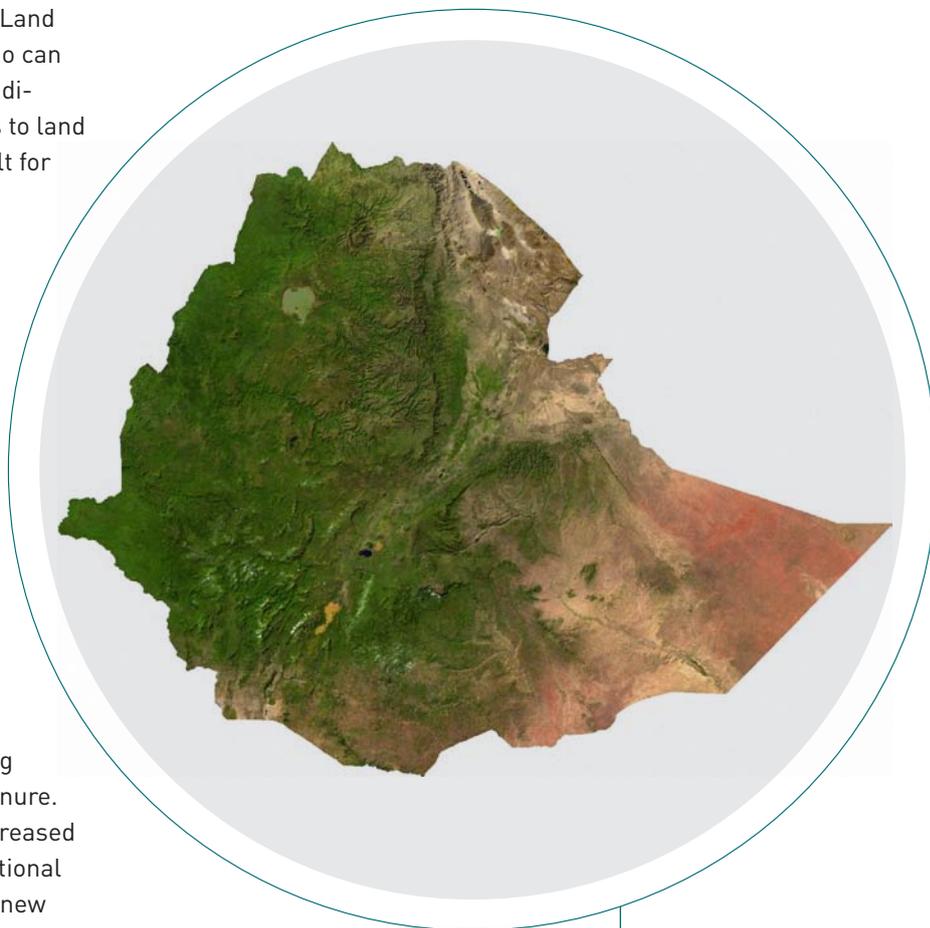
## // Improving land governance and tenure

Secure access to land and other natural resources is essential for food security. Land tenure determines how land is used, who can use it, for how long, and under what conditions. When the poor have limited rights to land and other natural resources, it is difficult for them to overcome hunger and poverty.

The annual **World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty** held in April 2011 brought together participants from bilateral and multilateral organisations, foundations, private sector and civil society to examine:

- Various country approaches to land governance
- Challenges of land acquisition, urbanisation and climate change
- As well as research, capacity building and new technology options

This past year, Platform members continued to share knowledge of ongoing initiatives related to land policies and tenure. Various international efforts point to increased momentum toward a new era in international land rights, such as the African Union's new Land Policy Initiative (ALPI) and the Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI). The FAO and its partners prepared voluntary guidelines to assist states, civil society, and the private sector in improving land tenure and hence reduce hunger and poverty.



Satellite image of Ethiopia



“ The absence of a clear, formal commitment and consensus at the international level around some basic principles concerning land greatly weakens the efforts of all to improve land governance and to strengthen land rights (especially for the poor and vulnerable)...Land (like it or not) is an issue that simply can't be avoided.

**Anne-Marie Leroy, World Bank's Legal Vice President**

## // Engaging the private sector

Traditionally, development cooperation focused on the role of the government. However, engaging the private sector can help leverage resources to promote food security well beyond the limits of development cooperation. This is especially true for ARD, where the private sector is one of the main actors. It is in the combination of development practice and private sector expertise that many remaining challenges can be tackled. Having been a central focus at both CFS37 in Rome and HLF-4 in Busan, direct cooperation with the private sector remains comparatively unexplored by some donors while others are exploring innovative partnerships.

In order to analyse the potential of private sector cooperation, the Platform commissioned a scoping study as well as a policy brief on the [Strategic Role of Private Sector in ARD](#). This Platform knowledge piece assesses the role of the private sector in reducing poverty in rural areas. The private sector's role in agricultural value chains in developing countries has changed considerably over the past 20 years — due, in part, to the general withdrawal of state involvement. The study looks at the impact of the “rolling back” of direct state involvement in the agricultural sector in terms of the changing role of the state, the response from the private sector and the impact upon agriculture growth and the livelihoods of rural households. It profiles what donors have been doing to stimulate business in the rural sector and sets out a series of case studies where the private sector has been able to engage with the agricultural sector in a way that has made a positive contribution to rural development. In the policy brief, the conclusions of the study are translated into policy recommendations, making a compelling case for closer cooperation with the private sector. The 2011 research

by the Platform will translate into various learning events and knowledge sharing activities in 2012.

Countries are developing initiatives to engage private sector investors and partners in support of national agricultural and food security investment plans. For example, the Netherlands is involved in 75 public-private partnerships to empower small-scale farmers and improve food security in developing countries.

The African Union Commission and the World Economic Forum created the African Agricultural Growth and Investment Task Force to support public-private partnerships for sustainable agricultural growth. Composed of leaders from governments, companies, global and regional organisations, donor agencies, civil society and farmer organisations, the task force met at the first Grow Africa Investment Forum, held 8-9 November 2011 in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, and examined investment opportunities with potential private sector partners. Leaders from international companies such as Unilever, Syngenta, Yara and PepsiCo are working with country delegations to help their projects become investment-ready.

**growafrica**  
AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT FORUM

Another unique public-private partnership initiated at the World Economic Forum on Africa in May 2010 and in which Platform members are involved (USAID and FAO) is the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT). It aims to provide opportunities for smallholder producers to engage in profitable agriculture.

“ The private sector will play an important role in fostering agricultural development in the future and will be instrumental in overcoming decades of under investment in agriculture.

**Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Managing Director, World Bank**

## // Sharing best practices in agricultural research and new technologies

Agricultural research and new technologies are crucial to meet rising global demand for nutritious and safe food for the poor and food insecure. Funding for agricultural research must be coordinated on an international level, linked with development processes and driven by farmers' needs. It should support all elements of the research and development value chain, including education, extension, and advisory services.



The Platform provides a forum for members to share best practices in agricultural research and rural development practices. In recognition of its unique capacity to bridge agricultural research and rural development

communities, Platform members are part of the Donor Support Group of the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR) Steering Committee, alongside the European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development (EIARD). The chair relays emerging issues through the Platform to the broader donor community and communicates Platform members' general positions to GFAR.

Throughout 2011, the Platform working group on agricultural research shared agricultural research strategies, strengthened member collaboration, and prepared inputs for a number of events. At the IFAD Agri-Knowledge Share Fair, the group organised a live stream "interactive chat show" on agricultural knowledge and innovations, African research priorities, and best practices for development. At the IFPRI/FARA Conference on Agricultural R&D in Africa, held

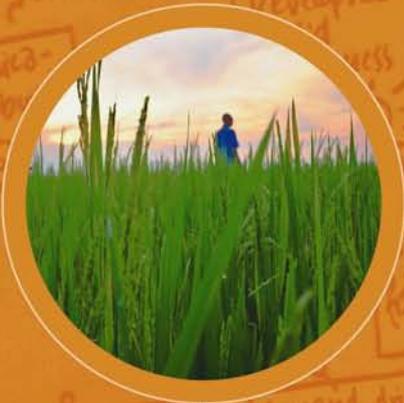
in Accra, Ghana in December 2011, Platform members participated in a donor panel to promote stronger links between agricultural research and agricultural development.

To build on outcomes from the G20 Conference on Agricultural Research for Development held in September in Montpellier, the working group commissioned the Platform policy brief [Promoting scientific partnership for food security](#), which was disseminated to Platform focal points, working group members and any other stakeholders identified by the working group. It is also available for download on the Platform website.

The working group is planning a synthesis paper on agricultural research prioritisation. Group members use the Platform's new SharePoint facility to insert working comments directly into the draft paper. The working group has only just begun to encourage donor dialogue on these strategic, technical and coordination issues, and much more remains to be done to strengthen the links between agricultural research and agricultural development processes.



# ➤ Looking forward: An influential voice in ARD and FS



With the 2015 MDG deadline looming, the development assistance community is increasingly turning its attention towards achieving MDG targets. As the impact of the financial crisis and worldwide recession are being felt, the challenge of meeting these goals has become even more difficult.



“ The Platform endorses and works towards the common objectives of its member institutions to support the reduction of poverty in developing countries and enhance sustainable economic growth in rural areas. Its vision is to be a collective, recognised, and influential voice, adding value to and reinforcing the goals of aid effectiveness in the ARD strategies and actions of member organisations in support of partner countries.

Within the ARD and FS sector, MDGs 1 and 7 (eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; and ensuring environmental sustainability) are uppermost in mind. Platform members agree that national and global poverty reduction targets will not be met unless rural poverty is reduced. Although a higher level of attention is being paid to agriculture and food security, including consideration of an international governance framework for addressing global food security, much remains to be done.

In the upcoming year, the Platform will work towards improved aid to ARD in nine thematic areas, some of which present continuations of its 2011 work while others have been encouraged by recent foci of the global development agenda. To the area of **aid effectiveness**, Platform members have added an emphasis of **development results** in order to raise awareness of the need to bolster aid effectiveness in ARD and to promote its unique potential to reduce poverty. Regarding CAADP-related activities, members will further support knowledge exchange and successful implementation. Platform activities in AE will build on the conclusions of the PKPs. **Agriculture research and development** will remain a focus in order to foster sustainable development. As will **climate change** to which members have added the focus on **resilience**. The thematic area of **gender equity** has been complemented by a focus on **youth** to increase the knowledge of ARD specific opportunities for **gender equity** and promote their implementation. Exploring **private sector** cooperation for increased aid effectiveness remains part of the thematic cluster, taking a much more prominent role than in 2011.

New thematic areas for 2012 will be (1) **Nutrition and agriculture**, with the aim of identifying, sharing and promoting ARD's potential to bolster food security and nutrition; (2) **Pastoralism and livestock** with a focus on increasing and sharing expertise, and (3) **Post-harvest losses and food waste** will explore the possibilities for donors to tackle this important issue.



The strategy 2012-2014 will again be defined by the two main roles of the Platform:

1. **Knowledge exchange** to reduce duplication and enhance member capacity to deliver more effective ARD and FS support
2. **Advocacy** for increased and more effective ARD and FS in developing countries to eradicate hunger and poverty

### // Role 1

#### // Knowledge exchange

The Platform adds value to its members' activities by sharing knowledge and evidence-based good practices. The overall objective is to strengthen member capacity to deliver more effective support to ARD and FS. In the coming years, knowledge sharing and communications strategies will include:

#### // Upcoming activities

- Prepare technical and policy briefs on lessons learned and best practices on topical issues
- Facilitate exchange of information on new funding sources for agriculture, in particular investments by the private sector and new funding mechanisms
- Support global or regional donor coordination initiatives, such as the CAADP Development Partners Task Team and explore possibilities for regional cooperation in other regions (Asia and Latin America)
- Deliver/support training and e-learning with members on key aid effectiveness and ARD issues
- Help organise relevant high-level global and regional conferences and dialogues
- Act as a "convenor" on ARD issues, providing a neutral forum where members can freely discuss provocative or controversial issues

### // Role 2

#### // Advocacy: Keeping ARD high on the agenda

It remains a priority for the Platform to ensure that ARD and FS remains high on the development agenda, particularly over the next few (potentially lean in terms of development assistance) years. The Platform will advocate with its development partners to raise awareness of the needs of the rural poor and encourage better and higher investments in agriculture and rural development in developing countries. The Platform will focus its efforts to influence development partners in prioritising agriculture and rural development investments.

#### // Upcoming activities

- Strengthen collaboration with CSOs, the private sector, foundations, and non-traditional donors
- Improve outreach to members and involve different staff in Platform advocacy activities
- Increase links between ARD and other development processes such as climate change, health, and education
- Monitor implementation of the Paris Declaration, Accra Agenda and Busan at country level
- Broaden membership to include emerging donors with an interest in ARD



## // Looking forward: Member ideas and thoughts Challenges to effective and long-term ARD and FS

- An increasing trend towards the allocation of aid for emergencies and “quick fixes” outweighs and may even undermine investment in long-term development of agriculture
- A better tool for reporting aid flows is required
- Harmonisation at sub-national level is a challenging but important task in ARD and FS with increasing decentralisation
- The absence of clear results is tempering donor interest in the sector. The need to develop sound M&E systems and statistics is strongly indicated
- Developing country domestic accountability in ARD and FS is challenging because of the dispersed nature of the rural population, especially where parliamentary accountability and oversight of budgets is limited
- Showing results and value for money is particularly difficult in ARD and FS because the link between public expenditure (including aid) and results is long and complex and involves decisions made by the private sector whose activities dominate the sector
- As the Platform broadens its membership to include all donor organisations including foundations and emerging donors such as China, Brazil and India, the challenge of satisfying diverse expectations grows
- If the Platform decides to broaden its membership and include foundations and emerging donors such as China, Brazil and India, the challenges of satisfying diverse expectations will grow
- Developing country partners must increase share of national budgets allocated to ARD and FS
- Achieving genuine full-country ownership of strategies in ARD and FS to which donors can align is difficult because the sector is hard to define and responsibilities and strategies cross ministerial portfolios

“ The Platform will share knowledge, capture and exchange initiatives in order to effectively advocate for improved ARD assistance, through strengthening existing and creating new networks. It will seek to influence all donors engaged in developing country rural development programmes at political and technical levels, and seek to enhance its influence by an expanding membership.

# Highlight on members



The following pages illustrate the individual strengths of some of the Platform's members, providing details about their diverse priorities and approaches to addressing agriculture, rural development, and food security throughout 2011.

At the closing of the editorial deadline, not all member contributions to this sections had been received. Therefore not all member activity is reflected in this section





## // Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

### // Advocating the reduction of remittance costs

Global remittances were USD 330 billion in 2010. In many developing economies, remittances make the difference between rural households being above or below the poverty line. International remittances are a critical source of income for rural livelihoods in Australia's neighbouring Pacific Islands. Samoa and Tonga are among the highest remittance dependent nations in the world, where the vast majority (>70%) of the population live in rural areas. As a percentage of GDP, remittances were 23% for Samoa and 20% for Tonga.

Since 2008, Australia has been working actively to create incentives for money transfer operators (MTOs) and banks to reduce remittance costs. Action includes setting up a price comparison website **Send Money Pacific** (SMP), promoting mobile money infrastructure in the Pacific (competition between telcos) to reduce money transfer costs, as well as financial education. Since SMP started, MTO costs to send AUD 200 from Australia to Samoa have gone down by 45% (according to SMP stats). Fiji and Vanuatu have shown significant cost reduction in the past year of -21% and -22% respectively.

In 2010 after the Korean G20 Presidency set up the G20 Development Working Group, Australia became a co-facilitator with Italy and Indonesia on Growth with Resilience to advocate for a G20 target to reduce the average global cost of remittances. G20 Leaders in Cannes 2011 agreed to a 5% target by 2014.

The World Bank estimates that achieving this target will free up more than USD 15 billion per annum for poor people in developing countries. Using our successful experience in the Pacific, Australia also led the development of the G20 Remittances Toolkit, which contains a number of concrete policy measures to reduce remittance costs at the national level.

Furthermore, Australia advocated for global average remittance costs to be calculated on a weighted basis (reflecting remittance volumes), rather than a simple average. This was reported for the first time at the Global Remittance Working Group in April 2012. The Global Weighted Average was estimated at 7.10% in the first quarter of 2012 and the simple average was 9.12%.

Australia also helps other developing countries implement practical measures to reduce remittance costs through a USD 3.5 million contribution to World Bank remittance activities.



Austrian

Development Agency

## // Austrian Development Agency (ADA)

### // Addressing food (in) security

Food security is one of ADA's priorities. In August 2011, as part of its annual meeting, ADA helped organise a public event entitled **Hunger, power, conflict: Food (In) Security** to address the various causes of food crises as well as the impact on food security and livelihoods in Austrian partner countries.

The Austrian state secretary, Wolfgang Waldner, opened the conference with an overview of the challenges of food security, such as power imbalances, socioeconomic vulnerability and inequality, which hamper access to markets, endanger national stability, and increase crime and conflicts. He emphasised the necessity for long-term partnerships and sustainable results, improved policy coherence, reduced power asymmetries in global trade conditions, regulated financial markets, reduced speculations, as well as guidelines for foreign investments (to reduce land grabbing), food security and human rights abuses.

Michael Windfuhr (German Institute for Human Rights), Petra Gruber (IEZ), and Gertrude Klaffenböck (FIAN) addressed key challenges and possible solutions for reducing hunger and malnutrition in Austrian partner countries.

They discussed issues such as the ways in which different agricultural systems—small-scale farming, big plantations, modernised industrialised agriculture—contribute to food security; how global land grabbing affects food security in countries such as Mozambique or Ethiopia; the impacts of climate change and agro-fuels on agricultural production and marketing; and whether speculations are a main driver for increasing food prices.

Given the very different circumstances in countries and regions worldwide, there can never be a blueprint solution. Different agricultural production systems have different impacts in terms of economic return and ecological impact. However, special emphasis must be placed on:

- Empowering subsistence and smallholder farmers, who are the most affected by climate change
- Food sovereignty and the human right to food
- Participation of the poor, marginalised, and vulnerable in decision-making processes that affect their lives
- Promotion of ecologically sound technologies and innovations to maintain ecosystems for future generations





## // African Development Bank (AFDB)

### // Reducing post-harvest losses in Africa

To cope with increasing food demand, governments have traditionally emphasised increasing food production. However, reducing post-harvest losses (PHL) can make available significant amounts of food available at a fraction of the production costs.

Significant proportions of fresh produce, such as vegetables, fruits, livestock products, fish, maize and rice, are lost to spoilage and infestation on their journey to the consumer. The estimated monetary value of annual quantitative PHL of cereal grains, roots and tuber crops, fruits and vegetables, meat, milk and fish in Africa is estimated at USD 48 billion. PHL are crop/product specific and take place at many stages in the supply chain (in the field, storage, processing, market, transport, etc.).

AFDB's Agriculture and Agro-Industry Department (OSAN) has developed a Programme for the Reduction of Post-harvest Losses in Africa (PHLP). The programme's goal is to enable countries to achieve supply-chain efficiencies in a sustainable manner through targeted investments in rural infrastructure, post-harvest and agro-processing technologies leading to reduced physical losses, improved food availability and enhanced product quality. It focuses on four areas:

- Policy formulation and institutional strengthening
- Rural infrastructure
- Technologies for PHL reduction and value addition
- Market development

The PHLP recommends covering other complementary interventions, such as rural finance, PHL research, as well as training and capacity building through collaboration with partners. AFDB is interested in developing strong operational synergies with partners who are active in the agriculture sector in Africa to leverage access to investments, technology and knowledge for PHL reduction.

In the last few years, AFDB has invested heavily in African countries in the development of rural infrastructure, especially rural roads and rural markets, to reduce PHLs and link farmers to markets. AFDB and key partners such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Bank are discussing the establishment of a Community of Practice on PHLs to help document practical lessons and good practices, evaluate and scale up innovations, and generate a forum among stakeholders to enable dialogue and sharing of field-based lessons.





## // Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

### // Addressing the food security challenges of the most vulnerable

Food security is one of three priorities for CIDA's development assistance. In 2009, CIDA launched its Food Security Strategy to focus its food security programming on three paths:

- Sustainable agricultural development
- Food assistance and nutrition
- Research for development

CIDA's Food Security Strategy recognises the important contribution that smallholder farmers, particularly women farmers, make to food security and economic growth in agricultural-based economies. It is designed to empower the poorest and most disadvantaged by reducing their vulnerability to various factors that affect their food security, including weak land tenure, market barriers, and constraints to agricultural productivity.

A major element of CIDA's food security programmes in 2011 was the Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF), jointly implemented with the International Development Research Centre. The CIFSRF supports research partnerships between developing-country and Canadian researchers to develop new technologies to meet the food security challenges of the most vulnerable. The CAD 62 million first phase of CIFSRF supports 19 research projects that address various food security topics including underutilised crops, livestock vaccines, nutrition and agro-forestry. There is also a significant focus on technologies to both improve environmental sustainability and address the needs of women smallholder farmers.

CIFSRF is helping to strengthen and build national research capacity in partnership with southern universities and national government laboratories. Most of the partnerships leverage research and extension expertise from the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), local civil society organisations, and other development actors.

An early CIFSRF result is the improved processing of regional staple food grains in rural India. A centrifugal mill has been designed and tested to substantially increase processing efficiency to over 90%. It requires a minimum of training to operate, is made of locally available materials, and provides a safer and cleaner working environment. The commercialisation potential of this project will be considered by local authorities.

A second phase of CIFSRF, announced in 2011, brings the fund to a total of CAD 124 million to be disbursed over eight years. CIFSRF will continue to fund high-impact food security research and feed the research results into programming and policy decision-making. This initiative will complement efforts to improve coordination of CIDA agricultural research projects, as supported and informed by the Platform's Agricultural Research Working Group.





## // Denmark - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### // Africa's resources – Lions on the move

Danida Development Days is an annual forum for inspiration, shared learning, and dialogue. Held in Copenhagen, the 2011 forum, entitled **Africa's resources – Lions on the move**, explored the myths and realities of Africa's transformation in development cooperation and natural resource management.

Africa has changed dramatically in recent years and the changes are gaining further momentum.

- Growth rates have been high
- Trade patterns are changing
- Foreign investment is higher than development aid
- Half the population is under the age of 24
- Urbanisation is rapidly increasing
- A more self-conscious continent is emerging

A major factor in Africa's economic development has been the increasing competition for natural resources. For Africa and its partners, it is a time of opportunity, but also of significant challenges and risks.

During Danida Development Days, leading international scholars, development practitioners, policy makers, the private sector, and African partners examined the governance of natural resources, such as oil, minerals, land, and water; natural resources as drivers for growth and the role of the private sector; and new challenges for development cooperation.

Keynote speakers included:

- Mthuli Ncube, Chief Economist of the African Development Bank
- Paul Collier, Director of Department for Economics, Centre for Studies of African Economies, Oxford University
- Eckhard Deutscher, Former Chairman OECD, DAC



## // United Kingdom Department For International Development (DFID)

### // Fortifying nutrition outcomes

Through agricultural research, DFID supports the development of new agricultural products, test interventions and delivery mechanisms. In addition, it develops a deeper understanding of the complex socio-economic context that determines the success of investments in agricultural development.

The UK disbursed £71.8 million on agricultural research from 2009/10 to 2010/11. DFID's research is co-ordinated and co-funded with other organisations including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the World Bank, the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC).

UK funding on agricultural research has also contributed to research and rollout of fortified food varieties in countries with significant hunger problems and firmly established nutritional patterns that are difficult to change.

Harvest Plus, a [CGIAR Challenge Programme \(www.ifpri.org/book-7953/ourwork/division/harvestplus\)](http://www.ifpri.org/book-7953/ourwork/division/harvestplus), has made strong progress over the last three years in breeding micronutrient-rich crops and testing them in the field. Harvest Plus is conducting nutrition studies to ensure that these crops deliver on their promise to improve nutrition.

Several crop varieties with at least 50% of Harvest Plus' nutrient target are close to release. Three varieties of high vitamin A cassava were released in Nigeria in November 2011. High iron beans in Rwanda will be released in mid-2012, and high vitamin A maize in September 2012 in Zambia. This will pave the way for varieties, already in the breeding pipeline, with the full nutrient target levels.

Experience with pilot rollouts has shown surprisingly high uptake across cultural and national boundaries and has already demonstrated nutritional impact. More than 24,000 families in Uganda and Mozambique have increased their intake of vitamin A through new strains of sweet potato.

The Harvest Plus programme in these countries helped tackle malnutrition in an estimated 75,000 new households directly – and 225,000 households indirectly as families share their crops with neighbours.

For further details, see: [www.dfid.gov.uk/What-we-do/Research-and-evidence/Research-themes/food-research/](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/What-we-do/Research-and-evidence/Research-themes/food-research/)





European Commission

## // European Commission

### // Networking for food security

With its partners, EuropeAid promotes networking and knowledge sharing among food and nutrition security practitioners to increase the impact of interventions aimed at fighting hunger and malnutrition worldwide. In 2007, EuropeAid set up ROSA, a thematic network and community of practice for sharing information, knowledge, and experiences. ROSA enables:

- Access to relevant information on issues relating to food security
- A forum for exchanging ideas, experiences and good practices
- Regular updates on key subjects in the field of food security
- Peer interaction and collaboration

ROSA counts almost 300 members from the European Commission (both at headquarters and the field) and from non-governmental organisations, research institutes, and regional and international organisations. A team of experts facilitates the participation of ROSA's members through an extranet site and other tools supporting communication among members.

The network produces regular publications (ROSA Newsletters) that provide an overview of the situation, challenges, and debates relating to food and nutrition security issues. Its extranet site, reserved for members, provides access to key documents, useful links, and up-to-date news and information on all four food security pillars. ROSA facilitates the exchange of knowledge and experiences through online discussions and a column dedicated to the dissemination of good practices and lessons learned from its members. In 2011, ROSA produced a short video to foster ownership and interactive collaboration. Using practical examples, the video explains how a community of practice such as ROSA can be useful to members in their daily work on food and nutrition security. The network also developed a comprehensive monitoring system for assessing behavioural changes, which can be used by other communities of practice.



Managed by EuropeAid, the ROSA network is a virtual community for EC staff and partners to share information and strengthen coordination.



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

## // Finland - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

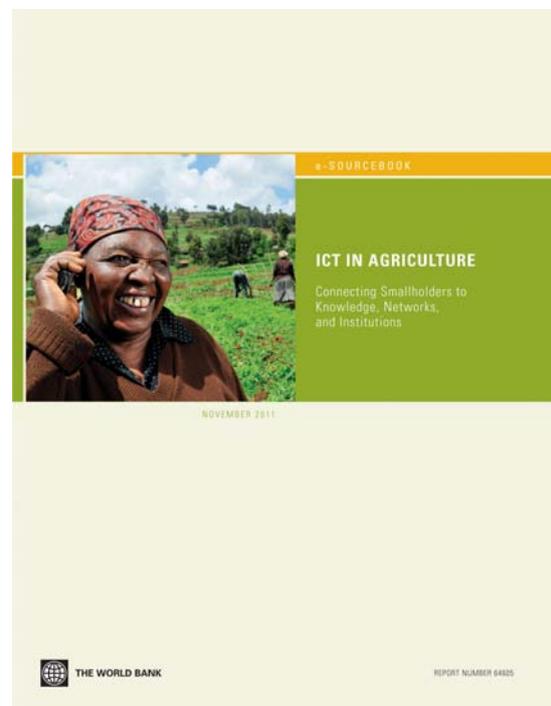
### // Integrating smallholder farmers in value chains

Finland is actively involved in creating an enabling environment for smallholder farmers to participate in agricultural value chains both through bilateral projects and through multilateral organisations.

A key strategy of empowering smallholder farmers is to facilitate their access to market and price information. New communications technology has an important role to play in this.

In this context, Finland funded an e-sourcebook entitled **ICT in Agriculture: Connecting Smallholders to Knowledge, Networks, and Institutions**. This e-book is designed for development practitioners and explores ways to develop, implement, and invest in information and communication technology (ICT)-enabled agriculture interventions.

**ICT in Agriculture** is a compilation of modules related to 14 agricultural subsectors. Each module covers the challenges, lessons learned, and enabling factors associated with using ICT to improve smallholder livelihoods in these subsectors.





## // Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

### // Supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)

FAO works to support the African Union Commission (AUC) and New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordination Agency (NPCA) in developing and translating the shared CAADP vision for sustained, broad-based agricultural growth in Africa into concrete steps and actions at continental, regional and national levels.

FAO assistance to the CAADP process is ongoing in Congo, and Lesotho with support planned for Angola, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar and the Seychelles. Support to the development of CAADP National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) is ongoing or planned in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zambia.

Interest in incorporating a nutrition dimension in the CAADP grew after the 2008 food and financial crisis. In 2011, FAO collaborated with nutrition experts in member countries, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), NPCA and other partners to integrate nutrition action plans in NAIPs. Together they developed a framework and mobilised external resources for enhancing capacity development of the various CAADP actors at country and regional levels. FAO also actively participated in assessing NAIPs in relation to the need for mitigating and adapting them to address the threat of climate change. FAO will contribute to mainstreaming climate-smart agriculture within investment plans and their implementation programmes.

Member countries must make concerted efforts to fund long-term sustainable productivity growth in the agriculture and food-related sectors in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2012-13, attention needs to focus on strengthening capacity for additional resource mobilisation, programme implementation and results, as well as ensuring that the interests and livelihoods of rural framers, pastoralists, and fishermen and women of Africa are respected in these processes.

### // Responding to the challenges in the Horn of Africa

In addition to addressing the temporal dimensions of food security issues in the Horn of Africa, member countries, RECs and development partners have recognised the importance of linking actions and investment at national and regional levels to existing frameworks and plans.

CAADP Compacts and NAIPs in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda serve as the basis for planning longer-term responses and investment in the region. Member countries have requested the Inter-Governmental Agency for Development (IGAD) to prepare a Regional CAADP Compact and Investment Plan, in collaboration with CGIAR centres and other partners.

By engaging public, private and civil society actors, CAADP Compacts and NAIPs will assist governments and development partners to channel their financial resources to well-funded and well-targeted investment programmes to address food emergencies and raise smallholder productivity in the Horn of Africa and other parts of Africa.





## // France – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### // Promoting scientific partnerships for food security

The **Promoting scientific partnerships for food security** conference was held in Montpellier on 12–13 September 2011, under the French Presidency of the G20, as a milestone of the Development Working Group. It was the first time that all G20 stakeholders involved in Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D)—country members and international organisations such as FAO, CGIAR, GFAR and World Bank—met.

This conference was prepared by a steering committee made up of Brazil, Canada, France, Japan and international organisations. Its key objectives were to:

- Improve mutual knowledge between G20 AR4D stakeholders
- Mobilise research and innovation systems to develop effective partnerships
- Strengthen capacities in agricultural technologies for developing countries, and
- Better involve G20 Agricultural Research Systems in the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development, scheduled for the end of October 2012 in Uruguay

Participants addressed the issues of (i) improved coordination and coherence for AR4D, (ii) innovative partnerships for agricultural research for development, (iii) knowledge sharing and capacity building in AR4D. The discussion led to a shared vision, recognising the following features:

- The centrality of AR4D for food security
- Equitable and inclusive partnerships improve research and its impact on development
- Coordination at all levels needs to be improved
- Capacity-building at all levels, including tertiary education, should be a priority

To advance the conference outcomes, the options were defined:

- Mainstream AR4D into Food Security and Development Aid Programmes
- Support the Global Foresight Hub as an initiative led by the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR)
- Explore mechanisms for innovative partnerships between G20 and Developing Countries with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
- Develop support mechanisms to strengthen capacity in developing countries, including the Tropical Agricultural Platform (TAP) led by FAO
- Review best practices with respect to public/private partnerships for AR4D and ensure sharing of progress made in the Agricultural Pull Mechanism led by the World Bank

After the conference closure, a signing ceremony was organised. The French Minister of Cooperation and International Development, M. Henri de Raincourt, and S.E. Laszlo Trocsanyi, Ambassador of Hungary in France signed the Agreement establishing the CGIAR as an international organisation.





## // German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) - KfW Entwicklungsbank - German International Cooperation (GIZ)

### // Strengthening cooperation between the private sector and smallholders

German Development Cooperation pursues a comprehensive and systemic approach to agriculture, rural development and food security as expressed in the 2011 BMZ Strategy Paper **Rural development and its contribution to food security**. In 2011, a focus of this effort has been to link smallholders to markets through the promotion of inclusive business models.

Against the backdrop of changing market fundamentals, agribusiness is striving for new access to land, resources, and new sources of input supply. International value chains are becoming more integrated, and investments in productivity and quality of small-scale production are increasingly seen as a viable alternative to land acquisition. This presents a promising opportunity for establishing collaborative arrangements between large-scale investors and local small-scale farmers and their communities, such as contract farming schemes, joint ventures, management contracts, and new supply chain relationships. Inclusive business models need to be not only economically viable, but also based on fair and responsible business relations that benefit all stakeholders.

With its long-standing experience in value chain development and market integration of smallholders, Germany supports a wide range of programmes that facilitate the cooperation between private sector companies and smallholders. Examples include contract farming for rubber in Ghana and vegetables in Burkina Faso supported by KfW, and GIZ's partnership in farming approaches for palm oil in Thailand and for bananas in India. GIZ, on behalf of BMZ, is analysing relevant case studies, and will make available lessons learned and best practices to the private sector, governments, and civil society to help put inclusive business models into practice.

International and national partners from governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector were invited to exchange their experiences with inclusive business models at a conference hosted by BMZ in Bonn and a German side event to the Committee on World Food Security Session in Rome in the fall of 2011. Global Donor Platform members advanced the topic during a session organised by BMZ, KfW and GIZ at the Platform's Annual General Assembly in Berlin in January 2012.

In 2011, Germany committed EUR 811 million (USD 1.2 billion) for rural development and food security programmes<sup>1</sup>. At the end of the 2012 financial year, Germany will have exceeded its total spending commitment of EUR 2.1 billion (USD 3 bn) made in L'Aquila. Germany supports substantial food security and agriculture programmes in over 20 countries, including support for irrigation, sustainable production systems, value chain development, private sector investment in agriculture and research to increase agricultural productivity.

<sup>1</sup> Figures for 2011 are still provisional.

## // Global Mechanism of UNCCD

### // Sharing information for sustainable land management

#### The Finance Info Kit

A comprehensive online directory of financial sources and opportunities for sustainable land management (SLM) that aims to provide information and knowledge to country Parties of the UNCCD, civil society and other partners engaged in rural development, food security, and poverty reduction. Developed and maintained by the Global Mechanism and its partners, such as FAO, UNDP, World Bank and bilateral development agencies of the Platform, the Kit **delivers up to date information about SLM financing sources, mechanisms and funds, and provides** tips on how to access them, including:



The Finance Info Kit is available on the GM website as a comprehensive directory of SLM funds and financing sources.

- Profiles of a range of **sources of funding**, from development partners, philanthropic foundations and international NGOs to special funds and aid instruments
- **Financial mechanisms** that can be used to channel funds for SLM and provide incentives for public and private investments in SLM practices, including market based mechanisms, trade finance mechanisms and microfinance
- **Tools for “making the case”** to invite more and better investments from both the public and private sector in SLM in programmatic and sector-wide approaches blending domestic finance with international contributions such as GEF and the Adaptation Fund

The information kit is available on the GM web page and updated frequently to include new data and sources. GM supports its day-to-day operations at national and sub-regional levels by mobilising financial resources from public and private sectors.

#### scopelacp

The scopelacp website facilitates discussions among stakeholders involved in decision making related to public finance and private sector SLM investments in developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.



Funded by the European Union, scopelacp is the GM's south-to-south cooperation programme that supports the exchange of experiences on SLM-related issues among stakeholders

Scopelacp supports the flow of information, exchange of experience, and knowledge management on all aspects related to finance through regional and global partnership platforms to strengthen UNCCD and related national and regional programmes. In particular, scopelacp fosters south-to-south cooperation, mobilising southern resources for the benefit of the South. It strives to build the capacity of those most involved in issues such as empowerment of local communities, market access and trade of agricultural produce and their value chains, decentralised cooperation, eco-tourism, migration, climate change adaptation, and does so with a special emphasis on the participation of more vulnerable groups such as women or youth.



## // International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

### // Lessons learned from the Second Global AgriKnowledge Share Fair

The **Second Global AgriKnowledge Share Fair** took place at IFAD Headquarters from 26 to 29 September 2011 to learn and share knowledge, discuss and explore experience and innovations on topics such as climate change, food security, markets and private sector, mobile technology, youth, to better influence future rural development activities.

Through knowledge sharing methods such as world café, chat shows, peer assist, fish bowls, and open space, participants explored:

- New trends and thinking on coping with market access challenges and developing markets for small farmers
- Innovative use of mobile technology and/or social media in the agriculture sector to enhance food security and nutrition
- The impact of migration and population growth to feed future population
- New technologies and innovative agricultural and farming practices to increase productivity
- Opportunities for innovative partnerships including with private sector, farmer organisations
- Environmental-friendly and green innovations

Weeks after the closing of the Sharefair, conference organisers conducted an After Action review (AAR) centred on a number of questions:

- “What worked well and why?”
- “What could have been done differently or better?”
- “What surprised you?”
- “What advice do you have for future share fair organisers?”

People enjoyed the layout of the market, with the tent and the bigger and smaller meeting rooms, which transformed the IFAD building into a big, open, colourful, creative, and stimulating place.

Social media coverage, from the thousands of tweets to introducing the live Twitter wall, live webcasting of key note addresses and thematic sessions, over 50 blogs of sessions and multiple video interviews and pictures, added value to the event for those who could not attend and provided excellent content for the final report.

What could have been done differently or better?

- More focused call for proposals with three take-away messages and session requirements
- Improved management and advance registration for 700 participants
- Fewer parallel sessions and the merging of similar session into a chat show format
- Dedicated lead person for social reporting teams with advanced planning and time to build momentum, share ideas with team
- Better session management with early identification of facilitators to develop inter-active nature of sessions and knowledge sharing methods
- Extended training day(s)
- Development of a Commitment to Action, which can then be shared at the marketplace of commitments and assessed 3-6 months after the fair

## // Irish Aid

### // Rooting out hunger with sweet potatoes in Malawi

As part of its focus on linking agriculture and nutrition, Irish Aid works in Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia with governments, CGIAR institutions, NGOs, and private sector institutions to support the introduction of the Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP) crop, bio-fortified with vitamin A.

In 2011, Irish Aid supported CIP, the International Potato Centre for a project in Malawi to promote the growing and consumption of the OFSP vegetable. This programme seeks to improve vitamin A and energy intake for mothers and young children, the group that is most vulnerable to vitamin A deficiency, and to contribute to improving nutrition and diversifying diets among smallholder farmers.

Last year, the focus was on scaling up sweet potato vine multiplication, awareness raising, demand creation campaigns, and strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture to effectively carry out research on sweet potato and sweet potato value addition. This programme also worked on building a viable industry and included a strong component on nutrition education.



The project reached 10,689 households who received the OFSP planting materials, which further led to a sweet potato yield of 18 tonnes/ha—significantly higher than the national average of 6 tonnes/ha. Due to the OFSP education campaigns, there has been overwhelming demand for planting materials, beyond the 10,000 farmers targeted.

The project further enhanced the capacity of farmers and extension workers on variety selection, post-harvest handling, as well as value addition. 2011 has also been a remarkable year due to the approval (by Agriculture Technology Release Committee) of six new OFSP varieties that the International Potato Centre has developed, marking a milestone in the development of a sweet potato industry.

The project also promoted the scaling up nutrition movement and was highlighted in the working session for finalisation of the Nutrition, Education, and Communication Strategy for the 1000 Special Days Movement, organised by the Malawi authorities with support from Irish Aid.

Martha Madaka and two of her children eating Orange Flesh Sweet Potato, Kamguiliste Village in Malawi, 2010. PHOTO: Laura Lator.

## // Italy - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### // Raising public awareness of the importance of agriculture to reduce poverty



In October 2011, Italian Development Cooperation—alongside the FAO, WFP and IFAD—sponsored the celebration in Italy of World Food Day, to reassert its commitment to food security and rural and agricultural development.

World Food Day is an important opportunity to draw attention to the activities of the Rome-based UN agencies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Directorate General for Development Cooperation in addressing the problem of hunger and malnutrition. It is also a means to heighten public awareness of the importance of agriculture for poverty reduction and economic growth.

The 2011 World Food Day theme was **Food Prices – from Crisis to Stability**. Speakers from various organisations working in the field of nutrition and food security—including universities, civil society and research institutions—shed light on this subject and provided written contributions, 27 of which are now available on the Italian cooperation website.



Other events included:

- The national awareness campaign “The Right to Food”, held in primary and middle schools in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Rome-based UN agencies
- A high-level symposium with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Rome-based UN agencies
- A celebration of the FAO’s 60 years in Rome, which included the international conference “The Sustainability of Food Systems and Diets for Stability”
- The TeleFood fund-raising initiative, broadcast on national television, to generate donations for development projects

Awareness campaigns were held throughout the country to encourage public involvement. These included screenings in the Puglia region of the film **Poverty and Hunger in Africa**; a series of university conferences entitled **The Impact of Prices on Food Security**; and a presentation of the report on Food Waste, focusing on the relation between the management of natural resources and food prices, in the framework of the European Days Against Waste in Bologna. The city of Milan organised a **Food Week**, and in Turin, local authorities, the Slow Food organisation, NGOs and civil society held a series of exhibitions, workshops, seminars and conferences to prompt people to think about issues such as the value of food, the need to safeguard biodiversity and the impact of each and every person’s actions on the fight against world hunger.





## // The Netherlands - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### // Leveraging finance for the poor

The Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) is a multi-donor mechanism to help implement the pledges made by the global community at the G-8 summit in L'Aquila in 2008 and the G-20 summit in Pittsburgh, US in 2009. The GAFSP Private Sector Window, managed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), supports private initiatives to increase food production, food quality, and competitiveness in the agribusiness sector in low-income countries.

After a lengthy negotiation process, the Netherlands agreed to contribute EUR 100 million to the private sector window, complementing contributions from Canada and the US and bringing the total GAFSP private sector window to almost USD 200 million.

Negotiations between IFC and the three contributing donors focused on changing the proposed GAFSP Private Sector Window. Donor ambition was to target small-scale farmers and businesses. From the Dutch point of view, the benefit of this international initiative was targeted specifically to groups who were considered too high a risk for regular bank loans. Through a combination of intensified advisory services and concessional loans, including first loss coverage, farmers and businesses considered to be "unbankable" and "underbanked" would be given a chance to build up a track record to access regular commercial loans. The donors and IFC agreed to accept the higher risks associated with these loans. To mitigate these risks, funds were provided for specialised technical assistance to promote in smallholder agriculture and small businesses, farmers' organisations and associations for small businesses.

The fact that the donors took a common stand in the negotiations with IFC paved the way for increased access to finance for the poor.





## // Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

### // Preventing and managing food crises in the Sahel and West Africa

Building on national, regional and international dialogue facilitated by the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat (**SWAC/OECD**) and the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (**CILSS**) Executive Secretariat from 2006 to 2011, the regional **Charter for Food Crises Prevention and Management** was adopted on 17 November 2011 in Conakry (Guinea) by the ministers of food and agriculture of the 15 **ECOWAS** member countries, as well as Chad and Mauritania.

The Charter reflects a new regional ambition to prevent food crises, while managing them effectively where they occur. Emphasising the role of regional organisations, it underlines that alternatives to food aid should be sought or chosen wherever possible. The Charter also places special focus upon the structural dimension of food crises. In the long run, concerted, effective, and sustainable preventive actions should help the region to phase out the need for food aid.

The new Charter goes beyond the original Food Aid Charter (1990), evolving from coordinated food aid management towards a food crisis prevention and management tool, advocating mutual responsibility. It also stresses the responsibilities of regional inter-government organisations as well as civil society, and expands its geographic coverage from the Sahel to all of West Africa. The Charter was presented during the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on 18 October 2011 in Rome. This innovative experience could inspire other regions of the world.

The ministers recommended that the ECOWAS Commission make practical arrangements for the effective implementation of the Charter, notably:

- Develop and fund a programme to disseminate the Charter in all signatory countries, taking into account local languages and the differing socio cultural environments
- Create an evaluation and monitoring mechanism for the Charter's implementation at the national and regional level
- Develop and fund a capacity-building programme for national food security systems and civil society in light of their active participation in the Charter's implementation and evaluation





## // Spain - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - International Fund for Agricultural Development

### // Financing food security and rural development

Spain and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) have teamed up to create the Spanish Food Security Co-financing Facility Trust Fund through a refundable Spanish contribution administered by IFAD as trustee.

The Spanish Trust Fund was established in December 2010, with a total of EUR 300 million from the Spanish Government (EUR 285.5 million loan and EUR 14.5 million grant) to be disbursed during the eighth replenishment period, which ends in 2012.

In a context where project demand from developing countries far exceeds IFAD's total available funds at the eighth replenishment, the Spanish Trust Fund is a unique opportunity to increase the total amount of resources and IFAD's project-funding capacity.

This is the first time such a Trust Fund has been established in the international cooperation context. It is an example of an innovative funding model and strategic partnership, which enables IFAD to have a larger impact as Spain fulfils its global commitment to food security, agriculture and rural development.

IFAD administers the trust, providing loans to developing countries under IFAD's lending terms. The whole negotiation and formalisation process, as well as project submission and management, is done between IFAD and the national authorities of the receptor country. Spain's role during the preparatory process is limited to that of a member of the executive board, where projects are submitted for approval.

In turn, IFAD informs Spain on a regular basis of all trust fund loan operations and commitments. IFAD is also responsible for elaborating and submitting technical and financial monitoring reports on project progress. The Trust Monitoring Committee, comprised of IFAD and Spain, meets at least once a year to review progress.

### // Strengthening rural development for food security

Created in 2002 by the European Commission, **European Forums on Rural Development** facilitate the sharing of experiences and lessons learned among professionals from EU and partner countries working on rural development in international cooperation. With help from Platform partners France, Germany, Ireland, and Spain, these forums have been held three times in Montpellier (France) in 2002, Berlin (Germany) in 2007, and Palencia (Spain) in 2011.

The third **European Forum on Rural Development** took stock of recent experiences in rural development, drawing lessons and recommendations about the kinds of rural development initiatives that best tackle food insecurity, hunger, and poverty. Over 400 participants from all regions and backgrounds analysed and exchanged policies, insights, and field experiences. They also enjoyed site visits to successful, local examples of Spanish rural development.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

## // Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

### // Supporting Rural Advisory Services (RAS)

In 2011, SDC's long-standing support to RAS experienced several highlights: the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) Annual meeting, the first International Conference on RAS in Nairobi and a capitalisation of SDC experiences in RAS.

GFRAS was created in the wake of the 2010 Neuchatel Initiative to provide voice and leadership in the field of RAS. SDC supported the creation of the Forum together with other donors and has privileged contacts with the GFRAS secretariat based in Switzerland. In 2011, GFRAS elaborated its strategy and consolidated its financial basis with four core donors (SDC, USAID, BMGF, IFAD). The second GFRAS annual meeting held in Nairobi in November 2011 enabled more than 130 participants from 60 countries to share experiences and strengthen their capacity in regional networks. The GFRAS meeting was held back-to-back with the first International Conference on Innovations in Extension and Advisory Services.

A wide range of stakeholders from farmer representatives and researchers to policy makers participated in this conference and strengthened coalitions to advocate and implement policy reforms and innovations in extension and advisory services. SDC involvement was coordinated with GFRAS and ICRA, two SDC partners engaged in the conference preparations.



**INNOVATIONS IN EXTENSION  
AND ADVISORY SERVICES  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

### // Internal capitalisation of experiences in RAS

The SDC Agriculture and Food Security Network has identified RAS as a priority. During 2011, an overview study, commissioned by the Network to Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, revealed that one third of SDC spending in Agriculture has gone to RAS interventions (CHF 40 million out of a total of CHF 140 million) and that other Swiss actors, including NGOs, private sector, and researchers, are actively promoting RAS.

Challenges faced by SDC and its partner institutions in their RAS initiatives:

- Making the best use of ICT potential in RAS
- Reaching marginalised farmers, particularly women, with appropriate services
- Ensuring sustainability of local service provision schemes
- Shifting from production oriented towards market oriented RAS
- Financing pluralistic RAS systems (mixed models, local funds, etc.)



The complete document, **Capitalisation of experiences in rural innovation and advisory services**, as well as a brief summarising the ten main challenges are available on the [SDC website](#).

## // United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

### // Improving farming practices in Myanmar



UNODC improves food security and provides poor farmers with sustainable alternative livelihoods, primarily in Hopong, Loilen and Pinlon townships of Southern Shan State. It provides training and technical advice on improved farm management such as weeding, crop spacing, draining, irrigation, application of natural fertilisers, and multiple crops. A UNODC land development model uses the sloping land agriculture technology method to improve control of soil erosion in uphill areas where villagers normally grow upland paddy or maize.

By using improved crop varieties and technologies, potato yields increased by 5-6 times compared to the district average. Fifteen percent of households adopted at least one new crop such as potato or corn, which is a standard indicator of improved sustainability of the cropping systems and thereby an important step towards improved food security and agricultural development.

Almost 30% of households implemented new and improved agricultural technologies for annual and perennial crops, such as natural fertiliser, pesticides, fruit tree, perennial tree nurseries, and double cropping. An average of 10% of the ex-opium farming households returned to licit crop production such as upland paddy, potato, corn and other cash crops. These are positive indicators for ARD efforts and long-term food security and poverty reduction in Myanmar.

The UNODC project in Hopong, Myanmar provided a series of basic agricultural training courses in collaboration with Myanmar Agricultural Services. Kyauk Tan Village farmers have shown keen interest and enthusiasm in seeking new and innovative technologies to cultivate new crop varieties and increase their crop yield.

Khun Lun an Ethnic Pa O and ex-opium farmer offered to share his land as demonstration plots, applying new and improved technologies. In 2011, he received 15 sacks of potato tubers, a power tiller (two wheel hand tractor for farming), and fertilisers for potato model farming. Prior to cultivation, UNODC provided field training on seed selection and spacing methods. Khun Lun successfully planted potato tubers on his land using the project provided farm machine.

Traditionally, potato farmers only cultivated one crop (**Tabaung Potato**) in March, ploughed using buffalo, and strew the seeds directly into the soil. With the new crop variety and the advanced cultivation techniques, Khun Lun improved his yield in his first April harvest. He was able to grow the second crop in mid-May, on the same plot using the seeds from his first yield. Now, he is selling higher quality potatoes at 1,000 Kyats (USD 1.25) per kg in his village.

In Hopong, Mr. Khun Lun improves his crop yield through model farm establishment





## // US Agency for International Development (USAID)

### // Building resilience and fostering growth in the Horn of Africa

**A call for change:** The Horn of Africa has been plagued by drought and conflict for decades, and cyclical droughts are eroding the ability of those in the region to cope with recurring shocks.

During the recent drought emergency:

- The US Government provided nearly USD 1 billion in humanitarian assistance to the more than 13.3 million people in need
- The international donor community contributed over USD 3.6 billion
- Billions of dollars were lost to the regional economy due to decimation of pastoral livestock herds

Last year's crisis was a sobering wake-up call. The way we do business must change.

**A vision for change:** A number of events helped build resilience and enhance growth in the Horn of Africa to ensure that drought does not equate emergency:

- The Government of Kenya hosted the Nairobi Summit, where African Heads of State called for Development Partners to "walk and work" with them to support long-term programmes and strategies for the Horn of Africa
- The World Bank hosted a development partners meeting that resulted in a commitment to "closing the gap" between relief and development, with a special focus on the needs in the Horn of Africa
- The IGAD Ministerial and High Level Development Partners Meeting on Drought Resilience in the Horn of Africa worked to turn vision of change agreements into reality through the country and regional common programme frameworks and called for the establishment of the Global Alliance for Action for Drought Resilience and Growth

**From vision to action:** USAID is committed to helping dryland communities move from constant crisis toward a secure and prosperous future, and to reducing the constant need for massive mobilisation of humanitarian assistance. It has implemented a new business model in the Horn of Africa, with a common goal of building resilience, and working in partnership with other donors to coordinate support of country-led programmes:

#### Key principles...

- Early action in response to early warning
- Humanitarian and development programmes connected to build and sustain resilience
- Coordination across donors to support country and regional programme frameworks
- Women's empowerment and inclusive growth
- Evidence-based decision making
- Local, national, and regional capacities supported and strengthened

#### ...and a new way of doing business

- **Joint and early planning** for recovery and transition in USAID's Washington headquarters and field missions in the Horn of Africa
- **Joint focus on resilience** to integrate, layer and sequence our humanitarian and development investments to support resilience and growth in the Horn of Africa
- **Joint programme focus** to strengthen early warning, preparedness, mitigation and prevention, particularly across sectors; promote sustainable water and rangeland management; support diversified, resilient livelihood strategies and sustainable economic growth



## // World Bank Group (WB)

### // Boosting food security and agricultural assistance

Because of dangerously high food prices, two price spikes since 2007, and increased uncertainty from price volatility, millions of people are at risk of malnutrition and hunger, and producers at risk of losing their investments.

Developing countries are increasingly important to global agricultural trade, but 85% of food consumed in those countries is produced there, mostly by roughly half a billion small holder farmers.

Global grain production needs to rise by 70% by 2050 to provide for over 9 billion people worldwide and widespread productivity increases for small holders must be part of the solution.

Agricultural development is an especially pro-poor source of economic growth—between two to four times more effective in raising incomes among the very poor than growth in other sectors.

We have been boosting World Bank Group agricultural assistance to USD 6-8 billion a year from an average of USD 4.1 billion in FY06 - FY08 focused on five areas:

- Raising agricultural productivity—75% of the IDA/IBRD programme
- Linking farmers to markets—the predominant focus of IFC
- Reducing risk and vulnerability
- Improving non-farm rural employment
- Making agriculture more environmentally sustainable and a source of positive environmental services

We pioneered fast-disbursing assistance for food security with the Global Food Crisis Response Programme (GFRP) in 2008, which has since disbursed USD 1.5 billion to 47 countries, benefiting 40 million people. We also set up and manage the multi-donor Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP), a USD 1 billion fund that provides aid-efficient financing to country-led national agriculture investment plans.

**“** We seek stronger partnerships across sectors in areas such as nutrition, zoonotic diseases, and innovation, and with the private sector on key issues including food safety and climate-smart agriculture, as well as integrated approaches to risk management across food, water, and energy sectors.



## // World Food Programme (WFP)

### // Strengthening food security through the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative

For the 1.3 billion people living on less than a dollar a day who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, climate vulnerability is a constant threat to food security and well-being. The question of how to build rural resilience against climate-related risk is critical to addressing global poverty.

In response to this challenge, the United Nations World Food Programme and Oxfam America have launched the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative, known as R4, referring to the four risk management strategies that the initiative integrates. R4 builds on the initial success of Oxfam's holistic risk management framework to enable poor farmers to strengthen their food and income security through a combination of improved resource management (risk reduction), microcredit (prudent risk taking), insurance (risk transfer), and savings (risk reserves).

### // Horn of Africa Risk Transfer for Adaptation (HARITA)

HARITA is a joint initiative led by Oxfam America, the Relief Society of Tigray (REST), Swiss Re, the International Research Institute for Climate and Society at Columbia University (IRI), and a dozen other public and private partners, including Ethiopian farmers, local aid organisations, insurance companies, and climate experts. HARITA has broken new ground in the field of rural risk management by enabling Ethiopia's poorest farmers to pay for crop insurance with their own labour. In its first three years of operations in Ethiopia, HARITA has shown promising results for replication, increasing the number of households taking out insurance from 200 in the initial year to over 13,000 in 2011.

### // Early results

R4 is focused on rigorously testing and evaluating this new approach. Initial evaluation results are promising. An impact evaluation covering 2009 and 2010 found that index insurance had remarkably large impacts on crop yields in two out of the five communities (Awet Bikalsi and Hadush Adiin) in which HARITA offered insurance. Insurance also impacted the use of family and hired labour for crop production. The study found that significantly more farmers who were buying insurance for the second time planned to plant different crops, use more fertiliser, and take out loans. The evidence suggests that insurance is an effective risk management tool and helps farmers intensify production and build their livelihoods. R4 has also begun to show the impact of the approach in bad years. Following the 2011 drought, 1,810 farmers in seven villages received an insurance pay out. Initial interviews indicated that farmers planned to use the insurance pay out to buy seeds for the next season or to cover the fertiliser loan repayments.

### // The partnership

R4 represents a new kind of partnership bringing public and private sector actors together in a strategic large-scale initiative to develop better tools to help the most vulnerable people build resilient livelihoods. R4 promises to leverage the respective strengths of its partners: Oxfam's capacity to build innovative partnerships; the WFP's global reach and extensive capacity to support government-led safety nets for the most vulnerable people. As the original collaborator on risk transfer in Ethiopia, Swiss Re is supporting R4 as a founding sponsor and will provide technical leadership in the field of insurance and reinsurance.



# // World Trade Organisation (WTO)

## // Building capacity in agricultural and rural development

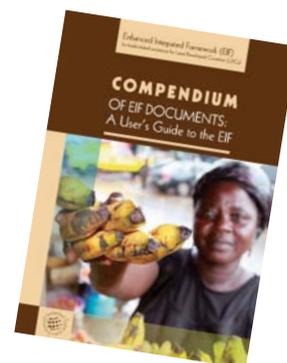
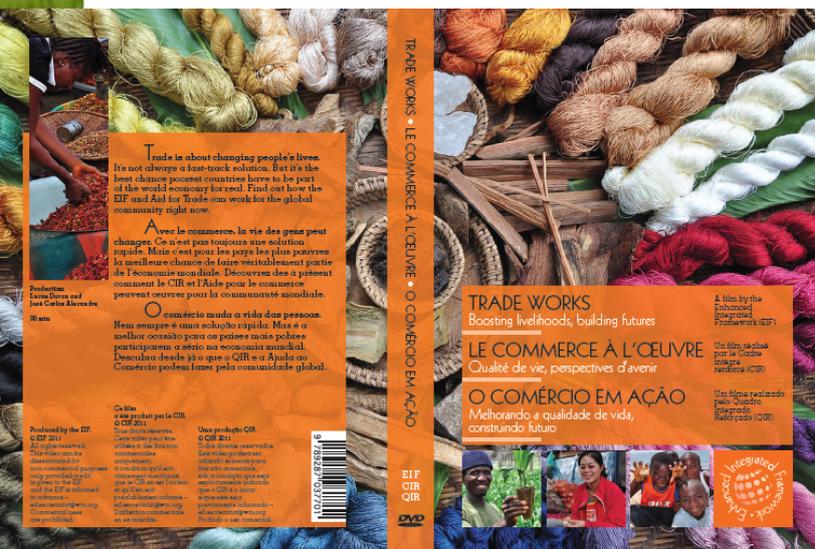
The WTO's Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) programme continues to build knowledge and partnerships on trade that works for poor communities. In 2011 and going forward, results-focused projects that boost people's livelihoods in agriculture and across rural communities remain priority areas. Thirty projects are underway, backed by donors and international agencies with traders, farmers, entrepreneurs and government working side by side to have an impact on the ground. Projects include giving female cooperatives in Nepal the chance to add value to ginger and help for poor communities in The Gambia with a way to better market and export cashew nuts. The project results will mean more jobs, higher incomes, and stronger links between public and private partners.

To find out more about how trade is changing lives in least developed countries worldwide, view the film **Trade works: boosting livelihoods, building futures** on the EIF website: [www.enhancedif.org](http://www.enhancedif.org)

Another important ARD mechanism housed in the WTO is the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF). The STDF, a global partnership in sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) capacity building, adopted a new five-year strategy that reinforces its role as a knowledge platform for information exchange, sharing experiences, and identifying and disseminating good practice. This includes thematic work on topics of common

interest to STDF partners and beneficiaries, such as public-private partnerships in support of SPS capacity and support to SPS practitioners in making informed decisions on capacity building options and resource allocations. The STDF continued to provide assistance and funding for the development and implementation of collaborative and innovative projects that promote compliance with international SPS requirements.

For more information on the STDF and its work, please visit the STDF website: [www.standardsfacility.org](http://www.standardsfacility.org)



## Expenditures and financial contributions for Platform activities in 2011

Platform activities are funded by annual membership contributions towards the Platform Trust Fund managed by GIZ. Members contributing EUR 50,000 annually or more qualify for full membership and a seat on the Platform board.

Work programme and budget 2011 were again based on Platform Strategic Plan 2009–2011. This strategic plan had been formulated following a network evaluation in 2008, based on which the Platform embarked on a process to improve its focus and strategic direction.

### // Contributions 2011

There were 16 full members to the Platform in 2011. The introduction of the strategic plan in 2009 allowed a number of members to make longer-term commitments. By the end of 2011, eleven members had signed multi-year contribution agreements.

In 2011, member contributions to the Trust Fund to implement the Platform work programme reached EUR 1,156,152.90 (funds received).

### // Budget and expenditure 2011

Actual expenditure in 2011 was EUR 1,845,772.86. This was less than the approved 2011 indicative budget of EUR 2,734,261.00 but more than what had been received in terms of contributions (funds received). From 2009–2010 contributions had been made for implementation periods beyond 2009–2010 and allowed for implementation well into 2011.

Lower than planned spending is largely attributable to adjustments within Platform activities (amongst others CAADP and other watch areas), lower than planned costs (amongst others the 3rd European Forum for Rural Development, HLF4, reduced staff and travel costs) as well as due to expenditure carry-over for activities implemented in 2011 but cost-effective in 2012, including support to the Commission on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change and partially the Platform Knowledge Pieces.

**TABLE 1: Expenditures and endorsed activities 2011**

Focus area 1: Aid effectiveness	Euro
Platform Knowledge Piece (PKP 1) on coherence	200,000.00
Platform Knowledge Piece (PKP 2) on finance system	200,000.00
AE multi-stakeholder WS	47,147.55
Identify and document AE specificities and lessons learned in ARD for HLF4	0.00
AE learning events, BBLs and eDiscussion	0.00
Prepare and disseminate briefing notes / issue papers/ policy papers and joint principles	6,246.00
European Forum for Rural Development	193,131.90
Organise regular telcos and VC	5,840.00
Activities linked to the HLF4	17,631.83
Review at least 5 seminal publications	0.00
Proportionate staff cost AE (%)	133,553.68
Proportionate travels	17,114.06
<b>Sub-total (1): Focus area 1: Aid effectiveness</b>	<b>820,665.02</b>



« **TABLE 1: Expenditures and endorsed activities 2011 (ctd)**

<b>Focus area 2: CAADP</b>	<b>Euro</b>
Organise/participate in regular telephone conferences and in-person meetings for members of the CAADP DP TT	3,570.12
Activities	0.00
Proportionate staff cost CAADP (%)	116,320.94
Proportionate travels	24,395.10
<b>Sub-total (2): Focus area 2: CAADP</b>	<b>144,286.16</b>
<b>Watch area: Agriculture and climate change</b>	<b>Euro</b>
Provide planning & organisational assistance to Platform members	0.00
Activities	19,894.08
Support Commission on Sustainable Agriculture	0.00
Payments for Platform activities in Cancun	8,678.88
Proportionate staff cost Agriculture and CC (%)	62,468.65
Proportionate travels	8,247.43
<b>Sub-total (3): Watch area: Agriculture and climate change</b>	<b>99,289.04</b>
<b>other watch areas</b>	<b>Euro</b>
Land	0.00
Migrate and maintain RAI webpage on donorplatform.org	0.00
Private sector	0.00
Platform Knowledge Piece (PKP 3) on private sector	36,891.89
Fragile states	0.00
Aid for trade	0.00
Gender	4,990.0
Research	0.00
Proportionate staff cost other watch areas (%)	84,009.57
Proportionate travels	12,501.31
<b>Sub-total (4): other watch areas</b>	<b>138,392.77</b>
<b>Knowledge management, Secretariat core activities, administration and management</b>	<b>Euro</b>
<b>Staff</b>	
Secretariat Coordinator	
Task Leader ARD Policy	
Communications Officer	
Task Leader CAADP and ARD in Africa	
Project Officer	
Finance Administrator	
Office Manager (50%)	
Interns	
Training	
<b>Sub-total staff (accounted for under focus areas, watch areas and core activities)</b>	<b>560,063.80</b>



« **TABLE 1: Expenditures and endorsed activities 2011 (ctd)**

Develop and implement a knowledge management system	0.00
Further develop web (2.0) presence, maintain website and provide information	55,270.55
Copy writing, editing, layout and print jobs // Communications material / other Platform documents	55,344.05
Annual Report 2010	17,009.85
Implement Annual General Assembly 2010	12,808.95
Organise Annual General Assembly 2011	10,423.33
Identify and approach selected donors	0.00
Develop partnerships with key, non-donor ARD stakeholders	0.00
Organise and implement Platform board meetings	0.00
Organise and implement Steering Committee video conferences	0.00
Implement Platform mid-term review	10,933.69
Implement legal institutional options study	0.00
General admin and management	5,094.99
Weekly Secretariat meeting	0.00
Monthly Secretariat planning meeting / Annual Secretariat retreat	1,251.94
Management of member contributions	0.00
Financial reporting/audit	11,175.00
Admin of sponsored guests and Platform representatives at events	0.00
Prepare contracts and process payments for external service providers	0.00
Office rent, operations and communications infrastructure	87,771.01
Proportionate staff cost (%)	163,710.96
<b>Sub total (5): Knowledge management, Secretariat core activities, administration and management</b>	<b>430,794.32</b>
<b>Total expenditures excluding ISC (sub-totals 1-5)</b>	<b>1,633,427.31</b>
GIZ Indirect Support Costs (ISC)	212,345.55
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES IN 2011</b>	<b>1,845,772.86</b>

<b>TABLE 2: Financial contributions to the Platform in 2011 (funds received)</b>	<b>Euro</b>
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	108,954.06
UK Department for International Development (DFID)	136,518.77
France - Ministry of Foreign Affairs	50,000.00
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)	93,286.65
The Global Mechanism	50,000.00
The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	50,000.00
The Netherlands - Ministry of Foreign Affairs	270,000.00
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	99,970.00
World Bank (IBRD)	50,000.00
World Food Programme (WFP)	50,000.00
BMZ - GIZ	197,423.42
<b>Total financial contributions to the Platform in 2011 (funds received)</b>	<b>1,156,152.90</b>

**Prepared by**  
Platform secretariat

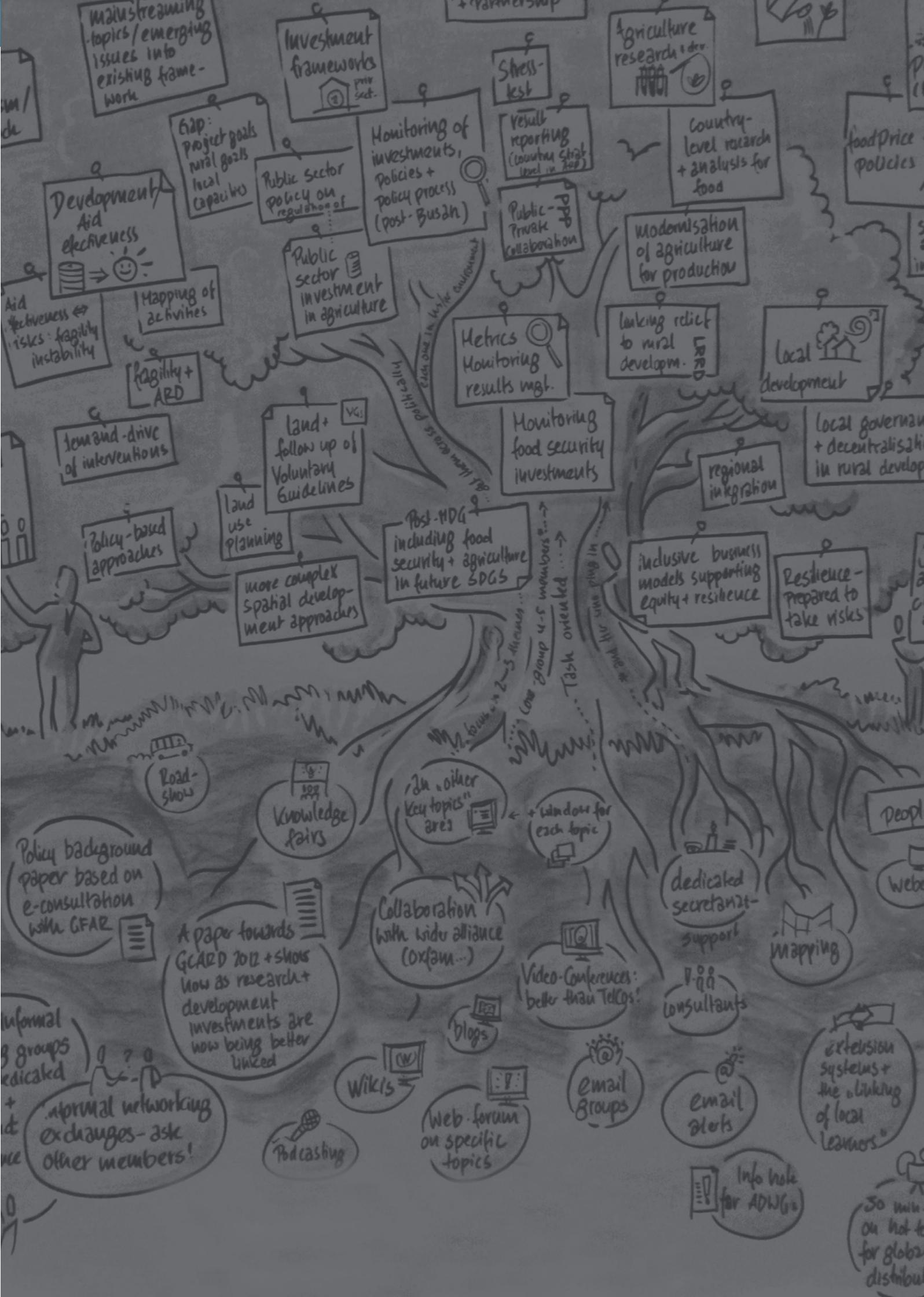
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Mainstreaming topics/emerging issues into existing framework

Investment frameworks  
prior. sect.

Stress-test

Agriculture research + dev.

Country-level research + analysis for food

Food Price Policies

Development Aid effectiveness

Gap: Project goals rural goals local capacities

Public sector policy on regulation of

Monitoring of investments, Policies + policy process (post-Busan)

Result reporting (country strat level in top)

Public-Private Collaboration

Modernisation of agriculture for production

Aid effectiveness ↔ risks: fragility instability

Mapping of activities

Public sector investment in agriculture

Metrics Monitoring results mgt.

Linking relief to rural developm.

Local development

Demand-drive of interventions

Land + follow up of Voluntary Guidelines

Monitoring food security investments

Regional integration

Local governance + decentralisation in rural develop

Policy-based approaches

Land use planning

Post-HDI including food security + agriculture in future SDGs

Inclusive business models supporting equity + resilience

Resilience - prepared to take risks

more complex spatial development approaches

Road-show

Knowledge fairs

In other key topics areas

+ window for each topic

Policy background paper based on e-consultation with GFAR

A paper towards GCARD 2012 + shows how as research + development investments are now being better linked

Collaboration with wider alliance (Oxfam...)

Video-Conferences: better than Telcos!

dedicated secretariat-support

mapping

Informal groups educated + ...

Informal networking exchanges - ask other members!

Podcasting

Wikis

Web forum on specific topics

Blogs

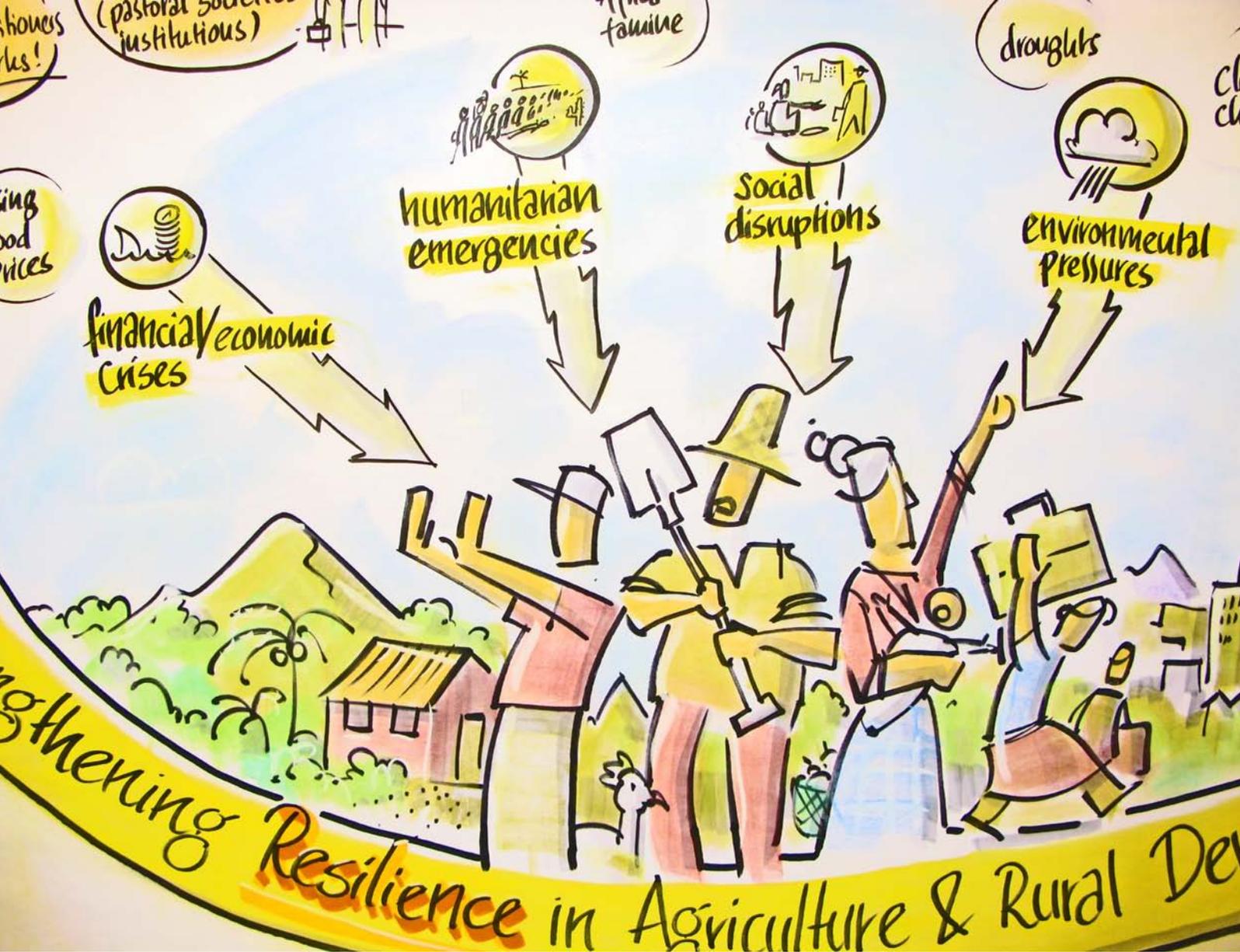
email groups

email alerts

Info hole for ADWG

extension systems + the linking of local learners

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● ● ● ● [donorplatform.org](http://donorplatform.org)

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