

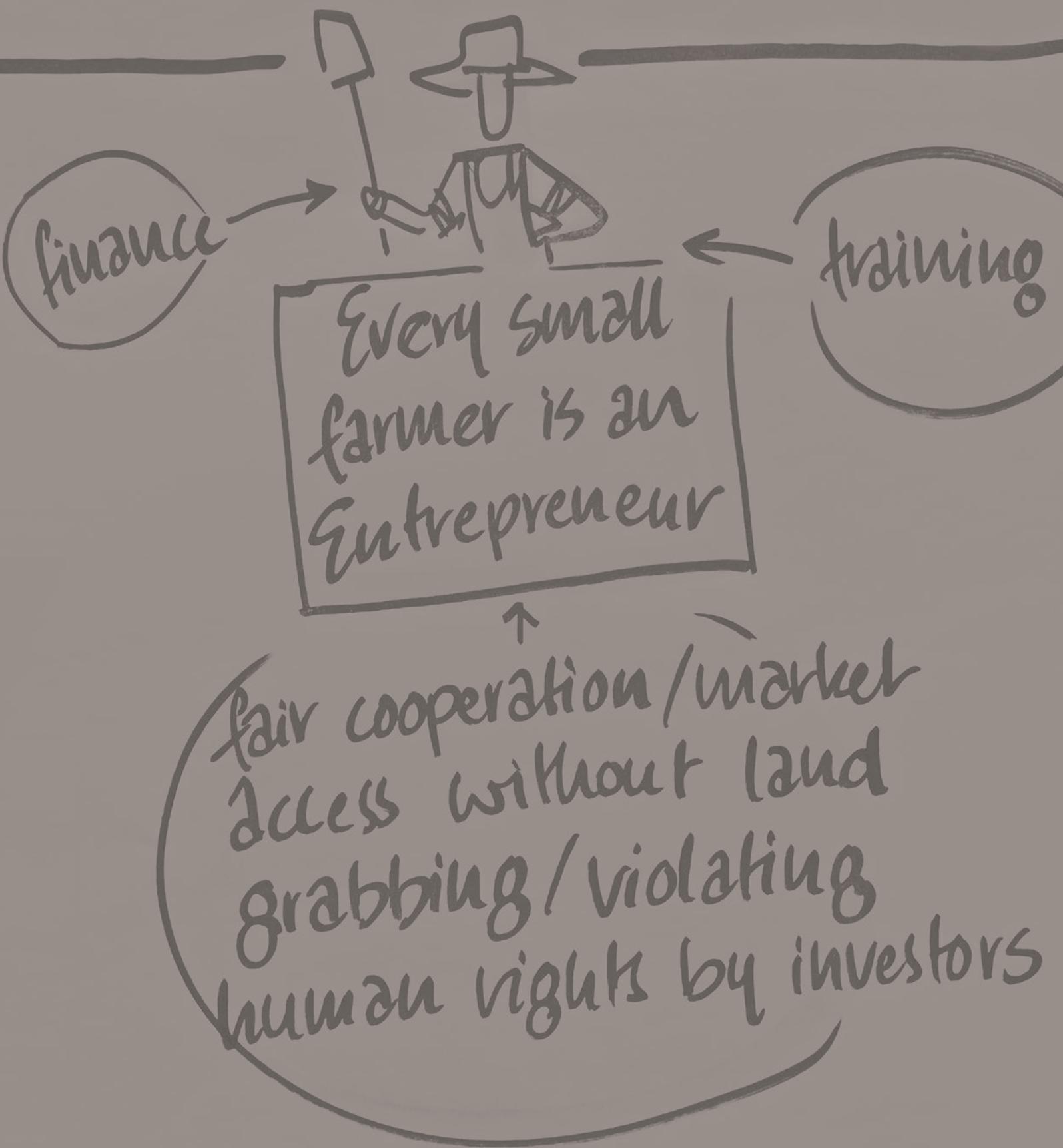
## Food, farmers & markets

Inclusive, competitive and sustainable food systems

2013 Annual Report



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development



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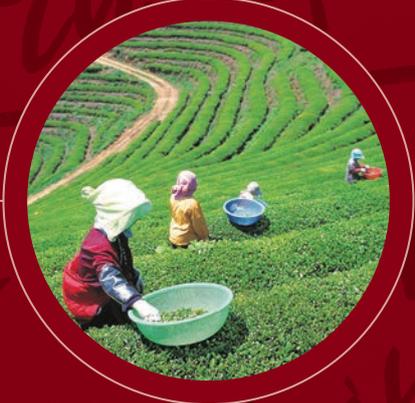
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# ➤ Promoting sustainable rural development

## About us



Following several years of relative decline in public investment in the agricultural sector, the Platform was created in 2003 to advocate, both within donor institutions and within the overall aid architecture, for increased and more effective development assistance in agriculture, rural development and food and nutrition security. Platform members share a vision that these areas are central to poverty reduction and a conviction that sustainable and efficient development requires a coordinated global approach. Through the Platform, members strive to be a collective, recognised and influential voice, adding value to and reinforcing common goals of aid effectiveness, sustainable rural development, and poverty reduction in developing countries.



The Platform is a network of 37 bilateral donors, multilateral agencies & international financing institutions working together to reduce poverty in developing countries and achieve sustainable development.

### Targeted advocacy

Members use the Platform to generate and promote joint messages that raise the profile of agriculture, rural development and food and nutrition security in policy debates, conferences and workshops at the international, regional and national levels.

### Knowledge exchange

The Platform strengthens the capacity of its members to exchange knowledge and experience, build consensus, and formulate joint approaches around critical or emerging issues. It disseminates information about key member initiatives using Platform communications tools and products. It shares knowledge among members and all relevant actors on key themes through working groups, online repositories and other Platform activities, meetings and events.

### Networking

The Platform uses its convening power at high-level international fora and other important venues to create face-to-face connections, and uses new communications technologies such as virtual briefings, social media and video interviews to bring critical issues to the attention of the development community.

## Platform members (As of 31 December 2013)

The Platform comprises 37 member institutions, each one represented by a focal point.

- African Development Bank (AfDB)\*
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT Australia)
- Austria – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
- Belgium – Directorate-General for Development Cooperation
- Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC)
- Canada - Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD Canada, Co-Chair)\*
- Denmark – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- European Commission – Directorate-General (EC-DEVCO)\*
- 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)\*
- German International Cooperation (GIZ)
- Germany – KfW Development Bank
- Global Mechanism of the UNCCD (UNCCD GM)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)\*
- Irish Aid – Department of Foreign Affairs
- Italy – Ministry of Foreign Affairs\*
- Luxembourg – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Netherlands – Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Chair)\*
- Norway – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development -Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC)
- 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 Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN)
- 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

## New platform objective

In 2013 board members agreed on a new objective statement to reflect the shifting aid landscape in which the Platform operates. It now reads:

*The Platform actively promotes effective policy and public and private investment, both external and domestic, in rural development as a central element of the international sustainable development agenda through:*

- Advocating with policy- and decision makers
- Sharing knowledge amongst Platform members and all relevant actors
- Facilitating the networking and cooperation with and between all relevant actors

## Platform board

A board — led by the Platform chairs and comprising focal points from member institutions — approves the Platform's work plan and long-term strategy, based on members' shared priorities. The board met three times during the year to discuss governance issues, endorse the work plan and monitor results. The meetings took place in The Hague/Netherlands in January, following the annual general assembly, in Castel Gandolfo/Italy in October, and once online in June. All meeting minutes are accessible through the [Platform website](#).

## Membership developments

Membership increased to 37 by year-end, with three new members: International Development Research Centre (IDRC) as board member, and Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC) and UN Women as Platform members without financial contribution. The World Food Programme (WFP) decided to waive its seat on the board while Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) decided to join. A more proactive membership drive was proposed by the chairs and agreed by the board, including outreach to the Asia-Pacific region and emerging donors.

**New focal points** — There were 11 new focal points in 2013: Birgit Gerhardus (BMZ), Felix Fellmann (SDC), Anders Granlund (Sida), Jim Woodhill (DFAT Australia),

Eleonora Canigiani (UNCCD GM), Daniel van Gilst (MFA-Norway), Raundi Halvorson-Quevedo (OECD-DAC), Christel Weller-Molongua (GIZ), Sofie van Waeyenberge (BTC), Suzanne Taylor (IDRC), Tacko Ndiaye (UN Women).

**Partners** — The Platform partners with research institutions, farmers' organisations, global and regional networks and global initiatives, all of which share an interest in agriculture, rural development and food and nutrition security. Representatives from these partner organisations are invited to attend Platform events and to collaborate in policy advice and other activities.

## Platform secretariat

Based in Bonn/Germany, the secretariat is the service and management unit of the Platform. It is responsible for network coordination, partnership relations, communications and knowledge exchange between members and partners as well as supporting members to implement Platform activities. Its administration is managed by the German International Cooperation (GIZ), which conducts an annual internal control of administrative records, as well as an external audit.

Monthly management meetings chaired by the Platform chairs and to which all Platform members are invited, guide the work of the secretariat.

In 2013 the secretariat team included seven staff: Monika Midel, Secretariat Coordinator; Pascal Corbé, Communications; Christian Schulze, Advisor; Romy Sato, Junior Advisor; Marion Thompson, Finance Administrator; Anna Froese, Finance Administrator; and Sonja Phelps, Office Manager, three of whom work part-time. The Platform bid a fond farewell to Thomas Tiedemann, ARD Task Leader, who left the secretariat in September to work with the European Commission. Carefully selected interns (programme and communications) and consultants help with communications and thematic tasks.

# Message from the chairs

**Monique Calon, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Netherlands (chair)**

**Nikita Eriksen-Hamel, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (co-chair)**

2013 marked the 10th anniversary of the Platform's creation and we had many reasons to celebrate. The Platform established itself as an important convener of donors committed to tackle rural development challenges and to advance agriculture and rural development (ARD) and food and nutrition security (FNS) as part of the post-2015 development agenda. The continued interest in the Platform's discussions, both in physical and virtual meetings, shows that the Platform has become the mainstreaming place for donors and partners to exchange knowledge and coordinate efforts to improve the quality of development assistance in ARD and FNS.

Donors are aware that the challenge remains enormous – 76% of the world's poor live in rural areas and global food production will have to increase by 60% to feed the growing population by 2050. But increasing agricultural productivity is just part of the equation. We have to make sure that everyone accesses food in quantity, but also in the quality required for a safe and nutritious diet. And not by chance a nutritious diet is all the more favoured when women farmers and entrepreneurs are empowered. To stress this link, the Platform co-organised a side event at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in Rome, on "Transforming food systems: Empowering women to deliver on food security and nutrition".

The growing demand for the Platform in its advocacy role, and especially *vis-à-vis* the 2015 agenda, urged us to re-think our mission statement to "...promote effective policy and public and private investment, both external and domestic, in rural development as a central element of the international sustainable development agenda".



This need for change also paved the way for how we conceptualise our work and priorities on rural development. Building on efforts started in 2012, we published in 2013 the Platform's joint concept "On Common Ground", which guides our work in nine priority themes agreed upon by members: aid effectiveness, climate change, gender and youth, research and innovation, private sector in ARD and FNS, nutrition, livestock, postharvest losses and land governance. The choice for these themes reflects the evolution of the international context in ARD, especially the new dimensions of food and nutrition security that the donor community has integrated into its work in recent years. We build alliances through networking and, together with partners, seek to share knowledge on these and other emerging topics. When opportunities arise we engage in advocacy to promote aid effectiveness in these priority areas within our own agencies and at high level events.

As donors, our challenge is not limited to design effective policies to fight hunger and malnutrition, but also to provide the right tools for targeted countries to develop their own solutions. Official development assistance (ODA) is losing ground to other types of assistance and financial flows from other development actors, particularly from the private sector. Trade is also increasingly seen

as a complementary tool to ODA to stimulate agricultural development and investments in local and national agri-businesses, and some agencies have explicitly linked their aid and trade agendas. We must conceive a new way of thinking about development finance that goes beyond ODA under the concept of North-South divisions, but preserves traditional grants to national pressing problems, namely in least developed countries (LDCs), such as hunger outbreaks due to food crises. The Platform kept pace with this trend and explored in its Annual General Assembly in The Hague how farmers could benefit from higher global prices to improve their productivity and participate in food markets, overcoming poverty trap factors, such as lack of inputs, capacity, infrastructure and poor governance. Likewise, the Platform supported the development of the World Bank's analytical toolkit for contract farming by facilitating intensive feedback rounds by members.

In 2013 the Platform supported the establishment of the Global Donor Working Group on Land, which is drawing increasing attention to land governance issues and has attracted broad participation in online conference calls and physical meetings. The Group is showing a great example of what donors can do when they find a well-supported platform for peers to interact and discuss specific thematic topics. In supporting donor commitments to implement FAO's Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGs), the Working Group gathered information from members' ongoing land governance projects

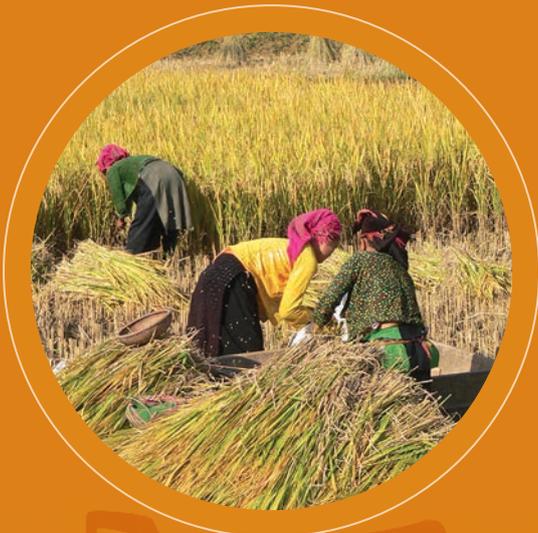
around the world and designed the Land Governance Programme Map and Database. The effective collaboration of this Working Group as a central player in support of the country partnerships on land was highlighted in the 2013 UK's G8 Presidency Report.

The credibility we built in the past 10 years is key for current members to request new services from the Platform and to attract new members to join our alliance. In this regard, the Platform became the host of the annual assembly records of the inter-agency donor group on livestock (IADG). Once again demonstrating how networks of donors seek the services of the Platform to ground, enrich and advance their knowledge sharing and advocacy activities.

Recognising that the greatest asset of the Platform is the diversity of its members, in 2013 we welcomed new members to the Platform who bring specific geographic and thematic expertise to share and for other members to benefit from. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC), UN Women and the Belgian Technical Cooperation joined the Platform, and DFAT Australia and IDRC also joined the board.

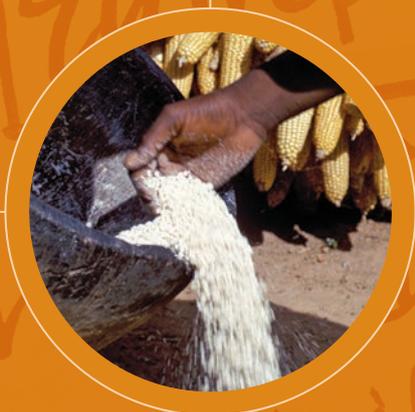
2013 was in all regards a vibrant year of growth for the Platform. The renewed commitment by members and tireless dedication of the Platform secretariat merit our great acknowledgement and gratitude. May our work continue to inspire not only the development community but all those concerned with establishing a global partnership for sustainable development.

# ↘ The year in review



According to UN projections, the world population is expected to reach 9.15 billion by 2050. FAO estimates that to meet increased demand for food, global agricultural production in 2050 should be 60% higher than in 2005/07. Other organisations, like the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), as well as FAO also point out that one-third of all food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted each year, enough to feed 2 billion people. Substantial public and private investment in agriculture, rural development and food and nutrition security is necessary to trigger growth and reduce food losses in less developed areas and benefit the poorest.

This past year, Platform members worked to promote sustainable rural development, additional investment in food and nutrition security, and collaborative action for targeted advocacy.



## Agriculture as an employment and income generator

Platform members saw a substantial increase in investment in Africa with companies working under several initiatives, such as the UN Zero Hunger, Grow Africa and Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), to encourage economic growth, create local jobs and improve the lives of small farmers. More and more governments and donors are building strategic partnerships with business representatives to strengthen the work of the private sector in the fight against hunger, driving new technological, knowledge-based, financial and managerial resources and innovation.

## Emerging priorities

Food and nutrition security were emerging as key priorities in the fight against poverty and hunger. Given the urgent need to feed an increasing population and the competing uses of land for growing food and for bio fuels, there has also been a strong interest in land governance and tenure in emerging economies. Moreover, members agree that Platform goals cannot be achieved without addressing the education and empowerment of women.

### The Platform's nine themes in 2013

- Aid effectiveness (including CAADP, Post-2015)  
*lead: SDC, IFAD, Spain, DFID, EC*
- Agricultural research for development  
*lead: USAID, DFATD Canada*
- Climate change and resilience in agriculture
- Gender equity (and youth)
- Nutrition and agricultural development  
*lead: WB*
- Land governance  
*lead: DFID*
- Livestock and pastoralism (including the IADG)  
*lead: WB, FAO*
- Postharvest losses and food waste  
*lead: GIZ*
- Private sector cooperation  
*lead: Netherlands*

In 2013, Platform members responded well to this rapidly changing development context and tighter financial resources. They increased opportunities for collaborative action, built strategic partnerships, and strengthened knowledge exchange to avoid duplication of efforts and share lessons learned.

The Platform continued its focus on nine thematic areas: aid effectiveness, agricultural research for development, climate change, gender, nutrition and governance, land, livestock, postharvest losses and private sector cooperation.

## Aid effectiveness

### On Common Ground\_\_ Donor perspectives on agriculture, rural development and food and nutrition security

Initiated by Platform members SDC and Sida with contributions from all members, this Platform publication builds on and complements two other joint documents establishing common ground among donors on agriculture, rural development and food and nutrition security concepts and programming principles: The 2006 Joint Donor Concept on Rural Development and the 2009 Joint Donor Principles for Agriculture and Rural Development Programmes. **On Common Ground** integrates the new dimensions of food and nutrition security and defines the Platform's thematic areas and how donors will address them. It is intended to be a living document and web resource, to be reviewed and adjusted periodically to reflect the rapidly changing development context, establishing common ground among donors and documenting donor thinking, emerging challenges and priorities.

### Scaling up ARD in Africa

Held in Addis Ababa in June 2013 and co-hosted by the Platform, IFAD, and World Bank, **Scaling up ARD in Africa** explored the application of the scaling up concept in projects on the ground, particularly in value chains, climate change, land tenure and rural finance. Platform

members EC, WFP, FAO and AfDB attended. The Platform secretariat reported from this regional learning event and conducted an **interview with Cheikh Sourang** of IFAD.

## High-level consultation on hunger, food security and nutrition



**THE  
WORLD  
WE WANT**

On 4 April 2013 in Madrid, the Platform secretariat reported from the **High-Level Consultation**

**on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition**, where participants - amongst them several Platform members - discussed vision, building blocks, governance, accountability and implementation of a global agenda on food and nutrition security. Ensuring freedom from want, moderating excess consumption, establishing a human right to nutritious food, strengthening small producers, and engaging the private sector emanated as key priorities for the post-2015 agenda.

## Prospects for agriculture, rural development and food and nutrition security assistance post-2015

Faced with a changing global aid architecture, the Platform commissioned the Global Foresight Hub of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) to produce a study on different prospects for agriculture, rural development and food and nutrition security assistance in the post-2015 development framework. An **interview with Robin Bourgeois**, senior foresight and development policies expert at GFAR, examines alternative future global contexts for development aid and describes current trends and ruptures in agriculture, rural development and food and nutrition security assistance. Bourgeois also highlights challenges, potential responses and implications for the Platform.

## Aid effectiveness highlights

- Revised Joint Donor Concept, On Common Ground
- Commissioned study, Prospects for Agriculture and Rural Development Assistance in the Post-2015 Development Framework
- Co-hosted regional learning event Scaling up ARD in Africa, in Addis Ababa
- Attended High-Level Consultation in Madrid
- CAADP: Participated in DPTT meetings, retreat in Brussels, CTA Briefing
- Conducted virtual briefing on agricultural policy for development and 10 interviews

“ We have three basic powers that work in the world. One is economic power, the second is political power and the third is the power of people, stakeholders’ power. To handle or attack uncertainties such as climate change, we need to have a conjunction of actions and synergy between these three powers.

– Robin Bourgeois, GFAR



## Land governance

### New Global Donor Working Group on Land

A great example of the Platform's collaborative action is the **Global Donor Working Group on Land** created during the World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty in Washington in April 2013 to address the growing interest in land, in the face of increased food prices, biofuels, and climate change. The working group is hosted by the Platform and currently has 22 members, who aim to better coordinate and support land tenure rights and sustainable development for food and nutrition security.

### Global Donor Database of Land Projects



During the Platform's annual general assembly (AGA), the Global Donor Working Group

on Land launched the **Land Governance Programme Map** and online interactive map, which currently houses information on the location, duration, and scope of 600 land projects in more than 90 countries with a total value of over USD 2 billion. The database contains information on how each project addresses specific aspects of the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. The working group also produced a policy brief, *Land in a post-2015 framework*, available on the Platform website.

#### Land governance highlights

- Established Global Donor Working Group on Land
- Published policy brief "Land in a post-2015 Framework"
- Launched Land Governance Programme Map
- Exchanged information on G8 land partnerships
- Conducted 3 interviews

“ Delivering on the promise of the Voluntary Guidelines... will require coordinated action by development agencies, civil society organisations, governments and the private sector. The Global Donor Database... provides a platform for information sharing and coordination that can help stakeholders improve the effectiveness of the guidelines.

– Gregory Myers, USAID

### G8 Country Partnerships for transparency in land transactions

On 15 June 2013, at the G8 **Open for Growth event**, G8 member states committed to support greater transparency in land transactions and to establish partnerships with at least seven developing countries, including international organisations, to accelerate and target support to countries' existing land governance programmes in conjunction with businesses, in particular farmers, and civil society. The Global Donor Working Group on Land has agreed to support the land partnerships through sharing lessons learned, progress, and accountability reports via the **Platform website**. The Working Group on Land was also cited in the UK's **G8 Presidency Report** regarding the G8 land partnerships.

## Policies against hunger Implementing voluntary guidelines on land



In the run-up to the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS), 250 international participants met in Berlin from 10-12 June 2013 to draw

up recommendations on food security. The Platform secretariat reported from this two-day **Policies Against Hunger** conference, which examined practical applications of the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security*, adopted unanimously by the CFS' 124 member states a year ago in Rome.

## Climate change

### Integrated watershed management

Driven by members FAO, GIZ and the World Bank, the Platform hosted a technical networking session, *New generation of integrated watershed management programmes for rural development, resilience and empowerment*, at the Global Landscape Forum, on the sidelines of the CoP19 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Warsaw on 16/17 November 2013. **The Platform session** was live-streamed and focused on latest experiences, innovations and best practices in the management of natural resources at a landscape level, with case studies from India, East and West Africa, to improve the resilience of rural communities and ensure food and nutrition security.



### Climate change highlights

- Hosted a joint (FAO/GIZ/WB) technical networking session on integrated watershed management at the Global Landscape Forum, on the sidelines of UNFCCC COP19 in Warsaw
- Hosted a side event at the AGA on Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP)
- Conducted 5 interviews

### Solutions for a sustainable future



The Platform reported from the World Bank's 2013 Sustainable

Development Network (SDN) forum, which addressed challenges to sustainable development and the potential for inclusive green growth. The SDN forum gathered participants from 92 countries and was characterised by a clear sense of urgency regarding climate challenges. The World Bank committed to taking a leading role in fighting climate change and avoiding a **4 degree world**, through bold ideas, strong messages, knowledge transfer and networking.

## Gender

### Integrating gender across research programmes

Platform members collaborate to emphasise the importance of including women in agriculture in the post-2015 agenda. In March 2013 following a panel discussion at GIZ gender week, the Platform secretariat conducted an interview with Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, on the links between gender issues, climate change and food and nutrition security. On 25 November in Brussels, Platform members attended the IFPRI workshop **Partnering for Impact: IFPRI-European Research Collaboration for Improved Food and Nutrition Security**. About 80 participants from European governments and development agencies, universities and research centres, NGOs, and the private sector attended the workshop, which

“ Removing the barriers women face in their roles as food producers, farm workers and primary caregivers is achievable and inexpensive.

– Lourdes Adriano, ADB, Platform focal point

highlighted the achievements of innovative research programmes, discussed challenges, research and policy priorities for improving food and nutrition security. The gender panel, chaired by the Platform and entitled ‘Integrating gender across research programmes’, explored the need to better incorporate gender into policy and strategy. Participants agreed that enhanced investment in smallholders, particularly young women farmers, and a greater focus on youth employment are critical for improving livelihoods and food and nutrition security.

## Agricultural research for development

### GFRAS side event on rural advisory services



The Platform organised a side event at the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Global Forum for Rural

Advisory Services (GFRAS) held in Berlin on 23 September to strengthen rural advisory services (RAS) networks. Platform members AFD, SDC, and GIZ presented effective local schemes and donor support strategies, and committed to include RAS more prominently in the Platform’s publication *On Common Ground*. The Platform secretariat reported from the event, and conducted a **virtual briefing on improved AR4D reporting**, as well as two interviews.

## Private sector partnerships

### Principles for responsible agricultural investments

The Platform conducted an **interview with Christina Blank**, the RAI Working Group Chair, about the challenges in developing the zero draft document on principles for responsible agricultural investments and what would motivate adherence to the nonbinding recommendations.

#### Private sector partnership highlights

- Supported World Bank’s analytical toolkit for contract farming
- Conducted 5 interviews and a virtual briefing

### World Bank analytical tool for contract farming

The Platform supported the World Bank Group’s analytical toolkit for contract farming, which analyses the key elements, benefits and impact of this practice. Contract farming is carried out according to a prior agreement in which the farmer commits to producing a given product and the buyer commits to purchasing it at a guaranteed price. This toolkit aims to provide project leaders with the resources to critically evaluate contract farming before, during and after a project. It covers factors that may hinder and/or strengthen the agreements between

farmers and buyers, and presents case studies, impact by country, and information on alternative dispute resolution. In the course of the draft preparation, the WB worked closely with the Platform's private sector group, conducting a virtual briefing and several email consultations.

## EC workshop on European agribusiness in Africa



With the renewed focus on private sector involvement in African agriculture, the complexity of public-private

sector cooperation has become apparent, as each country and value chain requires a tailored approach. These challenges were addressed at the **European Commission** workshop on agribusiness in Africa. Focal points from EC-DEVCO, GIZ attended and the Platform secretariat reported from the workshop held in Brussels on 10 April.

## Nutrition

### Transforming food systems\_ Empowering women to deliver on food and nutrition security

In a side event presentation on gender, agriculture and nutrition at the CFS40, Lynn Brown, chair of the Platform's nutrition group, advocated for an increased focus on agricultural research. She highlighted the link between nutrition and mycotoxins, a hidden factor in child stunting, as a gender-nutrition issue largely neglected by the development community. Three virtual briefings were produced: one with Charlotte Dufour (FAO) on **mainstreaming nutrition in agriculture investment plans**; and two with Kitty Cardwell (USDA) on **mycotoxins: a hidden factor in child stunting** and on **strategies to address mycotoxin problems**.

### Nutrition highlights

- Briefed by DFATD Canada on SUN Donor Network approach to resource tracking
- Held member meeting at CGIAR Science Week
- Co-organised side event *Transforming food systems\_ Empowering women to deliver on food and nutrition security* at the CFS40
- Conducted 1 interview on hunger, nutrition and climate justice and held 3 virtual briefings

### Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) donor network approach

In a conference call, Platform member DFATD Canada briefed members on the SUN donor network approach to resource tracking in the area of nutrition. The discussion focused on nutrition information systems and the need to enhance nutrition impact monitoring of agricultural programmes. To avoid duplication of efforts and to align with other stakeholders, the need for applied indicators was stressed.

### Dublin conference on hunger, nutrition and climate justice



Hunger • Nutrition • Climate Justice • 2013

*A New Dialogue : Putting People at the Heart of Global Development*

On 16 April 2013 Platform members attended the **Dublin Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Climate Justice** to help promote food and nutrition security in the deliberations of the **post-2015 development agenda**. Convened by the Government of Ireland and the Mary Robinson Foundation, the conference focused on the impact for humanity and the urgent need for change in different policy areas. The **Platform secretariat reported** live from the Dublin Conference and conducted **an interview with Earnán O'Cléirigh**.

“Hunger is a justice problem,.. hunger and ongoing malnutrition, poverty and inequality are the results of a political failure rather than a technical failure of not knowing what to do.

– Earnán O’Cléirigh, OECD

## Livestock and pastoralism

### Increased collaboration on livestock research and development

The inter-agency donor group on pro-poor livestock research and development (IADG), seeking increased collaboration with Platform members, has found a **permanent home** within the Platform for its annual assembly records and mapping exercises, including livestock donor expenditures and pipelined development projects.

#### Livestock and pastoralism highlights

- Decided to host the inter-agency donor group on pro-poor livestock research and development (IADG) at the Platform
- Created website repository for IADG annual meetings and livestock mapping exercises

## Postharvest losses

### Postharvest losses research library

The Platform’s **online depository** for information on postharvest losses is growing. SDC and GIZ provided research materials on postharvest losses and made them available through the Platform website.

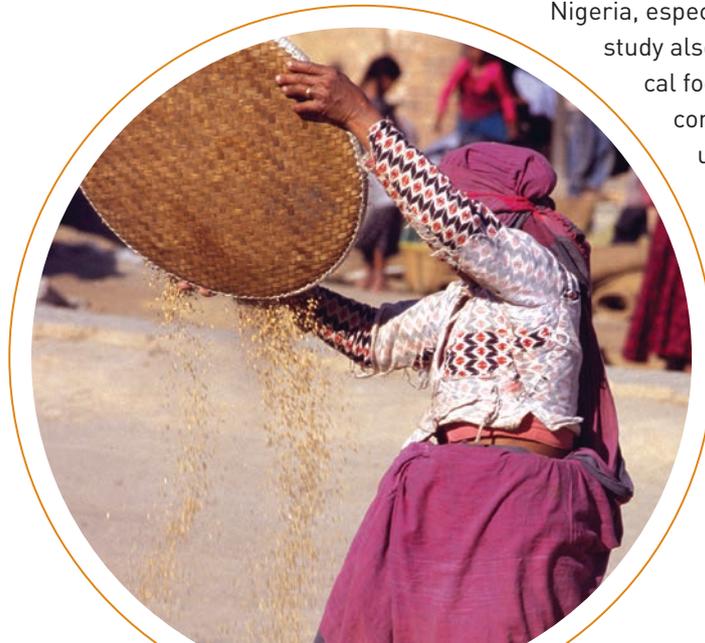
#### Postharvest losses highlights

- Linked SDC’s comprehensive postharvest management website and Platform site
- Held a virtual briefing on *Losses in maize and cassava value chains*

### Losses in maize and cassava value chains

In July 2013 the Platform held a **virtual briefing with Heike Ostermann (GIZ) and Daniel Thylmann (PE International)** to present the results of a GIZ study about critical losses in maize and cassava value chains in

Nigeria, especially in rural markets. The study also analysed the ecological footprint of these losses, comprising water use, land use, GHG emissions and impacts on diversity.



## Capturing and exchanging knowledge

The Platform continued to build member capacity around networking and knowledge sharing, using innovative knowledge exchange tools to stay connected and informed and to reach out and forge partnerships with different stakeholders. From conference calls, emails, electronic newsletters, reports and publications to virtual briefings, conference calls, video interviews and social media (Twitter, YouTube), the Platform's knowledge exchange mechanism captures and communicates critical issues to members, partners and the wider development community.

### Interacting face-to-face

**Annual general assembly (AGA)**\_\_ Platform members come together each year to better understand member initiatives and to decide on key work themes in agriculture, rural development and food and nutrition security. The AGA provides a great opportunity to share knowledge and experience, to learn from others and to create connections between the donor community and other important networks. The Platform secretariat organises detailed coverage of the AGA, real-time Twitter conversations, video, photos and interviews. For more details about the last AGA, held in Paris, see Looking Forward section, p. 18.

**International meetings**\_\_ International development conferences and events are important venues for Platform networking and discussion of critical issues related to agriculture, rural development and food and nutrition security. Prior to any high-level meeting, the Platform and its members prepare briefing materials, and organise preparatory meetings to share concerns, develop key messages, and set the agenda collectively. The secretariat often reports live from these events, using video coverage and tweets.



## Publications

### Electronic

**newsletter**\_\_ The Platform publishes an electronic newsletter, the eUpdate, which provides subscribers with the latest information about Platform activities and achievements. Eleven eUpdates were disseminated to 447 subscribers in 2013 with an estimated reach of over 600. All eUpdates are available on the [Platform website](#).

**On Common Ground**\_\_ The Platform published a joint and living document that summarises common ground among donors on the nine Platform themes. On Common Ground reflects the rapidly changing development context in agriculture, rural development and food and nutrition security and documents donor thinking, emerging challenges, and priorities.

**Policy briefs** \_\_ Platform policy briefs outline the rationale for choosing a particular policy alternative or course of action in a current policy debate. The Global Donor Working Group on Land, which is hosted by the Platform, developed a policy brief, *Land in a post-2015 framework*, which argues that responsible governance of land tenure and other natural resources can help eradicate poverty.

**Studies**\_\_ In the face of a rapidly changing global aid architecture, the Platform commissioned GFAR's Global Foresight Hub

to produce a **study** of different prospects for agriculture, rural development and food and nutrition security assistance in the post-2015 development framework.

**Annual reports**\_\_ The Platform's **2012 Annual Report** "Building resilience through knowledge exchange and advocacy" was widely distributed via the website and email distribution lists. Hardcopies were also produced for Platform members and to distribute at events.

### Online communication tools

**Website**\_\_ The Platform continued to develop its web presence, updating, modifying and sifting through redundant content. In 2013 **the Platform website** was visited 36,231 times, attracting 22,625 unique visitors, with an average visit duration of 5:07 minutes. The **web calendar** was revamped with new features and 330 event entries. Twitter tools (stream modules, tweet buttons) were integrated into the website.

**Depositories**\_\_ A new **library** for postharvest losses (PHL) was set up on the Platform website providing research materials on postharvest losses and a search capability. The concept of an information gateway was discussed with the World Bank and a sample section on PHL is being prepared. A feature webpage for the inter agency donor group on livestock (IADG) was conceptualised, including a retainer of information from its 14 annual meetings. A new page for

the Global Donor Working Group on Land was created and the new Land Governance Programme Map land projects and online interactive map were launched, with information on the location, duration and scope of 600 land projects in more than 90 countries.

**Twitter**\_\_ In 2013 the number of **Platform twitter** followers continued to grow, with 796 new followers, for a total of 1,339 by year end. Tweets increased substantially to 1,979 tweets, attracting 50-70 new followers per month, with the secretariat team live tweeting from most events, editing and sending out messages from Platform members and the broader development community about interesting activities or developments so that other Platform members and partners are quickly informed.

**Virtual briefings and online interviews**\_\_ Geared towards knowledge exchange and the needs of Platform members, virtual briefings and online interviews provide the latest developments in agriculture, rural development and food and nutrition security. They also enable interactive discussions with those working on these areas in the wider development community. In 2013 the WebEx online conferencing system was branded with Platform graphics design. Forty-one videos were placed on the **Platform's YouTube** channel, including seven virtual briefings and 25 online interviews that received 6,128 views -- each with an average view time of 4:02 minutes for a total of 24,812 minutes.

### Website media data (accumulation Jan-Dec 2013)

- Web articles created: 117
- Hits on these articles: 105,066
- Calendar entries created: 330
- Calendar page views: 29,414
- Unique calendar page views: 20,049
- Virtual briefings: 6 (hits: 4024)
- Online interviews: 25 (hits: 52,007)
- Site visits: 36,231
- Unique site visitors: 22,625
- Page views: 117,430
- Unique page views: 79,435
- Average visit duration: 5:07mins
- Videos: 65% watch clips on YouTube channel, 35% on website
- Publications views: 17,190
- Unique publications views: 1,995

# ➤ Looking forward

## Positioning the Platform in a changing environment

At the heart of its work and as an overarching priority, the Platform shares knowledge and raises awareness of the need to strengthen aid and development effectiveness in agriculture, rural development and food and nutrition security and to promote the role these areas play in reducing poverty. In looking forward, the Platform seeks to ensure that these areas are adequately addressed in the composition of the post-2015 development agenda. Members view the post-2015 process as an important opportunity to focus on new policies, investments and partnerships for rural transformation.



Every small farmer is an entrepreneur

fair access without land

As donors and as part of the larger development community, Platform members work to respond to the rapidly changing development context, updating the Platform's strategic outlook and devising a more flexible work plan. The Platform work plan for 2014, designed and compiled with the input of 17 members, was validated at the **annual general assembly** held in Paris in January 2014 with over 100 participants. Hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France (MFA) and the French Agency for Development (AFD), the AGA addressed the theme *Rethinking Rural Development: Opportunities for New Partnerships and Territorial Approaches in a Changing Rural Environment* and sported a new format: a thematic-oriented Day 1 with presentations and discussion; and a member-oriented Day 2 where participants explored emerging issues in their organisations' agenda and provided final inputs to the work plan. Video recordings are available from all sessions at the **Platform website**. Members looked for agreement on ways to influence the post-2015 process, to negotiate strategies to raise recognition of agriculture for achieving development objectives, to advocate for a hunger and food and security nutrition goal, and to share information on technical indicators and targets. Food and nutrition security, rural development including land governance and tenure are emerging as priorities. Moreover, members agree that the Platform goals cannot be achieved without addressing the education and empowerment of women. Platform focal points will continue to exchange ideas and collaborate to give their views additional visibility in the post-2015 process.

## The Platform and the post-2015 agenda

The renewed global partnership for development underpinning the post-2015 development agenda will need to evolve with the changing development landscape to enable transformative changes. To do so effectively, it should build on the strengths of the current global partnership for development while going beyond its present framework. Most importantly, it will have to be based on a strong commitment to engage in collective actions with a clear distribution of tasks between developed and developing countries.

As the target date for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) fast approaches, governments, donors and the wider development community are working to identify the actions, targets and indicators needed to end poverty and hunger. Challenges and opportunities towards achieving food and nutrition security in a sustainable way have been debated, shared and refined and many countries are making good progress. Nevertheless, close to 870 million people around the world remain undernourished and do not have access to a healthy diet. Urgent action, in a concerted manner, is required to elaborate a truly global agenda with shared responsibilities and sustainable development at its core. The Platform will continue to make an important contribution by advocating with policy and decision makers, sharing knowledge amongst Platform members and partners, and facilitating networking and cooperation with and between all relevant actors.



“ The Platform could change from a platform for rural development to a platform for rural transformation... we have to show that things are moving and that our job is not simply development anymore... we should move towards transformation.

– Jean-Luc François, French Development Agency (AFD)

# Costs and financial contributions

## for Platform activities in 2013

Platform activities are funded by annual membership contributions towards the Platform trust fund managed by GIZ. Members contributing €50,000 annually or more qualify for Platform board membership.

Work programme and budget 2013 were based on the Platform strategic plan 2012–2014. Approved by the board in April 2013, this document is an update of the 2009–2011 strategic plan.

### Contributions

There were 13 Platform board members in 2013. The framework of the 2012–2014 strategic plan allowed again a number of members to make longer-term commitments. Three members have signed multi-year contribution agreements.

In 2013, member contributions to the Trust Fund to implement the Platform work programme reached €745,601.07 (funds received); thereof, €345,970.45 were dedicated exclusively to calendar year 2013 whereas €399,630.62 were dedicated as contribution available for activities targeting 2012 and beyond.

Of the signed agreements dedicated to the phase of strategic plan 2012–2014 and signed by 31 December 2013, funds in the amount of €1,616,552.00 have not yet been received as of 31 December 2013.

### Budget and costs

Actual costs in 2013 totalled €959,649.53. This was less than the approved 2013 indicative budget of €1,299,839.00.

Overall spending in 2013 has been less than planned in the work plan and indicative budget 2013 particularly in the activity area “side events/co-organisation at conferences as indicated by members”. This is because fewer side events have been organised than planned and that costs were kept low because logistics were conducted mainly by secretariat staff.

At the same time, costs in the amount of €37,155.80 have occurred in 2013 for activities implemented in 2012 (incl. budget position items website- and IT support [28,095.20], policy briefs [6,750.00], board meetings [1,620.00], and task leader ARD policy [690,60]).

Final accounting for 2013 has been audited in April 2014 and will be forwarded to board members in May 2014 with the official audit report and financial statement.

TABLE 1: Costs and endorsed activities 2013	Euro
<b>Activity areas</b>	
Website and IT support	98,698.50
Web conferencing	6,359.56
Annual general assembly	37,305.54
Board meetings	5,504.24
Policy briefs (incl. consultants. layout. printing and dissemination)	32,676.45
Studies (incl. consultants. layout. printing and dissemination; topics as indicated in workplan. like Results indicators and Mapping)	3,376.16
Learning events/roadshows/workshops as identified in the workstreams (incl. consultants)	0.00
Development and running of issue/event websites	0.00
Side events/co-organisation at conferences as indicated by members	4,898.07
Annual Report	8,544.64
Sponsoring of travel/participation	0.00
<b>Sub-total activity areas (I)</b>	<b>197,363.16</b>
<b>Secretariat. administration and management</b>	
Secretariat coordinator (80% since 7/2013)	
Task leader ARD policy (03-12/2013)	
Communications officer	
CAADP task leader	
Junior professional officer (01-07/2013 and second half December)	
Office manager (70%)	
Contract- and finance administrator-1	
Contract- and finance administrator-2 (50%)	
Interns (programme and communications)	
<b>Sub-total staff</b>	<b>523,115.58</b>
Office rent and communication infrastructure	57,585.78
General admin and management	14,516.43
Independent external audit	11,803.32
EC-evaluations (for EC purposes only)	0.00
Staff travels	44,863.10
<b>Sub-total secretariat. administration and management (II)</b>	<b>651,884.21</b>
<b>Total outputs (I+II)</b>	<b>849,247.37</b>
GIZ indirect support costs (ISC)	110,402.16
<b>TOTAL COSTS IN 2013</b>	<b>959,649.53</b>

TABLE 2: Financial contributions to the Platform in 2013 (funds received)	Euro
African Development Bank (AfDB)	50,000.00
"Canada - Department of Foreign Affairs. Trade and Development - DFATD (formerly via CIDA)"	49,680.62
Finland - Ministry of Foreign Affairs	100,000.00
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	245,970.45
The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	50,000.00
Italy - Ministry of Foreign Affairs	100,000.00
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	49,950.00
World Bank (IBRD)	50,000.00
World Food Programme (WFP)	50,000.00
<b>Total financial contributions to the Platform in 2013 (funds received)</b>	<b>745,601.07</b>

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