



# 2019 Annual Report

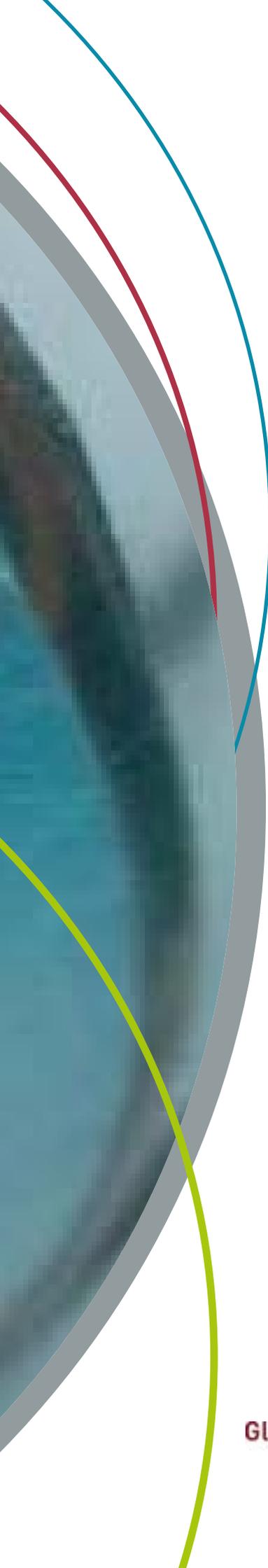


Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

## 2019 Annual Report

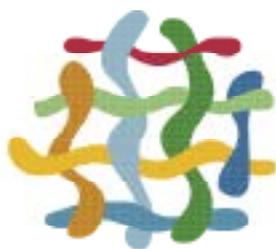
Global Donor Platform for Rural Development





# 2019 Annual Report

**Transforming ideas and collating synergies  
for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems**



**Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development**



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# ABOUT US



***Members work together to influence ideas and resources for sustainable agriculture and food systems transformation.***



Annual General Assembly, 2019, Purpose Statement

The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development is currently a network of 40 bilateral and multilateral donors, international financing institutions, intergovernmental organisations, foundations, and development agencies. Since its inception in 2003, the Platform has shared knowledge and advocated the role of agriculture, food systems, and rural development in promoting sustainable rural communities, which remains central to achieving global food and nutrition security. Through the Platform, donors and development actors have the opportunity to increase their commitment and investment in the areas of agriculture, rural development, and food security, thereby increasing the quality of life in rural areas in socio-economic sectors and improving the environment from a natural resources perspective. For over one and a half decades, the Platform's work has demonstrated that informed policy and programming are essential factors to achieving better development results and efficient investments. Based on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the experiences of the international community since 2005 (Accra, Busan, and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation), the achievement of tangible development results, enhanced governance, financial transparency and accountability are the key indicators for development effectiveness. Furthermore, it is also Agenda 2030 that affects and changes the role of donor agencies and international financing institutions and their programmes, policy priorities, and terms of engagement.

## **THE ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE PLATFORM**

The Platform offers a neutral convening space in which members are able to work together on issues of common interest, share experiences and expertise, and network informally with other Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) professionals. Effective knowledge-sharing means better development results. The Platform will strengthen its role in knowledge-sharing through systematising and streamlining its management of knowledge resources. Effective advocacy will be built upon solid evidence and clear messages from the Platform's own knowledge products around the strategic focus of the 2030 Agenda, and agriculture and rural development.

## VISION

»Prosperous and sustainable rural communities underpinning global food and nutrition security«.

The Platform's members share a common vision framed around pathways to achieve Zero Hunger (SDG 2). These must be economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable, centred on the capacity of agriculture and rural livelihoods to generate employment and economic growth, to address inequalities, and to underpin national, regional and global food and nutrition security.

## MISSION

»To enhance the impact of development investments in agriculture, food systems and rural livelihoods through informed policy and programming».

The Platform's mission reflects its key roles in advocacy and knowledge sharing through a donor network to deliver effective knowledge and learning in support of agriculture, food systems and rural livelihoods. Its ambition is to be able to inform donor policy and programming in Agriculture and Rural Development in the public sector and to encourage more and responsible private investment.

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# STRATEGIC FOCUS

The Platform's strategic focus is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The emergence of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development based on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets provides an overarching framework for the Platform's Strategic Plan 2016–2020. The Platform views the goals of economic, social and environmental sustainability through a rural lens under the Strategic Initiative Agenda 2030 of the Platform in view of rapid urbanization and massive migration.

## AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION

The Platform's strategic focus centers on promoting the transformation of agriculture and food systems as part of a broader rural transformation approach. Rural transformation is the key process of improving economic growth, social inclusion and the management of the environment within which the rural population makes their living. This includes recognising the importance of rural-urban linkages, migration and remittances and the role of agriculture as one of the principal generators of economic growth of the rural space.

## KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

Effective knowledge-sharing means better development results. Effective knowledge-sharing on donor approaches to Agriculture and Rural Development through peer learning, the analysis of different policies, instruments and programmes, contributes to better development results through better donor policy and programming. Knowledge-sharing is particularly important for smaller donors who are often knowledge ›takers‹, but is also valuable to donors who have the resources to generate knowledge, as a means of disseminating views to the donor community at large.

## ADVOCACY

Effective advocacy is built upon solid evidence and clear messages. The Platform's advocacy is built upon its own knowledge products and strategic focus. It focuses on high level policy issues and targets the wider development assistance community including non-traditional donors, and the many stakeholders engaged in rural areas in developing partner countries such as the private sector, civil society, NGOs and farmer organisations.

## NETWORKING

Networking is at the heart of the Platform's functions. The Platform was created out of the informal networking amongst senior staff in donor organisations that shared a common vision of the future of agriculture and rural development in tackling poverty reduction. This role is important to members as a way of reaching out informally to their peers as a ›community of practice‹ around agriculture and rural development issues.

LEARN MORE:

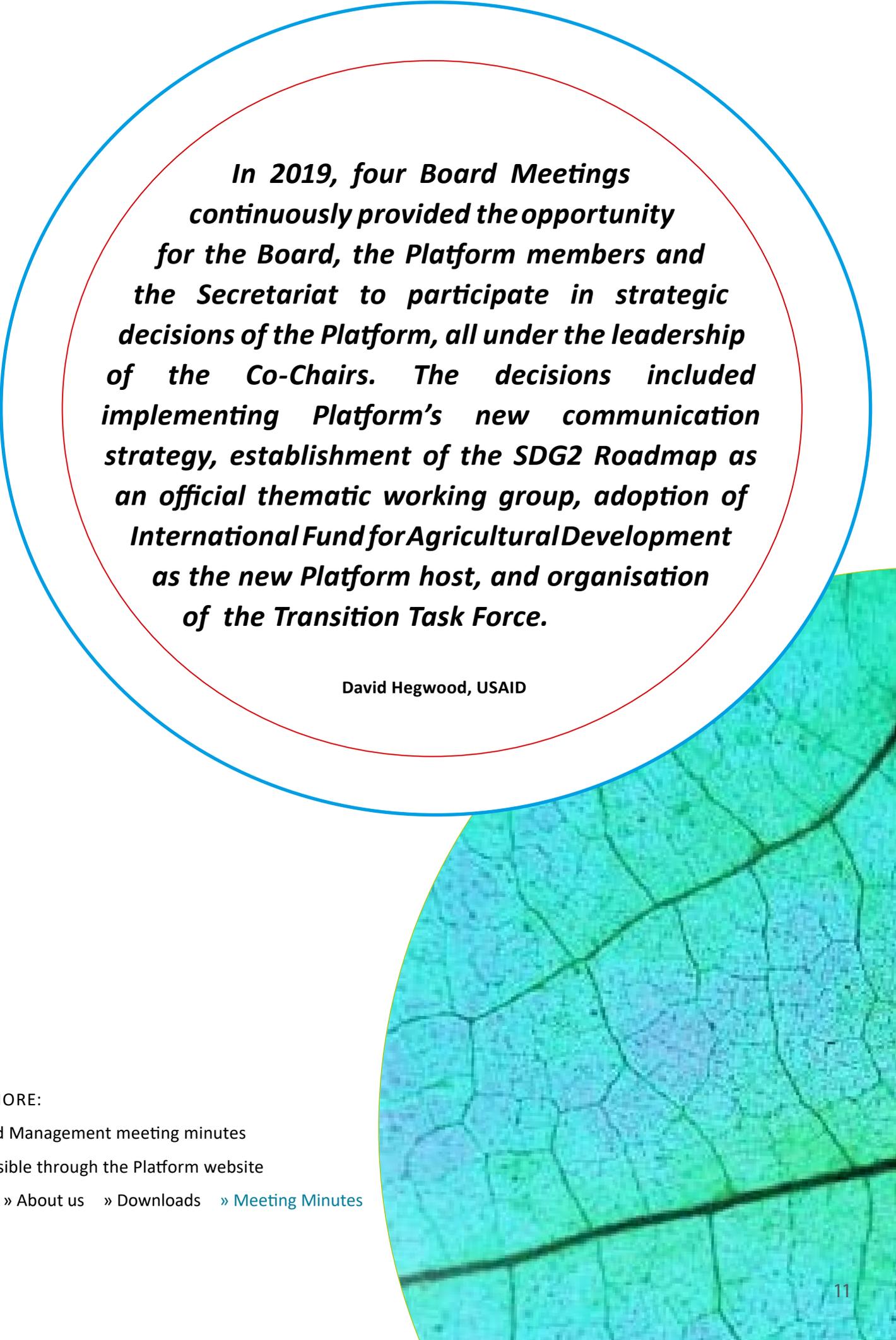
» [Strategic Plan 2016–2020](#)

# THE PLATFORM BOARD

The Board – the Platform’s main decision-making body, takes responsibility for the long-term strategic development of the Platform’s future and guarantees the quality of its outputs. It includes the contact points of all Platform members who pay an agreed annual membership contribution. Board members have the opportunity to benefit from the Platform’s convening role in knowledge-sharing, discussing important strategic issues, and contributing to learning and high-level advocacy. The Board meets formally twice a year. The first meeting is during the Annual General Assembly (AGA) in order to approve the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) adopted by the members as part of a multi-year programme of work. The second meeting is mid-year to review the Platform’s progress and, along with invited Associate Members, to participate in ›visioning‹ with thought-leaders to identify emerging strategic issues in agricultural and rural development. In 2019, three virtual meetings were held in January, October and December; and one physical Board meeting was held in June, back-to-back with the AGA. Board Members elect Co-Chair/s who serve for two years. The Platform elected, David B. Hegwood, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in 2018 till 2020. Patrick Herlant, European Commission (EC) served as the Co-Chair till October 2019. The Co-Chair receives full support of the Secretariat in terms of organizing board meetings, regular management meetings, and several other bilateral and group meetings with Platform members and partners.

## THE PLATFORM MANAGEMENT

Management meetings are held on a tri-monthly basis and are attended by the Co-Chair/s, members, partners and Secretariat staff. The Secretariat is the management unit of the Platform and is empowered to act within the framework of the agreed annual work plan with executive authority according to the Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Development Cooperation (BMZ) hosted the Secretariat since the founding of the Platform in 2003, and it was administered by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Bonn until December 2019. In November, the Board of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development announced that the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), per a decision by its Executive Management Committee, has agreed to host the Platform’s Secretariat starting 1 January, 2020. Both IFAD and BMZ are founding members of the Global Donor Platform and, together with the other 14 Board members, drivers of the strategic development of the Platform. The transition coincides with the strategic repositioning of the Platform that was initiated at the Platform’s 2019 AGA in June as a response to the shifting development agenda under the Agenda 2030 and related changing donor landscapes.



***In 2019, four Board Meetings continuously provided the opportunity for the Board, the Platform members and the Secretariat to participate in strategic decisions of the Platform, all under the leadership of the Co-Chairs. The decisions included implementing Platform's new communication strategy, establishment of the SDG2 Roadmap as an official thematic working group, adoption of International Fund for Agricultural Development as the new Platform host, and organisation of the Transition Task Force.***

David Hegwood, USAID

LEARN MORE:

Board and Management meeting minutes are accessible through the Platform website

» [Home](#) » [About us](#) » [Downloads](#) » [Meeting Minutes](#)

# MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Platform is a network of donor organisations. Membership of the Platform is voluntary and open to bilateral donor organisations, multilateral development institutions, and international financing institutions. Non-traditional donors, including foundations, UN agencies, and other intergovernmental organisations, are current Platform members.

In 2019, the Platform had 40 members. Of these, 14 are full members and constitute the decision-making Board. For membership in one of the Thematic Working Groups, membership in the Platform itself is not mandatory.

## FOCAL POINTS

Each member appoints a contact point to represent the respective organisation at Platform meetings and keep colleagues in their organisations and their Non Governmental Organisation (NGO)/private sector constituencies informed about new developments in the international community and the Platform outcomes. Contact points actively participate in the formulation of joint Platform policies and work programmes. They may speak on behalf the Platform at international events.

The Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) of the Platform involve a great number of representatives of member organisations who are not the contact points.

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## PARTNERS

The Platform works with different partners in each of the themes. The engagement with these organisations varies depending on the interest in the topic and their availability to contribute. The Platform enters into partnerships with research institutions, farmers' organisations, civil society organisations, global and regional networks, global initiatives, and private sector networks that share a common interest in agriculture and rural development. Each partner organisation nominates a contact person to serve as the

official link to the Platform. Representatives from partner organisations are invited to engage in the TWGs of the Platform and attend Platform meetings.

In 2019, the Platform engaged with various partners, including: Land Portal Foundation, Ministry of Lands in Nepal, GROOTS Kenya, Prindex initiative, International Land Coalition (ILC), Oxfam, ActionAid, Chatham House, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), African Land Policy Centre (ALPC), Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), Omidyar Network, International Land Coalition, and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

Additionally, the Platform was actively engaged with establishing key strategic partnerships with the Group of Seven (G7), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Partnership Thematic Working Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Land-use, Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA), private sector initiatives and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) / The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

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## SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat is the management unit of the Platform and is empowered to act within the framework of the agreed annual work plan with executive authority according to the Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020.

In 2019, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) continued to host the Secretariat, and it was, like in previous years, administered by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Bonn.

In 2019, the Secretariat continued to support the exchange between donors and their advocacy activities in many topics. The Secretariat provided services to the Platform members and the



different TWGs in a variety of formats and activities. The Secretariat also participated in international events and reported about them to its members as well as to other target audiences. When and where appropriate, the Secretariat also communicated collective positions of the Platform.

In 2019, the Secretariat staff included Laura Barrington (Policy Advisor SDG2 Roadmap, Secretariat Coordinator starting June), Reinhold Ernst (Secretariat Coordinator until end of May), Oliver Hanschke (Communications Advisor), Manuel Urrutia (Junior Policy Advisor starting July; intern from January till June), Simone Miller (Finance Administrator), Romy Sato (Policy Analyst, until August), Lucia Wienand (Office Manager), and Marion Thompson (Finance Administrator).

Two interns completed the Secretariat team: James Kyewalabye from May till November to support the Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth and Octavio de Araujo (starting July) to assist the Secretariat in major activities and in particular support the Platform's Autumn 2019 Webinar Series.

External consultants supported the Secretariat in thematic, event, communication, and IT related tasks.

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## PLATFORM MEMBERS 2019

- African Development Bank (AfDB)\*
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)\*
- Austria – Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
- Austrian Development Agency (ADA)
- Belgium – Directorate General for Development Cooperation
- Belgian Technical Cooperation
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)\*
- Global Affairs Canada
- Denmark – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- European Commission – Directorate General DEVCO (Co-Chair)\*
- Finland – Ministry of Foreign Affairs\*
- Food and Agriculture Organisation, United Nations (FAO)
- France – Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs\*
- France – Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy
- Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- Germany – Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)\*
- Global Mechanism of the UNCCD (UNCCD GM)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)\*
- International Trade Centre (ITC)
- International Development Research Centre, Canada (IDRC)
- Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (IADC)
- Irish Aid – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- KfW Development Bank, Germany
- Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
- Luxembourg Development Cooperation (LuxDev)
- The Netherlands – Ministry of Foreign Affairs\*
- Norway – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)
- 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 Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)\*
- The World Bank (WB)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Trade Organisation (WTO)

\*Board member in 2019

# MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIR

DAVID B. HEGWOOD, UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Since its inception in 2003, the members of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development have been working together to tackle the poverty, hunger and malnutrition that disproportionately afflicts rural populations. Over the course of these past 17 years we have experienced a resurgence in donor investments in agriculture following the 2008 food price crisis and a renewed focus on eliminating hunger and malnutrition with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015. Unfortunately, we have also seen an ongoing rise in food insecurity as a result of conflict, climate-related stresses, and economic downturns. The sudden reversal in 2015 of the decades long decline in the global hunger number is a painful reminder of how much is left to be done to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

With this backdrop, the members of the Global Donor Platform gathered in Switzerland last summer for their first ever members only Annual General Assembly (AGA). The purpose of this retreat was to reimagine the Platform's role in this new environment. We developed a new vision for the Global Donor Platform 2.0 that emphasizes the core commitment of the Platform's members to influence ideas and resources for sustainable agriculture and food systems transformation.

Over a period of 6 months following the AGA, a Transition Task Force, consisting of the EC, Switzerland, France, IFAD, DFID, FAO, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID, BMZ and GIZ, developed ideas to help shape the Global Donor Platform 2.0 and make it fit for its continued vital role for informed policy dialogue and programming in rural development. The revised format will secure the Platform's ability to provide thought leadership and to collaborate on sustainable agriculture and food systems transformation in support of the 2030 Agenda. Overall, 2019 was a rich year for the Platform's Thematic Working Groups. The SDG2 Roadmap Group has been a forum for collaboration to

overcome structural impediments to achieving SDG 2, including the need for better data and evidence. The new Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth gained traction. The inaugural members, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (IADC), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the African Development Bank (AfDB), have been joined this year by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE). The Global Donor Working Group on Land continued to pursue a very active agenda, hosting side events at the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference in March and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in October.

Beyond the activities in the Thematic Working Groups, the Platform engaged with members and partners on topics ranging from rural producer agency and agricultural value chains, to climate-smart-agriculture and youth networks in Africa. Platform workshops and webinars featured the work of leading researchers and professionals from various independent institutions and intergovernmental organisations, as well as from Platform members. The Platform also participated in side events during the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Partnership Thematic Working Group meeting in April and the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) Annual Forum in June, and organized a number of events and presentations during CFS week in October.

2019 also saw the launch of the Platform's new communications strategy, which was presented by the Secretariat to the Board at its virtual Board Meeting in January, and unanimously agreed upon by the Board members. Taking advantage of new tools and technologies, the communications strategy will strengthen the

Platform's core functions of networking, information sharing and knowledge exchange.

In addition to developing the vision for the Global Donor Platform 2.0, the Platform embarked on another momentous change in 2019. For the past 17 years BMZ has provided an institutional home for the Platform Secretariat, implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) along with financial, administrative and moral support. Beginning in 2020, the hosting baton is being passed to IFAD. We owe BMZ a debt of gratitude for bringing us this far and look forward to their continued contributions as a committed member

of the Platform. I am delighted to welcome IFAD as our new host. IFAD has already proven its commitment through its efforts to ensure a smooth transition.

Transitions are never easy. As a final note, I want to extend a special thanks to the Secretariat staff: Reinhild Ernst, Laura Barrington, Marion Thompson, Romy Sato, Oliver Hanschke, Manuel Urrutia, Lucia Wienand, James Kyewalabye, Octavio de Araujo, and Marc Nolting – who guided and supported us through this past year with grace and competence while also managing the transitions in their own careers.



# YEAR IN REVIEW – 2019

This was an important year for the Platform, as it adapted its structure and function in light of the new paradigm under Agenda 2030, which has shifted the donor landscape by changing the nature of challenges and future uncertainties for donors.

In order to meet these challenges, the Platform created a member led Transition Task Force who spearheaded a process of structural adjustment towards a re-envisioned Global Donor Platform 2.0. The Platform 2.0 took into account new approaches for joint challenges, such as the transformation of rural and urban food systems in the context of fragility.

The aim of continuing to provide thought leadership in a changing donor environment framed the Platform's 2019 Annual General Assembly (AGA), which was hosted by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) from 19 through 21 June in Zurich/Maennedorf, Switzerland. This year's AGA was an inward-focused retreat primarily to inspire Platform members to reflect on their unique strengths in the rural development space in lieu of a thoroughly changing environment. Speakers included Ueli Mauderli (SDC), David Hegwood (USAID), and Patrick Herlant (EC).

To make the Platform fit for new challenges and perspectives, the two-day retreat focused on examining and redefining the Platform's purpose and mission while searching for a new *modus operandi*. The agenda comprised of a series of discussions, bilateral discussions and in-between sessions, providing the necessary space for further exploration and analysis.

At the end of the iterative process of scoping and refinement, the AGA participants zeroed in on potential ideas for a new Platform purpose statement. These ideas were then taken up in the subsequent Board meeting, where Board members synthesized the ideas to produce the new purpose statement for the Platform 2.0,

“Members work together to influence ideas and resources for sustainable agriculture and food systems transformation”.

Platform's Co-Chair, David Hegwood highlighted the immediate challenges as well as the range of decisions to be taken in order to sustain the activities and partnerships both in the short and the long run. The donor representatives of the Platform's 40-member organisation and their strategic partners evaluated the Platform's achievements and shared updates on the Thematic Working Groups. The discussion was supported by the concept of an eco-cycle with key aspects of purpose, context, challenges, baseline, ambition, action and evaluation. Members and strategic partners held round table sessions back-to-back to the AGA to share updates on Land Governance, Climate Change, Rural Youth, Inclusive Agribusiness and Trade, and Agenda 2030 and the SDG2 Roadmap.

The Platform also contributed to the Agriculture and Rural Development policy space by organizing webinar debates on securing rights to land at scale via the lessons and guiding principles from a member's land tenure regularisation and land sector support programmes, and a series of webinars on other topics.

Patrick Herlant concluded his co-chairmanship in October after more than two-years guiding the implementation of Board decisions, such as the establishment of the Transition Task Force, the formalization of the SDG 2 Roadmap group into a formal thematic working group, organizing two AGAs, two Board Meetings, three Management Meetings and several face-to-face meetings.

Membership remained at 40 members, and the Board remained at 14 Board members in 2019.



### **The Road to 2030 and the need for innovation and change!**

Considering the shifting donor landscape, the changing nature of challenges and future uncertainties for donors, the Platform collaborated on: “With the aim of continuing to provide thought leadership in a changing environment, and to collaborate to influence ideas and resources benefitting sustainable agriculture and food systems transformation, the Platform, supported by a Members’ task force, has launched a process of structural adjustment.”

### **Form follows function – adapting the Platform’s structure and transitioning to a new phase**

Following a Board decision, a Member Transition Task Force was appointed to secure the Platform’s role in continuing to provide thought leadership in a changing environment. In November, the task force presented a proposal ready to deliver innovation and impact on the road to 2030. Other 2019 highlights were Thematic Working Group meetings on Agriculture, Food Security and Land Use of the Nationally Determined Contributions Partnership (NDC-P) in April in Rome at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), where NDC-P member countries took stock of the group’s progress and planned their capacities for appropriate climate action in agriculture sectors. The high-level event in Brussels in April organized by the EU launched the 2019 Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC), which finds that despite the global decrease in the number of people facing acute hunger over the past, the main drivers of food crises are still present and continue to affect millions of people worldwide. The Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL) debated the fundamental question of ‘Are we on track to secure tenure rights and establish effective and transparent land governance systems by 2030?’ at the World Bank Land Conference 2019, held in March in Washington, DC.



## **IN 2019**

### **25 International Events**

**1 Annual General Assembly**

**4 Board Meetings**

**3 Management Meetings**

**17 Thematic Working Group Meetings**

**4 Webinars**

**3 Studies & Publications**

**40 Platform Members**

**14 Board Members**

## 2019 Key International Meetings and Platform Events

17-19 January, Berlin, Germany – Global Forum for Food and Agriculture – Smart Solutions for Farming

4-6 March, Amman, Jordan – Arab States Modern Land Administration for Sustainable Development Forum

18-29 March, New York City, USA – Commission on the Status of Women

25-29 March, Washington DC, USA – World Bank's Land and Poverty Conference

2-3 April, Brussels, Belgium – Conference Global Network against Food Crises

May 2019, Rabat, Morocco – CAADP Partners Partnership Meeting

4-5 July, Utrecht, The Netherlands – LANDac Annual International Conference

3-6 September, Accra, Ghana – African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF)

14-18 October, Rome, Italy – Committee on World Food Security (CFS 46)

4-8 November, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire – Conference on Land Policy in Africa

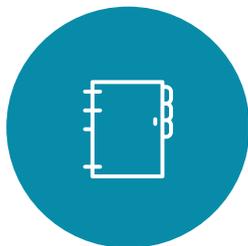
## 2019 Platform Highlights

- **New Platform Host announced – International Fund for Agricultural Development**
- **Platform 2.0 purpose statement defined by Platform Board: "Members work together to influence ideas and resources for sustainable agriculture and food systems transformation."**
- **Members' Transition Task Force issues recommendations to usher in the new Platform 2.0.**
- **Annual General Assembly in June in Switzerland, bringing together Platform members for a members' only retreat**
- **Back-to-back to the Annual General Assembly Donor roundtables on climate and inclusive agribusiness.**
- **New communication strategy implemented**
- **Autumn webinar series focusing on inclusive agribusiness, Africa's youth network, and climate adaptation and mitigation in agricultural sector**
- **Land Governance donor session at the World Bank Land Conference**
- **Donor roundtable on land governance organised at the sidelines of the African Land Policy Conference in Abidjan, Ivory Coast**
- **Rural Youth side event at the World Export Development forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**
- **SDG2 Roadmap Initiative develops joint Theory of Change for achieving SDG2**
- **SDG2 Roadmap Group as a formal working group**

# PLATFORM THEMES

## STRATEGIZING PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS THEMES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In 2019, knowledge exchange has been promoted in the following areas:



**AGENDA  
2030**



**LAND  
GOVERNANCE**



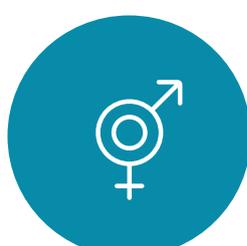
**RURAL  
YOUTH**



**CLIMATE  
CHANGE**



**AGRIBUSINESS  
& TRADE**



**GENDER**



**CAADP**

- a. Strategic Initiative Agenda 2030 and rural structural change as a conceptual and strategic framework for the work of the Platform (›Agenda 2030‹)
- b. Five other thematic areas:
  - I Land and Land Administration (Land Governance);
  - II Rural Youth;
  - III Climate Change and Agriculture;
  - IV Inclusive Agribusiness and Trade;
  - V Gender and CAADP (CAADP serves only as an information hub as the cooperation in the Development Partners Coordination Group is now with the World Bank).

Agenda 2030, Land Governance and Rural Youth are Thematic Working Groups, Climate Change and Inclusive Agriculture/Trade are themes, while Gender is treated cross-sectionally and mainstreamed in other themes.

### THEMATIC WORKING GROUP TASKS

Develop and implement work plans for the respective Thematic Working Groups.

Share information and knowledge on policy and institutional developments and policies.

Organise physical meetings, side-events and other events upon request by members.

Commission studies and other knowledge products, (e.g. improvement of maps, databases, living documents) of the Thematic Working Groups.

## AGENDA 2030 & SDG2 ROADMAP

### Thematic Working Group Leads:

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

The Platform's Strategic Initiative Agenda 2030 addresses the dimensions of development cooperation – with its focus on the policy priority areas of its members in the rural space. Agriculture and rural development constitute highly complex systems which require long-term strategies.

In 2019, the Agenda 2030 priorities gained further traction in the Platform as its Board elevated the status of the SDG2 Roadmap group to a Platform Thematic Working Group.

The SDG2 Roadmap Initiative is backed by 14 donors, of whom more than one-third are Platform members. Its aim is to increase political support for significant progress to achieve SDG2 and to fill gaps in the instruments needed to ›End Hunger‹.

The initiative's debate moved beyond the substantive considerations of the new opportunities of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and addressed issues to support their achievement, especially SDG2 and double the productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers by 2030 – on whose success many other SDGs are built. The members focused on selected political entry points to support the achievement of SDG2. By facilitating direct exchange and information sharing, the Platform enables its members to coordinate their development assistance.

### SDG2 ROADMAP

The group's work is carried out in seven areas of action, the progress of which the Secretariat regularly supports via e-mail, physical meetings or video and telephone conferences. The seven action areas of the SDG2 Roadmap Initiative are:

- Theory of Change (led by BMZ and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)
- Ceres2030 (led by BMZ and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and implemented by International Food Policy Research Institute, Institute for Sustainable Development, Cornell University).
- 50x2030 Initiative (led by USAID, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development).
- Donors SDG2 Results Reporting (led by The Netherlands-Minsitry of Foreign Affairs).
- Innovation (led by BMZ and European Commission)
- Mapping of SDG 2.3 Donor Projects and Programs (led by Department for International Development)
- Private sector cooperation (led by Australia-Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, The Netherlands-Minsitry of Foreign Affairs).

### Platform Member Publications

Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals across the world: The 2019 Joint Synthesis Report of the European Union and its Member States

» [Read Publication](#)

Ceres2030 Activity Update: February-July 2019

» [Read Publication](#)

In 2019, work has concentrated on six action areas for which internal proposals have been regularly disseminated via email and discussed in six group meetings and conference calls as well as many bi- and multilateral exchanges.

There are three highlights of the action areas:

**50 x 2030 Initiative**, a commitment to produce the largest-ever collection of data for agriculture development across 50 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America by 2030, agreement on the governance principles amongst the donors and the three implementing agencies, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Bank, and the alignment of a Multi-Donor Trust Fund at the World Bank to finance the initiative. The establishment of the initiative Steering Committee and begin of operations of the Program Management Center.

**Ceres2030**, a partnership between Cornell University, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) to development a cost modelling to achieve SDG 2.3 and 2.4 by 2030 and a syntheses of published research on agricultural interventions to be published in the spring of 2020 as a collection with Nature Research journals, the eight research questions and research teams have been selected. The research synthesis work has commenced and is working iteratively with the work on the cost modelling, which represents one of the strengths of the Ceres2030 approach.

**Theory of Change**, the SDG2 Roadmap group has finalized a joint Theory of Change in which 14 donor organizations agree on a common purpose and strategy to achieve SDG2. The Theory of Change is a living document for internal use, which will continue to evolve as the group's work continues. Based on its Theory of Change, the group has also drafted a set of key messages, which each agency can use in external communication.

The Platform provides a forum for information sharing of donor policies, programmes and financial support towards agriculture and rural development within framework of Agenda 2030 – this brings in perspectives from developing countries, UN agencies, finance institutions, Civil Society Organisations, and the private sector.

The Secretariat participated in key international conferences important for the 2030 Agenda producing reports for Platform members, e.g. European Commissions' High Level Event: Food and agriculture in times of crisis, the 46th Committee on World Food Security, the Youth Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment (YES!) Forum 2019 and the Conference on Land Policy in Africa, CLPA-2019.

Further information:

» Home » Topics » [Agenda 2030](#)

## Agenda 2030 Priorities

- Strategic initiative Agenda 2030 and rural transformation – advocating for increased support to rural transformation.
- Facilitate and support SDG2 Roadmap initiative, develop a common vision and support agreed action areas.
- Relay information about and from Agenda 2030-related events by Platform communication tools.
- Publish web-based communications to update and synthesize the global policy advancements in Agenda 2030 implementation and in rural-urban linkages.
  - Develop a donor consensus on food systems in view of the UN summit on food systems planned in 2021.

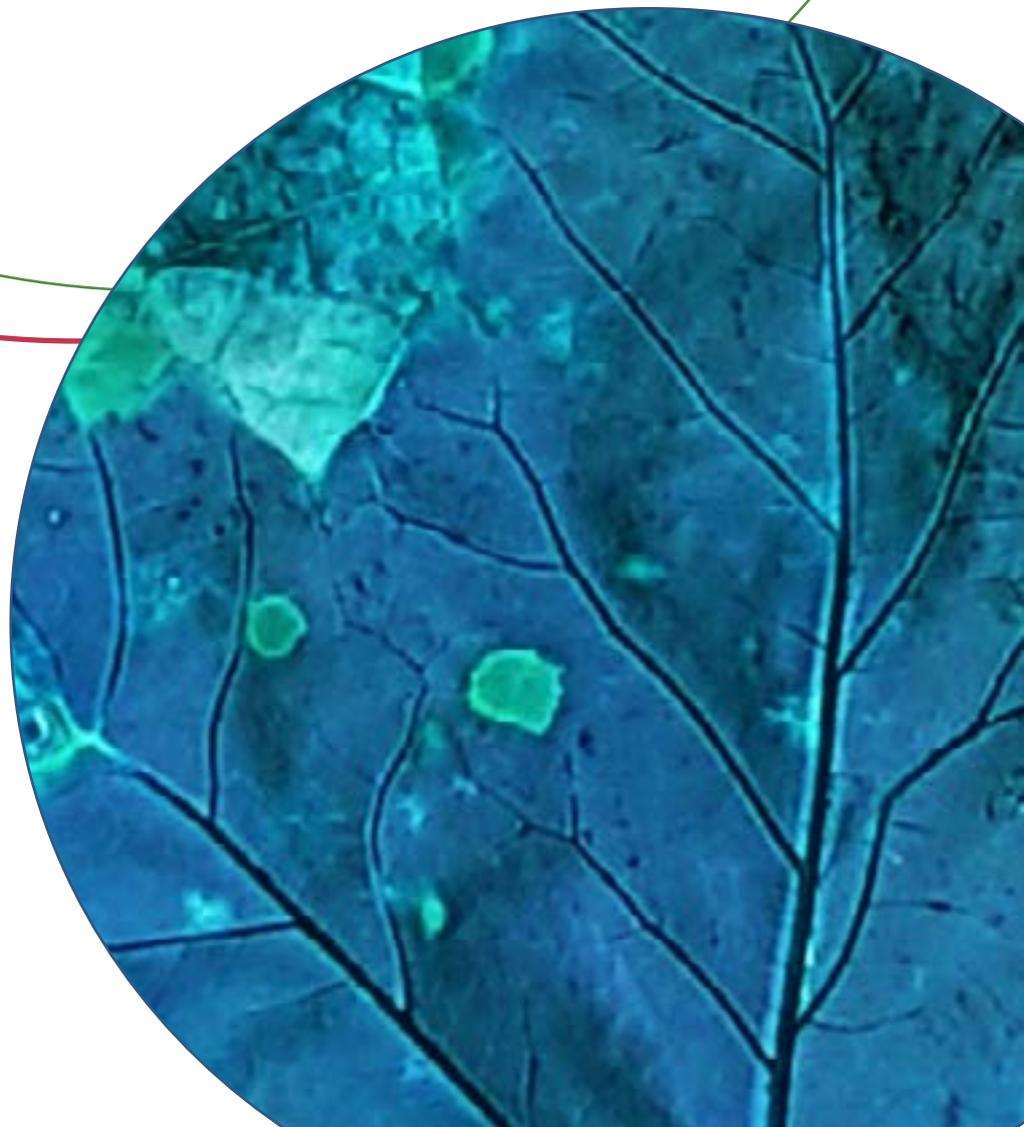


***“...we ... need to step up progress under the Sustainable development Goals. In order for this to happen, however, each one of us has a prominent role to play in the transformation of food systems. At the same time, however, we need to continue to improve the impact of our action. It is clear that in this pursuit we must all stand together in our engagement towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.*”**



**Gilbert Hougbo**

**International Fund for Agricultural Development**



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» [Home](#) » [Media](#) » [Latest](#) » [Agenda 2030](#)

October 2019

» [A Ceres2030 perspective: Reducing Post-Harvest Losses in Agriculture](#)

October 2019

» [A Digital Council to solve the world's food problems](#)

October 2019

» [SOFA 2019: Moving forward on food loss and waste reduction](#)

October 2019

» [A week of discussions and decisions: The 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security](#)

October 2019

» [Multi-stakeholder collaboration: Tackling food security issues in the context of climate change](#)

July 2019

» [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019](#)

May 2019

» [60 million small farmers to become climate-proof by 2030](#)

April 2019

» [Food and Agriculture in Times of Crises](#)

April 2019

» [Agricultural Development Policy: a contemporary agenda](#)

March 2019

» [2019 Global Food Policy Report](#)

February 2019

» [African Nutrition Scorecard launched by African Union Commission and African Development Bank](#)

January 2019

» [Global Forum for Food and Agriculture: The future of agriculture is digital](#)

## LAND GOVERNANCE

**Only 10% of rural land in Africa is registered – is a widely used statistic to highlight the scale of the challenge even if it is, at best, a good estimate. Some data exist, but it is very patchy. New data to monitor the SDGs and other data sources that can help promote reforms needed to achieve the SDGs, are now coming online and will enable us to set targets, monitor progress more effectively, and deepen national policy discussions.**

Chris Penrose Buckley, Department for International Development

### Thematic Working Group Leads:

Swiss Agency for Department and Cooperation (SDC) – Chair

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Vice Chair

The Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL) aims to increase the coordination and knowledge exchange on land governance programmes and jointly advocate with Platform members the relevance of land issues in policy processes that affect international development.

In 2019, the GDWGL held a policy session at the World Bank Land & Poverty Conference exploring, “How to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Global Commitments on Land”. The session received positive feedback by participants who voiced their ideas to donors to help accelerate progress towards global land goals and commitments. Ideas included the need to raise awareness of land governance issues beyond the circle of experts, engage with a diverse set of actors, support grassroots national initiatives to secure land rights driven by local advocacy, and adopt meaningful national reforms.

Furthermore, the importance of funding to be directed to support civic and public sector efforts

was highlighted. The role of politics in land issues to be acknowledged and efforts for more research to create asset-based democracies including its implications for construction of societies and their institutions were also discussed as important aspects to be considered in effective land governance.

Are we on track to secure tenure rights and establish effective and transparent land governance systems by 2030? This broad yet fundamental question was the point of departure used by the GDWGL in its meeting in March in Washington, DC. Special guests from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) spoke about the threats and violence on human rights’ and land rights’ defenders, a topic which the Group is committed to address since its previous meeting by mobilising international support.

As a follow-up to this meeting, the GDWGL has taken three steps:

- 1) They have assigned a member to be a focal point for the topic of Human Rights/Land defenders;
- 2) They drafted a Code of Conduct for donors for engagement at the country level on issues related to land governance; and
- 3) They have shared information about emerging large donor initiatives on land tenure, amongst other results.



The group co-hosted a side event at the High-Level Political Forum 2019 that advocated for and raised awareness on land and conflict. The focus was how development that is conscious of conflict can contribute to sustaining peace in land-related conflicts. This side event helped prepare the groundwork to mobilise multi-stakeholder support for a more sustained dialogue and engagement on land and conflict. In addition, it directly addressed SDG 16 that alludes to Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, and supported the Guidance Note on land and conflict to ensure better United Nations support across peace and development pillars.

The Group reconvened the topic of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) engagement at the 46th session of the Committee on World Food Security at CFS 46 in October, when some members informally met with CSOs to explore how to broaden the engagement between the two at the global level.

This dialogue was further discussed during the GDWGL's 14th physical meeting at the margins of the 2019 Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA) in Abidjan, Ivory Coast in November, where the Group agreed to examine how a strategic relationship with CSOs, particularly those engaged in human and land right defenders, can be structured.

Group members gave first formal consultations on the proposed Global Land Governance Report concept note, a joint work with Group strategic partners, at their 14th physical meeting. Proposed report objectives, content, governance structure, target audiences, and next steps were outlined in the concept note and will be further refined and implemented in future Group meetings.

The GDWGL meeting also saw a change in the Group's chairing positions, SDC is the new chair and FAO is the new vice chair until October 2020. An additional outcome from the meeting included the next step of formalizing the criteria by which the Group's strategic partners may engage in future Group meetings.

Further information:

- » [Home](#)
- » [Topics](#)
- » [Land Governance](#)

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- » [Home](#)
- » [Media](#)
- » [Latest](#)
- » [Land Governance](#)

November 2019

- » [Guiding the Next Generation of African Experts](#)

November 2019

- » [Young Africans on the forefront of research](#)

November 2019

- » [VGGT Implementation in Africa](#)

November 2019

- » [2019 Conference on Land Policy in Africa](#)

October 2019

- » [CFS 46 - Fertile Ground for Land Governance](#)

May 2019

- » [Code of Conduct for Donors at the Country Level](#)

March 2019

- » [Achieving SDGs and Global Commitments on Land](#)

## Platform Member Publications

Guidelines for Impact Evaluation of Land Tenure and Governance Interventions

- » [Read Publication](#)

2019 Global Report on Food Crises

- » [Read Publication](#)

IFAD's Rural Development Report

- » [Read Publication](#)



***Cultural and social elements of land are very relevant for effective interventions and then there are questions on the amount of funding: perceiving as enough depends on where you are standing. Political will is just as important as funding – we need a Marshall plan for political will!***

Peter Sidler  
Swiss Agency for  
Development and Cooperation

## RURAL YOUTH

### Thematic Working Group Members:

United States Agency for International Development (USAID), African Development Bank (AfDB), Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (IADC), Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), SPIRE Norway, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) France, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The young people are growing in numbers and more rapidly in lower-income countries, particularly in rural areas. Nearly 1 billion of the world's 1.2 billion youth aged 15-24 reside in developing countries. The growing youth population presents a development challenge of creating a large number of jobs however, the growing youth population's enormous potential is vital to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Rural youth are the future of food security. Yet around the world, young people face different challenges in agriculture specifically in rural areas that impede their employment in agriculture and food systems. These challenges are daunting and vary with different backgrounds, gender norms, and other social and economic constraints. The diversity of challenges and the wealth of ideas possessed by young people makes it crucial to bring rural youth onboard the decision-making process for a more inclusive rural transformation. Rural youth must be empowered to advocate for themselves and articulate their ideas towards addressing the challenges they face.

The Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Rural Youth is the Platform's newest working group that was launched as a direct result of a Board decision in October 2018.

The new TWG reflects the political commitment of the international community to empower youth in rural areas as expressed in the Youth Employment Initiative, which was launched at the Group of Twenty (G20) Summit in 2017. The group has gained traction with new members FAO, OECD, AfDB and SPIRE Norway.

The TWG had a vibrant year with several conference calls, a side meeting at the Annual General Assembly (AGA) in June and the 46th session of the Committee on Food Security (CFS 46) in October, conducting a mapping study on youth networks in agriculture in Africa, and holding their first side event "Rural youth and decent jobs creation in food systems" alongside the World Export Development Forum (WEDF), which focused on decent job creation for rural youth in food systems.

### Annual General Assembly 2019 and Rural Youth:

On the occasion of the AGA 2019, the group held a side meeting that was attended by different representatives from MEAE France, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (IADC), USAID, Syngenta Foundation, and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). In the meeting, the group welcomed FAO and OECD to the Thematic Working Group. The participants at the event shared knowledge on youth programming and studies presented by FAO and OECD.



***We must begin to put our capital at risk for the young people of Africa. The current market system doesn't provide financing to the African youth, projected to be over 840 million by 2050. The African continent will brim with the youngest population on earth by then. We should begin to set up youth entrepreneurship and investments banks – banks where if you walk in, they see assets and not liability.***

Akinwumi Adesina, African Development Bank



### CFS 46 and the Rural Youth Group:

The members of the group had a side meeting at the CFS 46 to discuss future steps for the next phase. During the meeting, the participants were introduced to the FAO decent employment tool box, which provided technical tools and approaches that can be employed for decent job creation. The CFS46 was also an opportunity where the Secretariat featured various topics of rural youth to a large number of youth delegates participating in side events and plenary sessions.

### Study – Insights into Youth Networks:

James Kyewalabye, an intern at the Platform Secretariat from May till November 2019, took on a study on youth networks in Africa that have a rural focus and work in agriculture. The assessment provided insights into different networks and enabled the group to begin identifying youth representatives for concerted engagement and pragmatic discussion of rural youth issues. The findings of the rural youth assessment were also presented in a webinar in early November as part of the Platform's Autumn Webinar Series. The webinar further explored questions on the types, structures, activities and challenges of rural youth networks, and most importantly identified entry points for donor intervention. The full report was released in December 2019.

Further information:

» [Home](#) » [Topics](#) » [Rural Youth](#)

READ MORE:

» [Home](#) » [Media](#)  
» [Latest](#) » [Rural Youth](#)

***Decent job creation for rural youth must address the twin challenges of food insecurity and poverty while providing new economic opportunities for the young.***

Oriane Barthélemy, MEAE, France

November 2019

» [Trade and invest in One Africa](#)

November 2019

» [Rural youth and decent job creation](#)

November 2019

» [A big YES to Youth Entrepreneurship](#)

October 2019

» [Employment opportunities for rural youth](#)

October 2019

» [Rural Youth – a theme resonating well at CFS46](#)

August 2019

» [G7 Framework on decent job creation](#)

July 2019

» [Empowering African Entrepreneurs](#)

June 2019

» [IFAD's 2019 Rural Development Report](#)

June 2019

» [Investing in young agripreneurs](#)

June 2019

» [Insights: FAO's and OECD's youth programmes](#)

June 2019

» [#DanceforChange - IFAD's virtual petition youth](#)

May 2019

» [The rural digital revolution](#)

January 2019

» [Global Forum for Food and Agriculture](#)



## CLIMATE CHANGE / CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE

Climate change continues to have an extremely dire impact on agriculture and rural development. Agriculture plays a contributing role to rising global greenhouse gas emissions, which adversely affects the agriculture sector, threatening and weakening development.

The active work by the Secretariat to engage in and share climate resilient agriculture knowledge and experiences amongst the Platform's members and partners creates synergies for specific discussions on agriculture, climate change, and Agriculture and Rural Development policies. These discussions contribute to the debate within individual member organisations and in networking as an engagement in boarder policy fora, programming exercises, and engagement of Non-Governmental Organisations and the private sector.

The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), held a climate-resilient agriculture thematic working group meeting back-to-back with the Annual General Assembly in June.

The meeting provided an opportunity to take stock of the members' and strategic partners' current strategic focus, and exchange ideas on CGIAR Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security's (CCAFS) synthesis report on "Transforming Global Food Systems under Climate Change" initiative.

Twenty representatives from international organisations, donors, private foundations and knowledge institutes discussed adaptation pathways that are needed for different types of farmers amid the pressure to feed a growing world population under rising world temperatures.

The CCAFS presented a proposal on the transformation of global food systems, and stressed the need to promote exchange amongst Platform members and partners on the latest

developments on the crossroads between agriculture and climate change.

The proposal included specific adaptation pathways for large-scale commercial agriculture and their effect on environmental outcomes, support for smallholder/subsistence farmers to consolidate their land and market access for their products, and support for extensive farming systems to diversify their income, agriculture techniques, and alternative livelihoods.

The second part of the Platform's autumn 2019 webinar series highlighted the element of climate-resilient agriculture under the selected topic indicators for climate adaptation in agriculture. In this webinar, Dr. Bruce Campbell from CCAFS discussed the development and implementation of adaptation indicators in the context of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) projects. Achieving a successful turnout, the webinar paved the way for a follow-up discussion to be hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The Secretariat was involved in the work of the 3rd Meeting of the Thematic Working Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Land Use from 16 through 18 April in Rome. The workshop – "Enhancing Country Capacity for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Implementation in the Agriculture Sectors" - was supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development Cooperation (BMZ). The meeting welcomed a range of participants from both developed and developing countries, as well as international institutions that are already engaging or are interested in taking part in the working group.

The Secretariat reported on the 3rd Annual Forum of the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) held in Bonn on 15 and 16 July, which highlighted challenges and best practices of implementing CSA on every continent. GACSA members also strategized on how to implement their Strategic Plan 2018-2022.



***The progress of the food system in sustainably achieving food security for all has been very limited. To address the current challenges, it is crucial to use a transformative approach whereby the rural population is recognised in all its diversity hence, requiring all its adaptation pathways, with significant private sector involvement and being realistic about what agriculture can and cannot achieve.***



Bruce Campbell, CGIAR Research Programme, Climate Change, Agriculture & Food Security

The Third Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) Dialogue was held at FAO headquarters in Rome from 25 through 27 September. These informal technical meetings provided a neutral space for agricultural experts from FAO member countries to exchange views on ways to implement the KJWA and discuss challenges and opportunities moving forward.

Further information:

» [Home](#) » [Topics](#) » [Climate Change](#)

READ MORE:

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June 2019

» [What Pathways for Farmers in adapting to Climate Change?](#)

June 2019

» [3rd Annual Forum of the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture](#)

April 2019

» [3rd Meeting of the Thematic Working Group on Agriculture, Food Security, and Land Use](#)

January 2019

» [2019 G7 Summit in France to Tackle Global Inequality](#)

## **Noted Webinar on Climate Resilient Agriculture**

**Indicators for Climate Adaptation in Agriculture**  
2 October 2019

In this webinar, Dr. Bruce Campbell – Director of the CGIAR Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) – discussed the development and implementation of adaptation indicators in the context of climate smart agriculture (CSA) projects.

» [Webinar Video](#)

## INCLUSIVE AGRIBUSINESS & TRADE

The Inclusive Agribusiness & Trade (IAB&T) Thematic Working Group is the focal point for donor agencies and international organisations that support policies and projects on a variety of topics surrounding inclusive agribusiness, such as sustainable value chains, private sector and market systems development, blended finance for agricultural small and medium enterprises, policy coherence between trade and development, and Aid for Trade.

Members and strategic partners of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development's Inclusive Agribusiness & Trade (IAB&T) thematic working group met on the side lines of the Annual General Assembly in June to share knowledge on their specific work on IAB&T.

The roundtable nature of the meeting allowed for lively discussions that touched upon: how technology and aid for trade can support one another to manage the transition of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) sector economies; the need to make market systems work better for the poor via Aid for Trade (A4T) interventions; how A4T can strengthen the circular economy; and the challenges of monitoring and evaluating A4T investments. The discussion focused on challenges regarding monitoring and evaluation of inclusive agribusiness initiatives.

Several members and partners (including, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade DFAT-Australia, European Centre for Development Policy Management ECDPM, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) International, International Trade Centre (ITC), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)/World Trade Organisation (WTO) were consulted and supported the Secretariat to shape the concept note and agenda.

One of the highlights in 2019 was the Brown Bag Lunch hosted by the Secretariat at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

(GIZ) in February to present the IAB&T group's commissioned work on better aligning agriculture and Aid for Trade by Paul Engel.

Over 20 participants engaged in a lively discussion about who should take the lead in driving more coherence between these two areas (be it countries, Civil Society Organisations, or others actors), and the need to search for coherence in a specific context, for example, the modus operandi used by The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) in the dairy sector or the alignment of trade and agriculture, which can be found in initiatives that support small and medium sized enterprises.

The Platform secretariat held two webinars to implement elements of the IAB & Trade working group as part of the 4-part series of the Autumn webinar. In the first part of the series in September, Lorenzo Cotula from International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) presented insights from the recently published report – Rural producer agency and agricultural value chains: What role for socio-legal empowerment? To expand the scope of the discussion to current global challenges, the last part of the webinar series featured presentation on Trade related capacity development for food security and nutrition by Georgios Mermigkas and Ishrat Kaur Gadhok from FAO.

Both events generated excellent turnout and most importantly, engaged Platform's members and strategic partners in detail discussions regarding the several pertaining challenges in this area.

Further information:

» [Home](#) » [Topics](#) » [Inclusive Agribusiness and Trade](#)



***We, at the EIF, a partnership of fifty-one countries, twenty-four donors, and eight partner agencies, works closely with governments, development organizations, and civil society to assist Least Developed Countries to use inclusive trade to drive sustainable development and poverty reduction. EIF utilizes A4T approaches to help country at policy and capacity building levels as catalytic tools to help link farmers to markets.***



Paulin Zambelongo, Enhanced Integrated Framework

### Platform Member Publications

Extending the benefits of trade to reduce poverty – Aid for trade from an Australian perspective

» [Read Publication](#)

Aid for trade at a glance 2019: Economic diversification and empowerment

» [Read Publication](#)

### Noted Webinars

Trade-related capacity development for food security & nutrition by Georgios Mermigkas and Ishrat Kaur Gadhok, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation

6 December 2019

» [Webinar Video](#)

Rural Producer Agency and Agricultural Value Chains by Dr. Lorenzo Cotula, International Institute for Environment and Development

10 September 2019

» [Webinar Video](#)

## GENDER

Women face many socio-economic barriers to business such as limited access to finance and inequitable laws and social norms that restrict their mobility and participation in trade. A greater focus on women's economic empowerment within the agricultural sector can lead to reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience to socio-economic shocks of a historically marginalized population.

The Platform Board placed Gender as a cross-cutting theme that is firmly embedded in every working group. Gender is not a Thematic Working Group, but through the Platform's communications tools the Secretariat provides news about current trends, programs and studies ensuring that members receive news about this theme and can consider them for the programme planning. This also allows members to work towards strengthening gender equality.

A number of Platform members' activities in 2019 focused on exactly that: working in collaboration and creating a world where women and girls everywhere have equal rights and opportunities. "More Powerful Together", the theme of 2019 International Women's Day on 8 March 2019 recognised the important roles to advance gender equality. Based on this, the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 63) had concrete recommendations to move forward with gender equality and women's rights. Platform member, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation supported a new policy briefing by the International Institute for Sustainable Development looks at the changing role of women in contract farming. Although women are responsible for the bulk of farm-related work, these contracts typically do not factor in women's interests, needs, or perspectives, however, a set of legal provisions that can help make these contractual relationships more gender-sensitive. Launched by the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), a new initiative aims at transforming the economic lives of women in the world's 47 Least Developed Countries, where

women continue to face constraints that limit their participation in global trade. The initiative, "Empower Women, Power Trade" focuses on female entrepreneurs and producers, cross-border traders and women-owned Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) – it will emphasis on countries where EIF has ongoing projects or partnerships. Within the next 2 years, until 2022, it intends to make a change in the lives of 50,000 women.

Safeguarding and improving women's and girls' access to social protection systems, public services, and sustainable infrastructure, ensuring that their design and delivery is transformed to prevent dis-crimination and create a 'level playing field' for women and girls is crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Further information:

» [Home](#) » [Topics](#) » [Gender](#)

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Platform Member Publication

» [Because Women Matter](#)

March 2019

» ['Empower Women, Power Trade' Initiative](#)

March 2019

» [More powerful together: Alone in gender is no solution](#)



## CAADP

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is the African Union's strategic policy framework for the agricultural transformation of the African continent. The African Union (AU) and New Partnership for Africa's Development Agency (NEPAD) established CAADP in 2003.

The Platform Secretariat engaged in CAADP and the Development Partners Coordination Group (DPCG) as an opportunity for donors to cooperate at global, regional and national levels in line with the Malabo Declaration and Implementation Strategy and Roadmap to achieve the 2025 vision on CAADP.

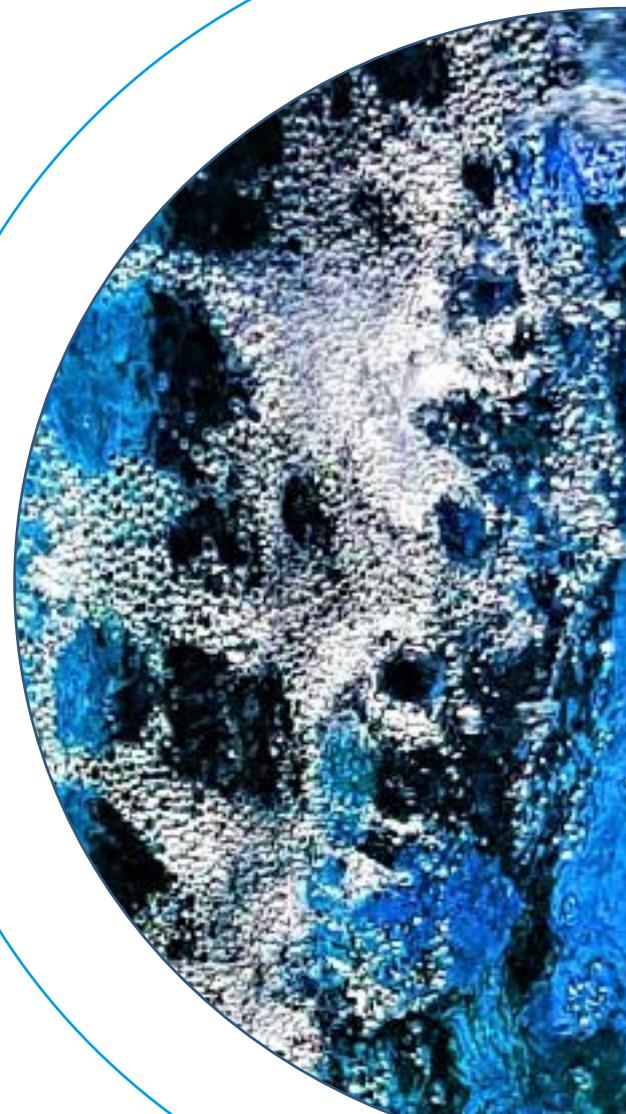
In the past, the Platform Secretariat housed and maintained a CAADP document archive on the Platform website and had an observatory and outreach function within the DPCG. In the first half of 2019, the Secretariat continued to share relevant information through Platform communication tools.

To manage the transition to a new host in step with the Platform Board's acknowledgement, engagement in CAADP was reduced in the second half of 2019. Correspondingly, the Platform website information on CAADP was also reduced.

The Secretariat coordinated the handover of the historic CAADP documents maintained in its website in the CAADP document archive to the current chair of the DPCG, the World Bank.

Further information:

» [Home](#) » [Topics](#) » [CAADP](#)



# COMMUNICATIONS AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

In 2019, the Platform's communication activities solidified even further than previous years. Platform members intensively used the communication products and tools provided by the Secretariat. Knowledge, information, and news relevant to the Platform's themes and members' positions were shared with increasing outreach through the Platform's communications channels, especially e-mails, web articles, twitter, meetings, conferences calls, and the eUpdate-Newsletter.

## THE PLATFORM WEBSITE

In 2019, the Platform's communication activities solidified even further than previous years. Platform members intensively used the communication products and tools provided by the Secretariat. Knowledge, information, and news relevant to the Platform's themes and members' positions were shared with increasing outreach through the Platform's communications channels, especially e-mails, web articles, twitter, meetings, conferences calls, and the eUpdate-Newsletter.

The Platform website's savvy redesign with streamlined up-to-date information and intuitive navigation continued to be a central tool for communications in 2019. Regular adjustments to the website included revised messaging and tonality while a strong focus was placed on key take-away messages and a constant inflow of new content in all categories. The statistics evidence that website content is relevant and useful.

The statistics evidence that website content is relevant and useful. This year, a total of 40 news articles and stories were published (an increase of 15% compared to 2018), while another 18 news items on publications by Platform member organisation and others. The enhanced event calendar resulted in an increase of over 25 % in visits in comparison with 2018. The Platform website continued to enjoy an upswing in popularity (34 % more unique visitors compared to 2018).

The different thematic working groups regularly updated the Platform with the latest news in all

areas, which were disseminated via the Platform website, social media and publications. 25 % web stories focused on Agenda 2030, 20 % web stories focused on land governance and 33 % focused on rural youth. The 2018 Annual Report was released in June 2019. It was promoted on the Platform's website, through the eUpdate, and distributed to members at the Annual General Assembly. The electronic version is interactive and is hyperlinked with relevant content on the Platform's website.

Further information:

» [Home](#) » [Topics](#) » [Website](#)

## THE PLATFORM eUPDATE

The eUpdate, the Platform's electronic newsletter, played an important role in cross-communicating institutional news on the Global Donor Platform. It provides direct links to the Platform website to best capitalise the latter and direct more traffic to it. Based on the recommendations of the communication strategy, the eUpdate was revised in format and content and published monthly. It incorporates a journalistic format and is reader friendly. The eUpdate includes infographics, latest news from members, quotes and views from donors, and much more. Following the Annual General Assembly in June, it was decided to issue the eUpdate bi-monthly – in August, October, and December, due to the limited resources in response to the Platform's transition process. The Platform noted a 26 % increase in subscribership from 2018. As of December 2019, the eUpdate reaches 369 readers directly. Together with the Platform's website, the eUpdate remains the most popular format for news dissemination.

Further information:

» [Home](#) » [Topics](#) » [eUpdate](#)

## COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY 2018-2020 IMPLEMENTATION

In order to assess the effectiveness of the Platform's communication and to propose improvements, the Secretariat had commissioned an external professional consultancy, Marchmont,

in 2018, to carry out a comprehensive communications assessment. Based on this assessment, the Secretariat prepared a communications strategy for the Platform which was approved at the virtual Board meeting on 17 January 2019.

The strategy clarifies on target audiences and communication objectives and it defines tools that are best suited to meet the communication objectives in a user friendly, efficient and effective way. In terms of realisation, the strategy selects amongst the recommendations those which are best suited to meet the communication objectives and are most cost-effective to implement vis-à-vis its resources and capacity.

In addition, the strategy includes suggestions to further expand outreach and visibility. The Platform follows a cross-media approach, including repurposing comments for different tools and outlets.

### NEW COMMUNICATION TOOLS

**The members' only toolbox** is an electronic folder that is maintained by the Secretariat and sent to members upon request or whenever new content is added. Released in April 2019, the toolbox was updated in September and December respectively. The toolbox contains a collection of useful files – member directory, interactive calendar, corporate and strategic documents, which are easily accessible to Platform members.

**The Communicators' network** was approved in the Virtual Board Meeting in January and planned for implementation during the course of the year. However, the development of this network has not reached fruition yet due to revised communication priorities and the Platform's transitory plans. Coordinated by the Secretariat, the network intends to link communication professionals of Platform member organisations to support knowledge transfer and information sharing via the Platform's website and the eUpdate.

### PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

The webinars explore operational examples and experiences of project implementation. Participants and presenters get an opportunity to have an exchange about initiatives on the ground and discuss topic specific agriculture and rural development issues.

Further information:

» [Home](#) » [Topics](#) » [Webinars](#)

### PLATFORM MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

The publications offer a topic specific overview of the latest publications by international research organisations, civil society and academia, but also by the members and partners of the Platform.

Further information:

» [Home](#) » [Topics](#) » [Publications](#)



# LOOKING AHEAD

Investing in agriculture is one of the most effective ways to reduce poverty – this credo stands at the foundation of the Global Donor Platform and is today as valid as before. Since its establishment in 2003, the Platform has effectively and successfully shared knowledge, advocating for the role of agriculture, food systems, and rural development in promoting sustainable rural communities, which are key to achieving global food and nutrition security. For over one and a half decade, the Platform’s work has demonstrated that informed policies and programming are essential factors to advance development results and improve the effectiveness of investments.

The Platform has come a long way to where it stands right now, 16 years after its inception. It currently still operates under the Strategic Plan 2016-2020, which served the Platform in its functions and strategic focus, and 2020 is an important year to prepare for the Platform’s next Strategic Plan 2021-2025. Conversations on a new Strategic Plan started during the 2019 AGA in Zurich, Switzerland, which, unlike previous AGAs, shifted the focus from specific themes, to the functioning of Platform itself, looking at the role it should play in the next years. The two-day AGA focused on examining and possibly redefining the Platform’s purpose and mission, while searching for a new *modus operandi*. “Members work together to influence ideas and resources for sustainable agriculture and food systems transformation “. This goal is inspired by the Platform’s foundation and leads to a further developed “Platform 2.0”. Organisationally, the transition to the new phase is reflected in the transfer of the Secretariat responsibilities from GIZ to IFAD, which has completed in June.

Looking at the themes that move all of us, 2020 is an important year for action in the fight against all forms of hunger. There are only 10 years left to ensure that no one goes hungry in 2030. Strengthened alliances and an updated narrative are key to proceed towards this goal, and the new Strategic Plan will certainly have to reflect this. We need to look at food systems, which include food

habits and the way we produce food, – and deliver against hunger. The United Nations Food Systems Summit in New York, which is planned to be held in 2021, is a milestone that we are working towards and on which our joint action must be assessed. It stands for a shared responsibility and the recognition that we will not tackle the challenges of food security, poverty and climate change in isolation.

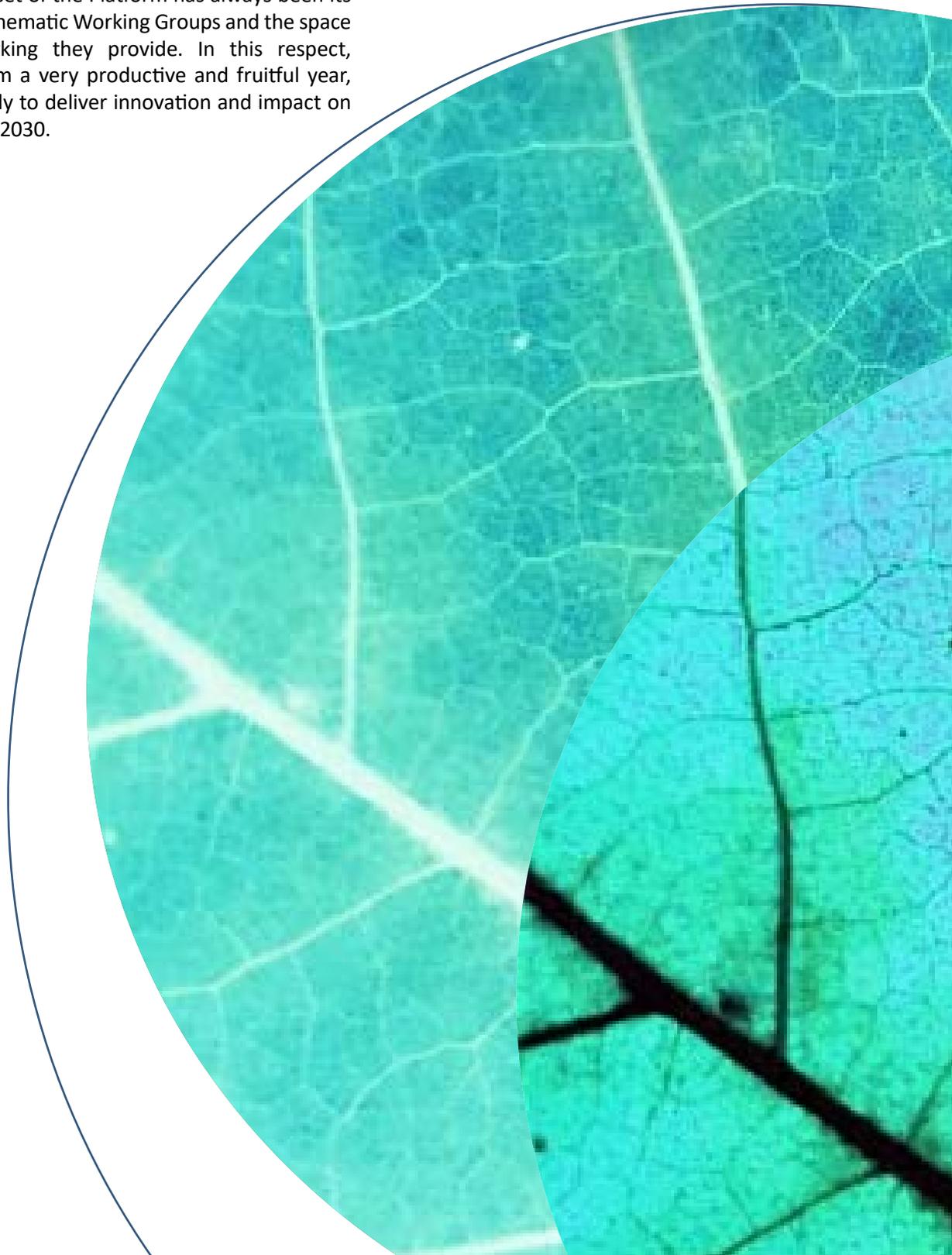
This year will also allow us to follow the progress of international initiatives, such as Ceres2030, as well as the 50x2030 Data Initiative, in which Global Donor Platform members are actively involved, and which show how crucial collaboration and data-sharing are for developing an evidence base for improved decision-making. Ceres2030 was looking forward to presenting their findings at the BMZ SDG2 Momentum conference in Berlin, set to take place in Summer 2020, postponed due to COVID-19. At least a preparatory SDG2 Roadmap Group meeting could be held during the International Green Week in Berlin with Platform members and other stakeholders. Regardless, the Ceres2030 findings will be published and peer reviewed in the Nature science journal. As for the 50x2030 initiative, its governing body – the Partnership Council – has been established. It meets quarterly and has developed a concrete and outcome-oriented work plan.

The COVID-19 outbreak has affected schedules and work plans, but our themes remain relevant as ever. The new “normality” requires us to explore new paths for cooperation and interaction, and the challenges we face bring us together in the need to coordinate donors’ responses to the global consequences of the pandemic. Platform members have established a task force on Coordinated Donor Response to COVID-19, which aims at identifying ongoing actions of members, to coordinate their regional and thematic approaches.

In 2020, digitalisation will keep us busy more than ever. As the COVID-19 pandemic clearly shows, digitalisation is no longer a question of opportunities and challenges. It is inevitable and it

it impacts every aspect of our lives and how we, as a global network of donors, work together. As a Platform aiming to shape the global agenda, we will also have to ask ourselves how digitalisation can become a driver of development. Already today, it is a cross-cutting topic for many of the themes the Platform is dealing with.

A strong asset of the Platform has always been its variety of Thematic Working Groups and the space for networking they provide. In this respect, coming from a very productive and fruitful year, we are ready to deliver innovation and impact on the road to 2030.



# FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND COSTS

Funding of Platform activities is realized through annual membership contributions which are managed administratively by GIZ who is currently commissioned by the BMZ to fulfil this role.

As is defined in the Platform Strategic Plan 2016-2020, a minimum annual membership contribution of Euro 50.000 ensures a seat on the Platform Board. The annual membership fee serves towards the overall implementation of the Platform work plan.

Members are also encouraged to provide supplemental funding which may be flagged towards activities of the Thematic Working Groups.

Contributions are formalized by concluding a contribution agreement between the respective member organisation and the organisation of the Platform Secretariat.

At the virtual Board meeting held in January 2019, the 2019 annual work plan and corresponding budget were adopted. As the initial indicative budget of a given calendar year is based on signed- and forecast contributions as well as on any operational roll-over budget from the previous year, the Platform indicative budget may be adjusted in the course of a year based on the development of contributions and/or activities. This was called for in June 2019 when the indicative budget was adjusted in agreement with the Platform Board to reflect some delayed contributions.

## CONTRIBUTIONS 2019

Nine members have signed a contribution agreement for member year 2019: Australia–Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: € 50.000 // The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: € 44.867,19 // Department for International Development-DFID: € 56.155,38 // European Commission: € 750.000 (note: the duration of the entire agreement totalling € 1.500.000 has been

extended to be valid for use until 06/2020) // Finland-Ministry of Foreign Affairs: € 50.000 // France-Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs: € 50.000 // German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development-BMZ: € 234.007 (note: subject to change due to ongoing booking actions // Swiss Development Cooperation-SDC: € 50.000 // United States Agency for International Development-USAID:€ 96.102,40 (note: thereof € 46.102,40 supplemental funds towards the SDG2 Road Map Initiative the usage of which is in extension until 06/2020).

Funds received from member contributions in GIZ bank account in 2019 totalled Euro 1.209.739,73 as of 20 December 2019. This amount is subject to change due to ongoing booking actions affecting the BMZ contribution. Also, received funds do not necessarily match signed contributions or costs incurred of the same financial year as contributions may arrive with delay at times and/or be rendered in advance.

## ACTIVITIES FINANCED IN 2019

Member contributions made possible the implementation and financing of a number of fruitful activities carried out in 2019 which are elaborated on throughout this annual report. These include the maintenance and further development of the Platform's website, the implementation of the new communication strategy, the implementation of the Annual General Assembly held in Zurich, as well as staff- and governance costs, amongst others.

While December 2019 accounting is ongoing at the time of this writing, preliminary costs including commitments and 13% indirect support costs amount to € 986.605,76€, per 12/2019 accounting status.

Board members will be provided with the 2019 external audit report and financial statement anticipated in the last quarter of 2020.

## COSTS AND ENDORSED ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY RELATED BUDGET ITEMS	EUR
Website, special event website, web-host, IT support	42.642,33
Annual General Assembly (Switzerland)	32.147,85
Staff Travel	26.596,48
Consultants	19.987,37
Publications	13.292,75
Non-Staff Travel (except AGA)	7.476,26
Preliminary Balance for further actions under activity-related budget	4.099,77
Events	1.603,14
Miscellaneous items	878,88
Supplemental funding via USAID towards SDG2 Roadmap Initiative	0,00
<b>Sub-total, Activity related budget items (I)</b>	<b>148.724,83</b>
ACTIVITIES RELATED TO STAFF- AND MANAGEMENT COSTS	EUR
Staff cost*	646.900,90
Office rent and communication infrastructure, office materials, courier	45.858,40
General administration and Management	18.013,31
Independent external audit	13.605,00
<b>Sub-total, Staff- and management related budget items (II)</b>	<b>724.377,61</b>
<b>Total costs and outputs (I+II)</b>	<b>873.102,44</b>
GIZ Indirect Support Costs (ISC)	113.503,32
<b>Total costs 2019</b>	<b>986.605,76</b>

\* Note: For data protection purposes, individual staff costs are summarized in one line and sum total.



# **IMPRINT**

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for Rural Development**

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