

On Common Ground_ Donor perspectives on agriculture & rural development and food security & nutrition

**Revised version
following member consultation
in 2012-2013**



**Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development**

// Rationale for a review of Platform policy papers and donor perspectives

The Global Donor Platform on Rural Development has two main policy documents that establish common ground among donors for concepts and agriculture and rural development programming principles:

- The 2006 Joint Donor Concept on Rural Development
- The 2009 Joint Donor Principles for Agriculture and Rural Development Programmes

While most of the drivers of rural development and the core guiding principles described in these papers are still valid, they do not fully reflect the evolution of the international context in ARD – especially the new dimensions of food security and nutrition that the donor community has integrated into its work in recent years.

Based on this observation, the Platform board decided in its September 2012 meeting to update the 2006 Platform Joint Donor Concept and begin a review and consultation process – its main objective being the collection of donors' inputs on the following Platform thematic areas:

- Aid and development effectiveness and results in ARD and FS/N [\[page 03\]](#)
- Climate change and resilience in agriculture [\[page 05\]](#)
- Gender equity and youth [\[page 07\]](#)
- Agricultural research for development [\[page 09\]](#)
- Private sector development in ARD and FS/N [\[page 11\]](#)
- Nutrition and agricultural development [\[page 13\]](#)
- Livestock development and pastoralism [\[page 15\]](#)
- Post-harvest losses and food waste [\[page 16\]](#)
- Land governance and water management [\[page 17\]](#)

The results of the consultation and review of Platform member policy and strategy documents establish areas of common ground among donors in the thematic areas outlined above. The summaries of donor perspectives under each of these thematic areas of this document build on and complement the 2006 Joint Donor Concept. This document has been prepared as part of a core stock-taking exercise among Platform members of areas of common ground identified in the nine thematic areas in early 2013. It does not attempt to reflect the official positions of individual member agencies on these topics. It is intended to be a living document and web resource, to be reviewed and adjusted periodically to reflect new donor thinking, emerging challenges and priorities identified to respond to a rapidly changing global development context. The various thematic chapters should also serve as a basis for developing common Platform messages that can feed into strategic international processes or events related to priorities, policies and strategies in agriculture, rural development and food security and nutrition (ARD & FS/N).

// Aid and development effectiveness and results in ARD and FS/N

At the centre 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 agricultural and rural development (ARD) and to promote ARD's role in reducing poverty. It seeks to continue making a substantial contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to ensure that ARD, food security and nutrition (FN/S) are adequately addressed in the construction of the post-2015 development agenda.

This work is anchored in the commitments by donors and partners to implement the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, and is linked to international initiatives to monitor results. These highlight the need for country ownership, more and inclusive partnerships, achieving development results and openly accounting for them.

Donor perspectives

Donors' commitment to aid and development effectiveness translates to six core principles for action which are anchored in the Platform's 2009 Joint Donor Principles for Agriculture and Rural Development Programmes, reaffirmed and developed further in the Platform's Evidence Paper for the Busan HLF4 ¹.

A focus on development effectiveness demands demonstrable results in ARD, poverty reduction and food security. Ownership of ARD strategies is under threat because of a lack of attention to achieving demonstrable results. Donors agree it is crucial to continue to monitor and highlight the substantial relationship between ARD and poverty reduction as well as between FS/N and inclusive and sustainable growth.

SIX CORE PRINCIPLES FOR ACTION IN ARD

1. Support government leadership and ownership in ARD based on inclusive processes with effective participation of key agriculture stakeholders and farmers
2. Alignment to partner countries' national development strategies, institutions and procedures; support strengthening of internal coherence of policies, and consensus building of government with civil society and the private sector
3. Harmonisation of donors' and IFI's actions
4. Management for development results
5. Mutual accountability between donors and partners
6. Open and inclusive development partnerships with developing countries

MAIN ARD RECOMMENDATIONS AT BUSAN

- Include new actors on the basis of shared principles and differential commitments with, for example, the emergence of South-South development cooperation
- Improve the quality and effectiveness of development cooperation
- Promote sustainable development in situations of conflict and fragility
- Partner to strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability in the face of adversity
- Recognise the central role of the private sector
- Adequately deal with substantial increases in climate change finance

Source: Excerpts of the Busan Outcome Document

¹: Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, 2011. 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. Evidence Paper on Agriculture and Rural Development for HLF 4-Busan. Bonn. (www.donorplatform.org/publications/latest-publications/426-evidence-paper-on-agriculture-and-rural-development-for-hlf-4-busan.html)

To fulfil their commitments to the Busan development effectiveness agenda donors aim at:

- Continuing to support country ownership, use of country systems, alignment and harmonisation
- Increasing emphasis on multistakeholder approaches, inclusive partnerships, the role of nonstate actors, transparency and accountability
- Implementing results-oriented approaches to rural development programming and management
- Focusing activities on their respective areas of comparative advantage—whether regional or thematic priorities
- Sharing experiences in strengthening the reporting of results in projects, programmes and policy dialogue in specific countries and how these contribute to country level outcomes and policies
- Reporting ARD results to their parliaments more often, thus strengthening accountability for development effectiveness to citizens, and using management for development results approaches to review and improve development programmes ²

2:
Global Donor Platform for
Rural Development, 2009.
Joint donor principles
for ARD programmes –
incentives for change.
Bonn. (http://www.scribd.com/document_downloads/112590837?extension=pdf&from=embed&source=embed)

The Platform has supported the implementation of pro-poor ARD policies at the national, regional and continental levels, such as through the support provided to donors working with the African Union/NEPAD and the regional economic communities (RECs) to develop and implement the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP). CAADP provides a region and country-led mechanism for coordination and alignment at the continental level (through donor joint action groups), regional and country levels (through support to RECs and country CAADP compacts).

Development partners are aligning with the CAADP structures, principles and processes jointly established by AU/NEPAD and other CAADP constituencies, and in accordance with the Platform's Joint donor principles for ARD programmes . At country level, a government-appointed CAADP country team leads the CAADP process and agriculture donor working groups and coordinates country-level donor support, liaising with government, private sector and civil society. Platform support on CAADP, including on governance mechanism, is a good example of the way in which donors have been demonstrating their commitments to aid and development effectiveness principles as well as an example of translating policy commitments into tangible plans and results.

// Climate change and resilience in agriculture

The Platform has highlighted the importance of agriculture adapting to climate change and other global challenges to ARD, while putting farmers and pastoralists first in ARD interventions, assisting adaptation to these external realities facing agriculture and pastoralism, and focusing on early action. Mainstreaming climate change into development planning and across Platform work is critical. The 2011 Platform annual general assembly addressed resilience as an upcoming priority theme.

Platform members recognise that there is both much local indigenous knowledge and experience of development programmes to draw on in defining appropriate responses and interventions to address climate change challenges in diverse country and geographical contexts. This leads to a focus on food and nutrition security, employment, resilience and sustainable agriculture when working to address climate change challenges in relation to ARD and FS/N.

Donor perspectives

Agriculture is often the sector most vulnerable to climate change challenges. It can contribute to climate changes, such as through the emission of greenhouse gases, but it also has great potential to be part of the solution.

// Climate-smart agriculture

A number of donors promote the integration of climate issues into support for 'climate-smart agriculture' – promoting agriculture that sustainably increases productivity and resilience, and reduces or eliminates greenhouse gases. Under conditions of a changing climate the achievement of national food security and wider development goals in order to feed a growing population must be enhanced without compromising the natural resource base. Some Platform members also emphasise the need to prioritise agroecological intensification to address climate change challenges.

// Channelling climate finance

Public and private climate change finance are both needed given the scale of the challenge – as is

ensuring funds are adequately directed towards the adaptation of rural livelihoods. Several donors are working to channel climate and environmental finance to smallholder farmers to increase their resilience. Farmers also need more timely access to climate data and information on local impact of climate change to implement adaptation strategies.

Maximizing the benefits of climate change finance for rural development and ensuring funds are adequately directed towards the adaptation of rural livelihoods is important, but it is also necessary to strengthen the capacities of stakeholders to benefit from such initiatives.

// Gaining knowledge

Achieving the right mix of local, indigenous knowledge as well as suitable innovation and technology is recognised as key in developing responses to climate change, particularly as regards strategies for adaptation, for farming and pastoralist livelihood systems alike.

ARD and FS/N experts can increase their capacity to argue for policy changes to address climate change impacts by making common cause with health experts and consumer groups that are similarly alarmed by the impacts of climate change.

More South-South collaboration and mutual learning on efforts and good practices to address climate change would be useful, along with a focus on scaling up tried and tested methods and successes.

// Multisectoral approach

Climate change adaptation activities at the rural household level may not be sufficient to achieve adequate resilience. They need to be complemented by activities that promote risk preparedness and prevention and social security systems in case of extreme events.

Donors support the increased resilience of rural production and livelihood systems in the face of shocks and stresses induced by climate change. Livelihoods-oriented, community-based, gender-sensitive and multisectoral approaches are needed to address the dual challenge of climate change mitigation and adaptation with regard to ARD.

3: Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, 2011. 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. Evidence Paper on Agriculture and Rural Development for HLF 4-Busan. Bonn. (www.donorplatform.org/publications/latest-publications/426-evidence-paper-on-agriculture-and-rural-development-for-hlf-4-busan.html)

Agroecologically diversified approaches boost farmers' resilience to climate change while minimising greenhouse gas emissions and combating desertification, preserving biological diversity and diversifying production.

Programmes that adopt a twin-track approach, combining short term relief with support for medium to long term development and food security goals, including social protection, are important approaches in contexts that are particularly vulnerable to adverse weather events, conflict, as well as famine, and where adaptation to adverse climatic events is particularly urgent.

As regards vulnerable groups, a human rights-based approach is key, one that takes account of the right to meaningful and effective participation at all stages of activities, and guaranteeing that the rights of minorities and indigenous people are respected and promoted throughout programmes.

// Renewable resources

Ensuring supply and access to sustainable, clean and renewable sources of energy in rural areas will be an important contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Efforts are needed to identify how moves towards renewables can and should be designed to broaden energy access to those with little prospect of being reached by conventional grid based electricity systems.

// Policy dialogue

There is a need to expand the focus from technological change to a wider focus on institutional and policy change. On a higher level framework conditions and institutional innovations are required to address climate challenges. Institutions need strengthening to effectively address climate change, including regional economic communities and regional farmers' organisations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACHIEVING FOOD SECURITY IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

- Sustainably intensify agricultural production
- Target populations and sectors that are most vulnerable to climate change and food insecurity

Source: CCAFS, 2011

// Gender equity and youth

Women and young people provide family and wage labour critical to farming, yet they are often vulnerable or disadvantaged stakeholders in ARD. However, issues related to gender and youth vary across countries and agricultural systems, even within countries. Such differentiation needs to be carefully taken into account when working towards gender equity and supporting the livelihoods of young people.

Gender equity

// Addressing inequality is crucial for agricultural growth

Gender and agriculture has long been a core theme for the Platform³. Women play a vital role as producers and as agents to ensure food security and nutrition. Yet relative to men, they have less access to productive assets, such as land or services such as finance and extension. Their chances to participate in collective action as members of agricultural cooperatives or water user associations remain critically low. In both centralised and decentralised governance systems women tend to lack political voice. Gender inequalities are a root cause of lower food production, lesser income and higher levels of poverty and food insecurity. Agriculture in low-income countries is a sector with exceptionally high impact in terms of its potential to reduce poverty. Yet for agricultural growth to fulfil this potential, gender disparities must be addressed and effectively reduced.

// Women's empowerment or gender equality – different emphases

The critical contribution of women to agricultural development, food security and nutrition is widely understood and gender is integrated as a central part of donors' programmes. Nonetheless there are different emphases. Some donors take a women in development approach fostering empowerment and capacity to decide and act together and strengthening women's voices through their own organisations. Others focus more broadly on gender and relations between men and women in the household, in the broader community and in policy. Some focus more on promoting gender equity, while others now emphasise the importance

of integrating gender equality in their approaches and programming.

Donor perspectives

// Needs, rights, access

As noted in the Platform's Gender and agriculture policy brief in 2010:

- The differentiated needs and rights of women need to be recognised in ARD programming, training, research, and infrastructure
- Women must have equal access to services such as extension, research, education and training, financial services and capacity to build their assets such as land and water
- Strengthening women's rights and voice and building the capacities of their rural organisations are key to enabling them to formulate and demand their rights and access to services, which also supports the political empowerment of women

Investments are needed that reduce women's domestic and reproductive workload such as rural services, childcare, water, energy, in building women farmers' organisations and social capital, and strengthening their rights to land and other productive assets. The economic empowerment of women and their role in agricultural value chains and markets is now receiving increased attention.

// Key activities in support of women's equality in ARD

- A focus on gender in agriculture requires special attention to work load balance, women's rights, voice and education, sharing benefits from development interventions between men and women and giving sufficient priority to productivity, access to technology and innovation, processing and marketing for staple food crops and small-scale livestock
- Gender inequality has to be tackled as well from the men's side. Sensitisation and awareness creation of men, especially as regards sharing of household work load, access to resources and benefits and participation in decisionmaking are essential for women's empowerment and equality

³: See 'Gender and agriculture', Platform Policy Brief No.3, 2010, at: <https://www.donorplatform.org/gender-equity-and-youth/work-stream.html?Itemid=365pdf&from=embed&source=embed>

- Women's roles are central in the production, processing and marketing of staple food products that are particularly important in household nutrition
- As women often decide on the food consumed in households, they play a key role in the appropriate utilisation of food and in food security and nutrition at household and community levels.
- Women's role in cash crop production requires adequate attention, particularly as this impacts on income generation and labour allocation.

Youth

Youth employment in agriculture and rural areas is a priority. Some donors emphasise the importance of specifically addressing challenges and constraints faced by youth in engaging in remunerative economic opportunities in ARD – particularly since the Arab springs of 2011 for which youth discontent and unemployment were important factors.

As young men and women constitute a high and growing percentage of the population in many developing countries, it is increasingly recognised that the development of approaches tailored to the specific needs of young people in ARD is important.

Donor perspectives

// Key aspects of activities in support of youth in ARD

- Young people and their aspirations need to be taken into account in ARD and FS/N activities. They are key actors in agricultural value chains as employees and entrepreneurs and they will play a vital role in meeting the challenge of feeding a rapidly growing global population. They merit special, tailored interventions and support as they bring innovation, fresh perspectives, new skills and knowledge that can address new challenges for ARD
- There are opportunities to support youth through market-oriented smallholder agriculture, coupled with the creation of remunerative rural economic activities that are tailored to attract young people
- There is a need for targeted interventions to provide attractive and appropriate education so that young people view farming and the range of activities along agricultural value chains as viable business ventures. This will strengthen their capacities to take advantage of emerging economic opportunities, particularly those created by rapidly growing and evolving demand in urban areas. Showcasing successful, profitable activities can be useful in attracting the youth
- Young people can be attracted to innovate with the application of information communications technology (ICT) to ARD. ICT provides an important opportunity for stimulating rural development
- In terms of systems approaches, donors also need to address increased mobility. Many rural youth seek nonagricultural employment in urban areas. Others wish to return to rural areas after seeking education and employment. Programmes need to be tailored to support the different target groups

// Agricultural research for development (AR4D)

Agricultural research for development (AR4D) and the generation and dissemination of agricultural innovation are vital to achieve the transformative change in productivity and dietary diversity needed to meet rising global demand for nutritious and safe food for the poor and food insecure. They advance the productivity frontier by developing more drought-tolerant, disease-resistant and nutritious crop varieties, as well as new animal husbandry techniques, livestock vaccines and drugs.

Development-oriented research is also essential to understand and propose responses to the nature of emerging future global threats to ARD and food security, particularly climate change, resource scarcity, food price volatility and declining incomes.

// Need for increased investment in agricultural research

It is widely accepted that there is a need to increase investment in public goods such as development-oriented agricultural research to raise agricultural productivity and food availability and quality sustainably in order to achieve MDG targets and post-2015 development. This is vital at the national level as innovative AR4D can drive rural development in a sustainable and responsive manner. It is also critical at the international level in order to meet global challenges such as the need to ensure that there is enough food of sufficient quality to feed the rapidly rising population, and at country level, especially where poor people base their livelihoods on agriculture.

// Importance of knowledge dissemination

A wide number of agricultural technologies and other research products exist already that could – with appropriate adaptation to diverse people, their livelihoods and contexts – provide solutions to problems, constraints and emerging challenges in ARD and FS/N. However, the dissemination, sharing and use of existing knowledge and technologies are often weak because of a lack of incentives, poor adaptation to farmers' needs or unstable or low prices for producers. This applies to innovations right through agricultural value chains: for example from production and marketing through to processing and trade.

Donor perspectives

// Responding to different farming systems and demographic needs

In many countries, government-driven agricultural research and extension systems and advisory services have been scaled down considerably over the last two decades. This has weakened processes of identifying and sharing and disseminating technology and innovations, limiting uptake of new technologies. However, agricultural research, agricultural advisory services and pastoralist and veterinary services must respond to the evolutionary dimensions of the farming systems and the needs of different clients. They also need to recognise changes in demographic (population-related) needs. Agricultural research and extension institutions have to be rebuilt as joint ventures of public and private stakeholders along certain guidelines.

// Coordinating research funding at the regional and the global level

Strong rural services systems together with good infrastructure will help countries progress towards internationally agreed development goals. Donors are increasingly interested in financing AR4D but the effectiveness of investments in AR4D must be improved, particularly through better prioritisation of research if these investments are to meet expectations. To achieve positive development outcomes Platform members agree that funding for agricultural research should be coordinated on a regional and global (i.e. CGIAR) level, linked with development processes and driven by farmers' needs. It should provide programmatic support to all elements of the research and development value chain, including education, extension and advisory services.

// Potential of policy research and investments in AR4D by the donor community

A greater focus by donors and partner countries on development-oriented policy research within AR4D can inform evidence-based decisionmaking on ARD and FS/N by national, regional and international policymakers. This needs to be coupled with improved communication of research results and innovations to diverse policy communities. The G8, the G20 and the broader donor community

4: See: Platform Policy Brief No 8 Donor methods to prioritise investments in agricultural research and development, October. Platform Synthesis Paper, 2012, Donor methods to prioritise investments in agricultural research and development. <http://www.donorplatform.org/agriculture-research-for-development/latest/816-platform-synthesis-paper-donor-methods-to-prioritise-investments-in-agricultural-research-and-development.html>

have recognised the role of investments in AR4D to generate high returns in terms of agricultural productivity (crops and livestock), food availability and quality control as well as to contribute to wider development outcomes, such as food security and nutrition, sustainable livelihoods, gender equity and poverty reduction.

// Considering farmers' perspectives as starting point

Nonetheless the perspective and experiences of farmers – and especially women, youth and indigenous peoples should be the starting point for strengthened AR4D that supports sustainable rural development processes. Donors support increased partnerships between agricultural research institutions, producers and other ARD stakeholders to support the sustainability of production systems. Substantial potential exists in terms of South-South cooperation and exchange of best practices. There is also a marked evolution towards support for diverse public and private actors involved in agricultural services.

// Diversity of actors

Many donors are moving towards incorporating AR4D into the broader concept of agricultural innovation systems, which takes into account diverse dimensions and actors involved in research and technology generation and dissemination, for example the roles of AR4D, rural advisory services including public and private advisory support and agricultural education and training in the process of creating agricultural innovation; and the diverse actors involved in innovation processes, whether they concern technological, institutional or policy innovations.

// Supporting dissemination and facilitation of ARD innovations

Several donors and partners emphasise the usefulness of putting together inventories of existing agricultural innovations most susceptible to immediate scaling up. At the same time, donors continue to provide support for the transformation of CGIAR and national AR4D systems. This does not only concern the dissemination of technical research and technologies but also facilitating social, technical, policy and other innovations in ARD.

// Private sector development in ARD and FS/N

Private sector operators – starting with smallholder farmers and larger privately owned farms at the local level, rural enterprises, marketing agents, processors as well as agribusinesses at various levels – are the basis of agricultural value chains. They are the main employers in agriculture, constitute the key source of investment in ARD and provide essential financial and advisory services for agricultural producers in developing countries.

Donor support to private sector development involves:

- Macro-level interventions to provide public goods investments and improve the enabling environment
- Providing direct assistance to business
- Developing markets – particularly those that are important to the livelihoods of poor people
- Engaging in dialogue and partnership with business

(Platform Policy Brief 2011)⁵

Donor perspectives

// Investing in smallholder agriculture

A considerable amount of agriculture investment stems from smallholders themselves. However complementing this with investments from the private sector is critical in increasing the productivity and profitability of agriculture. Donors have a role in assuming risks and acting as catalysts for investments in smallholder agriculture that private investors might otherwise not be willing to make – such as smallholder production and value chains; access to innovation; rural nonfarm activities – , while ensuring investments are inclusive, i.e. that they target and are accessible to poor and vulnerable stakeholders who face material, institutional and policy-based constraints⁶, such as women, marginalised groups and their organisations.

Donors emphasise the importance of investments being environmentally sustainable – i.e. that they do not reduce, but maintain and renew the earth's natural capital for present and future generations. Agencies encourage public private partnerships (PPPs) in ARD by leveraging public resources to entice private sector operators to invest in smallholder agriculture in low-income countries.

// Mobilising private sector investment

A major emerging challenge concerns how to mobilise more private sector investment that directly contributes to ARD, including inclusive and responsible value chain financing, fostering a good business climate and more efficient agrifood markets. Donors are supporting a range of programmes that aim to do this.⁷

Mobilising international private sector engagement in ARD can provide win-win solutions, providing smallholders with access to markets, knowledge, technologies and inputs, whilst also providing the international private sector with new business opportunities in rural areas. Enterprises increasingly understand the importance of sustainably functioning value chains for their core businesses and hence assume responsibility to support actors along value chains. The knowledge and experience of major global agrifood businesses based in Platform member countries can also be mobilised to support rural development actors in partner countries. Some donors are already facilitating such linkages and fostering the creation of mutually beneficial partnerships between major agrifood private sector operators in their countries and developing country stakeholders.

Donors support the establishment of appropriate national and regional policy frameworks that encourage private investment and secure assets, whilst also fostering sustainable agricultural practices and equity. Donors also support the design and implementation of regulatory frameworks and regulations for ARD in dialogue with the private sector in order to avoid negative social, economic or ecological impacts of private investments in agriculture.

5: See: Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, 2011, 'The strategic role of the private sector in ARD', Platform Policy Brief 6, December (www.donorplatform.org/load/11431); and Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, 2012, 'Strategic role of the private sector in ARD', Platform Knowledge Piece 3 (www.donorplatform.org/load/11500).

6: Drawn from IFAD, 2007. Private Sector Development and Partnership Strategy. <http://www.ifad.org/pub/policy/private/e.pdf>

3: For example, the WEF's New Vision, GrowAfrica, the 2012 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition

// Supporting policy frameworks

Voluntary guidelines for private sector operators and multinational corporations, inclusive business models and inclusion of local businesses--creating opportunities for them to benefit from the technology, experiences and resources available to larger regional and international companies-- need to be strengthened. Donors can support the private sector's initiatives underway to develop its own principles for engagement and investment in ARD.

Donors support the application of principles for responsible investment in agriculture, established in dialogue between public and private sector actors. The upcoming rai (responsible agricultural investment) process within the CFS in the coming years could provide an example of good practice in engaging the private sector in responsible investment practices that are subject to monitoring and evaluation, thus providing a powerful tool to bolster responsible investment in agriculture.

// Supporting local and informal private sector development

Support for local private sector development and the informal private sector in rural areas and larger-scale value chain financing needs to be provided with a view to addressing the food security of small-holder farmers in all its dimensions – i.e. availability, access, utilisation and stability.

Several donors seek opportunities to engage the private sector in ARD to help achieve food security and nutrition objectives and provide incentives to private sector operators to work with small-scale farmers through PPPs as well as larger strategic alliances throughout the sector or along specific value chains, innovative financial instruments, assistance in achieving quality and sustainability standards and other tools.

// Nutrition and agricultural development

Nutrition is an integral part of food security, incorporated as a key dimension of the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) and World Committee on Food Security (CFS) definitions of food security.⁸

Nutrition security is increasingly recognised as being of critical importance. It includes not only availability and access to adequate food that fully satisfies human biological nutritional needs, but also utilisation.

// Focus on maternal and child undernutrition

A diet that meets all nutrient needs is vital. Children who do not have access to such a diet are at a particular risk of stunting, higher morbidity and mortality as well as reduced cognitive development. Poor nutrition for pregnant women can impede foetal growth, resulting in low birth weight and an increased risk that the child's growth will be stunted. Undernutrition and malnutrition weaken the immune system and increase the risk and severity of infections –, also preventing people from fully utilising their potential to live productive lives.

// Need for multisectoral approach

A multisectoral approach is needed to address nutrition challenges--including maternal and child undernutrition. Nutrition can be tackled from different perspectives, including health, food, agriculture and environment. Platform members place great emphasis on the synergies and linkages between ARD and FS/N interventions, favouring agricultural diversification and increased production of local, indigenous and underutilised food crops as important steps towards improved nutrition.

// Importance of women's empowerment

Women play a central role in household and child nutrition. When they have more control over resources, household nutrition tends to improve. This implies a need to strengthen women's rights and decisionmaking roles as well as equal access to resources. Supporting gender-aware agricultural interventions that focus on women's role in nutrition is a major pathway to improving nutrition outcomes.

Donor perspectives

Increasingly donors are working to identify, share and promote agriculture and rural development's potential to bolster food security and nutrition, to harness linkages between nutrition and agriculture and between nutrition and health, and to increase engagement with long term approaches towards food security and nutrition.

Examples where this is being addressed are Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)⁹, a collective global movement to scale up evidence-based nutrition interventions, as well as the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)¹⁰, which brings together public, private sector and other stakeholders who deliver on their respective commercial advantages for the benefit of improving nutritional outcomes.

// Combination of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions

Donors promote diverse approaches to address nutrition. Often, donors combine 'nutrition-specific' and 'nutrition-sensitive' interventions in a multisectoral approach. Nutrition-specific interventions, such as promotion of good nutritional practices, increase of micronutrient (MN) intake in pregnant and lactating mothers and children, provision of MN through fortification, and increase in treatment of acute malnutrition, are often seen as cost-effective and as reducing the immediate and long-term effects of undernutrition through a limited set of high impact actions. The former are ideally complemented by nutrition-sensitive interventions mainstreaming initiatives into education, social protection, water and sanitation and hygiene. Agricultural investments and campaigns promoting a variety of food at affordable prices are included as well. These interventions aim to address the less direct, underlying environmental and socioeconomic factors that contribute to malnutrition. It is good practice to integrate nutrition education components into programmes. Depending on the country and other context-specific circumstances, donors employ a varying mix of specific technical solutions that address qualitative and quantitative issues, such as fortification and food

8: In 2012, the Committee on World Food Security carried out a global consultation on terms used to describe food security and nutrition around the following document on food security and nutrition terminology: [http://www.fao.org/itsforum/sites/default/files/file/Terminology/MD776\(CFS___Coming_to_terms_with_Terminology\).pdf](http://www.fao.org/itsforum/sites/default/files/file/Terminology/MD776(CFS___Coming_to_terms_with_Terminology).pdf)

9: See: <http://scalingupnutrition.org/>

10: See: <http://www.gain-health.org/>

aid programmes, respectively, as well as more comprehensive systems approaches which also address sociocultural, environmental and production aspects.

// Support of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement

Donors support the global movement to scale up nutrition and nutrition-sensitive interventions at country level, particularly in regions, such as Africa and South Asia that suffer high levels of malnutrition. This work is enshrined in results-based frameworks for FS/N, contributing to better management for development results, improved targeting of official development assistance for FS/N and reporting on best practices.

// Livestock development and pastoralism

Livestock development and promoting the livestock revolution are important to achieving improved nutrition outcomes. In the face of a growing population, limited resources and climatic variability, more needs to be done to make livestock production systems, whether sedentary or mobile, more productive and sustainable. At the same time, human health challenges related to the food transition, increased consumption of meat and livestock products and changing diets in developing countries need to be taken into account.

Pastoralism is increasingly recognised and valued as a rational production system that is environmentally well-adapted to difficult and variable climatic conditions of arid and semiarid regions, and also as a key source of economic growth and of social inclusion in these areas – particularly for populations that suffer from seasonal vulnerability. Strengthening the resilience of pastoralist livelihood systems and herding communities is a key rural development concern in many arid and semiarid contexts.

Pastoral systems have an important place in the economy and society of many fragile states in Africa such as in the Sahel, Eastern and Horn of Africa as well as in Central Asia and South America. However pastoralist land rights are severely compromised by modern states protecting their sovereignty and borders, especially in the context of crossborder movement. This fundamentally affects the sustainability of pastoralist livelihood systems. Pastoral societies are often marginalised by their governments; hence efforts to ensure their socioeconomic inclusion and political empowerment are needed.

Approaches to supporting pastoral livelihoods and livestock development need to be differentiated according to context, for example, whether herders and livestock keepers have adequate access to markets and natural resources, whether their land use rights are protected or not, and whether they have the possibility to cross borders to allow transhumance and access to markets or not.

Donor perspectives

Donors support livestock development and pastoralism by supporting:

- The creation of enabling conditions for pastoralism, in particular by promoting land rights and customary tenure systems in the context of conflicting use of land and natural resources between farmers and transhumant herders and also in the case of large scale land acquisitions, often decided without the involvement of pastoralist populations
- The development of livestock-related value chains by strengthening rangeland management, livestock management practices, veterinary services and disease prevention, infrastructure, trade and processing of animal products (meat and dairy) and markets in order to transform livestock management into a sustainable and economically viable economic activity in the context of growing pressures on land and competition over land use
- Efforts to tackle challenges to human and animal health in a holistic way
- Establishment of enabling policies, institutions and norms for conflict prevention and resolution between different resource users and ensuring an equitable access to natural resources, such as pasture, water, crossborder corridors
- Environmentally sustainable solutions for system integration and intensification

For pastoralists with limited assets and limited access to markets and natural resources, livelihood diversification may become an appropriate entry point to reduce rural poverty and improve food security and nutrition through, for example, the creation of agricultural and nonagricultural employment opportunities, diversification in other forms of livestock production, but also appropriate social protection programmes.

Key rural development donors that support livestock development are also engaged in the Inter-Agency Donor Group on pro-poor livestock research and development (IADG), which meets regularly. Its current focus is on the promotion of public-private partnerships and bringing on board commercial companies involved in the livestock value chains and to identify those issues that might encourage greater collaboration and partnership between the public and private sector institutions involved in livestock development.

// Post-harvest losses and food waste

Avoiding food losses and waste has become an international priority. In a time when systems already under stress are required to produce more with less to meet the growing demand for food such losses are unacceptable. Food losses and waste impact heavily on food security, nutrition, food quality and safety, the economy and food distribution, and the environment. Food losses and waste are very much dependent on the specific conditions and local situation in a given country. In broad terms food losses and waste are influenced by production, storage and processing choices, patterns and technologies, internal infrastructure and capacity, marketing chains and channels for distribution, consumer purchasing and food use practices.

Government policies and incentives on agricultural production and markets, particularly subsidies that distort prices, can be adapted to reduce food losses and waste.

Donor perspectives

Food losses as an overall topic addresses postharvest losses (PHL) mainly in developing countries and food waste at the consumer level in industrialised countries. Various donors are raising awareness on both of these two sides of the 'PHL coin'.

Food waste occurs at the farm level, during the processes of procuring and trading food, and among consumers.

// Developing efficient value chains

Most donors consider the reduction of postharvest losses as part of the development of efficient value chains, including postharvest handling and storage where more losses occur but also at processing, transport and retailing levels. Undervaluing food drives food losses, such as through low producer prices and low effective demand at the farm gate. Interventions to address food losses and food waste are therefore needed at all points in food value chains.

Many development agencies take a multisectoral and value chain approach to target investments to address physical postharvest losses, promote more efficient agroprocessing technologies and enhance product quality in a sustainable way, and to provide infrastructural support that improves the connectivity of value chain segments.

// Sharing knowledge and establishing a conducive policy environment

Dissemination of appropriate and viable technologies as well as establishing a conducive policy environment are required to tackle postharvest losses.

Numerous methods and technologies to avoid food losses already exist and need to be disseminated effectively for which knowledge transfer is crucial. Some donor agencies are interested in including postharvest management within their agricultural development programmes and enhancing PHL knowledge and experience sharing.

Effective regulatory frameworks are also needed to address the distorting role of speculation and avoid food waste along the value chain.

// Collaboration with private sector, civil society and public health organisations

Close collaboration with the private sector to reduce food losses and waste is essential.

Donors promote the development of market institutions and adoption of efficient practices to reduce losses and waste in value chains such as warehouse receipt systems and better market information systems at national and regional levels.

Notably in urban areas programmes defined in collaboration with public health services and civil society organisations are implemented to use food which adheres to safety standards despite minor defects that make it unsuitable for standard commercial channels to feed needy people.

// Way forward __ Developing new strategies through research and evidence

New strategies and intervention approaches are needed to address issues related to the operations of private sector-led enterprises in storage, processing, retailing and transport, global market integration, urbanisation, the growing South-South food trade and the associated 'lengthening' of food chains.

More research and evidence on PHL is therefore required to identify targeted actions needed to reduce PHL at farm level and target the main bottlenecks in value chains that result in food losses and waste.

// Land governance and water management

Productivity and sustainability of most rural economic activities and rural livelihoods depend directly on the sustainable use of natural resources, particularly land, soil, woodland, pasture, and water. But tenure systems in developing countries are often complex and combine multiple regimes (common property, state-owned land, usufruct rights and private property) with limited institutional capacity to address a wide range of challenges.

Good land and water management practices are only one element of a solution to substantially increasing the productivity of small-scale farms, which will have to produce more food using less of these resources. Measures need to go beyond increasing access to technology and innovations to establishing appropriate institutions and policies.

The growing number and scale of international land acquisitions in developing countries, particularly in Africa, has sometimes negatively affected local food security. Attempts by investors to secure access to water sources are also increasing. While the increased interest of private and public actors in investing in agriculture is necessary after decades of underinvestment, effective regulatory frameworks that benefit and protect the rights of the poor and marginalised are needed to improve food security, respect rights and to ensure sustainable management of land and other natural resources.

It is increasingly recognised that climate change will have significant implications for the sustainable use of land and water, both of which suffer from degradation and competition over their use in vulnerable areas. Climate change will exacerbate already existing competition and conflict over resources, such as for agricultural and nonagricultural use as well as between rural and urban areas.

Donor perspectives

// Fair access to land and water

Ensuring fair access to natural assets such as land and water, and securing land and water rights for women, indigenous peoples and smallholders in particular, is widely acknowledged as vital to encouraging sustainable management of resources and more equitable investments in agriculture, including in relevant CFS, FAO and G20 policy statements. Access of agricultural producers, especially smallholder and women farmers, to water, irrigation and affordable water technologies is essential to ensure food security and is often related to access to land. The emergence of international water acquisitions and water grabbing is of concern.

// Good governance as a key

Good governance of land, soil and water is particularly important to ensure fair and more equitable access to land and water – and it requires effective local and national regulatory frameworks. Platform members recognise that this involves the establishment of appropriate policies and institutions related to land and natural resource use. Ultimately this is a precondition for food security in rural areas, as described in the Platform's 2006 Joint donor concept on rural development). It is also critical to the development of effective responses to climate change and sustainable farming systems, particularly for smallholders.

// Approaches to support sustainable land use


Donor approaches to supporting land tenure security and sustainable land use range from supporting regulatory frameworks and reforms, sustainable land use planning, conflict resolution, to land administration and registration (titling), depending on context, needs and capacities. Improving women's and poor and vulnerable smallholders' secure access to land, water and natural resources are a common feature in supported interventions. Such interventions should respect and take into account the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities. Harmonisation of donor and IFI actions is particularly important because of the complex nature of tenure-related issues. Donors have also supported the development of innovative risk management and risk transfer tools, such as drought insurance at national and regional levels.

// Supporting international efforts

Most donors support international efforts such as the *Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure* or the ECA/AfDB Land policy initiative) to set up effective regulatory frameworks and responsible governance systems that recognise and protect legitimate tenure rights, as well as improve transparency and accountability in land-related decisionmaking.

In addition to jointly supporting the implementation of the voluntary guidelines, many donors are working with the international community on the development and implementation of investment principles through the CFS rai process to prevent contested large-scale land acquisitions and to ensure transparency in relation to land-based and other agricultural investments, taking full account of the interests of communities affected by such land acquisitions.

These commitments are likely to expand as the need to address large-scale international land acquisitions and secure land rights becomes more urgent.



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