

Management Meeting

21 September 2017, 13:00hrs – 14:00hrs CEST

Minutes

Participants

Platform members: Shatanu Mathur (IFAD), Patrick Herlant (EC), Julie Delforce (DFAT Australia), Ueli Mauderli (SDC), Meredith McCormack (USAID), Petra Jacobi (GIZ), Ludmilla de Gois (ITC), Vincent Glaesener (LuxDev), Bernhard Worm (BMZ), Amrane Boumghar (Global Affairs Canada)

Platform secretariat: Reinhild Ernst, Marion Thompson, Romy Sato, Martina Karaparusheva, Jedi Bukachi

Agenda

- Administration
- Highlights of the Donor Platform
- Discussion on rural youth (topic of the Platform's next Annual General Assembly)
- AOB

The secretariat, in close coordination with the co-chairs, introduced a new more participatory format of the Management meeting, where more time is dedicated to a discussion on a specific topic of interest to members. Members agreed to rural youth as focal topic of this Management meeting. Thus, the update on the workstreams were shared in the annotated agenda. Only highlights were presented during the meeting, to leave more space for exchange on the special topic.

In a separate document, the secretariat will share several links and further information on all activities and programs related to rural youth that were mentioned during the meeting and were shared by members after the meeting.

Administration

Regarding latest developments in member financial contributions, the secretariat informed that a contribution agreement has been finalised to formalise IFADs 2017 financial contribution to the Platform. Yet in collaboration for 2017 is a draft agreement with IADC. In progress is the establishment of a delegation agreement for the anticipated EU contribution. Including these agreements, there are 12 Board members in 2017 thus far (2016: 11).

Regarding 2018, there are six signed contributions to date, these are with AfDB, DFID, BMZ, Netherlands-MFA, SDC and USAID.

The secretariat pointed out that as a consequence of the anticipated change in the focal point of France-MFA, the Platform budget group is down from three to two members which are DFID and Finland-MFA. The secretariat is in collaboration with the budget group regarding potential expansion.

Highlights of the Donor Platform

The secretariat shared highlights in three areas, namely CFS, Gender and Agenda 2030.

CFS

The Platform will be present at the CFS 44, where the Global Donor Working Group on Land will have an official side event on the impact of increasing capital flows into rural areas. The idea is to learn more about domestic investments into land and the event will offer an opportunity to investigate this more. Speakers will include speakers from Michigan state university and Colombia University among others.

Secretariat staff present at the CFS will also meet with colleagues on the topic of inclusive agribusiness particularly to prepare the concept with those who will take part in webinars on the subject until the end of the year.

Gender

The secretariat updated that on 13 September, a webinar took place on the topic of Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) in agriculture which shared the results of the Platform study which looked at the gender responsiveness of donor funded agribusiness projects. The webinar also learned of new developments at policy level from Canada, who presented the entry points for agriculture and food systems in their new feminist international assistance policy. FAO wrapped up the webinar by offering their resonance with the approaches and policies, which had been presented. The webinar was introduced by Platform co-chair, the EC.

On 25 September, the secretariat will attend the CFS forum on Forum on Women's Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition in Rome. The next day a meeting between the secretariat and the new director of the FAO ESP unit is expected to begin the planning for the gender group's work in 2018, with priority focus on the Commission of the Status of Women 62.

Agenda 2030

An infoNote has been released on the topic of rural youth, placing a focus on the G20 initiative for rural employment, which looks especially into the actions that the G20 agreed on where they have linked rural youth potential to agriculture.

Discussion on rural youth (topic of the Platform's next Annual General Assembly)

The participants of the Management meeting exchanged with one another about their engagement in the area of rural youth.

- IFAD updated the meeting that the youth agenda has become front and centre after being added to IFAD's 3 corporate priorities of gender, nutrition and climate change. Efforts in youth at IFAD focus on strengthening the rural economy to provide new opportunities, in such a way that if youth migrate, they do so out of choice rather than circumstance. IFAD is looking at both the context of employment generation and the context of training and vocational skills to support self-employment. This includes rural finance instruments to support entrepreneurial activities.
- BMZ shared that they have prioritised the issue of rural youth, which was visible when they introduced it into the G20 agenda by holding a G20 conference on youth employment in April 2017. The BMZ was also behind the creation of the Berlin charter on youth, which was released at the G20 rural youth conference. As part of the production of the charter, a large survey

conducted with rural youth from Africa, which found that given the right conditions, many youth prefer to stay in the rural area than migrate to cities.

- USAID updated that their global food security strategy released last year identified working with youth as an important way forward. USAID is therefore in the process of effecting their engagement with rural youth across the countries covered by their feed the future strategy. One example is that they are creating a guide for missions where they intend to provide tools and best practices. USAID also mentioned their positive youth development strategy on how to incorporate youth, as well as their youth power website, which is being updated to incorporate agriculture.
- SDC mentioned that they place emphasis on TVET systems regarding youth employment and also the dual system like giving the private sector an important role in the shaping curricula in their training systems. SDC also shared that they prepared a brochure on vocational skills as a key to youth employment in 2015.
- DFAT Australia updated that education and training are a strong part of the DFAT aid programme and they are working with the private sector to create rural jobs in a sustainable way but also using the private sector to amplify the impact of their aid. They are also looking at technology that can entice youth to find different sorts of opportunities in the agricultural sector which go beyond farming itself.
- EC commented that they are organising a regional workshop in Mozambique on the topic of rural transformation on 6-10 of November. Within that workshop, the theme of rural employment will be covered and it is hoped that discussions from that workshop can be drawn for use of the Platform AGA. The EC does not have a program that is focusing on rural youth or rural youth employment; it is more about streaming the issue into all other programming.

AOB

The secretariat informed the participants that COP would take place in Bonn 6-17 November and kindly asked the members to indicate to the secretariat if they will be present and when, to try to organise an informal meeting.

Canada highlighted the discussion ongoing in Canada on the issue of land tenure. The secretariat also informed the members that the Global Donor Working Group on Land will also have a workshop to define the overall strategy of the group for the next 3 years. The workshop will take place in Rome, right before CFS.

Next steps

Task	Responsible	Deadline
Members to send links to secretariat on their rural youth programmes	Members	As soon as possible
IFAD to share information on youth engagement at CFS with the secretariat	IFAD and Secretariat	As soon as possible
Members to inform the secretariat of their participation at COP in Bonn	Members	1 November 2017