

Meeting Minutes

Side Meeting of the Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth at CFS 46

Thursday, 17 October 2019 16:30-18:00h

Participants: Hege Skarrud (Spire, Norway), Justina LA (OECD), Keron Bascombe (Tech4Agri), Lanz Espacio (PAKISAMA), Oriane Barthélemy (MEAE – France), Peter Wobst and Regina Kistler (FAO)

Platform Secretariat: James Kyewalabye, Oliver Hanschke

Apologies: Meredith McCormack (USAID), Pietro Pipi (IADC)

Agenda:

- Brief introduction of participants
- Recent updates from members
- Knowledge sharing session - FAO's Tool Box for youth employment
- Discussion on the side event in November.
- Discussion on the working group modalities within the TWG
- AOB

Summary of Discussions

1. Recent Updates from Members

Oriane updated the group on the G7 framework for decent job creation for rural youth in the Sahel region and informed the members that the ministers of development on 4th of July in Paris adopted the framework. Currently, they haven't yet defined next steps but they could possibly identify synergies with the Sahel Alliance to see what next steps could be taken.

FAO informed the group about a joint **Flagship Initiative to Accelerate Youth Employment in Agriculture and Agribusiness in Africa**. The initiative was launched by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), FAO and the African Union (AU) on the sidelines of the seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VII) held in Yokohama in August 28-30 2019.

Peter added that the topic of youth engagement has gained a lot of traction within the G7 and G20 processes and appreciated that there has been a specific focus on rural youth. He also informed that Germany's engagement with FAO will give more attention to the topic of youth employment as well. He added that the group could be a good platform to create a bigger focus around the topic.

Hege reported that Norway has recently launched an action plan on sustainable food systems with a special push for more youth participation in achieving the goal of sustainable

food systems and this could give more attention and a bigger push for a focus on youth employment in agriculture.

2. Knowledge sharing session - FAO's Tool Box for youth employment

Peter gave a presentation about FAO's Decent Rural Employment Toolbox, which has been designed to provide guidance to policy makers and planners, rural development practitioners and FAO staff at country level on how to systematize and scale up ongoing efforts to promote decent employment in rural areas. It is organized in six modules (integrated country approach, evidence and advocacy, youth employment, child labour, women and decent work and migration) that cover the main components of FAO's approach to mainstreaming decent rural employment and offers quick access to practical tools including case studies, guidance materials and other useful resources.

He went on to talk about Module 3 which is on youth employment and provides an overview of the main key challenges faced by young people in agriculture and describes FAO's approach to improve decent employment prospects for rural youth. It in addition brings together materials to guide policy makers and development practitioners in identifying adequate solutions with potential for up-scale. In particular, the module focuses on tailor-made educational and vocational training programs and has additional resources including knowledge materials, guidance tools and additional links to case studies, good practices, infographics and further learning tools.

Peter also talked about E-learning content on the FAO website with now four courses available focusing on migration and protracted crisis, migration and youth in rural areas, productive employment and decent work in rural areas, and ending child labour in agriculture.

3. Discussion on the side event in November

James gave a brief overview on the progress of the plans in preparation for a side event back-to-back to the YES forum. He informed the members that the event was confirmed for the 19th of November and the results (key messages, highlights, lessons learned) from the event will be shared during a panel discussion at the YES forum. This particular session will be hosted by UNIDO. In addition, the side event will be held at the AU headquarters or an alternative location will be determined in case the AU headquarters do not work out.

James went on to talk about different areas of the event towards which members could contribute. Information on this was circulated to members prior to the meeting. He requested members to suggest areas they could provide contributions to and provide feedback on what areas they would like to actively engage in.

Feedback from the members:

- Peter suggested that the event should preferably be held at the AU office within the WEDF, as it will be easier to get an audience. He supported the idea of having the

event as a back-to-back event to the YES Forum as this would give it the right following. He added that he would be available to travel for the event if he can actively contribute to the event. He would be comfortable taking on any role within the event.

- Oriane confirmed her participation to the event and appreciated it specifically for its focus on rural youth and she re-echoed the need to have youth representatives from the Sahel region. She added that she could get in touch with the French Development Agency, the French Embassy in Ethiopia and practitioners and technical staff from G5 countries who could be invited as useful recourses to the event. She also added that they could give a presentation on the G7 framework probably with a colleague from the G5 countries.
- Justina expressed interest in the event as it resonates with their work on informality in rural areas. However, she added that during that time, OECD will be holding an experts meeting on Inclusive growth approaches - Tapping the potential of the local food economy to create rural youth employment in Paris on 21 November 2019. She would however check to look into possibilities of participation and how OECD can support the event in general.
- Hege also added that she would need to get validation to attend the event from her management board but would also need to have a function during the event to justify her participation. She added that she has worked with partners in Malawi that she could invite to participate in the event. She suggested that members could contribute even if they are not part of the event and requested an overview on these roles for non-participants.
- Keron offered to support the event by working alongside Oliver to help to develop multimedia content for the event.

Action areas:

- Oriane and James will work to develop key messages, topics and questions for the different sessions of the event and will distribute them to the group for comments.
- Members will continue to indicate their availability for the event to allow planning.
- Oriane will reach out to partners in G5 countries and the French development agency and the French embassy to invite and inform them about the event.
- The group members should make submissions on what areas they would like to support during the event to the Secretariat until 29th of October 2019.

4. Discussion on the working group modalities within the TWG.

The Secretariat informed the members that Rural Youth is a new group that is gaining traction but is still in the process of setting up its structures. The group still has outstanding areas to address including development of a concrete work plan and having a group chair. It was suggested that the group use the opportunity of having members at the side event in November to have a planning meeting to discuss some of these outstanding issues and what the next steps of the group could be.

Remarks from the members:



- Hege asked for clarification on what the groups mandate is and Oliver in response informed her that the group has a concept note but there is room to analyse the note to see if it is still fit to serve the purpose.
- Oriane affirmed that the group is a good way to gather strategic actors in youth employment and gave the Global Donor Working Group on Land Governance as a good example of a platform that brings together different actors with a clear objective and a set of activities to work on together.
- Lanz submitted that the group is a good way for other practitioners like civil society organisations to engage with donors. He added that there is interest to see how such discussions could be focused to materialise into tangible results.

5. AOB

- The Secretariat also informed the members that the next **GDPRD Management Meeting** will take place on **22 October 2019, 15:00 – 16:00 hrs. CEST**
- The Secretariat also thanked FAO for supporting organisation of the side meeting at the CFS 46.