



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Rural Youth - Conference Call

9 October 2020

Participants

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| 1. Conrad Rein - EC (GDPRD Co-Chair) | 11. Rahul Antao - IFAD |
| 2. Keron Bascombe - Tech4Agri (TWG-
RY Chair) | 12. Ayason Kennedy - AUC |
| 3. Sven Braulik - GIZ | 13. Ibrahim Ceesay - CAADP Youth
Network |
| 4. Frank Bertlemann - GIZ | 14. Collin VanBrien - All Native Group |
| 5. Peter Wobst – FAO | |
| 6. Regina Kistler – FAO | |
| 7. Meredith McCormack - USAID | |
| 8. Jane Lowicki-Zucca - USAID | |
| 9. Ji Yeun Rim – OECD | |
| 10. Anno Flavien – AFD | |

Secretariat

1. Maurizio Navarra
2. Sylvia Otieno

Agenda

1. Intro and welcome (moderator)
2. Quick update on the next Platform Annual General Assembly (moderator)
3. Strategic Plan, WG management, and future options for the Youth WG (moderator)
4. Revision of the ToRs for the group, functions, and management: suggestions and options for the way ahead (GIZ)
5. Discussion on potential outputs/outcomes for the TWG, with analysis of international processes (moderated tour de table)
6. Next steps (moderator)
7. AOB

1. Quick update on the next Platform Annual General Assembly (Secretariat)

- GDPRD AGA is scheduled for 2-5 November, and it will focus on the Platform's contribution to the Food System Summit (FSS). Given the current challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the AGA will be held virtually and will consist of four events:
 - High-level event - Transforming food systems: implications for coordination and financing
 - Event 2 - Pathways for food systems transformations
 - Event 3 - Food Systems: Data for evidence-based policymaking
 - Event 4 - Catalysing responsible private sector investments for food system transformation.
- An additional session will be held after the AGA and will be open only to Platform members. It will inter alia be dedicated to the 3 thematic working groups of the Platform. The outcomes are expected to feed into the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.
- Save the Date will be shared in the coming days.

2. Strategic Plan, WG management, and future options for the Youth WG (Secretariat)



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- Secretariat is working closely with all Board members to develop a new 5-year Strategic Plan for the Platform (2021-2025). In this regard, a consultancy team lead by Dr. Jim Woodhill has been contracted to spearhead the process. The Strategic Plan is expected to elaborate on a new vision and management model for the Platform. Part of the process will be to review the management of TWGs and their work programs.
- One key focus area will be the establishment of a results-based framework for all Platform's activities that will be undertaken at the level of the Secretariat, Board, Members, and TWGs, to make them more dynamic and play a better catalytic role that would rally partners around a special thematic area.
- The role of TWGs as self-standing spaces to exchange ideas, update and rally each other towards common concrete outcomes was stressed.
- One key Board decision has been that all TWGs will be expected to present a work plan at the beginning of the year that clearly states the expected outcomes, outputs and activities. Work plans will help the working groups to catalyse actions and partnerships on specific initiatives.
- **Keron Bascombe** then briefly introduced himself as the new lead of the TWG Rural Youth, highlighting his background and commitment to TWG on Rural Youth going forward.

Discussion:

- **Ayason Kennedy** explained that his main aim for joining the call was to understand how TWG on Rural Youth works and how AUC can provide political backing to its activities.
- **Ibrahim Ceesay** stated that generally, investment in young people in agriculture is still lacking. He reflected on national youth dialogues that were organized by the CAADP Youth Network in Namibia, Zambia, and Botswana with the support of GIZ. He then inquired how to better mobilize GIDPRD and other partners to design and support impactful initiatives targeted at rural youth in the agricultural sector.
- **Ji Yeun Rim** expressed that the real value of TWG on Rural Youth is the inclusion of youth. In response to Ibrahim Ceesay, she then proposed the following ideas:
 - a) Members of Rural Youth TWG should work to increase its representativeness through their networks
 - b) Rural Youth TWG can consider developing a campaign or survey targeted at rural youth to collect their needs and priorities. The working group can then use the collected data to frame "A Call to Action" with comprehensive policy action and investment options that can be targeted towards governments or even the Food System Summit.

3. Revision of the ToRs for the group, functions, and management: suggestions and options for the way ahead (Frank Bertlemann - GIZ)

- The shared ToRs for the group were developed two years ago and provide helpful insights into the objectives and previous thoughts that can guide the development of the new ToRs and the Work Plan.
- **GIZ** also explained that an informal call among some members of the groups took place a few weeks ago, to discuss some areas on how to go forward as a group including potential activities and outputs that the group can be interested in. The informal meeting also discussed the pre-



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existing idea of broadening the membership base to include more youth and other donors. GIZ further stressed that even though youth involvement in the thematic working group is necessary, it should be done in a meaningful way, not to pursue new partnerships just for the sake of quantity.

- **GIZ** then presented some core ideas for the TWG (see attachment), highlighting a suggested meeting format, and thoughts for future directions and activities, including engagement in some regional and international processes, joint development of conceptual guidance documents, and linking up with like-minded platforms.

4. Discussion on potential outputs/outcomes for the TWG, with analysis of international processes (moderated tour de table)

- **Jane Lowicki-Zucca** agreed with the ideas presented and inquired whether the TWG could continue pursuing functions that are proper to a Community of Practice functions. She further inquired about the issues/challenges that have come forward with regards to donor coordination at different levels, the working group's priorities going forward, and what is realistic given how the different members work in their respective organizations. Finally, she inquired about the thinking behind the specific quota of 50% for youth participants that was decided during the establishment of the working group.
- **Meredith McCormack** briefly explained that the TWG was formed following a Board decision during the 2018 AGA that focused on Youth. USAID, the African Union, and Italy put together the original group. One challenge for the group has been coming up with concrete initiatives to focus on, and that explains why the initial concept note is a little vague. There was a push to have the 50% of youth participation, but such target was never reached. One challenge faced back then was inadequate capacity in terms of resources and time from individual member organizations to drive the working group. With regards to the gaps and challenges identified, the Compendium that the Platform put together was the first and only attempt towards that, but there was never a real discussion on it. The main achievement of the group so far has been the organization of a Side-event in Addis Ababa back-to-back to the Youth Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment (YES!) Forum 2019. This event was financially supported by France. She then noted that working towards the Food Systems Summit is key.
- **Secretariat** added that the Rural Youth working group is relatively young and this meeting is sort of a reboot/revival of conversations within the group.
- **Keron Bascombe (Tech4Agri)** also explained that the Community of Practice is a suggestion at this point. The plan is to collect suggestions and ideas from members and build on them to develop the Work Plan and the ToRs. It is important to focus on a few ideas or merge some, to reduce the workload for members. With regards to 50% youth representation, it is important to encourage youth engagement and participation, but the focus should instead be put on enforcing meaningful and impactful engagement.
- **Secretariat** proposed that the group focus on one or two concrete outputs/initiatives.
- **Peter Wobst (FAO)** stated that the document presented is a good starting point in terms of technical issues. During the development of the Work Plan, the focus should be put on the meta-level of the working group. For a results-based approach, the group needs to define its strategy, action plan, objectives, expected outcomes, and target groups clearly and concretely. It might also



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have to develop a theory of change to choose the activities the group will be involved in. There is a need of understanding the role of youth within rural development and underlying determinants and drivers. With regards to the Community of Practice, this working group does not have to replicate what is already being done by other platforms but can instead focus on developing a meta-summary that can be provided to members. He further inquired about the target group with regards to networking: Whether the group will have an African focus or whether it is an interregional focus. If it will have an interregional focus, then there is a need to strive to have representations from other regions as well.

- **Ji Yeun Rim (OECD)** stated that what is interesting for OECD is the exchange and knowledge sharing exercise. She further inquired whether the GDPRD or Rural Youth TWG have an official mandate or legitimacy to follow up on some G20 or G7 initiatives. She then advised that other members clearly state what is useful to them with regards to this working group.
- **Secretariat** clarified that there is no mandate for GDPRD to develop specific outputs related to thematic working groups. There is no formal process in place for the Donor Platform to produce some of the suggested outputs. TWGs are free-standing spaces that have the flexibility of deciding whether to do something and what to do. In line with Frank's suggestion, Secretariat further suggested that the members that will be developing the work plan use the IFAD's Rural Development report 2019 as a foundation for the theory of change.
- **Frank Bertelmann** noted that even a basic overview on who is doing what will be helpful for them (and the group), as it is often not easy to come up with clear information on how big the rural youth portfolio is (how many projects are there related to rural youth employment, and what are the results and best practices). He further suggested that the group focus on defining the basics as concretely as possible then try to build momentum from there. He also stressed that the key issues should be identified based on common interest from all members.
- **Sven Braulik** supported issues raised by Frank Bertelmann and urged members to share other ideas or work to develop the presented ideas more concretely.

5. Next steps (Secretariat)

- **Secretariat** will continue to support the working group by producing the tools and proposals to catalyse and stimulate dialogue within the working group including looking into appropriate platforms for establishing the Community of Practice, hosting meetings, and producing minutes.
- The members of the working group to start working together towards the formulation of the new ToRs based on the existing concept note and the document put together by GIZ from the previous informal call. Members urged to share initial comments with Keron Bascombe.
- **Keron Bascombe** to lead the process by developing the first draft which will then be shared with members for comments.

6. AOB

- No AOB