



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

MINUTES THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON RURAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

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PARTICIPANTS

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- Elisenda Estruch Puertas, ILO
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- Heiko Bammann, FAO
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- Sonja Barwitzki, FAO
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AGENDA

Issue	Item	Details
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Peter/FAO
2.	Update from the Secretariat	Maurizio/GDPRD
3.	New Guidelines: Youth-sensitive value chain analysis and development	Sonja Barwitzki/ Heiko Bammann /FAO
4.	Outlook on the stocktaking report of the G20-Initiative	Ji-Yeun and Emilie/OECD
5.	Webinar on “Green Jobs in agri-food systems for rural youth”	Anna/FAO
6.	AGA Session	Sven/GIZ
7.	Tour de table and Miscellaneous	Peter/FAO

KEY HIGHLIGHTS/ISSUES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- Heiko Bammann and Sonja Barwitzki from FAO joined the call to present the new guidelines on youth-sensitive value chains, while Emilie Wojc from OECD joined the call to introduce the work on project evaluation of the RYE initiative of the G20.

2. UPDATE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- The Platform's flagship product, the white paper on "Food Systems Transformation: Directions for Enhancing the Catalytic Role of Donors" was released on 5 April. The white paper was presented during an event on Wednesday 20 April on "The Increasing Imperative for Resilient Food Systems in Times of Crises. What can Donors do?" with a discussion on how resilience and long-term food systems transformation should be prioritized in times of conflict, rising food prices and the need for short-term responses to food crises.
- On 5 April, the 2021 GDPRD Annual Report was launched, with a dedicated section on TWG RYE with contributions from the co-chairs.
- The Platform secretariat has opened policy dialogue channels with the CFS Secretariat to ensure coordination with the work of the CFS. A dialogue channel has also been opened with the UNFSS Zero Hunger Coalition, led by Maximo Torero of FAO, to align the work on country-level coordination. The Secretariat also had a conversation with Mollie Brennan at IFAD, from the Coalition of action on decent work and living incomes and wages for all food systems workers. The Secretariat will update the working group on developments in these coalitions and on potential opportunities for synergies.
- The final dates for the Annual General Assembly (AGA) will be 14 – 15 June. TWG RYE will have a session on day 2 (15 June).

3. NEW GUIDELINES: YOUTH-SENSITIVE VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPMENT

- The new guidelines on youth-sensitive value chain analysis are the product of a collaboration between the Agrifood Economics Division (ESA) and the Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division (ESP) teams of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The work to develop a guide on lessons learned from the field, began in 2017 as a joint production of the ESP Decent Rural Employment Team (DRET) under the global FAO project "Integrated Country Approach (ICA) programme for boosting decent jobs for youth in the agrifood system", and the ESA Sustainable Markets, Agribusiness and Rural Transformation (SMART) team .
- The guidelines provide directions for practitioners to select value chains with significant potentials for youth employment and entrepreneurship, and to analyse the value chains through a youth lens.
 - The guidelines provide a wide scope for flexible and practical applications for practitioners working at the country level.
 - They enable practitioners to tailor each intervention to local needs and capacities.
- The target audience for the guidelines are international organizations, youth organizations, governments, private sector representatives such as value chain analysts, and staff and consultants of international development organizations and NGOs.
- The guidelines are structured into six chapters:

- i. Introduction to the topic and explanation of scope of the guideline
 - ii. Guidance on dimensions of decent work and challenges of different forms of employment
 - iii. Situation analysis for youth employment in agriculture at a country-level
 - iv. Technical guidance for selecting value chains with substantial potential for youth employment and entrepreneurship
 - v. Tools to conduct context specific analysis of youth employment and entrepreneurship challenges and opportunities
 - vi. Value chain upgrading strategy and action planning describing the expected outcomes of the analysis
- The guidelines adopt a push and pull factor analysis to identify and analyse the constraints and opportunities for decent youth employment. The youth inclusive framework is a starting point for inclusivity. Push factors empower youth to engage in the VC and focus on eliminating some of the existing constraints that prevent youth from becoming gainfully employed in VCs.. Pull factors are the factors that attract youth towards a value chain and increase profitability and efficiency in the value chain. These may expand the current job opportunities, create new categories of jobs and facilitate disruptions that may make the value chain more attractive to youth.

4. OUTLOOK ON THE STOCKTAKING REPORT OF THE G20-INITIATIVE

- Under German presidency in 2017 the G20 launched an Initiative on rural youth employment. A stocktaking conducted by OECD was set for 2022 to review the impacts and progress of the initiative. In an initial desk review based on OECD data and information available on the internet it was found that:
 - Key actors working on this are Germany, France, UK, USA, IFAD, FAO, FDB, African Union, and GAFSP. Korea, Japan, and South Africa are involved but have not directly invested in rural youth employment.
 - For the review projects were classified based on employability, creation of jobs, targeting of rural youth, supporting SMEs, access to markets, etc.
 - The database to assess projects also allows to pick up tendencies and trends on project focuses and investment. For instance, African projects are mostly focused on education. Agriculture projects are mostly focused on sectoral agricultural development, etc.
- It is not possible to assess causality of the programs, that is, whether they were initiated in response to the G20 Initiative or would have been implemented anyway.
- The next step will be to contact focal points from G20 members and major multilateral organisations for a review of the identified projects and a questionnaire to detail contributions and present selected flagship projects. The timeframe to respond will be approximately one month.

5. WEBINAR ON “GREEN JOBS FOR RURAL YOUTH IN AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS”

- The webinar will take place on Monday 25 April from 15:00-16:30
- Event schedule:
 - Ji-Yeun will moderate
 - Frank will provide an introduction and welcome, and also close the event
 - Prof. Dr. Poschen will give a keynote address
 - Mette Grangaard Lund from ILO and Jeongha Kim from FAO will give presentations

- A panel discussion will take place with representatives from AUC, ILO, FAO, USAID, YARA, and Africa Business group
- All group members are asked to share the event widely with their contacts

6. AGA SESSION ON RYE

- A concept note for the session has been shared with all participants.
- Encouragement was made to make the draft concept note more detailed to ensure interest and participation from a wide audience, not just rural youth specialists. The session planning should also consider the hybrid (remote/in-person) format.
- A core team will work to prepare the session. All TWG members are welcome to join. The co-chairs will invite to a first preparation meeting by next week.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

- OECD will hold an event on 20 May from 13:00-15:30 about green transition in Southeast Asia. Agenda and details to be released shortly.
- On the CFS process: the next draft report will be issued on 20 April, and it is unclear whether comments can be received on this version. Then the two three-day negotiation sessions will be held on 30 May-1 June, then 4-6 July.
- The topic of child labour was discussed last year and can be addressed again
 - Child labour in agriculture is one of the four focus areas of the decent rural employment team at FAO. There is an overlap in the 15-17 age cohort between youth employment and child labour.
 - The 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour will be 15-20 May. It will be organized by South Africa and ILO. FAO will organize a session on child labour in agriculture.
- The third biannual Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) review webinar is approaching. It looks at how the situation in African countries has developed in the past two years, and one indicator is rural youth employment.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Agenda item/Issue	Action	Timeline	Responsible Person(s)
5	Share the webinar invitation widely in your networks	ASAP	ALL
6	Invite interested members to a call to further develop the concept and organization of the TWG RYE AGA session		Sven