



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

MINUTES THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON RURAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

DATE: 10 NOVEMBER 2022

PARTICIPANTS

- Anna Befus, FAO
- Peter Wobst, FAO
- Frank Bertelmann, GIZ
- Sven Braulik, GIZ
- Elisenda Estruch Puertas, ILO
- Edward Bogart, WFF
- Lorenzo Gentile Colotta, WFF
- Kazuki Kitaoka, WFF
- Victor Muiru, WFF
- Lukhani Rogol, WFF
- Cyriaque Hakizimana, Young African Researchers in Agriculture

GDPRD SECRETARIAT

- Michelle Tang
- Alessandro Cordova
- Sierra Berardelli
- Natalie Zaffiro

AGENDA

Issue	Item	Details
1.	Welcome & Introduction	Anna/FAO
2.	In-Depth Input World Food Forum	Victor Muiru/WFF
3.	Updates from the Secretariat	Michelle/GDPRD
4.	TWG Chairmanship Rotation	Anna/FAO
5.	TWG Webinar on Green Jobs	Anna/FAO
6.	Tour de Table	All
7.	Closing & AOB	All

KEY HIGHLIGHTS/ISSUES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- The Secretariat introduces its new intern, Natalie Zaffiro. Sierra Berardelli will finish her internship this week and joined the TWG RYE call for the last time.

2. IN-DEPTH INPUT: WORLD FOOD FORUM

Purpose of section:

A presentation was made by The World Food Forum (WFF).

Issues discussed:

- WFF held the second Flagship Event “[Healthy Diets. Healthy Planet](#)” on 17-21 October 2022 in Rome, Italy in collaboration with FAO’s Science and Innovation and Hand-in Hand Investment Forums to engage and empower the active participation and mobilization of young people to become change makers and catalyse transformative solutions by shaping systems from within, ultimately encouraging more youth participation in policy activities at both the global and local level through the linking of science, innovation, and investments.
- Outcomes from the Flagship Event included the incorporation of water and climate into advocacy and international forums, such as COP 27; the institutionalization of youth engagement in food governance, including the establishment of the [Youth Scientist Group](#) to strengthen youth-led science and evidence to better inform decision-making. Educational reform proposals were drafted through the School Assembly to better agri-food systems for education. Awards were given for innovative and game-changing, youth-led solutions and ideas in food and agriculture that can be scaled.
- The 2023 WFF flagship event will be held on World Food Day, from 16-20 October 2023. The event seeks to nurture and scale innovation through the WFF Incubator, as well as elevate youth voices in global policy, especially within upcoming events such as COP 28, UN Water Conference, and the Summit of The Future.
- There are four WFF Tracks towards Rural Youth Engagement: (1) **Youth Action**, through authentic and meaningful youth engagement in policy development and implementation; (2) **Culture**, bringing together global youth through universal languages of music, film, cooking, art, and/or other forms of creative expression; (3) **Innovation Lab**, intended to inspire, nurture, and scale innovation about young entrepreneurs and researchers; and (4) **Education**, through food-related education initiatives in nutrition and food system education, as well as more complex linkages of people’s food to the climate and to markets, utilizing school assemblies and groups of schoolteachers’ involvement.

Q&A:

What are the main outcomes and objectives that the WFF is striving for in terms of youth employment and engagement?

- One of the next steps for the WFF is the facilitation of decentralized, volunteer-driven country chapters comprised of youth voices who may inform and steer food system transformation.

In what way does the WFF link global processes to the local challenges that young people face on the ground? I.e., access to markets, and other barriers that inhibit young people from participating in agri-food systems.

- Localization is one of the biggest focuses for next year, as much of the interest from youth engagement comes from activist movements, policy activities, and policy assemblies of young people. There is a need to link the global and the local in terms of policy priorities, as well as inputs and participation from youth members.
- The Youth Action Assembly put together a compendium of youth positions and policies that

they would like to see advance when it comes to agri-food transformation, emphasizing the need for regional level insight and discussions.

3. UPDATES FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Purpose of section:

The Secretariat provided a presentation of recent communications outreach mechanisms, including the new Platform website, Food Systems Recommendations Database and newsletter.

Issues discussed:

- The Platform launched a use-friendly [website](#) at the beginning of October, with a landing page dedicated to the [TWG RYE](#). The page comprises a “[Knowledge Hub](#)” comprising publications, reports and best practices, and a [Documents](#) page with meeting minutes and foundation documents such as the Work Plan. Members are encouraged to share updates for the website with Michelle via email (michelle.tang@donorplatform.org) and to sign up for [the GDPRD Newsletter](#).
- A new web-based [Food Systems Recommendations Database](#) was launched alongside the website. The database collates recommendations of key global reports around food systems sorted by thematic areas such as climate and gender. These are then synthesised into higher-level clustered recommendations. One can search by thematic areas, keywords or by report.

Q&A:

The FAO [Policy Database | Decent Rural Employment | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(fao.org\)](#) could be beneficial to analyse these two databases side-by-side to locate the synergies and identify gaps.

4. TWG CHAIRMANSHIP ROTATION

- The Chairmanship of the TWG rotates on a biannual basis. Anna Befus and Peter Wobst/FAO will complete Chairmanship in 2023. Elisenda Puertas/ILO has been nominated to take on the Chairmanship position beginning in January 2023 – the Group welcomes Elisenda as the future Co-Chair.
- Members are encouraged to share their interest in the Co-Chairmanship position for 2023 with the Group or provide suggestions of those who would be interested.

5. WEBINAR ON GREEN JOBS

- The next webinar in the series on Green Jobs for Rural Youth has been postponed until the beginning of 2023, date and time TBC.
- The Group will continue to draft the concept note, invite speakers and organize the webinar structure in the coming weeks.

6. TOUR DE TABLE

- The TWG RYE closely followed the policy convergence process towards the development of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) policy recommendations "Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems" and provided feedback on the Zero Draft. The policy recommendations were endorsed at the 50th session of the CFS in October.
- The Co-chairs held a meeting with the UN Food System Coordination Hub to explore possible collaboration with the Group. Documents including the Hub's Work Plan for 2022-2023,

general information on the structure and purpose of the various food systems coalitions, a Compendium of Food Systems Coalitions, and a Country Needs Survey Analysis will be shared with members via email. The TWG can provide technical input to the Hub, including through the sharing best practices of youth engagement and employment and of youth networks and organizations.

- The Group held a follow-up exchange between IFAD and the European Commission on Wednesday, 21 September, in which IFAD's Youth Grassroots Approach to Connecting Youth Voices to Action process, the Decent Work and Living Incomes and Wages for all Food Systems Workers (DWLIW) Coalition, and job creation measurements applied by IFAD were presented.
- The DWLIL Coalition is open to formal and informal support, such as knowledge sharing and further information on understanding of the difficulty of committing support to new coalitions.
- Key focus is on identifying partners to work with on their national pathways and we welcome any support or multipliers to make this happen. I.e., We very much welcome the suggestion for AGRF to invite the coalition to meetings designing national pathways of African member states.
- The coalition is willing to schedule another meeting on the EU's proposed trade instrument to ban forced labour, linking relevant experts from ILO/IFAD.
- The DWLIL Coalition will host a retreat for the coalition leadership in October and offered to present outcomes and next steps in a future TWG RYE call.

7. WRAP-UP AND CLOSING

- The last regular call of the Group for the year will take place on 15 December 2022, TBC.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Agenda item	Action	Timeline	Responsible Person(s)
3.	Members are encouraged to share relevant contributions for the GDPRD website with the Secretariat and provide feedback on the site and Recommendations Database.	ASAP	All
6.	Members can share their interest in the Chairmanship position of the TWG from 2023.	ASAP	All
6.	Subscribe to FAO's Decent Rural Employment Newsletter	ASAP	All