



Global Donor
Platform for
Rural Development

04 May 2023

Minutes TWG RYE Meeting

Participants

Group Members

- **Yessie Meyer**, *Enabel*
- **Peter Wobst**, *FAO*
- **Sven Braulik**,
GIZ (Co-Chair)
- **Frank Bertelmann**, *GIZ (Co-Chair)*
- **Vidya Diwakar**, *IDS*
- **Mollie Brennan**, *IFAD*
- **Elisenda Estruch-Puertas**,
ILO (Co-Chair)
- **Sekela Ombura**, *ILO*

- **Waltteri Katajamaki**, *ILO*
- **Helke Waelde**, *KfW*
- **Ibrahim Ceesay**, *MAG*
- **Justina La**, *OECD/DEV*
- **Cyriaque Hakizimana**, *PLAAS*
- **Jane Lowicki-Zucca**, *USAID/RFS*

GDPRD Secretariat

- **Michelle Tang**
- **Alessandro Cordova**
- **Monique Amar**
- **Nicole Burch**
- **Mandakini Surie**

Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM (DAY ONE)	DETAILS
1.	Welcome & Introduction	Sven Braulik (GIZ)
2.	In-Depth Input: Youth in Forestry	Waltteri Katajamaki (ILO)
3.	Updates from the Secretariat	Mandakini Surie & Monique Amar
4.	TWG Work Plan for 2023	Sven Braulik (GIZ)/all
5.	Tour de Table & Miscellaneous	Sven Braulik (GIZ)/all
6.	Wrap-up and closing	Sven Braulik (GIZ)

Key Highlights/Issues

1. Welcome and introduction

- Justina La, OECD, Helke Waelde, KfW, and Vidya Diwakar, Deputy Director of the Chronic Poverty Advisory Network, joined for the first time.

2. In-depth input: youth in forestry

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

Waltteri Katajamäki, who works in Rural Economies at ILO, specifically focusing on Forestry, introduced the ILO perspectives on Decent Work for Youth in the Forest Sector. The presentation details are included in the annexed PowerPoint slides.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Forests provide livelihoods, food, shelter and jobs for millions around the world. Forestry is key for rural development; 33 million people have a primary occupation in the forest and between 350 million and 2 billion people depend on the forest. Deforestation is a leading cause for climate change, but through sustainable forest management, ecosystem restoration and reforestation we can help fight climate change.
- Despite the forest sector's potential to promote economic growth and employment, there are persistent decent works deficits. There are high incidents of informality with about 75% of people working informally, lack of access to social protection, poor and unsafe working conditions, safety and health risks and obstacles to the rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining, among others.
- Youth do not see forestry as attractive. The sector is aging in Europe, with 1/3 of workers over 49 years old, while in other regions, particularly Africa, there are new opportunities in this sector. However, skills and education are limited in many countries and youth are willing to do dangerous jobs without proper training. Challenges include a lack of quality education and outdated curriculum, lack of traineeships, and lack of youth representation and voice.
- ILO's efforts to promote decent work in forestry include: promoting social dialogue and building consensus, developing and sharing knowledge through publications, building constituents' capacities through safety and health, ensuring policy coherence, and promoting the ratification of the International Labor Standards. As forestry is not a major sector in the ILO, partnerships with other organizations are key.

Q&A

- It was clarified that according to FAO/ILO estimates 33 million people work directly in forestry. Disaggregated data on youth and women working in the sector will be prepared soon.
- Wood collection is often done by young women and girls, who become susceptible to violence and harassment when they have to go far away and carry heavy loads.
- The number of estimated people working in the forest used to be 39 million and has gone down to 33 million in the past decade. Is there potential to get back to the 39 million or even more, in the context of fighting climate change and where does ILO see its role?
 - Forestry places a key role in green jobs and transitioning to sustainable economies. The ILO had a workshop in Tanzania on reforestation and its opportunity to create new jobs. Reforestation is employment-intensive but is also project-based with an end date. The 39 million to 33 million reflects a reduction in logging activities, but does not necessarily mean that the number of trees being cut has gone down at the same level, and is mainly based on the mechanization of tree harvesting.

- Is a move to highly technological agrotech systems trending in the forestry industry?
 - A joint ILO-FAO-ECE publication on future of work and occupational safety and health in forestry will be released shortly, and it has a section on technological developments. Some highly technological mechanization developments are unlikely for anyone working in small agroforestry. However, basic advancements (e.g., battery powered hand tools) make a huge difference and can replace petrol powered tools. There are many other technological advancements and AI tools, such as smart clothing to detect overheating.

3. Updates from the Secretariat

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

The GDPRD secretariat gave updates on ongoing workstreams and upcoming events.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The GDPRD's Annual General Assembly (AGA) will take place in Rome in October. A concept note is being prepared by the Prep Committee and will be shared with the group once approved by the Board, it will be shared with the working group. The TWG RYE will have a session during the AGA.
- On 27 June, the GDPRD, IFAD, and the European Commission will host a high-level hybrid event on County Level Donor Coordination for Food Systems Transformation. This workstream started last August with a literature review on donor coordination in times of crisis, and documentation on best practices. Now, the workstream is assessing key issues and challenges for coordination at a country level through key informant interviews with donors, international organizations, and country level representatives.
 - The event structure includes a keynote speaker, a high-level panel with ministerial representation, as well as representatives from donor organizations and from the UN system. Presentations and roundtable breakout groups in the afternoon will revolve around the themes of data, finance, policy, crisis response and resilience.

Q&A:

- The 27 June high-level event is not just a stock taking, it is intended to provide a practical way forward in terms of where the potential is and define a potential role for the GDPRD.
- While the grassroots, civil society, and youth perspectives are important, the focus of this work is understanding the country and donor perspectives, and the mechanisms and modalities of coordination.

4. TWG RYE work plan for 2023

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

A presentation of the work plan structure for the rest of the year, and a collection of ideas, input and feedback were given.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The number of meetings will be reduced to four times per year, plus the AGA in October, and maybe one or two webinars.
- Hot topics of 2023 are green jobs in connection with agroecology and agrifood systems transformation and transition, which can be the webinar topics. Focusing on particular aspects will be discussed in the concrete preparation of the event. Green jobs for example are relatively broad and could be narrowed down on just transition to aspects of a green economy or a resource efficient economy, economic development, social inclusion, social protection, etc.
- For the RYE AGA Session, we want to connect to the work stream of country level coordination

and perhaps pick one country case, possibly Kenya.

- EU colleagues will provide next meeting's in-depth input on EU RYE approaches and give an portfolio overview.
- As a follow-up to the UNFSS process and the formed coalitions the group will closely follow the [2023 UNFSS Stocktaking Moment](#) (24-26 July) to identify further RYE entry points. The group will also discuss how to possibly support further dissemination of the CFS RYE policy recommendations.
- Group members are encouraged to expand the TWG RYE knowledge hub on the GDPRD website and reach out to additional organizations and members to join the group.
- G20 RYE study could be presented when ready (after June).
- Members encouraged to provide written feedback to the Co-Chairs on the group's proposed activities for this year.
- There could be some interest in organizing a webinar or discussion around the topic of just transition. As just transition is broad and covers many policy areas and cross-cutting issues, the group can further brainstorm the precise focus of a potential webinar on the topic depending on the group's interests.

5. Tour de Table

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

Members gave short updates on their current work.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- [The Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa](#) and [Foresight4Food](#) are planning an event on youth employment on 12-16 June in Mombasa, Kenya. The goal is to bring together youth, learning practitioners and researchers for a long term forward look (5 to 30 years), to assess opportunities and risks for youth employment in agrifood systems in Africa, and further. policy implications.
- The Institute of Development Studies is planning a virtual workshop series in collaboration with IFPRI, Southern Voice and the GDPRD on 27-28 June. The event focuses on jobs, poverty and hunger, presenting an update of these issues and their links since the pandemic. This virtual workshop seeks to explore issues such as re-establishing positive development progress around SDG's 1, 2 and 8 and other related SDGs, and how joining up these issues can better inform policy and programming around poverty and hunger eradication amidst recovery from intersecting crises.
- USAID sees strong windows of opportunity to organize around the priorities of gender and localization, having just launched its new commitment called GROW (Generating Resilience and Opportunities for Women). The [2023 Global Youth Economic Opportunity Summit](#) (16-18 May), organized by Making Cents International, will have an opening plenary on green jobs, which will hopefully relate to rural youth employment in agriculture and food systems. USAID together with their strategic partner AGRA, have expressed interest on looking ahead to the [CAADP](#) review process, including its provisions on youth employment, that will also be used within the context of the UNFSS Stocktaking Moment.
- An Action for Rural Development Forum will be held in October, initiating a 10-year campaign with a focus on rural development in Africa. There are about 26 active conflicts in Africa, which have deterred rural development and impacted rural economies. Partners are encouraged to give more focus on post-conflict and fragile countries in their interventions
 - A request was made for Ibrahim Ceesay/MAG to present youth perspectives on agriculture development in Africa in a future meeting.

6. Wrap-up and closing

- The next regular call will be in July, time and date TBC.

Summary of action points

ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
4.	Provide event updates to Michelle Tang/Secretariat for the TWG RYE website.	N/A	All
5.	Start brainstorming specific focuses for a webinar (possibly Just Transition and/or G20 RYE)	N/A	ILO, All
6.	Give feedback to Vidya Diwakar on the IDS virtual workshop series.	Last week of June	All

Decent work for youth in the forest sector

Perspectives from the ILO

Waltteri Katajamäki

Sectoral Policies Department

ILO

04 / May / 2023



► Why forest sector?

Forests and the forest sector provide livelihoods, food, shelter and jobs for millions around the world

- At least 33 million jobs; while estimates of people depending on forests range from 350m to close to 2bn
- Forest products important source of foreign exchange in many countries –around 1% of global GDP is from forests
- Forestry is a key sector for a just transition to a carbon- and resource-efficient economy: deforestation is a leading cause for GHG emissions; while sustainable forest management, ecosystem restoration and reforestation are among the key responses to fight climate change.



► Decent work deficits in the forest sector

Despite the sector's potential to promote economic growth and employment, it is facing persistent decent work deficits

- High incidence of informality
- Lack of access to social protection
- Poor and unsafe working conditions
- Safety and health risks
- Obstacles to the rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining



▶ Youth in forestry

- ▶ Many young people do not perceive the sector as attractive: “*dirty, dangerous and difficult*”
- ▶ Ageing workforce in a traditionally male-dominated sector
- ▶ New opportunities in green and circular economy
- ▶ Skills and education limited in many countries
- ▶ Young people lack voice and representation at different levels



ILO's work to promote decent work in forestry

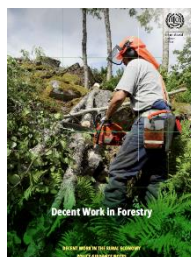
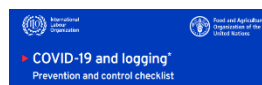
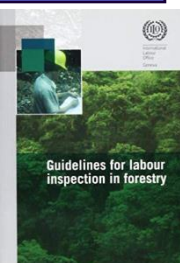
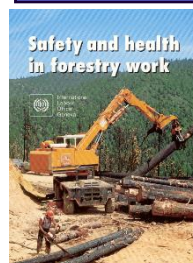
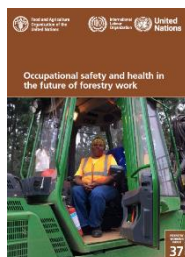
Promoting social dialogue and building consensus

Developing and sharing knowledge

Building constituent capacities

Nurturing partnerships and ensuring policy coherence on decent work

Promoting the ratification of ILS



Thank you!
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ilo.org/forestry