



Minutes SDG2 Roadmap TWG Meeting

Participants

Group Members

- **Ammad Bahalim**, *Gates Foundation*
- **Carin Smaller**, *Shamba Centre*
- **Conrad Rein**, *European Commission*
- **David Laborde**, *FAO*
- **Elisabeth Simelton**, *Sweden*
- **Fabrizio Moscatelli**, *Gates Foundation*
- **Federica de Gaetano**, *Italy*
- **Francine Picard**, *Shamba Centre*
- **Jaron Porciello**, *University of Notre Dame*
- **Jill Guerra**, *Canada*
- **Maarten de Groot**, *Canada*
- **Manon Bellon**, *France*
- **Naomi Sterk**, *The Netherlands*

- **Nikita Eriksen-Hamel**, *Canada*
- **Peter Blouw**, *Canada*
- **Radio Save**, *United Kingdom*
- **Sung Lee**, *United States*

GDPRD Secretariat

- **Maurizio Navarra**
- **Michelle Tang**
- **Alessandro Cordova**
- **Monique Amar**
- **Sierra Berardelli**

Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM	DETAILS
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Ammad Bahalim (Gates Foundation), Sung Lee (USAID)
2.	Hesat2030	Carin Smaller (Shamba Centre), Jaron Porciello (Notre Dame), David Laborde (FAO)
3.	ODA Tracker	Carin Smaller (Shamba Centre)
4.	Leveraging AI for Food Systems	Jill Guerra (Global Affairs Canada)
5.	Wrap-up and Closing	Ammad Bahalim (Gates Foundation), Sung Lee (USAID)

Key Highlights/Issues

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Ammad Bahalim (Gates Foundation) and Sung Lee (United States) welcomed members for the first in-person TWG meeting since the GDPRD Secretariat transferred to IFAD.

2. Hesat2030

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

An update was provided on Hesat2030's governance, achievements and work plan overview for 2023-2030.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- [Hesat2030: a global roadmap to end hunger sustainably, nutritiously, and equitably](#) was officially launched on 25 July 2023 at the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment side event "Achieving sustainable food systems in a time of multiple crises: a new global roadmap".
- Building on the foundations of Ceres2030 and feedback from the [SDG2 Roadmap Working Group meeting in February 2023](#), the main goal of Hesat2030 is to improve the quantity and quality of ODA to agriculture and food security, and achieve better integration of outcomes focused on climate change, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, women's empowerment and social inclusion into donor and international agency policies, programmes, and strategic plans that result from better evidence, advocacy, and scaling-up of cost-effective innovations.
- Several initiatives that followed Ceres2030 recommendations emerged from the UN Food Systems in 2021 and now feed into Hesat2030's core initiatives: the Zero Hunger Coalition, Zero Hunger Private Sector Pledge, Juno Evidence Alliance and Avanzar2030. Affiliates of Hesat2030 include the GDPRD and Shamba Centre's [innovative financing for food systems workstream](#), Vision for Adapted Crops & Soils, the Rural Inclusive Transformation Initiative, FAO's Science–Policy Interfaces for Evidence and Innovation Commission for Climate Change, Food Security and Agriculture. Other strategic initiatives that Ceres2030 informed and Hesat2030 hopes to continue collaboration with include the Global Alliance on Food Security (GAFS), the Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM) initiative, the COP28 Food Systems Working Group and GAIN's Nourishing Food Pathways.
- Hesat2030's steering committee is co-chaired by FAO, the University of Notre Dame and the Shamba Centre for Food and Climate and includes the SDG2 Roadmap Working Group and other core initiatives listed above. Hesat2030 is currently forming a group of senior-level 'Champions' to be announced in the coming weeks, who will provide strategic insights and recommendations.
- Throughout 2023 (and into 2024), Hesat2030 has been used for an AI-assisted donor-project database with Global Affairs Canada, to design and pilot an ODA tracking tool increasingly generated by machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI), collect evidence with the Juno Evidence Alliance, and to continue country and donor deep dives. Throughout 2025 and 2026, new cost modelling exercises will be conducted, including on nutritious sensitive interventions and gender. A report will be developed using high-quality evidence, leveraging some of the modelling approaches already used in FAO, for instance in the SOFI analysis, to serve as a global roadmap on effective interventions and costs to end hunger sustainably, nutritiously and equitably. **[Carin Smaller, David Laborde, Jaron Porciello]**

ACTION POINTS

- *Members of the TWG can contact the Hesat2030 Co-Chairs if interested in cooperating with the project.*
- *The TWG will convene around twice a year to provide guidance and decision-making support to the Hesat2030 project.*

3. ODA Tracker

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

The Hesat2030 team presented the ongoing work of the Agriculture and Food Security ODA Tracker.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- There are vastly different estimates for ODA spent on agriculture and food security and varying definitions (i.e., including or excluding emergency assistance). To develop the Agriculture & Food Security ODA tracker, Hesat2030 has reviewed the existing definitions and measurements of ODA for agriculture and food security, reviewed existing platforms, and engaged with OECD donors and stakeholders.
- The ODA tracker will offer five unique analyses of aid data that are not covered in existing trackers: (1) donor profiles to show overall spending and help identify potential gaps or overconcentration; (2) implications and comparisons of the different definitions of food systems-related spending; (3) text mining to analyse the “missing” ODA not captured by existing DAC and ODA definitions; (4) monitor whether donor spending is increasing, particularly in the high-impact intervention areas and priority countries identified in Ceres2030; and (5) inclusion of non-OECD aid flows where possible (e.g. China and other emerging donors).
- As ODA becomes increasingly interconnected across economic, social and environmental themes, it is difficult to assign single CRS purpose codes to projects, and codes are often assigned differently by development partners, resulting in a large error margin of how codes are tracked.
- The tool is still under development and the name “ODA Tracker” may be changed to other names, such as “ODA Analyser,” as it is not just tracking ODA but analysing the implications of different definitions to see where gaps and overconcentration exist. Throughout 2023, the team will conclude the consultation process and develop a prototype, which will not be publicly available but for donor usage only. **[Carin Smaller, David Laborde, Jaron Porciello].**
- A transparent comparison of CRS purpose codes is useful, but it is important to note that coding can influence decisions across various levels in donor agencies. For example, data can be analysed first at the portfolio level, then inside envelopes of funding (i.e., humanitarian vs. development assistance and layers within them such as nutrition and biodiversity), funding allocation for various programmes, project level decisions, and finally at project implementation. Institutional organizations like OECD-DAC and FAO should drive coherence. **[Canada, France]**

Q&A:

- How does this tool relate to the cost modelling for food systems by IFAD and the World Bank (the “3FS”)? Understanding the differences between Hesat2030’s tool and others for future messaging and ensuring efforts are not duplicated would be useful. **[Gates Foundation, United States]**
 - **Answer:** This tool is not a cost modelling exercise. IFAD and the World Bank are mapping financial flows from domestic sources, external sources and the private sector, rather than estimating funding gaps. IFAD/World Bank only include DAC and CRS codes, whereas this tool will include non-OECD sources, e.g., China. Their tool

targets countries (specifically low- and middle-income countries) while Hesat2030's is donor-focused and global. However, the tools can be complementary. **[Carin Smaller, David Laborde]**

- There is ongoing work at FAO regarding a cost roadmap for the overlay of 1.5 degrees and SDG2. Does this work relate to that? **[Canada]**
 - **Answer:** Ceres2030 had already included climate mitigation outcomes; it focused on how to achieve SDG2 while integrating the NDCs constraint. Hesat2030 will be perfectly integrated in the FAO roadmap effort since they share the same modelling infrastructure. Hesat2030 could be seen as a part of the roadmap efforts, with a zoom-in. Indeed, it focuses on a subset of the world – mainly low-income countries – with stronger food security problems (still large prevalence of caloric hunger), an 'immediate' timeframe (2030) and a focus on the role of external resources (e.g., ODA) needs. The roadmap is looking at the global challenges, including for high-income and upper-middle-income countries with a 2050 timeframe. **[Carin Smaller, David Laborde]**

Q&A to Members through Mentimeter:

- Are you already using an online ODA tracker?
 - **Answer:** Yes (5), No (1).
- Please indicate the tracker(s) you have already used?
 - **Answer:** OECD-DAC (5), IATI (3), G7 report, EU report, Elmau report, Donor tracker, SEEKOECD, DAC CRS function, GAFS.
- Availability of ODA data (0 is strongly disagree, 10 is strongly agree):
 - **Answer:** Available international ODA data are easy to use (6.3), DAC codes are useful for guiding decision making (3.6), I have used international ODA data to increase the quantity of ODA allocated to Food Security and Nutrition (3.1), I have used international ODA data to increase the quality of ODA allocated to Food Security and Nutrition (0.9).
- Would it be useful for the tracker to show you where there are gaps in donor spending?
 - **Answer:** Yes (7), No (1).
- Would it be useful to have a tracker that would help you make proposals on future ODA priorities?
 - **Answer:** Yes (5), No (2).
- Do you like the idea of a tool that makes the different definitions transparent?
 - **Answer:** Yes (7), No (0).
- Evidence and decision making (0 is strongly disagree, 10 is strongly agree):
 - **Answer:** I believe it's possible to convince my leadership to take decisions based on evidence rather than politics (4.6). I believe it's possible to convince my parliament to take decisions based on evidence rather than politics (3.1).

ACTION POINT

- *Hesat2030 Co-Chairs to develop talking points on the differences between efforts, similar to the brief published with IFPRI in the past.*

4. Leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Food Systems

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

A presentation was made to showcase an AI-assisted donor-project database with Global Affairs Canada (GAC), to grasp whether the TWG is interested in further exploring conversations on AI.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- AI is increasingly being discussed and used, including in development and food systems spaces. For instance, data science and machine learning (AI methods) were employed in Ceres2030 to (1) increase data diversity, (2) access more diverse scientists, (3) accelerate data analysing speed, and (4) identify trends in the dataset. The model used in Ceres2030 was specifically designed for rapid analysis of agri-food systems data and will now be employed further in Hesat2030.
- Current applications of the model are analysing project data from various organisations, and show that despite funding priorities, projects are not being designed to support their targets (i.e., climate and women's empowerment). Thus, machine learning and AI can help identify these areas that are meant to be targeted but have yet to be. **[Jaron Porciello]**
- It is a priority for Canada to deliver an effective, evidence-based response to the food crisis, particularly since committing to the Zero Hunger Coalition. However, it was previously not possible for GAC to properly analyse project data in order to understand the highest impact and lowest cost interventions within Canada's portfolio. Therefore, this collaboration between GAC and Notre-Dame was to better understand Canada's high-impact interventions, improve development assistance and accelerate progress on the SDGs.
- This process included four stages: (1) data collection, (2) aggregation and merging, (3) enriching dataset with AI predictions, and (4) data visualization. The labelling of project descriptions to calibrate the model was done by humans and took extensive amounts of time, but was ultimately an investment in the model. The dashboard resultant of the data modelling now shows Canada's development projects, searchable by outcome, intervention, country, etc., in visually understandable graphics.
- Within GAC, next steps for the project include labelling refinement, improving project data and storage, and then using this tool to support better project decision-making. Along with other actors (e.g., other donors), this work could be improved with agreed typologies, better alignment of international frameworks, and the scaling up of AI model use in agri-food systems. The model learns more with each use, so further uptake is encouraged to improve its functionality. **[Canada]**

Q&A:

- Can the model that was used for GAC be used in other countries? **[France]**
 - **Answer:** Yes, the model can essentially be replicated in a new download, without sharing GAC's confidential data.
- How many documents from Canada were absorbed by this model? **[Maurizio Navarra]**
 - **Answer:** Approximately 300, but not all could be used (e.g., because they were in languages other than English). More data input is needed to improve the Canada model.

ACTION POINTS

- *Members agreed that AI could be a new focus for the group. The item will be tabled at the GDPRD Senior Managers Meeting in October, pending agreement by the GDPRD Board.*
- *Connect technical colleagues with Jaron (jaron.porciello@nd.edu) to provide expertise or further discuss AI modelling.*

5. Wrap-up and Closing

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

The group discussed possible coordination opportunities and next meetings.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The [Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit](#) dates and location should be released soon, and the US would appreciate coordinating with other donors before the Summit. **[United States]**
- The US is working on the G7 financial reporting; it would be helpful to collaborate with other donors to discuss and agree on definitions and coding. **[United States]**

ACTION POINTS

- *The next SDG2 Roadmap TWG meeting will be in October, alongside the AGA.*
- *The next group meeting will have an agenda item on soil health and fertilizer.*