



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

MINUTES WORKSHOP OF THE SDG2 ROADMAP TWG

DATE: 14 – 15 FEBRUARY 2022

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AGENDA

Issue	Item	Details
DAY 1		
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Maurizio Navarra/GDPRD Ammad Bahalim and David Hegwood/Co-chairs/Gates Foundation/USAID
2.	Presentation	David Laborde/IFPRI Jaron Porciello/Cornell University Carin Smaller/IISD
3.	Q&A Session	ALL
4.	Round table discussion	ALL
DAY 2		
5.	Welcome and Introduction	Maurizio Navarra/GDPRD
6.	Presentation	David Laborde/IFPRI Jaron Porciello/Cornell University Carin Smaller/IISD
7.	Questions and Reflections	ALL
8.	Summary and proposed next steps	Ammad Bahalim/Co-chair Maurizio Navarra/GDPRD

KEY HIGHLIGHTS/ISSUES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

A virtual workshop on “Stocktaking and brainstorming on future actions and initiatives of CERES 2030 - Sustainable solutions to end hunger” was organized by the SDG2 Roadmap Working Group on 14-15 February 2022, to discuss of the future of the Ceres2030 initiative, in the context of the SDGs, their implementation, current development trends, in following up to the outcomes of the 2021 Food Systems Summit.

DAY 1

[Maurizio Navarra]

- Introduced the history of CERES 2030; the initiative was launched in December 2018 as a core partnership between Cornell University, the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The project was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Germany.
- A group of donor organizations were involved in the report. Such group later became the “SDG2 Roadmap” Working Group
 - A number of other activities became foundational for the SDG2 Roadmap Working Group, such as the 50x2030 initiative, as well as some work on the SDG indicator 2.3 and discussions on private sector cooperation, led by Australia and the Netherlands. Ceres2030 became a standing agenda item in all Group meetings.
- Ceres2030’s flagship report was launched in October 2020, with the title ‘Sustainable Solutions to End Hunger’. The report contained a simple yet powerful message: to achieve SDG2, an additional U\$14 billion per year of donor funding until 2030 needs to be mobilized, generating in turn financing from the private sector and partner countries.
- The report was launched in the midst of the pandemic and in the lead-up to the UN Food Systems Summit. Related initiatives have been launched since then.
- As an input to the Summit process, the Donor Platform released two products on food systems: the Stocktaking Report on “Donor Contributions to food systems”, which summarizes aid flows of donor financing to food systems, and the upcoming White Paper on Donor Coordination, which identifies donor focus areas from a policy perspective. In 2022, the Platform will examine financing and country-level coordination in the context of food systems.
- The purpose of the workshop is to examine the following questions:
 - What did the report achieve? What was it useful for?
 - Where do we want to take it now? Where do you want to go with this type of work?

[Ammad Bahalim and David Hegwood, SDG2 Roadmap WG Chairs]

- This workshop is a direct consequence of an SDG2 Roadmap Working Group meeting held in October 2021. The group agreed to come together to take stock of where the Ceres2030 work has landed, how it can be advanced, and if alignment can be generated at a strategic higher level for donors.
- This meeting will continue as a work stream for the SDG2 roadmap working group for the next 1-2 years.

2. PRESENTATION

Carin Smaller, David Laborde and Jaron Porciello on Impacts and Achievements of Ceres2030

[Carin Smaller]

- The report was released immediately before the preparatory process for the **Food Systems Summit**, and became an important input to the Summit process. The group worked closely with the Summit Scientific group. There was significant uptake of Ceres2030 recommendations in the Action Tracks, the Zero Hunger Coalition, the Zero Hunger Private Sector Pledge, and for the SDG2 Advocacy Hub’s [new Consensus on Smallholders](#).

- Achievements of the report:
 - The launching event of the report was high-level, ensuring buy-in from the donor organizations. The event was hosted by Minister Muller of Germany and the Gates Foundation, and the event was attended by Bill Gates and Magdalena Skipper, the Editor in Chief of Nature.
 - 86 researchers collaborated on the collection, mainly female, many being young and from the Global South.
 - The report built an evidence-based roadmap for the longer-term investments needed to achieve SDG2.
 - The Report has been used to make the case for more financial commitments. From the Zero Hunger Private Sector Pledge, there are now 43 companies that have pledged to invest \$460 million in 47 countries.
- The **Covid-19 pandemic** has led to an increase in short-term responses and a trend towards emergency food assistance. The report, which was produced during the pandemic, integrated a short-term response to the Covid-19 related hunger crisis without neglecting the ultimate goal of longer-term investments in agriculture and food security.
- A study by the Ceres group to recognize gaps in ODA has applied the roadmap to country-cases for Ethiopia, Malawi and Nigeria.
- The report calls for a doubling of ODA to agriculture and food security, which has not been achieved.
- Ceres2030 presents an evidence-based roadmap, but there is still no mechanism or institutional architecture that allows donor and recipient countries to monitor progress and respond to gaps and weaknesses based on this roadmap. No standardized methods for synthesizing evidence have been established in the agricultural development field, like they have in the health sector.

[David Laborde]

- Presented the current and future applications for the tools used and developed in the Ceres2030 project.
- The tools can be used to better monitor, understand and track ODA flows, and extend the framework to integrate nutrition and climate.
- Ceres2030 created a model with a macroeconomic baseline for undernourishment and poverty, to assess country-level needs and understand how agri-food system actors will develop between now and 2030. A consistent framework integrating undernourishment and poverty was novel, and has now been adopted by the SOFI report.
 - In cooperation with GIZ, Germany and the European Commission, the model has been applied in certain countries, adding the additional dimensions of diets and nutrition to the original framework, which focused primarily on hunger.
- A diagnostic tool was developed to compare donor spending with the Ceres2030 recommendations. The tool can track flows based on the type of support, the topic, and the domain. The tool revealed that many countries have increased food security spending in the last few years, but mainly for emergency food assistance, and not long-term development.
 - A potential application for the tool is to develop a more consistent spending strategy, to ensure that funding is addressing the root causes of hunger. No donor can do everything, so complementarity must be encouraged through a consistent funding framework.

[Jaron Porciello]

- Ceres2030 was special because it combined elements of artificial intelligence and evidence synthesis, and advocated for structural change within the sciences.
- The project created an artificial intelligence model with the capacity to extract information from the data on cases and interventions. The technology had three primary purposes:
 - Accelerating the overall process of data gathering and analysis
 - Reducing the project's administrative costs

- Helping to identify high-level gaps in areas such as gender, which became the focus of the [Nature editorial on ending hunger](#).
- Two promising future directions to benefit donors are:
 - (1) to continue working with donors and bilaterals to conduct analysis of their own portfolios.
 - By cooperating with IFAD and USAID's Impact and Analytics Division, the technology has already been used for internal stocktaking, to assess alignment of internal reports with strategic frameworks.
 - (2) to develop an annually updated agricultural intervention handbook.
- The group is working with the publishing community to promote evidence synthesis standards and identify ways to reduce structural barriers for non-breakthrough science.
 - This rewards and recognizes impact-oriented researchers, especially those from low- and middle- income countries.
 - A feasibility study is being conducted using artificial intelligence to assess content gaps for publishers across all SDGs.
 - A series of stakeholder interviews are taking place to identify gaps in evidence, coordination, production and dissemination processes.
- Next steps include:
 - Working with Nature to continue publishing collections with broader and less restrictive criteria, to include more impact related work. The aim is to encourage more interdisciplinary research.
 - Agriculture and food systems are research areas that lack evidence standardization tools, which limits the opportunities for coordination and interdisciplinarity. A global agriculture evidence network could create guidelines and standards to build better tools for research in this field.

3. Q&A SESSION

[European Commission]

- What does it mean that agriculture and food, unlike health, do not have standardised ways of synthesising an evidence base?

[Jaron Porciello]

- Methods for conducting evidence synthesis are based primarily on clinical trials, which puts food systems research at a slight disadvantage, because clinical trials are not possible for agriculture. Drawing coherent guidelines can benefit agricultural research, and allow for better agricultural evidence synthesis.

[United Kingdom]

- The presentation pointed to how the DAC guidelines for the Rio Conventions and nutrition are stronger than those for food security. What is in the Rio guidelines and the nutrition field that needs to be applied to the food security guidelines?
- For the deep dives in Ethiopia, Malawi and Nigeria, was it those governments that initiated the studies and invited the Ceres group to work on nutrition and climate change integration?

[Carin Smaller]

- There are several issues for the DAC data. For food security, interventions are not limited to agriculture; there must be assessments of how climate spending interacts with food security spending. Agreement and clear definitions are necessary to avoid free interpretation of DAC food security terms.
- The country selection came from a discussion with GIZ on developing a framework extension on country-cases. The countries had some interest, but the demand did not come explicitly from their governments.
 - The three countries are at different stages in their food systems transformation processes, which sheds light on stage-specific challenges. They face a similar lack of connections between climate action, nutrition and food systems.

[Italy]

- requested a clarification on the link between nutrition and food security, concerning healthy diets and the importance of food safety.

[David Laborde]

- Ceres2030 focused on undernourishment based on calories. It is challenging to assess nutrition as there are many underlying technical issues. The report is a global, large-scale analysis, but data is at household level. Further, there are a number of resource quantification issues, because some nutritional challenges are not even within the household, but at the individual level. Therefore, Ceres2030 did not include nutrition, but this will hopefully be possible in five years.

4. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

[Maurizio Navarra]

- Presented the questions for the round table discussion:
 1. What more can be done in 2022 to adopt the Ceres2030 recommendations?
 2. Where do donors want to go with this type of SDG2 work?
 3. What are possible use cases for the future?

[Gates Foundation]

- The ODA analysis is useful, but more evidence and tools are needed in agricultural development, such as the ones in public health and medicine. For greater adoption of Ceres2030, more analytical tools are needed.
- SDG2 is a useful guide and goal for this work, but more holistic work is necessary to integrate the other areas (e.g., climate change, food systems, nutrition).
- Climate change should be more prominent. It is already negatively affecting small scale producers, particularly in Africa, and will only worsen. Repositioning Ceres2030 in climate adaptation and mitigation is critical, especially at COP27 which can highlight African needs as it will take place in Egypt with African leadership.

[Germany]

- Currently, Germany is President of the G7 and so extensive dialogues with donors have taken place on international aid, but there is more attention and funding for COVID-19 recovery, compared to food systems. From conversations with relevant donors, it seems likely that there will be no additional monetary commitments to food systems aid.
- There should be more push for political (rather than monetary) commitments.
- Agreed on the need for more private sector involvement, and to push the Zero Hunger Coalition.
- Made a call for patience in terms of CERES2030 uptake.

[European Commission]

- Agreed on the importance of the Zero Hunger Coalition and private sector pledge, particularly to advance the analytical results of CERES2030.
- Suggestion of enlisting either IFAD or FAO to act as the link between the analytical side and the practical actions needed to address the CERES recommendations.

[France]

- More focus is needed on tradeoffs and synergies, such as with nutrition, health, and climate change.
- There should be political coherence in the national pathways and between donors.
- Agreed on the importance of the Zero Hunger Coalition and private sector pledge.

[Canada]

- Food security by itself is not a priority for Canadian development work; in high level policies and developmental mandates, gender equality and climate change are the focus.

- The UNFSS and the emerging food crisis made it possible for the Canadian ministries to speak about food systems and food security, but without these processes, the momentum will be lost.
- Since Canada has no funds to allocate directly to food security, creating a link between climate change and agriculture (e.g., through COP27) will be necessary for Canada to support this work.
- Canada is liaising with the Ceres group to apply the AI tool to their internal portfolio. Collaboration was suggested for any other interested donors.

[Italy]

- Italy has taken recommendations from CERES2030 as input into their rural development and food security guidelines, which are currently being finalized.
- Emphasised the value of the analytical aspect but agreed that there should be more political commitments to the CERES recommendations.
- Italy strongly values a monitoring analysis and increased coordination among donors.

[Norway]

- The new Norwegian government strongly supports SDG2, and will increase funding for food security and climate change adaptation. SDG2 is viewed as the foundation for all other SDGs, particularly poverty reduction and climate change.
- Agreed on the critical need for private sector investment, which can grow both local and global markets.
- Suggested more involvement from recipient countries on project possibilities, and highlighted the need for global scale donor coordination.

[Switzerland]

- SDG2 will remain a priority, and funds are being committed to this goal.
- It is critical to look at SDG2 in a systemic context with other progress goals. While the achievement of SDG2 would have positive effects in some areas, it might also negatively impact issues such as water resources. The tradeoffs and balances must be examined carefully, rather than looking at agriculture or food security in isolation.
- SDG2 should be inserted in other conversations, such as at COP27.

[Netherlands]

- It is too early to tell what the new Dutch ministry will focus on. However, it is expected that the new government will try to facilitate links between development cooperation, foreign trade, and foreign investments.
- While food security will remain a priority, it is unlikely that additional funds will be allocated directly. However, additional funds will be put toward climate change in global adaptation and the links between climate change, agriculture and water can be emphasised. The goal is to build policies, programmes, and a portfolio for climate change that has input from CERES2030 and leads toward COP27.
- Agreed on significance of private sector involvement.
- Optimistic about the impact of better donor coordination to achieve SDG2.

[United Kingdom]

- CERES2030 has been a useful evidence base within the UK ministries.
- The intersections between aid, trade, and climate change are critical.
- The funding for food and agriculture in the UK will likely rest on a resilience and adaptation backdrop. Therefore, building economic arguments for adaptation in agriculture is key for uptake.
- Common SDG2 indicators would be useful, and could be aggregated from existing materials.
- Suggestion of collaboration with the national pathways work from the Food Systems Summit Coordination Hub.
- Question of whether it is possible to link the private sector pledge and the G7 Sustainable Supply Chains Initiative.

[USAID]

- All donors have different priorities and budgets so SDG2 is a good opportunity to work together with a common reference point. A set of common SDG2 indicators for donor priorities could be helpful. The GDPRD White Paper is also relevant for this.
- These conversations should not solely be among donors. Local stakeholders and national governments must be involved.
- Agreed that SDG2 is necessary for the achievement of all other SDGs.

[Carin Smaller, Jaron Porciello and David Laborde]

- Thanked participants for their feedback and reflection.
- Briefly summarised the event and recalled the repeated mentions of the Zero Hunger Coalition and Private Sector Pledge, and SDG2 linkages with climate change, nutrition, and gender equality.
- A more thorough summary will be articulated during Day 2 of the workshop.

DAY 2

5. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

[Maurizio Navarra]

- The Ceres2030 report provided clear guidance on which interventions donors should prioritise and where funds are most effective. Although the recommendations have not all been implemented, there is still time and room for uptake.
- The main points from Day 1 of the workshop are as follows:
 1. SDG2 by itself may be too narrow, and must be linked with other development priorities such as climate change, nutrition, and gender.
 2. There are not extensive funds for agriculture and rural development. Therefore, to mobilise additional resources, this work must be linked with other SDGs.
 3. The technical work of Ceres2030 must move toward political commitments and advocacy, particularly through the national pathway tracks.
 4. The synergies and tradeoffs between other development issues (e.g., climate, gender) must be assessed and integrated.
 5. The emerging intersections between aid and trade must be taken into account.
 6. Although donors have different priorities and strategies, coordination among donors is critical. Broadening the conversation beyond donors was also suggested.

[Ammad Bahalim]

- The workshop provided an update on how the report has been used, and now requires a collaborative discussion on how it can be taken forward.
- One idea for uptake from the Gates Foundation is a grant development process.

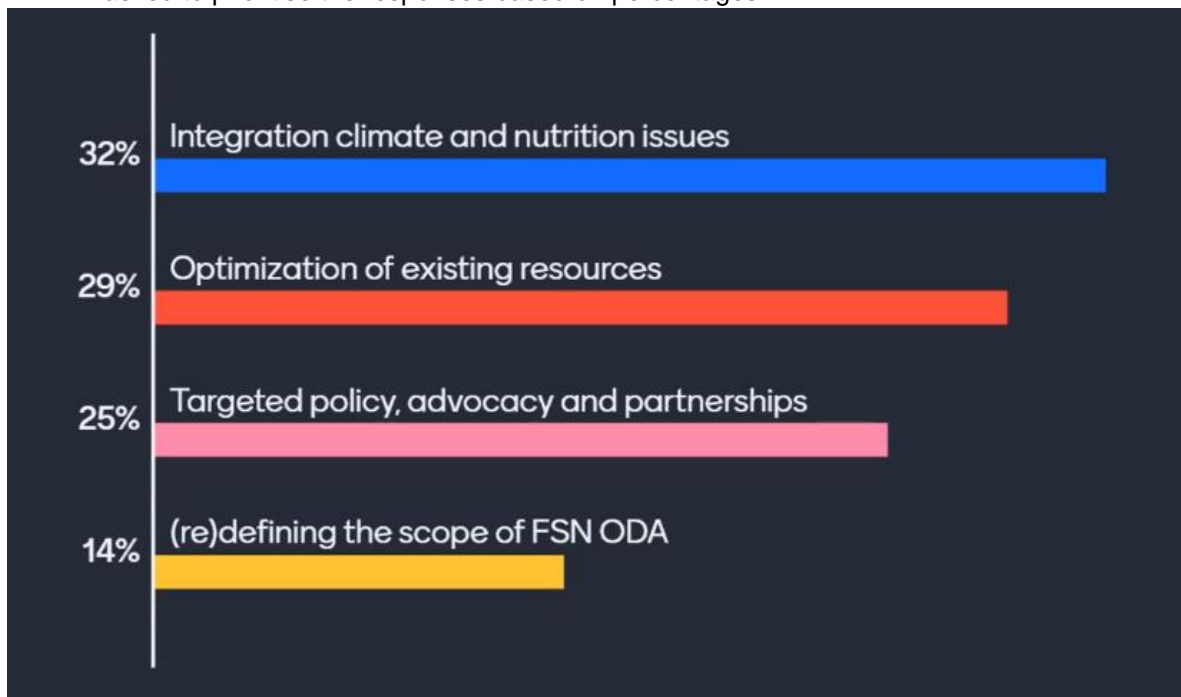
6. PRESENTATION

[Carin Smaller]

- Conducted a Mentimeter (an online polling system) with all participants
- The first question for the mentimeter is based on messages from Day 1 of the workshop. Participants are asked to assess their agreement with the three simplified messages, from a scale of 1-10.



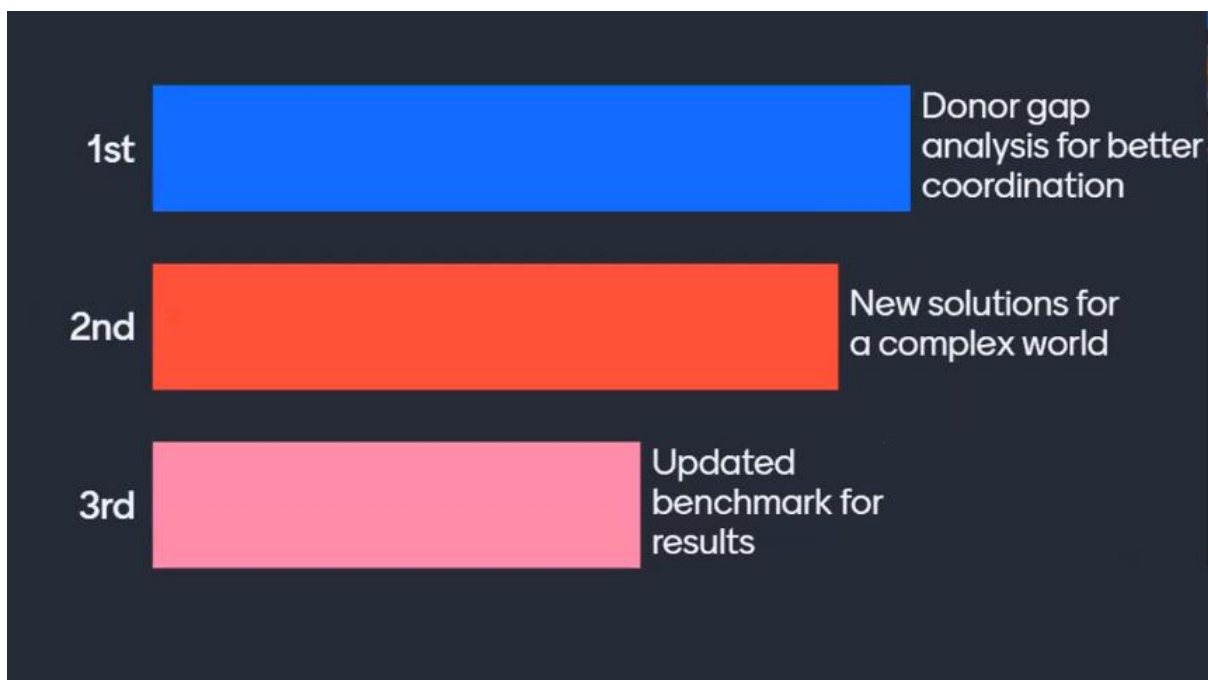
- One of the main messages from Day 1 was that a shift from technical work to policy and advocacy work is necessary for the uptake of Ceres2030.
- Therefore, the second question examines a strategic reaction to the first question, asking for a realistic policy response. The messages are clustered into four ideas, and participants are asked to prioritise the responses based on percentages.



Moving from the policy responses or strategic response areas, the third question focuses on an action plan to address the strategic issues. The team has suggested 7 action plans:

1. Blue-sky innovation and technologies
2. Deep dive project analysis
3. ODA monitoring
4. Quantifying ODA needs and priorities
5. New evidence reviews and modelling on new issues
6. Zero Hunger Coalition and Private Sector Pledge
7. New avenues for publication

- Participants were asked to score the seven activities on two criteria: (1) how useful the action area would be; and (2) how willing are you to pay for this kind of work.
- For the last poll, participants were asked to rank the outputs based on importance.



7. QUESTIONS AND REFLECTION

[Maurizio Navarra]

- To guide the discussion, there are two main questions:
 1. Does this look like a good agenda moving forward?
 2. Is anything missing in this agenda?

[USAID]

- Perhaps the discussions around SDG2 are not aligned with the work itself, because most work already integrates nutrition and climate change.
- Question about how to use this analysis to guide the working group forward.

[Gates Foundation]

- The poll was extremely helpful to understand colleagues' directions with this work.
- Question about developing a proposed timeline since the work is becoming more focused on climate change, which often has longer term goals and checkpoints.
- Question for participants on how climate work is evolving in their institutions, and how this might inform the future directions of Ceres2030.

[Germany]

- Regarding the issue of climate integration and the narrow goal of SDG2, perhaps the problem is just the framing. A greater focus on trade-offs between climate change policy and hunger policy could be useful to connect the two agendas.

[United Kingdom]

- Nutrition has been better integrated into the food security agenda compared to climate, despite the sustainable agriculture commitments made at COP26.
 - Only 3% of UK climate finance flows through agriculture.
- A recent agri-business report showed that investors want to increase climate-smart investments, but do not know how and where. It would be valuable to fill the evidence gap on where public-private partnerships are delivering environmental and livelihood benefits.

[Canada]

- It is critical to integrate climate change into SDG 2 discussions, but also to integrate SDG2 discussion into other spaces.
 - Part of Canada's climate finance programme goes toward climate-smart agriculture and food systems.

[European Commission]

- SDG2 is too narrow and siloed to face the interconnected and increasing challenges of climate change, poverty and water access.
- These reflections will be useful in the G7 Food Security Working Group and G20 discussions.

[France]

- Biodiversity challenges and soil degradation should be integrated in food system discussions, not just climate.

[Italy]

- The agenda is well developed, but missing a point on competencies, education, and technology in the strategic responses that link climate and nutritional issues.

[Norway]

- Agriculture and food security governance should be strengthened in public institutions and regulations to facilitate progress on the food security agenda.
- Norway will triple its climate adaptation and mitigation funding, so the climate perspective must be integrated in food systems work.
- Gender equality and access and ownership to land must be included in the food systems agenda, and is particularly relevant to food production.

[Switzerland]

- Innovative solutions can be achieved through collaboration and data sharing.
- Understanding the complexity of food systems is central to achieving SDG2 and incorporating aspects of climate change, water resources, planetary boundaries and other climate issues. Modelling needs to include all the SDGs to understand how competing interests for natural resources affect SDG2.
- Gearing the Ceres2030 work towards a SDG2+, integrating other important aspects, would be a major contribution.

[GIZ]

- GIZ has been in contact with Ceres to expand the study and elaborate on a food system, climate and nutrition nexus. It is critical to understand emerging tradeoffs and synergies such as food prices and gender transformative approaches.

[Gates Foundation]

- There is increasing demand to reach multiple objectives with the same set of resources.
 - There has not been enough focus on complementary tasks, such as agricultural interventions which can positively impact nutrition outcomes.
- The siloed agendas of nutrition and food security should be merged.

[Maurizio Navarra]

- The overarching questions from today are how to converge the food system and climate change agendas, and how to incorporate climate change into Ceres work.

[Germany]

- Project deadlines are needed to create momentum and are central for political functions. If needed, more leeway should only be given at the last stages.

8. SUMMARY AND PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

[Gates Foundation]

- The discussion today has been excellent. This group has always been a transparent place to openly share thoughts and reflections and agree on actions.
- The Ceres framework allows for reflection on tradeoffs and the opportunity to optimise multiple agendas simultaneously. Though SDG2 may be too narrow, it is critical to remember that SDG2 means ending hunger by 2030, which is not a small task, but a profoundly ambitious goal.
- If a second round of Ceres is proposed for a different or more complex set of goals, there must be assurance of a politically relevant outcome.
- Ceres colleagues are requested to produce a 3-5 page summary of today's discussion and offer options for the group. The GDPRD will then reconvene all parties for a group meeting.

[Jaron Porciello]

- Today's discussions are similar to the ones in the scientific community about the integration of climate, gender, social equity, resilience and risk in food security, but there is no simple answer.
- Although researchers may be trained and work in an interdisciplinary fashion, they may not have the tools to incorporate multiple dimensions. It is good that this group is committed to interdisciplinary work.
- The Ceres team will come back to the group with a concept note.

[David Laborde]

- It will be difficult to solve problems solely through policy, without expanding financial resources.

[Carin Smaller]

- This agenda and discussion are not restricted to the Ceres2030 team. There is a Food Systems Coordination Hub at FAO, which can take forward the outcomes of the Summit, where Ceres 2030 recommendations were reflected.
- This agenda should be owned by the SDG2 working group. Moving from evidence to donor coordination and action is beyond the scope of researchers, so this working group on SDG2 Roadmap is an appropriate starting point.

[Maurizio Navarra]

- All participants will be added to the mailing list of the SDG 2 Roadmap Working Group. Please express if you do not want to be on the list and you will be removed.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Agenda item/Issue	Action	Timeline	Responsible Person(s)
8	Develop a concept note with summary of workshop messages and proposed next steps	TBD	Jaron Porciello/Cornell University Carin Smaller/IISD
8	Reconvene all parties for follow-up meeting	TBD	GDPRD Secretariat