



# Minutes TWG RYE Meeting

## Participants

### Group Members

- **Theresa Herbold**, *BMZ*
- **Yessie Meyer**, *Enabel*
- **Anna Befus**, *FAO*
- **Victor Mugo**, *FAO*
- **Audrey Réseau**, *FAR*
- **Kristin Muthui**, *Foresight4Food*
- **Jim Woodhill**, *Foresight4Food*
- **Frank Bertelmann**, *GIZ*
- **Sven Braulik**, *GIZ*
- **Mollie Brennan**, *IFAD*
- **Elisenda Estruch-Puertas**, *ILO (Co-Chair)*
- **Ji-Yeun Rim**, *OECD/DEV (Co-Chair)*
- **Cyriaque Hakizimana**, *PLAAS*
- **Jane Lowicki-Zucca**, *USAID/RFS*

### GDPRD Secretariat

- **Alessandro Cordova**
- **Monique Amar**
- **Sierra Berardelli**

## Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM (DAY ONE)	DETAILS
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Elisenda Estruch-Puertas (ILO)
2.	The Future of Youth in Africa's Agrifood Systems	Jim Woodhill (Foresight4Food)
3.	Updates from the Secretariat	GDPRD Secretariat
4.	Work Plan 2024	Elisenda Estruch-Puertas (ILO)
5.	Tour de Table	All
6.	Wrap-up and closing	Elisenda Estruch-Puertas (ILO)

# Key Highlights/Issues

## 1. Welcome and introduction

- The Co-Chairs welcomed the first TWG RYE meeting of 2024, with Ji-Yeun Rim (OECD) as the Co-Chair for 2024-2026.

## 2. The Future of Youth in Africa's Agrifood Systems

### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

A presentation by Jim Woodhill and Kristin Muthui (Foresight4Food), on the recent study [Foresight for the Future of Youth in Africa's Agri-food Systems - Foresight4Food](#).

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- This work is a collaboration between Foresight4Food, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and AGRA, with support from the Mastercard Foundation. The goal of this work is to demonstrate how foresight scenarios and analysis can inform thinking around the future of youth employment in African agri-food systems.
- The process, which took place throughout 2023, included:
  - A literature review and data analysis of African agri-food systems, which then formed a substantial [discussion paper](#);
  - A foresight workshop in June, that brought together 45 youth representatives from across Africa and 12 agri-food system experts to work on future scenario development;
  - A presentation of the scenario outcomes at the AGRF conference in September, by the youth representatives who developed them at the workshop;
  - A training session in November, to teach youth the facilitation skills needed to undertake foresight and scenario development and stakeholder processes, with specific trainings for different types of work in agri-food systems.
- The [foresight workshop](#) illustrated the value of bringing youth together to help craft the understanding, vision, and commitment needed to shift Africa's agri-food systems. Participants were particularly enthusiastic about meeting other youth from across the continent, and the hands-on approach of scenario development and facilitation tools.
- Donors may consider supporting these types of process-driven initiatives to transform food systems, which can complement more concrete and tangible investments.

### Q&A:

- Were the participants more interested in developing the food industries within their countries, or towards export-oriented products for the global food chain?
  - It was approximately half and half, with extensive conversation about the longer-term dynamics of both local and global food supply chains. There was also interest in the topic of building and strengthening regional and continental markets, and indigenous foods.
- What are the main takeaways for policymakers and donors?
  - For donors, it would not take huge investments to support these types of youth-driven processes, which are extremely valuable for long-term change.
- Is the data from this project publicly available?
  - Yes. The [report](#), [discussion paper](#), and [data collected](#) are all available.
- What evidence and data were used to assess benefits and delivery of better jobs?

- Data on youth employment is quite fragmented, particularly in the agriculture and informal sectors. However, projections of trends into the future were still possible.
- What are the next steps in this project?
  - These two workshops were part of the larger Foresight4Food initiative, which is global. There are other projects ongoing that are not necessarily related to youth, but more generally on future scenarios and foresight applied to agri-food systems.

### 3. Updates from the Secretariat

#### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*The GDPRD Secretariat provided updates on ongoing workstreams and upcoming events.*

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The Platform held the first 2024 Board meeting on 6 February, with new Co-Chairs Iris Krebber (FCDO) and Bruce Campbell (SDC) chairing for the first time. A key priority of the two-year chairmanship will be to support the thematic working groups.
- In 2024, the Platform will continue focusing on the [donor coordination](#) and [sustainable and innovative finance](#) workstreams, through:
  - **Coordination gatherings ahead of global events** to allow Board members to share their initiatives informally, find convergence among positions, and ultimately help official delegations shape thinking around food systems and rural development. The pilot gathering will be held in March, to discuss the G7 under the Italian Presidency. The gatherings will be limited to Board members agencies, with potential expansion to the wider GDPRD Membership in the future.
  - Creation of a **new thematic working group on sustainable finance**. A concept note has been circulated to a group of stakeholders and has received a positive response. An initial meeting of all interested members is being organized, to discuss the working group's strategic orientation, develop and endorse the terms of reference, appoint two Co-Chairs, and identify initial activities to feed into the group's first annual Work Plan.
  - The two workstreams' activities will feed into the **2024 Annual General Assembly (AGA)**, under the proposed theme "*Financing Food Systems Transformation and Rural Revitalization – Opportunities and Challenges*". The date and title are TBD. The TWG RYE is invited to hold a session as per usual.
- The [2023 Annual General Assembly Report](#) has now been released. TWG RYE members are encouraged to share recent events and publications with Michelle Tang/the Secretariat, to be included in the [TWG RYE Knowledge Hub](#).

#### Q&A:

- It would be of added value for the TWG RYE to have informal exchanges prior to key events to find points of convergence and better coordinate. The TWG could develop a one-page document or a short list of bullet points bringing a rural youth lens on hunger and food security issues, that could be brought to the GDPRD Board for consideration in these gatherings.
  - The TWG's contribution to the [CFS Youth Policy Recommendations](#) was a success, and there is value in contributing to similar processes, but the events should be targeted to ensure feasibility and value added, and there must be ample time to prepare.
- Is there a final list of key international events for these coordination gatherings? The TWG RYE could build off this list to align with the GDPRD Board and include RYE-related events.

- The proposed list of events for 2024 include the G7 Leaders' Summit, the G20 Summit, the UNFCCC COP29 and the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit. Only the pilot meeting regarding the G7 has been scheduled, and the Board will collectively decide on which events are most relevant to target.

## 4. Work Plan 2024

### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*A review and finalization of the TWG's Work Plan for 2024.*

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The TWG Work Plan contains five outcome areas: (1) improved alignment with and linking to international policy processes, initiatives and platforms; (2) increased strategic coherence and coordination among donors, development agencies, and national and local institutions; (3) evaluation and co-creation of innovative approaches, identifying how donors can boost decent rural youth employment across their operations; (4) strategic engagement with and empowerment of rural youth and youth organizations; and (5) joint engagement and collaboration with other stakeholders, such as the private sector, services providers and agripreneur organizations.
- Concrete outputs of the Work Plan are to hold at least four regular meetings of the group with in-depth inputs, contribute to the GDPRD workstreams, hold a session at the 2024 AGA and, organize at least one webinar, increase and maintain the TWG membership, and continuously expand the RYE knowledge hub.

### Q&A:

- It is difficult to determine how the TWG could follow-up on the CFS policy recommendations and the UN Food Systems Summit/+2 Stocktaking Moment since member states and respective Secretariats are responsible for implementation. However, the TWG RYE could bring this work forward, engaging the Coordination Hub and the Decent Work for Equitable Food Systems Coalition.
- Would colleagues be interested in organizing a joint youth conference to bring together youth groups from different countries to increase their outreach and allow them to learn from one another?
  - It would be effective to map existing fora and build on them or identify where gaps need to be filled. For example, UNESCO holds a biannual [Youth Forum](#). OECD held a [youth week](#) in 2021.
  - The World Food Forum (WFF), a [key youth-led food systems event](#), will be held on 14-18 October 2024 at FAO Headquarters in Rome. There was extensive participation last year (6000 in-person and 40,000 online attendees). The WFF could be considered for this, as it is currently working on localizing the movement, with 12 chapters in different countries.

## 5. Tour de Table

### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*Members gave short updates on their current work.*

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The Decent Work Coalition has been renamed the "[Decent Work for Equitable Food Systems Coalition](#)".

- FAO has received a project to support the uptake of 7 CFS policy products. It is a small project and only one activity may be youth related, but the specific activities are still being defined.
- The TWG will organize a webinar on agri-food jobs for youth in Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia, which will likely be held on the week of 25 March 2024. OECD colleagues will present at this webinar, and other members with experience in this area are encouraged to participate. A Save the Date and concept note will be circulated to the TWG.
- The OECD will hold a webinar on 11 March on the labour effects of the green transition in Southeast Asia. Members can contact Ji-Yeun Rim for more information.
- ILO is organizing with ITC an online training session on jobs and skills for youth in rural areas, to be held in October, date tbc.
- GIZ published the first paper of the how-to series on rural youth employment, [How To... Promote Gender Transformative Approaches Within Rural Youth Employment Programmes](#), which focuses on how to promote gender-transformative approaches within rural youth employment.
- The Malabo Montpellier Panel held a youth-focused [event](#) on 14 February, titled “YOUTH AHEAD: Policy Innovations to Create Opportunities for Young People in Africa’s Agrifood Systems.” The [report](#) on this topic is now available.

## 6. Wrap-up and closing

- The next regular call will be in May or June, date TBD.

# Summary of action points

ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
1.	Contact the Co-Chairs or Secretariat if interested in being a presenter or discussant in the upcoming webinar.	ASAP	All
2.	Share upcoming events or recent publications with the Secretariat to be featured in the Knowledge Hub.	N/A	All