



Minutes TWG RYE Meeting

Participants

Group Members

- **Haile Abebe**, *AUC*
- **Alun Jones**, *CIHEAM*
- **Yessie Meyer**, *Enabel*
- **Anne Simon**, *EU*
- **Anna Befus**, *FAO*
- **Frank Bertelmann**, *GIZ*
- **Sven Braulik**, *GIZ*
- **Rahul Antao**, *IFAD*
- **Elisenda Estruch-Puertas**, *ILO (Co-Chair)*
- **Ahmed Faruk Diken**, *IDB*
- **Ji-Yeun Rim**, *OECD/DEV (Co-Chair)*

- **Tim Diphoorn**, *One Acre Fund*
- **Marisa Grimes**, *One Acre Fund*
- **Andrew Youn**, *One Acre Fund*
- **Jean Marc Delort**, *Tech-Dev*

GDPRD Secretariat

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

Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM (DAY ONE)	DETAILS
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Elisenda Estruch-Puertas (ILO)
2.	Insights into Rural Youth Employment at One Acre Fund	One Acre Fund
3.	Updates from the Secretariat	GDPRD Secretariat
4.	TWG RYE session 2024 AGA	All
5.	Tour de Table	All
6.	Wrap-up and closing	Elisenda Estruch-Puertas (ILO)

Key Highlights/Issues

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Alun Jones (CIHEAM), Andrew Youn and Marisa Grimes (One Acre Fund), Jean Marc Delort (Tech-Dev) and Ahmed Faruk Diken (IDB) joined for the first time.

2. Insights into Rural Youth Employment at One Acre Fund

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

For One Acre Fund to present their work and their new youth-focused project.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- One Acre Fund is committed to protecting farmers from climate change risks while improving their incomes and resilience. Annually, the Fund serves 1.6 million farm families across nine countries in East and Southern Africa, through a holistic approach of providing loans, physical delivery of crop inputs and trainings to improve productivity. This core lending programme is 70% supported by farmer revenues (with a 97% on-time loan repayment rate), with grant funding covering the rest.
- Beyond its core lending program, One Acre Fund works with government and private sector partners to extend agricultural services to an additional 2.5 million families per year. One Acre also helps through various other flexible channels, such as improving market access, providing free seedlings for tree planting, insurance, and collaboration for extension services. Other programmes, including partnerships and research, are fully grant-funded.
- One Acre Fund recently partnered with the Mastercard Foundation for a youth project, which will take place in all nine countries through 2028. The goal is to make 1.2 million young farmers (70% women) more climate resilient and more profitable. Specific programming will be in precision agriculture, soil health, tree planting, crop diversification, and insurance coverage.
 - Tree planting is a key feature of the project, as trees are more profitable than annual crops for both timber and high-value fruit trees, and improve farm environments. The project will address constraints such as sloped farmlands, implement a social behavior change campaign, and target marketing toward youth (e.g., one-minute radio ads that encourage participation in the tree-planting program).

Q&A:

- Business models for youth in Africa often must be low risk, low investment, and have quick payback times. Tree crops do not fully fit this description. How do you minimize risk for youth?
 - By pairing short- and long-term programming together. In this case, precision agriculture pays off immediately, while the tree planting maximizes profitability in the future.
- Will youth also be encouraged to get involved in the downstream activities (e.g., distributing, exporting, trading) of the trees, where the market is more valuable?
 - Indeed, much of the value of fruit tree crops is captured downstream, so the goal is to help smallholders access a greater share of the end profits. For example, One Acre has started helping macadamia farmers to brand, package, and process their products so that they can sell directly to wholesalers in Europe.
- How will the programme tackle the issue of youth access to land, especially when youth are often moving away from rural agricultural areas and into urban sectors?

- Research has shown that youth do have access to land, but it is often considered undesirable (e.g., sloped or degraded land), and the programme is addressing this specifically. While the proportion of youth in agriculture is declining, the absolute number of youth is increasing, leading to more youth in agriculture overall.

3. Updates from the Secretariat

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The GDPRD's Annual General Assembly (AGA) will take place in Rome on **26-27 November** in a hybrid format at IFAD Headquarters and online, under the theme "*Financing Food Systems Transformation and Rural Revitalization: Opportunities and Challenges*". The AGA will focus on the implications of the 2024 [State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(SOFI\)](#) report for donors and the urgent need to bridge financing gaps for food systems. The TWG RYE is invited to hold a session at the AGA, as per previous years.
- The Platform will host a webinar, "[Financing Food and Rural Development](#)", on 26 September, to deep dive into the 2024 SOFI Report and its implications for donors and development partners. This is the second webinar in the GDPRD series designed to help the development community gain a better understanding of development finance and donor approaches.
- 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](#).

4. TWG RYE session 2024 AGA

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

Initial discussion on the TWG RYE's session to be held at the 2024 Annual General Assembly.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- In line with the 2024 AGA theme, the TWG RYE session could potentially focus on innovative financing instruments for rural youth employment and rural transformation.
- As in past years, the TWG will establish a group of interested members to develop the session. The Co-Chairs will reach out to members for their interest in joining the AGA organization group.
- The next working group meeting may take place in a hybrid format in Rome, alongside the AGA.

5. Tour de Table

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

Members gave short updates on their current work.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The TWG RYE is proposing to hold a webinar on "*Inclusive development in the agri-food sector: supporting rural youth in micro and small enterprises*", tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 31 October. The webinar could include project examples from Tech-Dev and GIZ to present lessons learned, followed by a panel discussion comprising 3-4 TWG members. Members interested in organizing the session or contributing as a panelist should contact the Co-Chairs.

- FAO will hold a hybrid side event at World Food Forum, on "Empowering Youths to End Child Labor in Agriculture" on October 16 at 16:00 CET. The event will share methods to prevent child labor in agriculture and promote youth empowerment, including topics such as skills development, decent work opportunities, occupational safety and health in agriculture, education in rural areas, and the role of innovation and digitalization. Speakers include the FAO Chief Economist, the Deputy Director of FAO's Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, representatives from US Department of Labor, the UN Major Group for Children and Youth, a country representative from Honduras, and the head of the European Union delegation.
- FAO recently published a briefing note on [Assessing decent employment situation and perspectives in the Gaza Strip and the West](#).
- ILO published the [Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024](#). Applications are open for the [Decent Jobs for Rural Youth](#) online course, which will take place from 7-18 October 2024 in English and French.
- GIZ has launched a [resource page](#) based on the 360° AgriJobs approach, featuring practical examples and personal stories, as well as a library of knowledge products on topics such as green jobs and entrepreneurship.
- The African Union's Agenda 2063 highlights youth leadership in Africa's development, and the "Next 1,000,000" initiative aims to offer opportunities to 300 million young people, especially in rural areas, across employment, education, entrepreneurship, and health. The Malabo Declaration pledged that 30% of agricultural jobs should be for youth, however, current assessments show no member states are on track to meet this goal, with only 11 out of 55 making progress. To address this, the African Union is focusing on youth and inclusivity through technical working groups.
- Recent evaluations found that the Malabo Declaration's commitments often centered on agricultural production, which doesn't align with youth interests. AUC has consulted widely across Africa to refine these commitments and develop the Post-Malabo Action Plan, validated in Lusaka and Kampala. AUC has established the African Youth in Agriculture and Climate Change network to include youth in these processes and are hosting regional dialogues to enhance youth involvement in agriculture and agribusiness, contributing to the post-Malabo strategy.

Q&A:

- What is the validation process of the inputs from the 13 working groups? Is there a document already available?
 - From August 5 to 14 in Kampala, a "write-shop" took place to combine the reports from all 13 working groups, which led to the development of the "Post-Malabo CAADP Strategy and Action Plan". The strategy includes specific intermediate outcomes and goals, and now includes access to productive resources, skills development for youth and political participation and empowerment. The document has been validated and is undergoing final review. Once finalized, it will be shared with the group.
- How were the independent memoranda taken into consideration in the post-Malabo process?
 - All independent memoranda, including from this TWG, were carefully reviewed and inputs were considered.

6. Wrap-up and Closing

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The Co-Chairs remain available to organize a bilateral call with new members of the TWG RYE.
- The Chairmanship of the TWG rotates on a biannual basis. Elisenda Estruch-Puertas (ILO) will conclude her co-Chairmanship role in 2024. Members are encouraged to share their interest in the Co-Chairmanship position for 2025-2026 with the Co-Chairs.

Summary of action points

ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
1.	Share upcoming events or recent publications with the Secretariat to be featured in the Knowledge Hub.	N/A	All
2.	Establish a small core group for developing the 2024 AGA session.	ASAP	TWG-RYE Co-Chairs
3.	Share your interest in participating in the next RYE webinar as a presenter or a discussant.	ASAP	All
4.	Share your interest in the TWG RYE Co-Chairmanship position for 2025-2026 with the Co-Chairs	ASAP	All