



Global Donor
Platform for
Rural Development



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Strengthening food systems through development finance

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Interviewed by GDPRD Coordinator Maurizio Navarra

Maurizio Navarra/GDPRD: Congratulations and a very warm welcome to you, Federica, as the Donor Platform's new Co-Chair.

Federica de Gaetano/AICS: I'm very happy to be a Co-Chair of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development. I think it is very important to share knowledge, to improve networking and really brainstorming on ideas around the very important theme of developmental food security sector.

Maurizio: Francesco. In your important work as a senior expert for food security and food systems in the Sherpa office of the Italian Government for the G7, what are the issues that keep you up at night?

Francesco Rampa/Italian Prime Minister's Office: Food systems doesn't look like we are all going into the same direction. On the other hand, many companies are starting to make business in a more sustainable way. So I'm confident that if policymakers, if donors, can build on the energy from the ground, maybe we will be able to counter the very difficult geopolitical times.

Maurizio: Federica, what could you tell us about the main priorities on agriculture, rural development, and food systems for the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation?

Federica: The main priorities in the sector are the development of an agricultural system that is sustainable and resilient to climate change. Using an agroecological approach, of course, is important. The enforcement of agrifood system and improving food security are at the center of our work. Of course, also the national pathways elaborated by partner countries in the framework of the United Nations Food System Summit. Thanks to them, we know the priority for each country.

Maurizio: Italy is currently presiding over the G7 and we're very privileged to have you here, Francesco, to talk to us about that. Could you tell us more about the priorities of Italy's Presidency in food security, food finance and food and climate?

Francesco: Right now, we are working on food and climate Nexus as well as the financing of sustainable food systems. This is a very important opportunity. We could call a G7 plus indeed the tool. Areas can be considered very cross cutting without food systems, better financing and without better working on the. Impact of climate change on agriculture and food systems. Very little can be achieved on progress on SDG 2 and generally more broadly, the 2030 agenda. And lastly, I would say that the geographical focus of the Italian Presidency is another natural factor that will support many other donors. Coming on board because Africa is the Italians priority for all the G7 and it clearly the continent requires. Still, most assistance both in terms of food security, they were also adaptation to climate.

Maurizio: What do you see are the emerging opportunities and challenges in the future of food systems, including those in closing the finance gap?

Francesco: It's very clear that the private sector is at the center. Sustainable development in general, but in particular in the food economy and in particular in low-income countries, and it is very important to stimulate much more private investments. Italy in the last couple of years has significantly increased its. Words. On a public private partnership approach to the food economy. We know that especially low-income countries, agriculture is still a risky business. And therefore, most private companies and private capital still prefers to invest as swear. But by using public resources through guarantees to cover the loss of private investment, it is increasingly looking successfully at stimulating private investment.

Maurizio: Federica, what is the one message you would like our listeners to walk away with and why?

Federica: So, I think that the food security is a very important topic, but we should try to link with the food safety because from my experience all the teams are very linked each other.

Maurizio: Thanks for that. Francesco, what is one message you would like our listeners to walk away with and why?

Francesco: Maybe one message is to don't give up on policy to achieve a better world. We need to have better policies and we shouldn't leave this just for a few people. We all need to be aware that we count, and our choices count and we need to connect the reality of our lives much more to the improvement of policy.