



Global Donor
Platform for
Rural Development

GDPRD ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2025

Investing in the Future of Agrifood Systems: New Directions for Development Finance

CONCEPT NOTE

12 December 2025 – Hybrid event

Hosted by the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium

Background

The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD, or “the Platform”) is a network of more than 40 bilateral and multilateral donors, international financial institutions and foundations that share a common vision on the role of agriculture and rural development in reducing global poverty and combating hunger and malnutrition. The Platform is committed to achieving increased and more effective aid for agriculture and rural development through evidence-based advocacy, knowledge sharing, and strategic influencing.

Every year, the Platform holds its Annual General Assembly (AGA), an event that provides Platform members, partners and invited guests with an open space to debate emerging topics in agriculture and rural development. AGA participants benefit from the core services of the Donor Platform: knowledge sharing, strategic influencing, and networking on key development issues and strategic directions that affect lives in rural spaces.

Building on the 2024 AGA on “Financing Food Systems Transformation and Rural Revitalization: Opportunities and Challenges”¹, the 2025 AGA will focus on charting directions for how agrifood systems transformation can be financed into the future, and the implications for donors in a rapidly changing development finance landscape.

¹ <https://www.donorplatform.org/event/gdprd/annual-general-assembly-2024/>.

Rationale for the 2025 AGA Theme

The global need for food systems transformation remains as urgent as ever, yet fundamental changes are reshaping the financing environment. Official Development Assistance (ODA) is under pressure, new financing mechanisms are emerging, and the boundaries between public, private, and philanthropic finance are becoming increasingly blurred.

Recent milestones – including the outcomes of the Financing for Development Conference (FfD4) and the UN Food Systems Summit +4 – highlight both opportunities and risks in this evolving landscape.

The GDPRD's White Paper on "[Financing Agrifood Systems for People, Planet and Prosperity](https://www.donorplatform.org/post/flagship-publications/gdprd-white-paper-financing-agrifood-systems-for-people-planet-and-prosperity/)"², published in June 2025, makes a strong case for a dramatic increase in investments to transform agrifood systems, outlining a number of priority areas that require fundamental shifts in the ways donors, national governments, international financial institutions (IFIs), private sector investors and agrifood sector firms operate and align.

In agrifood systems, public and private interests are deeply intertwined, leading to both complex challenges and significant opportunities; this overlap creates a complex political economy that must be carefully understood to drive meaningful and lasting transformation.

Among the recommendations of the White Paper, one action area is to facilitate the development of collaborative agrifood financing agreements that align public, private and development finance around shared national investment priorities. These voluntary agreements clarify roles, leverage synergies and identify co-investment opportunities, leading to reduced duplication and accelerated impact.

A fresh rethink is needed to ensure financing for agrifood systems is commensurate with the scale of challenges. The 2025 AGA will provide a platform to explore how donors and partners can best position themselves to leverage new financing options, strengthen collaborative agreements, and ensure food systems remain at the center of the development finance agenda.

AGA Topics and Objectives

This year's AGA will be an informative and participatory event, where donors and others (including representatives from partner/developing countries, private sector and foundations, civil society, among others) will engage in a series of thought-provoking discussions.

² <https://www.donorplatform.org/post/flagship-publications/gdprd-white-paper-financing-agrifood-systems-for-people-planet-and-prosperity/>.

Specifically, the AGA will seek to:

- **Examine** the implications of the changing development finance architecture for food systems transformation.
- **Explore** the potential and limits of new financing mechanisms, including blended finance, guarantees, and climate-related instruments.
- **Clarify** the role of public and private actors, including Public Development Banks (PDBs), bilateral donors, foundations, and governments.
- **Chart** an action agenda for building effective collaborative financing agreements at national and global levels.
- **Strengthen** the GDPRD's influence in shaping donor approaches to food systems financing.

Organizational Arrangements

The AGA will be held on 12 December 2025 in Brussels, Belgium, and is hosted by the European Commission. Members of the Platform, its Board, representatives from Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), and other key partners will be invited. Participants will include donors, governments, international organizations, financial institutions, agribusinesses, civil society, and farmers' organizations, with attention to youth and women's voices.

The GDPRD Secretariat will organize the AGA under the leadership of the Platform Board, which will contribute to the event's design and organization. This includes mobilizing participants and speakers, reviewing background documents to facilitate dialogue, and identifying authoritative individuals as possible speakers and panellists.

The format will combine high-level plenary discussions, expert presentations, breakout sessions, and thematic dialogues to maximize engagement.

Provisional Agenda

Friday 12 December 2025

Morning

Welcome and Opening

Keynote Address: Prioritizing food systems despite the upheaval in development finance

Scene Setting: Presentation of White Paper key messaging

High-Level Panel Discussion: Evolving roles in a fragmented aid landscape

Catalyzing Finance and Impact for Food Systems: Advancing catalytic financing strategies for donors and PDBs to scale systemic food systems transformation

Interactive Panel Discussion with Q&A: Forward-thinking discussion on financing food systems in the face of crises and development budget reductions

Afternoon

Joint Thematic Session: Co-hosted by the [Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment](#) and the [Global Donor Working Group on Land](#)

Implications of 2025 Global Events and Platforms: Discussion on the future of financing food systems, based on the AGA morning sessions and implications of global events

Closing Session