



Global Donor  
Platform for  
Rural Development

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

**Financing Agrifood  
Systems in a  
Fragmented World**

From coordination to  
catalytic influence



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## Who We Are

The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD) is an **informal network** of more than 40 bilateral and multilateral donors, international financial institutions, intergovernmental organizations, foundations and development agencies. It was set up in 2003 with a remit to **help maximize the effectiveness of development aid** in agriculture, rural development and food systems. The Platform brings together donors who believe the best way to tackle global poverty and hunger is to develop agriculture, reshape food systems and invest in rural communities.

The GDPRD is hosted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).



### Our vision

Donor investments enable transformation of sustainable food systems, that drive **equitable development, reduce poverty and hunger and promote environmental sustainability.**

The Platform envisions a future where all stakeholders work cohesively to foster food systems that are **responsive to global challenges, resilient to shocks, and capable of locally ensuring food security and improved livelihoods for all.**



### Our mission

The Platform brings together donors, development actors, and stakeholders to promote **policy coherence, knowledge exchange, and strategic investments** that accelerate **food systems transformation and rural development.**

Through partnership and innovation, the Platform aims to **address pressing global challenges, foster resilience, empower marginalized communities, and enhance the impact and accountability of international development efforts.**

The Platform operates with a holistic approach bridging **agriculture, climate, economic growth, and social inclusion**, acknowledging the **increasing complexity of the global landscape.**



### Our functions

- Strategic influencing
- Knowledge sharing
- Networking and convening

## 2025 Highlights

In 2025, the GDPRD consolidated its role as a strategic convener and policy influencer. Amid shrinking official development assistance (ODA), rising geopolitical fragmentation and reforms in the international financial architecture, the Platform positioned itself as a driver of **actionable financing solutions for agrifood systems**.

### The year was defined by three priorities:

- **Shaping the global financing debate** on agrifood systems, ahead of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)
- **Operationalizing blended and catalytic finance** through practical tools
- **Strengthening donor coordination** in a fragmented aid environment

The establishment of the [High-Level Advisory Group](#), co-chaired by the European Commission and IFAD, to develop a [White Paper](#) on "Financing Agrifood Systems for People, Planet and Prosperity" marked a step-change in ambition. The paper was launched at the 4<sup>th</sup> FfD4 Conference in Spain, alongside the Platform's active engagement, confirmed the growing relevance of agrifood systems. Through side events, strategic speaking engagements, high-level coordination and flagship products, 2025 was the year the Platform strengthened its strategic influence and advocacy role, elevating investments in agrifood systems on the global agenda.

### GDPRD Co-Chairs (2023-2025):



*"The Donor Platform has been highly effective as a forum for members, donors, and stakeholders to share information and stay updated on food security and rural development topics."*

**Federica de Gaetano**, Food Security and Rural Development Expert, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)



*"Donor Platform members have a common denominator in terms of values, views and objectives. This makes it possible to work productively on approaches in a more informal way than in the fora of multilateral mechanisms."*

**Bruce Campbell**, Senior Policy Advisor, Food Systems Section, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

## The Role of the Platform

The GDPRD continued its role as a **neutral, donor-led space** brokering collaboration to strengthen the impact of investments in rural development and food systems.

In 2025, in the context of increasingly constrained resources and rising complexity, it enabled practical, technical coordination among donors — moving beyond high-level rhetoric to concrete alignment.



***“If we put our minds together and think what the power of partnerships between donors and institutions is, we can find solutions to these global problems.”***

[Ines Rocha](#), Regional Director Europe, International Finance Corporation (IFC) (Partner)



***“I’ve always been a strong advocate for the Donor Platform. If it didn’t already exist, we would need to create it, because it’s essential to have a mechanism where donors in this space can coordinate, exchange information, and ideally align their programming.”***

[Conrad Rein](#), Secretary of the Global Flagship Initiative for Food Security, hosted by Crop Trust. Ex Co-Chair of the GDPRD (2020-2023) (Member)



***“We are all in our own silos. In order to create mutual understanding, we need platforms like this that bring different people together.”***

[Agnes Johan](#), Head of Blended Finance, Rabo Partnerships (Partner)



***“The Donor Platform is a space where solutions we haven’t even thought of can be created, improved, and speedily enacted. It wouldn’t happen without the Platform.”***

[Lawrence Haddad](#), Executive Director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) (Partner)



***“We have to reimagine what coordination looks like, and the GDPRD is primed to have a leadership role in that.”***

[Nikita Eriksen-Hamel](#), Deputy Director, Food Systems Practice, Global Affairs Canada

## From Coordination to Catalytic Influence



### Strategic Influencing

#### From dialogue to policy positioning

In early 2025, GDPRD engaged directly in global financing processes, including:

- Participation in the G7 Food Systems Working Group
- Strategic engagement in the lead-up to FfD4
- Contributions to the Nutrition for Growth Summit
- High-level discussions ahead of Committee on World Food Security (CFS53)

The [White Paper](#) “Financing Agrifood Systems for People, Planet and Prosperity”, launched at an official [FfD4 side event](#) in June and presented at a CFS53 side event, articulated a coherent donor narrative around:

- Reforming ODA for catalytic impact
- Aligning concessional and commercial capital
- Supporting agrifood SMEs
- Enhancing accountability and impact measurement
- Managing risk in fragile contexts

Importantly, the Platform positioned agrifood systems not as a sectoral issue, but as central to economic resilience, climate stability and geopolitical security.



*“The strength of the Donor Platform is that it offers a trusted space with no vested interests. The dialogue is genuine, and the [White Paper](#) gave us a collective voice to advocate for agrifood systems.*

*It grew out of internal negotiations around what should be included, making it a true product of the Platform and it now serves as a reference point for participants in global agendas, to make our voice, and the voice of rural and agrifood systems, louder and clearer.”*

[Federica Diamanti](#), Associate Vice President, External Relations Department International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Co-Chair of the GDPRD High-Level Advisory Board.



*“It was a real privilege to be part of the [High-Level Advisory] group. The discussions were open and transparent and helped me clarify my own thoughts about financing food, food security, nutrition and agriculture.*

*The White Paper also made the case for investing in agriculture and food security more clearly than I’ve ever seen it done before, zeroing in on a few key areas where we can do more.”*

[Lawrence Haddad](#), Executive Director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) (Partner)

## White Paper on Financing Agrifood Systems



In June, during the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference on Financing for Development held in Seville, Spain, and led by a [High-Level Advisory Group](#), the Platform released a [white paper](#) on "*Financing Agrifood Systems for People, Planet and Prosperity: Towards a new pact for mobilizing capital, reforming systems, and driving transformation at scale.*"

As global leaders gathered in Seville, the moment presented both a critical challenge and an opportunity: to elevate agrifood systems as a strategic investment priority.

### Why agrifood systems?

**Transforming agrifood systems is one of the smartest investments the world can make**—for prosperity, security, sustainability, and resilience. Agrifood systems are deeply interconnected with nearly every major development issue, from climate and health to employment, education and peace.

The numbers speak for themselves:

- Agrifood systems employ more than one in three people globally, particularly women and youth.
- The cost of inaction—from environmental damage to poor health outcomes—adds up to US\$12 trillion annually.
- The cost of transformation is just a fraction of that—US\$1.2 to US\$1.4 trillion per year—yet could unlock up to US\$4.5 trillion annually in new business opportunities.

Investing in these systems is not only a moral imperative, but **an economic and security imperative as well**—particularly in fragile and conflict-affected regions, where hunger and instability are on the rise.

### A clear, practical agenda for change

The White Paper outlines a bold yet practical agenda to unlock the capital, partnerships, and innovation needed to drive change at scale. To achieve this transformation, the White Paper presents [six priority areas](#) for immediate action.

### A call to action

The White Paper highlights the need for a new financing model that better aligns public and private capital, leverages innovation, and positions agrifood systems at the centre of sustainable development.

Through this contribution, the Platform sought to inform global policy discussions and support donors and partners in advancing a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future—starting with our food systems.



## Development Finance: From theory to testing

In 2025, the Platform and its thematic working group on blended/sustainable finance, in partnership with the Agri-SME Learning Collective (ASLC), launched the **Catalytic Capital Framework**. The Framework was designed to assess the additionality and impact of catalytic capital, and generate useful, decision-ready data to standardize assessment of blended finance in agriculture.

The Framework progressed from [concept to pilot testing](#). Five [donors](#) tested it across 13 agri-SME initiatives, generating practical insights on:

- Risk tolerance
- First-loss capital
- Guarantees
- Accountability and measurement standards

In May, the publication was released, translating the pilot findings into operational guidance.

By October, at CFS 53, the Platform [convened donors and partners](#) to spotlight the Framework and share early lessons from pilot testing — signalling a shift from internal learning to system-wide transparency and harmonization.

The Platform was widely recognized as a trusted convener, uniquely positioned to sustain this momentum by advancing transparency, benchmarks, and collective action to make blended finance for agrifood systems more catalytic, impactful, and coherent. In 2025, it helped move the conversation toward measurable accountability and coordinated action.



***“The GDPRD is a trusted and practical space for coordination. What we value most is the ability to have real, concrete conversations among donors at a more technical level, but without the buzzwords or high-level discussions that often don’t translate into action.”***

[Anders Aabo](#), Senior Adviser, Department for Climate, Nature and the Private Sector, Section for Food, Norad (Member)



***“We are all in our own row boats rowing in different directions with our own maps. If we want to move forward together, we need to share the same map.”***

***No single activity can do what’s needed sector wide. That’s why we are here.”***

[Songbae Lee](#), Co-Chair, Thematic Working Group on Sustainable/Blended Finance for Food Systems. Independent Advisor (former USAID)



## Donor Coordination in a Shrinking ODA Environment

With multiple members reducing ODA and geopolitical fragmentation on the rise, donor coordination became more urgent and more complex.

In response, the Platform directly addressed these challenges during its [Senior Managers Meeting](#) in October and the [Annual General Assembly](#) (AGA) in December, focusing on:

- Fragmentation in aid architecture
- The evolving role of multilateralism
- The political economy of development finance
- The future of concessional capital

## 2025 Annual General Assembly Highlights

On 12 December 2025, the GDPRD convened more than 160 donors and partners to examine the future of agrifood systems finance in a rapidly shifting development landscape. The theme was “[Investing in the Future of Agrifood Systems: New directions for development finance](#)” and the AGA was hosted by the European Commission in Brussels.

Panels addressed:

- Multilateral and geopolitical dynamics
- Catalytic finance and patient capital
- Youth access to land and finance
- Donor coordination in a fractured system

In his [keynote](#), Alexander Müller (TMG – Think Tank for Sustainability) cautioned that “cutting costs in development is the most expensive way to save money,” setting the tone for discussions on making ODA more strategic, catalytic and aligned. Sessions explored donor coordination and multilateralism, evolving roles in a fragmented aid environment, and approaches to mobilizing blended and private finance.

Several speakers emphasized that cutting ODA without strategic leverage risks undermining decades of progress.



***“In times of shrinking ODA budgets, innovative solutions to finance agrifood systems are needed. The EU remains a reliable partner.”***

**Sandra Bartelt**, Principal Adviser for G7 and G20 Sustainable Development Agendas, European Commission, Directorate-General for International Partnerships



***“This dialogue is vital to turn high-level commitments into concrete pipelines, stronger local institutions and real impact for rural communities.”***

**Rodrigo Madrazo**, Chief Executive Officer, EDFI Management Company



***“The Platform can convene conversations around more flexible financing, building collaboration into donor strategies, and being more long-term.”***

**Corinna Hawkes, Director**, Agrifood Systems and Food Safety Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Participants also addressed youth access to land and finance in a session organized by the Thematic Working Groups (Rural Youth Employment and Land Governance), as well as the geopolitical dynamics shaping agrifood systems financing, including perspectives linked to the G7 and broader global processes.

By the close of the day, the emphasis had shifted from navigating uncertainty to identifying concrete priorities for 2026, once again reinforcing agrifood systems as a platform for coordinated action, partnership, and global stability.



***“The Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development comes to close the year, to take stock of this evolving landscape, following major global processes and to chart constructive pathways that can deliver operational solutions.”***

***Hosting the AGA confirms the EU's role as a beacon of hope, committed to proposing concrete, targeted actions and strengthening collaboration and coordination among donors.”***

**Leonard Mizzi**, Adviser Food Systems, Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission



***“Stronger collaboration and coordination will still be needed to keep the multilateral system on agrifood financing strong. The Platform's Annual General Assembly is a key moment for us to help set that direction.”***

**Max von Bonsdorff**, Chief Partnership Officer, Global and Multilateral Engagement, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (Board member)



***“We see food systems as a platform for constructive multilateralism amid geopolitical polarization because they transcend national interests.”***

**Clara Albergaria Pacheco**, Head of Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture Unit at the Directorate for Global Affairs, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs



***“Coordination across donors, govts, financial institutions – with limited resources- coordination becomes itself a form of resource mobilization.”***

**Carlo Batori**, Deputy Director General; Directorate-General for Development Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

## Outreach and Communications

2025 marked the Platform's most impactful communications year to date, consolidating its relevance and influence at a critical moment for global development cooperation. Efforts focused on safeguarding and enhancing the Platform's visibility, credibility and strategic positioning, with more narrative-driven outreach aligned to key global policy moments and reinforcing the public-good perspective in agrifood systems finance.

A major milestone was the launch of the White Paper *Financing Agrifood Systems for People, Planet and Prosperity* at official side event during FfD4, positioning the GDPRD as a reference point in global financing debates. Communications also supported a successful Annual General Assembly, two CFS53 side events, and sustained engagement with Board members and Thematic Working Groups.

Three flagship digital publications were released — the 2024 Annual Report, the 2024 AGA Report and the White Paper — each backed by targeted outreach campaigns.

### Digital engagement increased significantly:

- Website traffic increased 23 per cent<sup>1</sup>. Publication page views rose 32 per cent<sup>2</sup>, interview views 158 per cent<sup>3</sup>, and news/op-ed views 3,770 per cent<sup>4</sup>. Average visit duration remained steady at 2.21 minutes.
- LinkedIn visibility increased 311 per cent<sup>5</sup>, engagement 39.7 per cent<sup>6</sup>, and followers grew by 74 per cent<sup>7</sup>.
- Newsletter click rates rose 60 per cent, reaching 7.5 per cent.

The Food Systems Architecture and Recommendations Databases expanded their reach and user diversity, reinforcing the GDPRD's role as a global public goods provider. Over 20 interviews and podcasts amplified donor and expert voices, while strengthened partnerships with FAO, CFS, GAIN and the UN Development Coordination Office enhanced cross-platform visibility.



<sup>1</sup> 69,687 views in 2024, increasing to 85,877 in 2025

<sup>2</sup> 2,844 views in 2024, increasing to 3,762 in 2025.

<sup>3</sup> 2,038 views in 2024, increasing to 5,249 in 2025.

<sup>4</sup> 977 views in 2024, increasing to 37,810 in 2025.

<sup>5</sup> 61,096 impressions in 2024, increasing to 251,248 in 2025.

<sup>6</sup> 24,254 clicks, comments and reposts in 2024, increasing to 28,425 in 2025.

<sup>7</sup> 4,825 followers in 2024, increasing to 8,342 in 2025.

## Thematic Working Groups

The Platform's **four thematic working groups** continue to engage members and the international community in dialogue on critical and emerging issues in the areas of sustainable/blended finance, rural youth employment, land governance and SDG 2 "Zero Hunger".

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The **Thematic Working Group on Sustainable/Blended Finance for Food Systems**, established in 2024, provides a forum for donor organizations, financial institutions and impact funds to share data and knowledge on blended and sustainable finance for better collaboration and coordination.

### Co-Chairs:



**Tuleen Alkhoffash**,  
IFAD



**Songbae Lee**, Independent  
Advisor (former USAID)

**Highlights:** Catalytic Capital Framework: [Donor testing cohort and findings](#); CFS53 Side Event "[Blended Finance and Impact Measurement in Agrifood Systems](#)".

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The **Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment**, established in 2018, seeks to support and empower rural youth to enable their contributions to rural economies.

### Co-Chairs:



**Ji-Yeun Rim**,  
Organisation for  
Economic Co-Operation  
and Development  
(OECD)



**Genna Tesdall**, Young  
Professionals for Agricultural  
Development (YPARD)

**Highlights:** [Webinar series](#) on development finance for youth; [Joint AGA session](#) with the Global Donor Working Group on Land "The Future of Youth in Agrifood Systems: Tackling the double challenge of access to land and finance"

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The **Global Donor Working Group on Land**, established in 2013, strives to ensure the recognition of the land rights of groups and individuals, as a cornerstone of sustainable, equitable and inclusive development.

**Chair:**



**Ward Anseeuw**, FAO

**Highlights:** [Hybrid group meeting at the World Bank Land Conference](#) in Washington, D.C.; [Joint AGA session](#) with the Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment Land “The Future of Youth in Agrifood Systems: Tackling the double challenge of access to land and finance”.



The **SDG 2 Roadmap Working Group**, founded in 2019, fosters collaboration between donors who share a common vision for eliminating rural poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

**Chair:**



**Ammad Bahalim**,  
Gates  
Foundation

**Highlights:** Restructuring and rebranding to realign the group’s focus to the new geopolitical context, to be launched in 2026.

## Looking Ahead to 2026

**Trusted, neutral spaces for informal donor coordination are increasingly rare — and increasingly vital. The Platform continues to provide this unique space.**

Incoming Co-Chairs **Leonard Mizzi** of the **European Commission** and **Thijs Woudstra** of the **Netherlands** invite donors to fully use the Platform to align priorities, incubate ideas, and advance forward-looking, results-driven collaboration on agrifood systems and rural development, at a time when collective action is needed most.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Platform will implement a focused work programme responding to constrained budgets, shifting geopolitics and rapid technological change. The emphasis will be on supporting donor decision-making, translating evidence into policy-relevant narratives, and strengthening the positioning of agrifood systems in global processes.

**In 2026-2027, the priority areas are:**

- **Return on Investment (ROI) in Agrifood Systems** – Strengthening the economic, fiscal and strategic case for agrifood investments through high-level framing, targeted donor dialogues, and possible illustrative case work.
- **Multilateralism and Multi-sector Policy Engagement** – Supporting aligned donor engagement across G7, G20, UN (including UN80 Initiative) and emerging bilateral processes, and positioning agrifood systems within trade, employment, climate, migration and security agendas.
- **AI and Data for Decision-making** – Creating a space for donors to explore AI use cases, portfolio implications and opportunities for joint learning and action.
- **Blended Finance & Catalytic Capital** – Advancing practical understanding of where and how blended finance works in agrifood systems, including transparency on risk, subsidy use and value-for-money.

**Through this agenda, the Platform will continue to equip its members to act strategically, and collaboratively in a competitive and rapidly evolving policy and financing landscape.**

***New GDPR Co-Chairs (2026-2028):***



**Thijs Woudstra**  
Head of Food and Nutrition  
Security, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs, The  
Netherlands



**Leonard Mizzi**  
Adviser Food Systems,  
Directorate-General for  
International Partnerships,  
European Commission

# Annex I: 2025 Milestones

## The Year in Numbers

12	BOARD MEMBERS
2	CO-CHAIRS
45	PLATFORM MEMBERS
4	BOARD MEETINGS
1	ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
6	EVENTS
4	FLAGSHIP REPORTS
10	THEMATIC WORKING GROUP MEETINGS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 SUSTAINABLE BLENDED FINANCE TWG <a href="#">MEETINGS</a></li><li>• 4 LAND GOVERNANCE TWG <a href="#">MEETINGS</a></li><li>• 4 RURAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT TWG <a href="#">MEETINGS</a></li></ul>

## Highlights and Contributions

### JANUARY

**Virtual Workshop** | An invitation-only virtual discussion on 17 January, organized by GDPRD and IFAD to gather feedback and insights from donors, impact investors and international experts on the emerging messages of IFAD's 2025 Rural Development Report.

**Interviews** | [Ward Anseeuw](#), Chair of GDPRD's Global Donor Working Group on Land and Lead of the Land Tenure Team at FAO (with [podcast](#)), [Genna Tesdall](#), new Co-Chair of GDPRD's Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment and the Director of YPARD, [Natasha Hayward](#), GAFSP (joined in Nov 2024), [Troels Mahieu-Sorensen](#), UNDP (joined in Oct 2024). **Cafeteria Chat** interviews on [Instagram](#) to raise internal awareness of GDPRD within IFAD.

**Food Systems Architecture Database** | [New entries](#)

### FEBRUARY

**Board Meeting** | [11 February 2025](#)

**First GDPRD participation in a G7 Food Systems Working Group.** Secretariat Coordinator, Maurizio Navarra, provided a stocktake presentation on the GDPRD's contributions to advancing financing for food systems at the February G7 Food Systems Working Group under the Canadian Presidency.

**TWG Rural Youth Employment meeting** | [6 February](#)

**Interviews** | [Agnes Johan](#), Head of Blended Finance, Rabo Partnerships, [Ines Rocha](#), Regional Director Europe, International Finance Corporation (IFC), [Jenice Achieng](#), Owner, Agnesa Bakery and **Moreen Nyakato**, Chief Executive Officer, Greeco Organic Farm, [Tim Diphorn](#), Europe Director of Business Development, One Acre Fund, [Sebastian Pedraza](#), Chair, YPARD Board.

**Mentions** | GDPRD included in the Kofi Annan Commission report "**Reimagining Global Governance for Food Security**" in the recommendation to engage the private sector as part of the [Governance Shift 04 chapter](#), "Manage Future Food and Nutrition Needs through Anticipatory Approaches." (page 46).

## MARCH

**GDPRD High-Level Advisory Group created** to shape a more coherent and impactful donor approach to financing sustainable food systems and rural development. Co-Chaired by European Commission and IFAD, with FAO, Canada, World Bank, GAIN, Switzerland, WFP, AGRA, the Netherlands. Guided the development of a White Paper on financing sustainable food systems and rural development. The group met in April, May and June.



**Publication** | GDPRD **2024 Annual General Assembly Report**  
"Financing food systems transformation and rural revitalization: Opportunities and challenges"

**Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit** | **A briefing paper for donors** to highlight innovative financing approaches that align public, private and development finance to scale impact.



## APRIL

**Event** | **GDPRD at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**

- 15 April 2025 - Co-Chair Bruce Campbell and Senior Advisor Jim Woodhill as speakers at the CFS "Collaborative Governance Dialogue on Financing for Food Security and Nutrition".



**TWG** | **New Donor Testing Cohort for the Catalytic Capital Framework**  
- TWG on Sustainable/Blended Finance for Food Systems, in partnership with the Agri-SME Learning Collective (ASLC).

**TWG** | Rural Youth Employment Co-Chairs (OECD and YPARD) present at the **EU HARDs meeting** on 15 April 2025 on GDPRD alignment with international policy processes (post-Malabo, UNFSS, CFS) and coordination among donors and development agencies.

**TWG Land Governance meeting** | 16 April

**TWG Sustainable/Blended Finance meeting** | 8 April

**Webinar** | **Investing in youth: The role of development banks** -

Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment on 15 April 2025.



**Published Op-Ed** | **Rethinking development assistance to finance the future of food and nutrition**

by Secretariat Coordinator Maurizio Navarra and published by Farming First.

**Mentions** | GDPRD included in **ISF's "Concessional Capital for Agri-SME Funds: Donor & Investor Guidance Document"** as part of **Recommendations One and Two** (pages 37 and 38).

## MAY



**New Member** | [Crop Trust](#)

**TWG Land Governance meeting** | [8 May](#)

**TWG Rural Youth Employment meeting** | [15 May](#)

**Publication** | [Strengthening Accountability and Impact Measurement: Key findings from the Catalytic Capital Framework testing](#). TWG on Sustainable/Blended Finance for Food Systems, with the Agri-SME Learning Collective (ASLC), share key findings from phase one pilot testing of the Catalytic Capital Framework. [Five donors](#) (Canada, Norway, Switzerland, the U.K. and the U.S.) tested the framework across 13 agri-SME initiatives.



**Interview** | [Conrad Rein](#), The Global Flagship Initiative for Food Security, hosted by The Crop Trust, which joined the Donor Platform in April 2025.

## JUNE



**GDPRD White Paper “Financing Agrifood Systems for People, Planet and Prosperity”** outlines a bold yet practical agenda to unlock the capital, partnerships, and innovation needed to drive change at scale. To achieve this transformation, the White Paper presents six priority areas for immediate action.

**White Paper Launched at an official GDPRD the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) side event “Financing Agrifood Systems for People, Planet and Prosperity”** on 30 June 2025.



**Board Meeting** | [19 June](#)



**Publication** | [GDPRD Annual Report 2024](#)

Using innovative approaches to finance the future of food was the key theme and focus of the Platform’s activities in 2024.

**Podcast interview** | [What's next for development finance?](#) with Agnes Johan, Rabo Partnerships and Ines Rocha, IFC.

## JULY



**New Member** | [Islamic Organization for Food Security \(IOFS\)](#)

**Speaking engagements at FfD4**

**Shamba Centre Side Event** – Secretariat Coordinator a speaker at side event "Moving to the Trillions: Catalytic strategies to increase development finance" (with Gates Foundation, UNCDF, Convergence, Climate Policy Initiative and Oryx Impact).

**AGRA Side Event** - Secretariat Coordinator participated in AGRA's side event, "Unlocking finance to fuel green jobs, climate action and food systems transformation".

**TWG Sustainable/Blended Finance meeting** | [14 July](#)

## AUGUST

**TWG Land Governance group** | [Work Plan 2025-2026](#)

**PODCAST** | [Are we ready to listen to young rural people?](#) with Genna Tesdall and Sebastian Pedraza, YPARD.

## SEPTEMBER

**TWG Land Governance meeting** | [15 September](#)

**TWG Rural Youth Employment meeting** | [18 September](#) and [Work Plan 2025](#)

**Food Systems Recommendations Database** | [New entries](#)

**Interview** | [Anders Aabo](#), Senior Adviser in the Department for Climate, Nature and the Private Sector (Section for Food) at Norad.

**Podcast Interview** | [Elevating rural voices on the global stage](#) with Tim Diphooorn, European Director of Business Development at One Acre Fund.

## OCTOBER

**Events** | [Donor Platform co-hosted two official side events at CFS 53](#)



**24 October** "[Financing Agrifood Systems Transformation: Aligning multilateral, public and private investments](#)", *Co-organized with FAO and IFAD.*

**23 October** "[Blended Finance and Impact Measurement in Agrifood Systems: The Catalytic Capital Framework](#)". The Thematic Working Group on Sustainable/Blended Finance presented the outcome product of the group with testing insights from donors. *Co-organized with IFAD and the Agri-SME Learning Collective.*

**Senior Managers Meeting** - 22 October 2025. [Annual meeting](#) brought together senior managers and non-Board members from Belgium, Canada, Norway and Sweden.





**Webinar** | [Development Finance for Youth in a Changing Landscape](#) - The Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment on 7 October 2025, presented how emerging financing tools—such as green bonds, climate funds, and carbon credits—can help create jobs for youth, especially in Africa.

**Youth Workstream Launch of the Global Flagship Initiative for Food Security.** Secretariat Coordinator a [speaker](#) at “From Promise to Delivery – Partner Perspectives”.

**Interview** | [Corinna Hawkes](#), Director, Agrifood Systems and Food Safety, FAO and Jim Woodhill, Senior Adviser, GDPRD

**Podcast Interview** | [Why investing in rural women is a trillion-dollar opportunity](#) with Jenice Achieng, Kenya, and Moreen Nyakato, Uganda.

## NOVEMBER

**CIHEAM Zaragoza: International Symposium.** Secretariat Coordinator a panellist in the session: “Adapting for impact: the role of European development agencies in a changing world. Reshaping multilateral and bilateral agri-food cooperation.”

**TWG Land Governance meeting** | [27 November](#)

**Interview** | [Abdula Manafi Mutualo](#), Chief Multilateral Relations Officer at Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) and new member.

## DECEMBER



**Annual General Assembly 2025. Investing in the Future of Agrifood Systems: New directions for development finance.** Hosted by the European Commission in Brussels and attended by 160+ stakeholders.

• **Keynote by Alexander Müller (TMG – Think Tank for Sustainability)**  
“Cutting costs in development is the most expensive way to save money.”

- **Donor Coordination and Multilateralism in Agrifood Systems Financing** (Speakers from European Commission, IFAD)
- **High-Level Discussion Panel on “Evolving Roles in a Fragmented Aid Landscape”** (Speakers from Italy, FAO, GAIN, the World Bank and the Ireland Africa Rural Development Committee)
- **Catalysing Finance and Impact for Food Systems** (Speakers from EDFI Management Company, One Acre Fund, Islamic Organisation for Food Security, and former USAID)
- **The Future of Youth in Agrifood Systems: Tackling the double challenge of access to land and finance**, organized by the Land Governance and Rural Youth Employment Thematic Working Groups (Speakers from UNCCD, ILC and FAO)
- **Multilateral and Geopolitical Dynamics of Agrifood Systems Financing** (Speakers from Canada, France, CFS, European Commission)

**Board Meeting in Brussels.** Hosted by the **European Commission** with scene setting by Chris Isaac (AgDevCo) on patient capital and scalable blended finance solutions.

**TWG Rural Youth Employment meeting** | [9 December](#)

**Interview** | [Federica Diamanti](#), Associate Vice President for External Relations, IFAD. Co-Chair of the GDPRD High-Level Advisory Group.



## Annex II: List of Platform Members in 2025

African Development Bank Group  
Asian Development Bank  
Austrian Development Agency  
\*\*[Crop Trust](#) (Global Flagship Initiative for Food Security)  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit  
Enabel, the Belgian development agency  
\*European Commission  
\*Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany  
Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria  
Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Belgium  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
\*Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United Kingdom  
\*French Development Agency  
\*Gates Foundation  
The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program  
Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification  
Inter-American Development Bank  
International Development Research Centre, Canada  
International Fund for Agricultural Development  
International Trade Centre  
\*Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs  
\*\*[Islamic Organization for Food Security \(IOFS\)](#)  
\*Italian Agency for Development Cooperation  
KfW Development Bank  
Korea International Cooperation Agency  
Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency  
\*Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France  
\*Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark  
\*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of the Netherlands  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development  
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency  
\*Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation  
United Nations Development Programme  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
\*United States Agency for International Development  
UN Women  
World Bank  
World Food Programme  
World Rural Forum  
World Trade Organization

\* Board member

\*\* New member in 2025



**Global Donor  
Platform for  
Rural Development**

**Secretariat of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development**

Hosted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

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