Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

WEBINAR

Applying AI in Agrifood Systems: RAAPID and NASA Harvest in practice

Thursday 5 November 2026 | 15:00–15:45 CET

Zoom registration link

Concept Note

Background and rationale

The Donor Platform's *AI and Data for Agrifood Systems* workstream responds to the rapidly expanding role of artificial intelligence (AI) across agrifood systems and the growing interest among members in how these technologies can support food security, nutrition, and rural development. New tools— from predictive analytics and early warning systems to digital advisory services and market intelligence—are creating opportunities to improve decision-making and outcomes across the sector.

At the same time, important challenges remain related to responsible data governance, inequalities in access and interoperability, and identifying where and how to invest. Members have expressed strong demand for concrete examples, peer learning, and clearer pathways for translating AI from theory into implementable approaches. The workstream provides a dedicated space for dialogue, knowledge exchange and coordination on the use of AI in food security, rural development and agrifood systems.

Webinar focus

As part of this workstream, the webinar series explores practical applications of AI and data across agrifood systems. Following the first webinar on AI for nutrition, this second session focuses on AI-enabled agricultural monitoring and response. Despite advances in remote sensing and AI-driven analytics, many countries still struggle to translate satellite-derived insights into timely, actionable decisions. Data remains fragmented, interpretation capacity is uneven, and early-warning signals often fail to reach those who need them most.

RAAPID (Rapid Agricultural Assessments for Program Impact and Decision-making) is an emerging initiative designed to close these gaps. By combining AI, remote sensing and local expertise, RAAPID aims to build a **global network** that strengthens countries' ability to monitor crop conditions, anticipate shocks, and inform rapid response. Through this practical example, the webinar will explore the opportunities and challenges of operationalizing AI-enabled agricultural monitoring across different contexts, and the implications for donors and development partners.

Webinar objectives

- Explore how AI and remote sensing can strengthen agricultural monitoring and decision-making
- Highlight recent country experiences and lessons learned through RAAPID's approach
- Explain the barriers to translating remote sensing insights into operational decision-making
- Identify opportunities for donor engagement, including governance, financing, and network expansion

Expected outcomes

- A clear understanding of how RAAPID can complement existing public and private investments in food security and climate resilience
- Insights into enabling conditions for operationalizing effective AI-enabled agricultural monitoring
- Practical ideas for supporting RAAPID's global network development
- Opportunities for collaboration through the Platform's AI and Data workstream

Provisional Agenda	
15:00–15:05 (CET)	**Welcome and scene setting**
15:05–15:25	**Challenges in agricultural monitoring and why this matters** **RAAPID:** **Approach and lessons** **Implications for donors**
15:25–15:40	**Interactive Q&A with the audience**
15:40–15:45	**Closing and Next Steps**