Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

2026 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ÉIRE2026.EU
IRELAND2026.EU
Imeacht Gaolmhar | Associated Event

Mutual Benefits: Unpacking the Strategic Return on Investment Potential from Agrifood Systems

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Wednesday 2 December 2026
Camden Court Hotel (Tivoli Room), Dublin and on Zoom

9:00-18:00 GMT (10:00-19:00 CET)

TIME	ITEM	SPEAKER
08:30-09:00	*Welcome coffee*	
09:00-09:10	**Welcome** by GDPRD Secretariat; Ireland	**Mark Montgomery**, Deputy Director, Policy Unit, Food Policy Lead, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland **Maurizio Navarra**, GDPRD Secretariat Coordinator, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
09:10-09:20	**Opening** by GDPRD Chairs	**Thijs Woudstra**, GDPRD Co-Chair; Head of Food and Nutrition Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
09:20-09:35	**Keynote Address** Mutual benefits of agrifood investment for donors and partner countries	**Michael Gaffey**, Director General, Irish Aid
09:35-10:00	**Scene Setting** Assessing multidimensional returns from agrifood investment	**Mandakini Surie**, Advisor, Global Donor Platform for Rural Development **Jim Woodhill**, Senior Advisor, Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

TIME	ITEM	SPEAKER
10:00-11:15	**High-Level Panel Discussion**	**Tim Diphoorn,** Director of Business Development Europe, One Acre Fund **Sylvia Gavigan**, Senior Researcher, Technological University Dublin; Member of Ireland Africa Rural Development Committee; Consul General of Uganda to Ireland **Lawrence Haddad**, Executive Director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) **Cristina Miranda Gozalvez**, Head of Unit, Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission (tbc) **Olga Petryniak**, Chief Program Officer, IDH
11:15-11:35	***Coffee break***	
11:35-12:35	**Women as Investors, Producers and Drivers of Agrifood Transformation** A special session to mark the 2026 International Year of the Woman Farmer	**H.E. Ambassador Berik Aryn,** Director General, Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS) **Blátnaid Gallagher**, Ambassador, Farming for Nature and FLIARA; Founder, Galway Wool Co-op; FAO 100 Women Heroes in Agrifood Systems and Rural Development **Andreas Lange**, Head of Project, Women's Empowerment for Resilient Rural Areas (WE4R) and Responsible Land Governance, GIZ **Carina Roseingrave,** Ireland's Ambassador for International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026 **Virginia Villar Arribas**, Deputy Director, Private Sector Partnerships, United Nations World Food Programme (tbc)
12:35-14:00	***Lunch***	
14:00-15:15	**Thematic Session** Organized jointly by the Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment (TWG RYE) and the Global Donor Working Group on Land (GDWGL)	**Juan Echanove**, Right to Food Lead, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) **Jenny Lopez**, Land Governance Advisor, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) (tbc) **Trisha Mandal,** Partnerships and Communications Manager, Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) **Nisha Owen**, Executive Director, Global Greengrants Fund UK **Marcy Vigoda**, Director, International Land Coalition (ILC)
15:15-15:30	***Coffee break***	

TIME	ITEM	SPEAKER
15:30-16-45	**Mutual Benefits and the Future of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and Development Finance**	**Opening Presentation:** **Tobias Heidland**, Research Director "International Development", Kiel Institute for the World Economy **Koen Dekeyser**, Policy Officer, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) **Natasha Hayward**, Global Lead, Food and Nutrition Security, The World Bank Group **Oshani Perera**, Director of Programmes, Shamba Centre for Food & Climate **Wennie Waeijen**, Portfolio Manager, Public Investment Management, Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank (FMO) **Thijs Woudstra**, GDPRD Co-Chair; Head of Food and Nutrition Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
16:45-17:45	**Forward Look:** **Positioning Agrifood ROI in 2027 and Beyond**	**Débisi Àràbà,** Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063 **Marianne Grosclaude**, Acting Director, Farming and Agribusiness, The World Bank Group (tbc) **Chris Penrose Buckley**, Deputy Head, Policy and Programmes, Food Security, Agriculture, Land and Social Protection Department, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) **Johan Swinnen**, Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
17:45-18:00	**Closing Session**	**Sarah Hunt**, Policy Director, Development Cooperation & Africa Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ireland **Leonard Mizzi**, GDPRD Co-Chair; Adviser Food Systems, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission
18:00	**End of Day**	