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

Wednesday, 2 December 2026, 9:00-18:00 GMT *(10:00-19:00 CET)*

Camden Court Hotel (Tivoli Room), Dublin and on Zoom

PROGRAMME

Moderator: Jim Woodhill, Senior Advisor, Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

TIME	ITEM	SPEAKER
8:30-9:00	*Welcome coffee*	
9:00-9:10	**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)
9:10-9:20	**Opening** by GDPRD Chairs	 **Thijs Woudstra**, GDPRD Co-Chair; Head of Food and Nutrition Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
9:20-9:35	**Keynote Address** Mutual benefits of agrifood investment for donors and partner countries	 **Michael Gaffey**, Director General, Irish Aid
9:35-10:00	**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**, UN FAO 100 Women Heros in Worldwide Food and Agri Systems. Founder, The Galway Wool Co-op. FLIARA Ambassador, Farming for Nature Ambassador. Owner and manager Murray Meadows, mixed enterprise farm in East Galway
			**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)

TIME	ITEM	SPEAKER
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*	
15:30-16:45	**Mutual Benefits and Leveraging Finance** Future directions for official development assistance (ODA) and development finance	 **<u>Opening Presentation:</u>** **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**, Co-Founder and Director of Programmes, Shamba Centre for Food & Climate  **Wennie Waeijen**, Portfolio Manager, Public Investment Management & Blended Finance, Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank (FMO)

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			**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
			**Chris Penrose Buckley**, Deputy Head, Policy and Programmes, Food Security, Agriculture, Land and Social Protection Department, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), UK
			**Johan Swinnen**, Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
			**Simon Winter**, Vice President, Reimagining Humanitarian Nutrition Security, RF Catalytic Capital
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

TIME	ITEM	SPEAKER
18:00	**End of day**	