

Back to office report

Traveler

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Date

12.06.2017 – 16.06.2017

Destination

Rome Italy

Purpose

1. bilateral discussions on cooperation and knowledge exchange (IADC, IFAD, FAO);
2. Steering Committee meeting of the Global Alliance on Climate-smart Agriculture (GACSA)
3. Workshop of the Investment Action Group of GACSA
4. Informal consultation of CFS OEWG on urbanization and rural transformation

Persons met/participants

Shantanu Mathur, IFAD/co-chair of the Platform; Alexander Jones, Deputy Director and Ida Christensen FAO Investment Centre Division (TCI) - FAO focal and alternate focal points to the Platform; Ilaria Firmian, Environment and Climate Division IFAD; Bettina Prato, Partnership and Resource Mobilization Office IFAD; Marco Platzer and Jessyama Forlini, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (IADC) – focal point and alternate focal point; Martin Frick, Director, Climate and Environment Division FAO with Astrid Agostini (Climate Finance), Julia Wolf (Adaptation), Alashiya Gordon (Capacity Building); Peter Wobst Strategic Programme on Rural Poverty Reduction FAO;

Bilateral discussion

Shantanu Mathur, IFAD/ co-chair of the Platform – update on developments in the Platform and secretariat; proposal to organise a joint mission to Washington, DC in early September 2017 to re-engage the World Bank and other institutions like World Resources Institute (WRI) hosting the secretariat of the NDC Partnership – to be discussed amongst co-chairs and with Platform secretariat;

Alexander Jones and Ida Christensen – profound and detailed update and discussion on Platform's development and work of the secretariat for Alexander Jones being the incoming focal point of FAO to the Platform. TCI is generally interested in the upcoming work on innovative finance and trends in ODA application for agricultural development and Agenda 2030. Interesting new trends in this regard were discussed, including the news that the GEF *Sustainable and Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR)* system is being revised from a broad distribution of rather small allocations to all participating developing countries to a more focused support to safeguard the global commons (Climate, biodiversity, land and oceans) as was the original concept of the Facility – to be observed by the Platform finance working group.



Marco Platzer and Jessyama Forlini, IADC – the new Italian focal point and alternate focal point were briefed about the Platform, its governance structure and the various work streams. It was underlined that the Platform provides space and a forum for the members to exchange information, create knowledge, increase the networking and outreach, both into the respective member organisation and jointly into various partnerships and networks.

The focal points agreed to take a look at the various work streams and communicate IADC's interests to engage. It was also agreed that the process of payment of the IADC member contribution should be accelerated and IADC would get in touch with the Platform's financial administration to complete the grant agreement for 2017.

Ilaria Firmian, IFAD – Adaptation Small-holder Agriculture Programme in its second phase ([ASAP2](#)) as adopted by the IFAD Board at its 119. session in December 2016 has been profoundly changed due to the decision to mainstream climate adaptation in the overall lending portfolio.

ASAP1 has 40 projects in implementation adding a grant element to the concessional loan or loans at ordinary terms, which made the ASAP1 very specific in its approach to turn projects into climate resilient undertakings. There has been an ASAP1 [progress review](#) conducted by ODI in 2015 – very interesting and unique experiences.

The collaboration IFAD has with CCAFS is under an IFAD grant programme called "[Learning Alliance for Adaptation in Smallholder Agriculture](#)". Under this framework, CCAFS provides support to the ASAP programme by undertaking specific studies on selected topics (economic evaluation of adaptation options, gender, private sector, nutrition, some intermediate results studies in selected country projects, etc.).

The agreed concept of ASAP2 is focused on technical assistance, risk assessment, NGO collaboration and other "soft" services and the provision of grant elements to the lending portfolio is entirely dropped.

With the 100% climate mainstreaming in IFAD's regular portfolio, a climate risk classification is carried out for every project and programme through environmental and climate proofing by a *climate screening note* to help manage climate risks in preparation of any portfolio action. In other words, IFAD's social, environmental and climate assessment procedures ([SECAP](#)) are now fully used in any IFAD allocation.

Brief discussion on the IFAD-GEF portfolio, including climate resilience projects which are relatively rare due to ASAP1. However, the IFAD-GEF [Integrated Approach Programme \(IAP\)](#) on sustainable land management and food security is being implemented in 12 countries of Africa in cooperation with a very diverse group of partners such as AGRA, World Bank, Conservation International, UNIDO, UNDP, UNEP, Biodiversity International and ICRAF. Interestingly, FAO is not a partner in this undertaking.



Bettina Prato, IFAD – in January 2017, IFAD launched the Smallholder Agriculture and Investment Network ([SAFIN](#)) with the objective of increased farmers' investments into inclusive rural transformation. The work programme includes innovative approaches to financing for the emerging smallholder agriculture finance sector. This fits very well with the work stream of the Platform on Agenda 2030 and innovative finance and ODA flow analysis and links to ongoing debates and actions of many member organisations like World Bank, GIZ etc., but also to initiatives like "[The Investment Case](#)" by the Global Landscapes Forum or [Finance in Motion](#) Frankfurt which works in close cooperation with KfW (ODA) and the banking sector (private sector capital). SAFIN is planned to be a forum and network, very similar to the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, aiming at knowledge creation and exchange and advocacy of innovative solutions for farming communities, in particular small-holder farming and micro-credit schemes.

IFAD requested the engagement of the Platform in SAFIN, once the network is established. On 20 June 2017, a first working meeting will come up with a summary of the state of play on SAFIN and priorities for near term action. Co-chairs will be informed and their support requested once more information can be communicated.

Climate and Environment Division (CBC) in the new CBD Department, FAO

The newly established CBD Department of FAO (Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water) is headed by Rene Castro, Assistant Director-General who formally headed the Forestry Department of FAO. The CBD Department does not house the UNREDD programme nor the natural resources management which are both still with the Forestry Department.

Under the CBD Department, Mr. Martin Frick is the director of the CBC Division (Climate and Environment Division)- [the organigramme](#) shows 6 teams – the environmental and social safeguard team is particularly important for the climate finance team working on project proposals to the GCF.

Martin Frick, CBC Director - agreement that the Platform secretariat should join the *Thematic Working Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Land Use* of the NDC Partnership. The report of a meeting to establish the group in early May and the terms of reference for the group will be published soon.

Astrid Agostini, Team Leader, Climate Finance – FAO has formed this team as to establish a quality assurance system for GCF finance which FAO is providing as a service to developing countries in order to present bankable projects to the GCF. The system is being set up at the moment and changes are still to be expected. Similar to IFAD's social, environmental and climate assessment procedures ([SECAP](#)), FAO is currently working its own quality assurance guidelines in line with the GCF Investment Criteria. The latter are foremost geared at positive climate impact and often constitute "climate projects" which are not necessarily well integrated into overall national planning. Since FAO is an "executing entity" with a "grant accreditation" and no loan accreditation which basically means that FAO is working with Nationally Designated Authorities and/or UNDP or other large UN institutions.

For the GCF project cycle and budget allocations, it still remains unclear what GCF is concretely requesting for agricultural projects – GEF cycles or GAFSP system to be applied? This is indeed work in progress, in particular considering the call for transformational change. Therefore, the integration



of smaller and larger GCF finance (or other climate-related operations of bilateral donors or IFIs) is the only way to overcome the current problems of “stand-alone” climate projects and programmes – in other words, back to the discussion on programmatic or sector-wide approaches, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and institutional and inter-ministerial cooperation. Secondly, the question arises whether or not the GCF investments should induce transformational change by itself or should GCF finance only contribute by being an integral part of national sectoral planning and programming. All in all, the quality assurance goes far beyond environmental and social safeguards and climate impact.

Julia Wolf, FAO-UNDP programme Integrating Agriculture in the National Adaptation Plans ([NAP-Ag](#)) : launch of the [NAP-Ag Knowledge Tank](#), the first holistic and categorized search engine of key tools and resources for adaptation planning integrating the agriculture sectors. The overall NAP-AG programme is financed through the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BUMB) of Germany.

For the work on climate finance, this section of CBC is of great importance as the NAP-Ag programme provides excellent insights on balancing adaptation and mitigation efforts under the national NDC implementation agendas.

Actions with the CBD team:

- Letter of the secretariat to FAO to join the Thematic Working Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Land of the NDC Partnership;
- InfoNote on the promotion of AG finance under the financial provisions of GCF and development banks;
- InfoNote on the newly established CBC and their terms of reference;
- Possible cooperation of FAO with GIZ in the establishment of InfoNotes prior and after SBSTAs and COPs as to inform the interested public about the expectations of the AG community and the outcomes of the UNFCCC negotiations;

Peter Wobst, Decent Rural Employment, FAO – excellent detailed comments on the “conceptual considerations for Platform’s next Annual General Assembly (AGA)” on youth employment and young agripreneurship. Close cooperation agreed upon in the preparation of the AGA.

Additional points for consideration:

- Malabo and CAADP results framework call for national youth employment strategies, but National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIP) do not necessarily identify specific rural youth promotion measures – to follow up with NEPAD NPCA;
- New IFAD President established a task force on youth employment and a shift of IFAD’s portfolio toward this policy priority – to be followed up with Platform co-chair;
- World Bank’s Job Team to be contacted – long-standing experiences;
- New financing instruments like EIB Green Bonds should be sensitized for youth promotion – to be followed up by finance working group of the Platform;



GACSA Steering Committee

Participants:

Co-chairs: Martin Bwalya, NEPAD and Ms. Mi Nguyen, Global Affairs, Canada;

Country representatives:

Canada (chair), Ireland, USA, France, Italy, NL;

Other participants (members and observers):

NEPAD (chair), Yara, IFAD, CGIAR France, World Bank, FAO, WBCSD, PwC, Global Donor Platform for Rural Development;

- Check against event report by GACSA

Agenda points

Opening: General remarks on where the GACSA stands by co-chair Martin Bwalya. Dr. Rene Castro, ADG of the new CBD Department of FAO, opened the meeting by a presentation on the global potential for mitigation through agriculture and of the positive developments in Costa Rica.

GACSA progress reports: progress reports and the mid-term financial report was presented as well as a proposal for participation to international events – see progress report [presentation](#)

Annual Forum: It was agreed that the Annual Forum should be hosted by FAO in Rome and the dates should December 12-14, 2017 with 2 days dedicated to the Annual Forum, and one to technical meetings. The exact dates for the respective meetings have not been specified so far.

FU staff and resource mobilization: The Alliance is very short of budget at the moment and the Resource Mobilization strategy prepared by the GACSA Finance Committee contain all necessary details on mobilization goals, ways and means to mobilize, in-kind contributions and an action timeline. While the Steering Committee was content with the paper, it is clear that all members need to embark on some activities. With [171 members](#), it should be possible to achieve the mobilization goals of USD 766,000 for 2017.

GACSA Investment Action Group workshop:

Metrics for Climate Smart Agriculture

This event was organized for all three action groups on knowledge, investment and enabling environment. It was chaired by WBCSD. The objective of the workshop was to share knowledge and bring in expertise on the use of metrics for investments in climate-smart agriculture. In order to address the metrics in a broader way than just investments, key challenges, opportunities and synergies between the working groups and their topics were supposed to be identified.

The call for simplifying the metrics and the modelling of scenarios was underlined by the fact that currently 378 different indicators for climate smart agriculture exist provided by the World Bank, USAID, CCAFS, GIZ and others.

After the excellent presentation of CCAFS on their tool *Small-holder Agriculture Monitoring and Baseline Assessment (SHAMBA)*, it was clear that this research and M&E agenda is far from the mandate of the Platform. The results of this work will certainly be communicated to the membership and partnership of the Platform as well as the results of the exercise.



CFS OEWG Urbanisation and Rural Transformation

Informal consultations – Open-ended Working Group of CFS
Urbanization and Rural Transformation
16 Juni 2017 in der FAO
Chair: Hans Hoogeveen, Permanent Mission NL to UN Rome

Three points on the agenda – (i) draft report for discussion *Addressing Food Security and Nutrition in the context of changing rural-urban dynamics – experiences and effective policy dynamics*, (ii) Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2018 of CFS, (iii) draft decision for CFS 44 on working group;

Participants: NL, EU, Switzerland, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Costa Rica und Ethiopia, CSM, PSM, 3 NGOs, FAO und Global Donor Platform for Rural Development.

Ad1: the draft paper was considered interesting, but the experiences not comparable. The summary and analysis did not lead to an identification of thematic focus which is needed to achieve the continuation of the working group in 2018. The paper will be discussed again on 23. June during a full-day consultation.

Ad2: MYPOW – some critical points as above – the comparative advantage of CFS in teh debate on support to rural-urban dynamics not clear. The „*place holders*“ in the draft MYPOW will be filed after the 23 June meeting.

Ad3: The draft decision will be changed after the 23 June to contain some specific thematic issues which are convincing fort he CFS 44 to decide on the continuation oft he working group on rural-urban dynamics.

In order o focus and to arrive at concrete policy recommendation by CFS in 2018/2019, the Platform is working closely with GIZ on the identification of crucial policy priorities for this CFS working group. It is suggested for the discussion on 23 June 2017 (GIZ will attend):

1. Governance –decentralisation, participation of rural communities in decision-making processes and support to farmers’ organisations, governmental services, including land administration – concrete aspects of governance
2. Youth employment and young agriprenuership

Both aspects have been mentioned in the background documentation.