



# Minutes TWG RYE Meeting

## Participants

### Group Members

- **Anna Befus**, *FAO*
- **Frank Bertelmann**, *GIZ*
- **Sven Braulik**, *GIZ*
- **Rahul Antao**, *IFAD*
- **Valeria Silvestri**, *IFAD*
- **Elisenda Estruch-Puertas**, *ILO (Co-Chair)*
- **Ji-Yeun Rim**, *OECD/DEV (Co-Chair)*
- **Tim Diphoorn**, *One Acre Fund*
- **Cyriaque Hakizimana**, *PLAAS*
- **Genna Tesdall**, *YPARD*
- **Sebastian Pedraza**, *YPARD*

### GDPRD Secretariat

- **Maurizio Navarra**
- **Sierra Berardelli**

## Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM	DETAILS
1.	Welcome & Introduction	Ji-Yeun Rim (OECD)
2.	Updates from the Secretariat	GDPRD Secretariat
3.	2024 AGA Session	Ji-Yeun Rim (OECD)
4.	Year End Review and Outlook to 2025	Ji-Yeun Rim (OECD)
5.	Wrap-up and closing	Ji-Yeun Rim (OECD)

# Key Highlights/Issues

## 1. Welcome and Introduction

- The TWG met in a hybrid format at IFAD Headquarters in Rome, Italy.
- Elisenda Estruch-Puertas (ILO) joined the call as Co-Chair for the last time and will transition to regular membership for future meetings.
- Sebastian Pedraza (YPARD) and Valeria Silvestri (IFAD) joined the call for the first time.

## 2. Updates from the Secretariat

### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*The Secretariat provided an overview of the upcoming Annual General Assembly (AGA).*

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The [2024 Annual General Assembly](#) (AGA) will take place on 26-27 November at IFAD Headquarters in Rome, Italy and online. The AGA will focus on financing for food systems and rural development, building on the recommendations of the 2024 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report and the upcoming IFAD Rural Development Report (RDR). The AGA will assess the evolving role of Official Development Assistance (ODA) for donors, explore innovative approaches to bridging financing gaps for food systems and coordinating donor approaches, and delve into enhancing the catalytic potential of financing institutions, modalities, and mechanisms.
- Day 1 will feature a keynote address; scene-setting presentations on the SOFI and RDR; a high-level discussion on catalytic development finance; thematic discussions on climate finance, private capital, financing approaches for agrifood SMEs, and innovative financing in fragile contexts; followed by the Innovative Financing Approaches for Young Agripreneurs session organized by the TWG. Day 2 will feature a session on finance coordination and measuring funding flows to food systems; a session organized by the Global Donor Working Group on Land on enhancing Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' access to finance; and a synthesis panel to conclude the event with actionable recommendations for donors.
  - To inform the AGA discussions, the Platform produced a draft background paper, "[Financing Food Systems Transformation and Rural Revitalization: Opportunities and Challenges](#)", which draws on a literature review of recent reports and studies on food systems and rural development financing, insights from ten expert interviews with practitioners and development partners from both the public and private sectors, and key takeaways from the GDPRD's webinar series on financing food systems. Following the AGA, the paper will be revised to integrate feedback and key points from the event before its final publication.

## 3. 2024 AGA Session

### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*The TWG's session at the 2024 AGA was discussed.*

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The TWG's session at this year's AGA, [Innovative Financing Approaches for Young Agripreneurs](#), will aim to connect the discussions on financing with their practical applications for agripreneurs. The session will include three young agripreneurs from Uganda, Kenya and

Rwanda as well as an Investment Lead from One Acre Fund, to discuss innovative financing models that cater to the needs of rural youth and young agripreneurs. By drawing lessons from various youth experiences, it aims to promote approaches that foster youth engagement, decent job creation, and economic growth, while addressing the challenges youth face when accessing finance.

## 4. Year End Review and Outlook to 2025

### PURPOSE OF SECTION:

*A presentation on the highlights of 2024 was given and ideas for the 2025 Work Plan were discussed.*

### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- In total, there were four regular calls this year, plus additional events and meetings. Highlights from 2024 include: two webinars, [Agro-food Jobs for Youth in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia](#) (March) and [Jobs for Youth in the Agrifood Sector: Leveraging Micro and Small Enterprises](#) (November); a joint contribution to the independent memoranda for the development of the CAAPD Post-Malabo Agenda; and the TWG session at the 2024 AGA.
- The group had an increase in membership with participation from One Acre Fund and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). In line with the TWG's goals and priority areas, there was notable engagement with the African Union Commission (AUC), youth organizations and research networks, including in-depth inputs from One Acre Fund and Foresight4Food.
- Ideas for the 2025 Work Plan include to hold a regular meeting each quarter with in-depth conceptual discussions, organize two webinars throughout the year (with the possibility of more depending on topics and availabilities), and to hold a session at the 2025 AGA. In-depth inputs could cover a presentation on the European Commission's RYE portfolio, ILO's work on rural tourism, a discussion on the nexus on RYE, climate change and just food systems transformations, and on leveraging youth coalitions/organizations.
- Additional Work Plan proposals include continuing contributions to international policy processes, such as the Post Malabo CAADP Agenda and the [4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Financing for Development](#). Continued knowledge exchange is expected for 2025, including expansion of the Groups' [Knowledge Hub](#), and the possibility to further engage with more actors, namely the other thematic working groups of the GDPRD.
- Elisenda Estruch-Puertas (ILO) will conclude her mandate as Co-chair in 2024. The Group and Secretariat thank Elisenda for her dedication and contributions to the TWG RYE over the last two years, as well as her insights, events, projects and networks. Genna Tesdall, Director of YPARD's nomination as Co-Chair for 2025-2027 was approved by the group on a no-objection basis. Genna will begin her chairmanship alongside Ji-Yeun in January 2025.

### Q&A and Discussion:

- A keen interest from members is the potential contribution of TWG-RYE to policy processes. Since policy windows often open and close quickly, it would be useful to identify and select a few feasible opportunities in advance to plan contributions more effectively.
  - IFAD is currently developing its second Rural Youth Action Plan (2025-2030), in alignment with IFAD's upcoming Strategic Framework (2025-2031). Members are encouraged to participate in the consultations scheduled over the next three months.
  - FAO has been requested to engage in the SDG 8 in-depth review, which focuses on employment and economic growth. The TWG could contribute through expert participation or formal statements on youth-related targets, particularly during events like the ECOSOC Partnership Conference in early 2025.

- FAO is producing the Status of Rural Youth in Agrifood Systems report, set for publication in mid-2025. The report will provide policy recommendations to foster inclusive, equitable, and sustainable agrifood systems where rural youth are key stakeholders. A webinar or in-depth input on this could be considered.
- The UN Food Systems Summit +4 is scheduled for next year, with a focus on youth leadership. A potential idea is to organize a webinar on the post-Malabo agenda and youth coalition actions, which could also involve the Food Systems Coordination Hub to integrate multiple agendas. This could also go beyond a webinar and potentially be organized as a side event at the Food Systems Summit +4.
- The [Second World Summit for Social Development](#) is scheduled for 2025 and will include youth-focused discussions.
- The increased involvement of youth within the TWG’s activities should be expanded by exploring collaboration opportunities with youth networks and bringing more young farmer voices into discussions. However, inviting individuals simply to fulfill representation must be avoided, and all members must engage effectively and fairly in the group’s activities.
- Efforts to revitalize the participation of less engaged members and attract new ones such as the MasterCard Foundation, AGRA, Youth Employment Funders Group, World Bank’s Solutions for Youth Employment, as well as broadening outreach to multi-sectoral networks like the [UN Global Accelerator](#) (ILO coordinating support), should be increased in 2025. However, external actors should align with the group’s shared interests, and can also be engaged through various workplan activities, not solely for membership purposes.
  - The Secretariat could play a role in facilitating outreach with Board members and the Platform’s wider membership. Additionally, collaboration with the GDPRD’s other thematic working groups could be explored for potential joint initiatives. For example, a youth-focused perspective in land governance and tenure could be valuable.
  - High turnover in member organizations requires repeated briefings for new representatives. Topics that appeal to different members, particularly donors, should be selected to maintain engagement and demonstrate the value-added of the group.
- Key topics to explore in 2025 include: finance for food system transformation (blended finance); “resilient jobs” which go beyond climate resilience to various shocks; the role of youth in global food supply chains (e.g., coffee, cocoa), focusing on production, employment and entrepreneurship potential; exploring and identifying best practices to address the high number of rural young women not in employment, education, or training (NEET); and broader inclusion, considering people with disabilities and younger age brackets (i.e., 15-17 years), which are often overlooked.
- The TWG could explore the idea of organizing a large annual event that would bring together various projects and organizations within the group to share experiences and foster synergies. The event could also involve policymakers, project beneficiaries and donors to encourage collaboration.
  - Given that the group operates on a voluntary basis, there are budget constraints when organizing such an event. Currently, TWG typically coordinates in-person meetings alongside the GDPRD’s AGA to leverage the gathering of members for the conference.
  - In the future, organizing a panel discussion involving policymakers, donors, and youth projects, rather than just a side event or a back-to-back session with the AGA, could be valuable.
  - The event could be linked to youth coalitions or networks, potentially organized in a partner country, such as in Africa, to make it more accessible and relevant.

## 5. Wrap-up and Closing

- GIZ’s “Rural Employment with a Focus on Youth” project will conclude at the end of this year. Frank Bertelmann (GIZ) joined the call for the last time and will transition to a new position focusing on deforestation-free value chains. Sven Braulik (GIZ) will transition to a new project, and his role as a representative to the working group remains TBC.
- The next regular call will take place in the beginning of 2025, date and time TBC.

## Summary of action points

ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
1.	Provide feedback/input to the 2025 Work Plan.	January 2025	All
2.	Provide event/publication updates to Michelle Tang/Secretariat for the TWG RYE website.	Rolling basis	All