



Minutes TWG RYE Meeting

Participants

Group Members

- **Edson Mpyisi**, AfDB
- **Haile Abebe**, AUC
- **Yessie Meyer**, Enabel
- **Anna Befus**, FAO
- **Divine Ntiokam**, GCSAYN
- **Chinenye Juliet Ejezie**, GCSAYN
- **Temple Nwankwor**, GCSAYN
- **Sven Braulik**, GIZ
- **Elisenda Estruch-Puertas**, ILO
- **Armin Fleischer**, KfW

- **Ji-Yeun Rim**, OECD/DEV (Co-Chair)
- **Ache William**, Sustainable Ecosystem Development Association (SEDA)
- **Genna Tesdall**, YPARD (Co-Chair)

GDPRD Secretariat

- **Maurizio Navarra**
- **Sierra Berardelli**
- **Michelle Tang**
- **Alessandro Cordova**
- **Carlotta Cramer**

Agenda

ISSUE	ITEM	DETAILS
1.	Welcome and Introduction	Genna Tesdall/YPARD
2.	Updates from the Secretariat	GDPRD Secretariat
3.	In-depth discussion: Climate Smart Agriculture and Rural Youth Employment	GCSAYN
4.	Work Plan 2025	YPARD/All
5.	Tour de Table and Miscellaneous	YPARD/All
6.	Wrap up and closing	YPARD/All

Key Highlights/Issues

1. Welcome and Introduction

- The Co-Chairs welcomed the first TWG RYE meeting of 2025, with Genna Tesdall (YPARD) as the Co-Chair for 2025/2026.
- Armin Fleischer (KfW) joined the group for the first time.

2. Updates from the Secretariat

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

The Secretariat provided an overview of ongoing Platform activities.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- The GDPRD will hold its first Board Meeting of the year on 11 February, which will set the priorities for the 2025 Work Plan and begin the process of developing the 2026-2031 Strategic Plan.
- Preliminary proposals to the Board include a significant engagement with the financing for food agenda through the key international events in 2025, including the Fourth International Financing for Development Conference (FfD4), Nutrition for Growth Summit (N4G), UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking (UNFSS+4) and COP30.
 - The Secretariat is proposing the development of targeted products alongside these events, including the production of a white paper outlining donor priorities, convening a high-level advisory group, and hosting a high-level convening alongside the FfD4.
 - These are not official inputs to the FfD4 and other events but will contribute to wider discussions on the evolution of Official Development Assistance (ODA), increasing momentum behind innovative and blended finance, private sector engagement and shifting horizons in the context of climate change, conflict, geopolitical uncertainty.
- The inputs underscore the work of the Platform as an informal gathering space, through which members can strategically leverage their influence in policy processes and contribute to important food and rural development dialogues.

3. In-depth discussion: Climate Smart Agriculture

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

The Global Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (GCSAYN) presented insights on making climate-smart agriculture (CSA) inclusive of rural youth.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Established in 2014 to integrate young people in the process of establishing the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA), the Global Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (GCSAYN) is a network of affiliated organizations across 170 countries in Africa, Asia, the USA, Latin America, and Europe, with a satellite office in Bonn.
- GCSAYN activities include capacity-building programmes to enhance youth employability in CSA practices, community outreach and school programmes; mentorship for young women and girls; and agribusiness trainings.
- Some examples of GCSAYN's capacity building activities for youth include trainings on feed formulation for fish and poultry farmers, to scale back costs and increase accessibility for youth. Youth in the network are assigned to clusters – fish farmers, poultry farmers,

processors, and vegetable farmers – with activities designed to address each sector’s specific challenges.

- Additionally, GCSAYN hosts a group of 500+ women working on food value addition. 150 women attended the latest training on peanut value addition, and the network has also hosted trainings on processing commodities such as water yam, cocoa, and plantain, as well as on reviving indigenous foods and local food preparation.
- The network has identified a gap in the market for agribusiness mentorship and is currently establishing a hub to meet this need.

Q&A and Discussion:

- CSA can be a very broad term covering practices as diverse as organic agriculture and precision agriculture. What is the difference between regular pig or poultry farming and the climate-smart approaches encouraged by GCSAYN? How are rural youth engaging in this?
 - Many farmers are unaware of livestock production’s role in climate change, and GCSAYN leaders teach circular waste management approaches to youth to reduce emissions.

4. Work Plan 2025

PURPOSE OF SECTION:

To present the draft Work Plan for 2025 and provide members with the opportunity to comment.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- TWG Members decided to prioritize three processes under **Outcome area 1:** *“Improved alignment with and link to international policy processes, initiatives and platform”*, including 1) following up on the Post Malabo CAADP Agenda, 2) the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) and 3) the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), specifically following the implementation of the *“Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition”*. In previous years, group members representing relevant organizations have led interactions with suitable events. Inputs may include technical notes or the joint organization of a side event.
 - Any side events or additional meetings proposed as part of engagement with key global policy processes should be outlined in the Work Plan and financial source should be identified.
 - The Post Malabo process is now finalized, and the Kampala CAADP Declaration was adopted in January 2025. The TWG should consider the best way to support the new Action Plan (becoming effective in 2026), with AUC.
 - Youth is a key strategic commitment in the declaration, promoted from a sub-commitment. The Malabo agenda is still ongoing as the implementation period covers 2025. Outcomes for youth were below expectations during the Malabo period, as only 11 Member States were noted as on track with set objectives. This underscores the importance of focusing on youth inclusion in the new CAADP.
- **Outcome area 2:** *“Increased (strategic) coherence and coordination among donors and development agencies, national and local institutions”* includes holding regular TWG meetings with in-depth inputs, the organization of a RYE session during the Annual General Assembly (AGA), contributions of to the GDPRD workstreams, and active outreach to new members – including innovative approaches to raising the profile of RYE with donors, targeted through webinars and the expansion of the TWG RYE *“Knowledge Hub”* (**Outcome area 3**).
 - Expanded membership is a key focus in the Work Plan for TWG RYE 2025; members are encouraged to reach out to their networks in support of this goal.
 - Potential topics for in-depth inputs could include IFAD’s Rural Youth Action Plan

(2025-2030) and an update from the EU's Youth Strategy.

- Enabel has various ongoing projects related to rural youth in the early implementation phase. Outcomes and reflections are premature, but insights on the methodology and approaches taken can be shared in the next in-depth discussion of the TWG-RYE meeting.
- The African Development Bank has a new strategy in which youth is a cross-cutting issue, meaning all Bank projects must have a youth-relevant approach. This often addresses employment and the labor market. Additionally, the Bank has introduced marker system, accompanied by leadership commitment to ensuring the youth lens is considered in all projects. AfDB is available to share an in-depth on the new developments.

- **Outcome area 4:** *“Strategic engagement with and empowerment of rural youth and youth organizations”* includes the active promotion of youth participation in RYE dialogues and in all TWG RYE events, and to continue update the mapping of youth organizations that was started in 2021.
 - Youth participation in this outcome area should be framed as “meaningful youth participation”, recognizing the qualitative distinction between forms of engagement.
- **Outcome area 5:** *“Joint engagement and collaboration with other stakeholders like the private sector, service providers, agripreneur organizations, etc.”*, includes engaging with these actors for in-depth presentations, webinars, or as regular members of the TWG RYE.

Q&A and Discussion:

- How are young people and youth organizations identified for meaningful participation?
 - This is a key topic of discussion within the group and at the core of the work of many group members. In-depth inputs and webinars may address this topic critically.

5. Tour de Table and Miscellaneous

- OECD is analyzing the labor impacts of the green transition in agriculture, with a focus on Southeast Asia. Findings indicate that depending on the transition approach, it can either increase (labor-intensive) or decrease (non-labor-intensive) job opportunities. In the Philippines, Cambodia and Vietnam, OECD is exploring pathways to non-farm rural employment for youth impacted by non-labor-intensive green transitions. The experience has shown that youth have a greater interest in digital agriculture compared to conventional agriculture.
- Within the context of changing institutional structures, BMZ and GIZ are maintaining momentum on rural youth employment. GIZ and FAO recently collaborated on a webinar: [Rural Finance Labs: Enabling markets of financial services for rural youth](#).
- FAO is implementing a project financed by Germany aimed at raising awareness and promoting the uptake of the CFS 2022 [Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition](#). In October 2024, FAO convened a side event "Strengthening Youth Inclusion in Agrifood Systems Policies in Africa" at the [20th CAADP-PP](#) meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe. The event convened youth and policymakers to discuss enhancing youth participation in decision-making and policy processes to foster sustainable agricultural transformation in Africa. The event tied into the seven [Malabo Commitments](#), and specifically the 4th commitment to “Reduce poverty by half by 2025 through inclusive agricultural growth and transformation”, under which African governments pledged to create job opportunities for at least 30% of the youth in agricultural value chains. FAO, in collaboration with the Youth Working Group of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), mobilized a diverse African youth delegation to advance awareness and adoption of CFS

recommendations at the country level.

- FAO is organizing a series of online policy dialogues (Feb–Mar 2025) to continue and expand the conversation between youth and policymakers in each African subregion. The objective is to discuss critical gaps and learn from good practices and implementation mechanisms for youth-inclusive agrifood system policies at country level. The first session (Eastern Africa) is on Feb 14, followed by Western & Central Africa (Feb 25), Southern Africa (Feb 28), and Northern Africa (Mar 11, 2025). Each webinar will feature an FAO policy analysis on youth mainstreaming in national agricultural policies, followed by an interactive panel with two youth representatives and two policymakers sharing best practices and strategies for increasing youth engagement in policymaking. The sessions are open to the public, and the registration link will be shared with the TWG in due course.
- FAO is producing the Status of Rural Youth in Agrifood Systems report, to be published in mid-2025. The report is in the peer review phase, and FAO is exploring partnerships for dissemination and outreach, as well as for the launch event later in the year. The launch event aims to be youth-focused, not only presenting the results of the report but involving youth in the preparation, presentation and facilitation of the event.
- Enabel is in the implementation phase of its bilateral portfolio, including an ongoing rural employment project in Uganda focused on agrifood value chains. In 2024, the Team Europe initiative, linked to the European Union Global Gateway, was launched with a key focus on upskilling. Enabel is available to discuss this in further detail during an in-depth input.
- GCSAYN invites members to its 10th anniversary event in Dakar.
- The African Union Commission remains committed to rural youth empowerment, focusing on the Post-Malabo process and expanding the way youth involvement is measured and evaluated.

6. Wrap Up and Closing

- The next regular call will take place in May/June 2025, date and time TBC.

Summary of action points

ITEM	ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)
1.	Members to suggest topics for in-depth inputs and/or their availability to present own activities.	ASAP	All
2.	Co-Chairs to follow-up with Enabel and AfDB for in-depth inputs.	ASAP	Co-Chairs
3.	Provide event/publication updates to Michelle Tang/Secretariat for the TWG RYE website.	Rolling basis	All