

A+FS Network Newsletter 02/2015

Dear Agriculture & Food Security Network members

We wish you all a Happy New Year! Please find below our first edition of the A+FS Network Newsletter of 2015.

Since we have received positive feedbacks to the Members' articles in the last Newsletter, you will also find four articles written by Members of our Network in this issue:

- *Coffee Farming in Rwanda: Savoring Success (by Ingrid Fromm)*
- *Synergies between agricultural innovation and territorial economic development (by Marylaure Crettaz)*
- *The promotion of agroecology in food production systems (by Roger Zürcher)*
- *Integrating natural capital with rural finance (by Tanja Havemann & Davide Forcella)*

Congratulations to the four contributors and let's continue this participatory style! Rahel welcomes your contributions for the next newsletter at any time.

We cordially invite you to send any ideas, news or documents that might be relevant for our Network. Your contributions will help to improve all activities of our Network.

*With Best Wishes
Felix Fellmann & Rahel Meier*



Articles by Network Members



Coffee Farming in Rwanda: Savoring Success

by Ingrid Fromm [[contact the author](#)]

Coffee production in Rwanda has grown in recent years. Prospects of a better income motivate farmers to produce high quality Arabica coffee along with other crops for family consumption. One entrepreneurial farmer in the Gakenke District explains how he has finally become successful.



"Looking for synergies between agricultural innovation and territorial economic development", a joint effort between A+FS and E+I networks' members in Latin America

by Marylaure Crettaz [[contact the author](#)]

Agricultural innovation is a key topic for various SDC programs in Latin America, especially in Bolivia, Nicaragua and Cuba where flagship projects have been developed in the last ten years. From 2010 onwards, project teams and SDC program officers have started exchanging experiences. This article presents key findings and concrete insights of this learning process.



The promotion of agroecology in food production systems

by Roger Zürcher [[contact the author](#)]

Agroecology is an approach to the promotion of food production within a balanced ecosystem. The author argues that in many development programs, agroecology is effectively a mainstream in guidelines and strategy, but not necessary globally applied. He identifies three main factors that can positively influence the spread of agroecology.



Integrating natural capital with rural finance

by Tanja Havemann & Davide Forcella [[contact the authors](#)]

Rural economic development and finance must support mitigation of environmental degradation, and preserve and grow environmental wealth (natural capital). It must enable rural people to build greater and more diverse wealth stores, and derive benefit from their environments, while reducing environmental vulnerability. The authors give examples how diverse groups link rural finance an natural capital.

SDC Global Programme Food Security

SDC Working Paper on Nutrition

The SDC Working Paper on Nutrition explains the background, approach, fields of action as well as the responsibilities of stakeholders in this important topic.

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Five new r4d projects approved

In October 2014 funding decisions for the thematic research module "Food Security" have been made within the "Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development" (r4d programme), the joint initiative of the SDC and the SNSF: five new projects in the module "Food Security" are funded:

Title	Main applicants and organisation	Partner countries
Farmer-driven organic resource management to build soil fertility	Fliessbach Andreas, FiBL, Switzerland	Ghana, Mali, Kenya, Zambia
Biophysical and socio-economic drivers of sustainable soil use in yam cropping systems for improved food security in West Africa (YAMSYS)	Frossard Emmanuel, ETH Zurich, Switzerland	Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast
Sustainable use of insects to improve livestock production and food security in smallholder farms in West Africa (Insects as feed in West Africa)	Kenis Marc, CABI, Switzerland	Ghana, Burkina Faso, Benin
Land Commercialization, Gendered Agrarian Transformation, and the Right to Food	Prügl Elisabeth, Graduate Institute Geneva, Switzerland	Cambodia, Ghana
Towards food sustainability: Reshaping the coexistence of different food systems in South America and Africa	Rist Stephan, University of Bern, Switzerland	Kenya, Bolivia

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Land governance programme map

This interactive mapping tool displays where different donors and development agencies are working and what they do with respect to land and resource governance. The information helps various stakeholders identify opportunities to leverage their resources for greater impact in the efforts to improve food security and nutrition, reduce land-related conflicts and promote economic growth.

Training opportunities in agriculture and food security

Do you want to learn more on Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning or on Water Conservation and Management? You find information about institutions offering opportunities in subject areas related to agriculture and food security on our network website. Many of them offer e-learning, others organise on-site courses.

Further Information

2015 Hunger Report

The 2015 Hunger Report "When Women Flourish...We Can End Hunger" released in November 2014 by the Bread for the World Institute, identifies the empowerment of women and girls as essential in ending hunger, extreme poverty, and malnutrition around the world and in the United States.

Mountains and Climate Change. A Global Concern

Mountains are among the regions most affected by climate change. The implications of climate change will reach far beyond mountain areas, as the contributions in the present publication prepared for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 20) in Lima 2014 show. Chapter 6 (p 92-109) discusses food security in mountains. The publication concludes with a series of recommendations for sustainable mountain development in the face of climate change.

Transformative adaptation in Africa's Agriculture

The Africa Progress Panel (APP) consists of ten distinguished individuals from the private and public sector who advocate for equitable and sustainable development for Africa. Mr Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations and Nobel laureate, chairs the APP and is closely involved in its day-to-day work. This article is the contribution note for the APP meeting "Expert consultation: an African Agenda for Green, Low Carbon Development".

Stronger plant variety protection may threaten the right to food

Governments in industrial countries regularly put pressure on developing countries to introduce stringent plant variety protection (PVP) regimes and to adhere to the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention, without duly considering its consequences on the enjoyment of human rights of vulnerable groups such as small-scale farmers and in particular women. New research shows that the expansion of intellectual property rights on seeds might well restrict small-scale farmers' practices of seed saving and use, exchange and selling in the informal seed supply system, limiting access to seeds and putting their right to food at risk.

Livestock and Livelihoods in Africa: Maximising Animal Welfare and Human Wellbeing

Livestock perform several vital roles in rural livelihoods in Africa, providing food (meat, milk, eggs), draught power and transport, as well as income from sales of animals and animal products. However, the implications for animal welfare are not always considered. This IDS working paper argues that livestock keepers invest in animal welfare to the extent that this increases their productivity, but they might also derive non-use value from treating their animals well.

E-Discussion Summary “How to organize large numbers of smallholders”

This short summary wraps up the first SustainabilityXchange discussion moderated by Marjoleine Motz (Fair and Sustainable Advisory Services) and Frank Eyhorn (Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation). It summarizes what participants in the discussion considered good approaches, ingredients for success, but also how to get farmers interested and motivated. The summary makes reference to useful further readings.

Innovations Catalogue

Coinciding with the International Day of Rural Women and World Food Day 2014, UN Women’s Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) hosted a Sharefair on Rural Women’s Technologies in Nairobi in October 2014. The Sharefair aimed to promote technologies and innovations that support rural female smallholder farmers in the Eastern and Southern Africa region and bring together rural women farmers/innovators, policymakers, academics, food producers, investors, financial service providers, and other technology innovators. This catalog documents very briefly the innovations being displayed at the sharefair and provides a quick reference and contact guide. ([read more about the sharefair](#))

Are innovation grants to smallholders effective in facilitating agricultural innovation?

Grant funds specifically targeted to smallholder farmers to facilitate innovation are a promising agricultural policy instrument. They stimulate smallholders to experiment with improved practices, and to engage with research, extension and business development services providers. However, evidence on impact and effectiveness of these grants is scarce. This systematic review synthesizes the available literature in order to elaborate under what conditions innovation funds tend to be effective.

Upcoming Events

“Reaching the Millions!”

2-7 March 2015, Hanoi, Vietnam

This SDC Face-to-Face Workshop is a learning event on innovation in rural advisory services to reach large populations in South and South-East Asia.

Global Land Forum

11-17 May 2015, Dakar, Sénégal

The International Land Coalition (ILC) is organizing its 6th Global Land Forum in Dakar. If you are involved in a land governance project you can organize your own session at the Forum.

Did you know that ...?



[more information >>](#)