

Newsletter A+FS and e+i / March 2018

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How Mobiles Change Smallholder Farmers' Lives



The SDC funded Agri-Fin Mobile project will soon be completed. Several tens of thousands of smallholder farmers have increased their earnings thanks to the provision of financial and agricultural services via mobile phones. The Global Programme Food Security presents promising results in a new Global Brief.

The projects encourages smallholder farmers in Indonesia, Zimbabwe and Uganda to use their mobile phones on a daily basis to access a range of financial services. The SDC and the project implementer Mercy Corps have successfully initiated various pilot models in collaboration with private-sector actors:

Indonesia: Together with local banks farmers are offered a loan per hectare of cropland coupled with farm advisory services and loss-of-earnings insurance in the event of drought or a devastating cyclone.

Zimbabwe: The EcoFarmer digital platform provides farmers with weather forecasts, practical advice, reductions on a variety of agricultural inputs and an insurance against partial harvest losses during a serious flood or drought; mobile financial services will soon be offered too.

Uganda: The Agri-Fin Mobile project has introduced a system for money transfer via mobile phone that offers smallholder farmers safer transactions and increased transparency. At the same time it supports the effort of a local IT company to equip rural cooperatives with a financial management software.

To know more:

[SDC Global Brief 1/2018: How Mobiles Change Smallholder Farmers' Lives \[FR\] \[DE\]](#)
[Agri-Fin Mobile project page by Mercy Corps \(with videos and stories of beneficiaries\)](#)

[Members' Articles](#) | [Your comments](#) 

On a visit to water efficient rice farmers in India



[by Manuel Flury]

SDC's Water Productivity Project (WAPRO) aims at reducing water consumption in food production. On a field visit Manuel Flury has learned about the projects' impacts among Indian rice farmers and about the interest of project partner and Swiss retailer COOP in such a project.



Keep up-to-date with activities of the A&FS Network Core Group

Network members now can access all core group meeting documents on the internal pages (CUG) of the A&FS Shareweb. Get to know what has been discussed at the last meeting or what is on the agenda of the next one! If you want to become a member and get access to the internal pages please contact felix.hintermann@bfh.ch, if you have suggestions or questions, please contact the Focal Point: ueli.mauderli@eda.admin.ch



SDC strengthens position of Cambodian horticulturalists

The Cambodian Horticulture Project Advancing Income and Nutrition (CHAIN) has entered its second phase. This market systems development project aims to improve service delivery to farmers, to catalyse market development and inclusive business relationships and to strengthen the enabling environment.

100+ agro-training videos on the new Access Agriculture website!

Looking for agricultural training videos in local languages and different contexts ? Check out Access Agriculture! The completely redesigned and highly praised website gives you, your partners and beneficiaries easy access to extension and training videos on maize, rice, sorghum, millet, wheat, other cereals, roots, tubers, bananas, vegetables, legumes, fruits and nuts, other crops as well as on livestock, aquaculture, Sustainable Land management, Integrated Pest Management, mechanisation, business skills

and other approaches.



How women benefit from sustainable agricultural intensification

This Insights and Solutions Brief of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) provides pathways to promote gender equity in sustainable agricultural intensification, for instance through a gender irrigation and learning improvement tool.

30 Land-based practices for disaster risk reduction

The new Compendium of Good Practices in DRR systematically describes and analyses over 30 well-established and successful land-related / land-based practices for disaster risk prevention, reduction and management. It was developed jointly by the Swiss NGO DRR Platform, the Centre for Development and Environment of the University of Bern and WOCAT.



Les familles paysannes sèment l'avenir

La Plateforme Souveraineté Alimentaire de la [Fédération Genevoise de Coopération \(FGC\)](#) a récemment publié une riche étude sur les réalités et les enjeux que sous-tend la souveraineté alimentaire en Afrique. Cet ouvrage constitue une boîte à outils précieuse sur le partage de la terre, la cultivation, l'organisation du ménage paysan et la mobilisation politique pour les divers acteurs de ce secteur, au Nord comme au Sud. [[Commander la version papier de la publication](#)]



THOMAS PIRAS
Programme Manager Desk Haïti (SDC HQ)

What do you love about your work; what is special about it?

Being Program Manager at the SDC is a chance to work in a very vibrant and stimulating environment where every day is a learning journey. Working at the SDC is a chance for expanding knowledge regarding a multitude of themes and contexts, for exchanging about experiences and for innovating thanks to the various ways of knowledge sharing. This is what stroke me the most when arriving at the SDC.

Which are your favorite instruments?

Rather than a favorite instrument, what I find extremely interesting is the flexibility that we can ensure in our interventions allowed by the combination of various instruments. In the case of Haiti, the combination or the so-called nexus between humanitarian aid and development cooperation allows us to use each other's analyses, experiences and partnerships in order to choose the most adequate response while remaining consistent and coherent in our intervention.

Your message for your colleagues?

As the SDC is a permanent learning journey in the development world, I would be extremely glad to exchange with everyone of you in order learn about your expertise and experiences and my door will also be wide open if you are interested in our action in the Haitian context.

Thomas Piras is currently assuming the position of Programme Manager for the Desk Haiti and is responsible for the thematic of gender for the Latin America and the Caribbean Division. He has previously worked for the SDC at the West Africa Division and the theme of Education, where he was responsible for the communication. He studied international affairs at the Graduate Institute (IHEID) in Geneva.

Your Comments

Leave your comments on specific articles or on this newsletter in general! 

(only for logged-in members)