Newsletter A+FS and e+i / December 2018

The A+FS Network publishes its Newsletter together with the Employment and Income Network. Please select your area of interest: Agriculture and Food Security | Vocational Skills Development / Private Sector Development / Financial Sector Development

Feature | Your comments 🔓

Reviewing recent activities of the A+FS Network

Since September, the A+FS Network was very active. We had an inspiring event about Digitalization in Agriculture (summary), one on how to transform food systems with Agroecology (summary), a Special International Seminar on Agroecology (summary), a Learning Journey about climate-resilient agriculture (summary and online dialog) as well as two core group meetings (minutes September and minutes October).

In addition, we had 20 member contributions about interesting publications, vacancies etc. Thank you all for your contributions!

We would like to express our gratitude to the 120 persons, who participated in our interview series to help us identify existing problems, bottle-neck topics, improvements in and of the A+FS Network and who contributed a great deal to plan our next year's activities.

In the next newsletter, we will inform you about the activities planned in 2019.
Happy holidays and all the best for the New Year!

Your A+FS core team

Members' Articles | Your comments 🔓

Healthier diets for healthy cities
[by Sharelle Polack and Laura Platenkamp]
By 2030, it is expected that 6 out of 10 people will live in cities, which will lead to a change of dietary patterns. Overweight and obesity are predicted to increase, along with undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. This "triple burden" calls for urban governance and the restructuring of existing food systems, not only production wise, but also in terms of consumption… [read more]

FAO label helps Brazilian flower picker communities
[by Uli Ide]
With its "Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)" program FAO recognizes outstanding landscapes worldwide. In the Serra do Espinhaço range in Brazil traditional flower picker communities have practiced a complex agricultural production system for generations. HEKS/EPER and local partners have successfully approached the FAO to discuss the possibilities of setting up a GIAHS site to establish inclusive land governance and sustainable use of natural resources ... [read more]

Ferme-école offre aux jeunes maliens une formation
[par Abdramane Traore et Sophie Parron]
La ferme-école Benkadi Bougou forme des jeunes défavorisés dans les communes de Ségou en Mali. Tourisme for Help, en collaboration avec son partenaire local, poursuit une approche communautaire territoriale et inclusive pour développer une dynamique de partage de savoirs avec les villages environnantes. La ferme participe à la défense et promotion d'une agriculture pérenne, basée sur les savoirs des paysans … [lire plus]

News | Your comments 🔓

Are new rice cultivation practices more sustainable?
Within the scope of a recent research project funded by SDC's Global Programme Food Security, IRRI assessed the sustainability performance of several initiatives to improve rice crop management including One Must Do Five Reductions (1M5R), Small Farmer Large Field (SFLF) and Good Agriculture Practice (GAP)… [read more]

How do intra-household dynamics influence nutrition?
This is the third Technical Paper from Sustainable Nutrition for All (SN4A) and it summarises key findings and lessons learnt from applying an intra-household (IHH) dynamic lens to nutrition. It aims to assist policymakers, practitioners and researchers in understanding the approaches and tools used as well as guiding their investments in integrating an IHH perspective… [read more]

Empowering excluded population groups through Agroecology
By supporting farmers in Colombia in a transdisciplinary approach to identify site-specific and suitable agroecological technologies, SWISSAID helps strengthening assets people already have. After looking back on many years of work in the field of Agroecology and local empowerment, a major study was conducted. The most important lessons learnt were translated into a short knowledge product… [read more]

Ever heard about INCLUDE?
INCLUDE stands for Indigenous Communities, Land Use and Tropical Deforestation. This project is funded by the European Research Council and conducts an in-depth study on the issue of deforestation in the Argentinean dry Chaco. The project focuses on: i) governance structures and land use policy in Salta province; ii) Sustainable land management practices among small-scale livestock farmers; and iii) Deforestation narratives in the Chaco Salteño… [read more]

Le succès des femmes de Koutiala
Les organisations féminines rurales de Koutiala accèdent aux ressources et aux moyens de production par des actions de plaidoyer / lobbying menées par leurs dirigeantes. Ces actions ont permis aux femmes de disposer des espaces agricoles sécurisés en vue de valoriser ces terres par la plantation des plants de karité, la réalisation des activités de maraîchage et la transformation des produits agricoles. [read more]

Caroline Omondi
Head of Sustainability, Varistor AG

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

I love what I do because through my work, I help farmers and entrepreneurs in the developing countries improve their livelihoods through income generating sustainable value-added food chains. With high quality foods, they are empowered to access local, regional and international markets.

With my work, I am in a unique position to bring together different stakeholders such as entrepreneurs, operators in the private-sector business, NGO's and farmers to develop strategic partnerships. As equals, they can co-create innovative win-win solutions for profitable, sustainable and scalable businesses that improve livelihoods and protect the environment.

Which are your favourite instruments?

To develop scalable, sustainable and successful businesses that generate impact to the farmers and stakeholders in the developing countries, I like to take a holistic approach that is entrepreneurial. These are the combinations of instruments that I use in every capacity: Social Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Environmental Sustainability, Co-Creation and Market access.

Your message for your colleagues?

Consider producers and farmers in the developing countries as entrepreneurs. To uplift them from poverty and enhance their quality of life, they need to be empowered as entrepreneurs to produce products that can enable them to access their local and regional markets as well as international ones. Strengthen them by investing in their skills and improving their productivity. Empower them to adopt ethical, responsible and sustainably profitable business practices and models that are economically beneficial to them, their environment and communities at large.

Caroline Omondi is originally from Kenya. She has more than 13 years' experience in the food industry and possesses in-depth knowledge in quality management, product development, production process as well as Fairtrade and organic certifications. Her passion and expertise lie in developing efficient value-added sustainable supply chains and facilitating Fairtrade. Her aim is therefore to continue empowering communities in the developing countries to access markets and generate income through sustainable value-added food chains and improve their livelihoods. With her cross-cultured background, she excels at building bridges between developing and industrialized economies. At Varistor AG, she established and developed all Fairtrade and sustainable projects that have created many jobs in the developing countries and enabled market access opportunities. Caroline graduated in Food Processing Engineering at the Technical University of Dresden in Germany. She holds an Executive MBA in General Management from the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland.