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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA
**Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC**

A+FS Network
Agriculture and Food Security Network

e+i | employment and income network

# Feedback and Thoughts on the Joint E-discussion on Rural Advisory Services and Making Markets Work for the Poor

Two thematic networks of SDC – Agriculture and Food Security and Employment and Income – experienced a meeting of minds over the past few months. The exchange on rural advisory services (RAS) and making markets work for the poor (M4P) was interesting for all network members, especially because the issues had historically been dealt with separately in the two networks. Although the meeting of minds already started through a joint face-to-face session for some network members, the bulk of the dialogue took place **online**. The most immediate tangible output of the e-discussion was a synthesis paper with guiding questions for planning and implementing M4P and RAS initiatives. At the end of the e-discussion and when the synthesis paper was distributed, many network members gave the feedback that the e-discussion made a valuable contribution to their work:

Thanks for this sharing. (Nepal)

Thanks for this - keenly anticipated! Will study it and look forward to the follow up. (Germany)

Thank you very much, be sure that this conclusion document will help us in our target, to support the rural development in our countries. (Nicaragua)

Vielen Dank für dieses interessante und nützliche Dokument. (Ecuador)

Thanks for sharing the reports. This will help us ensure a new environment for further discussion. (Bangladesh)

Thanks for sharing, the synthesis report obviously will help us to implement our M4P project in Bangladesh. (Bangladesh)

I join all those who have expressed their appreciation for the opportunity given to us to join the discussion and finally the synthesis of the discussion that enriches us to offer our services to our clients – the poor of the world. Best regards to all and hope to meet on online forums and other forums to share our experiences in future. (Bhutan)

First of all, thanks a lot for your such excellent effort of coordinating and facilitating the lively discussion. I am a novice in this field and have been learning from all of you. I didn't contribute during the discussion but I was always attentive as reader and observer. I think this platform not only enriches the experts and practitioners, but also has a great learning platform (theoretical and practical) for the young learner like me. I hope that I would be able to contribute from what I have learnt from the discussion. I expect that in future, that sort of joint discussion with other thematic networks will continue. (Bangladesh)

Thank you so much for facilitating the e-discussion from which I benefited a lot! (Tanzania)

Dear all, Thank you for this synthesis paper we will study carefully (Nicaragua)

**Let us know if you have feedback, personal lessons learnt or further food for thought on this e-discussion!**

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