

# Report on the Meeting of the Swiss Forum on Rural Advisory Services (SFRAS)

AGRIDEA, Eschikon 28, 8315 Lindau

Thursday, 8 December 2011, 10:00 - 16:45

## Key expectations towards SFRAS as formulated in the last meeting in Vevey in March '11:

- to exchange and learn from each other, particularly on good practices and tools;
- to have space for networking;
- advocacy and lobbying on RAS in order to keep it high on the agenda in international cooperation.

## Objectives of this meeting

- To have a thematic exchange on impact measurement of RAS activities, based on good examples and practices;
- To discuss and validate as a "sounding board" the 1<sup>st</sup> results of SDC's Experience Capitalization in Rural Innovation and Advisory Services (Overview Document)
- To inform about selected recent and on-going activities in the SFRAS network and the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services GFRAS.

## Programme

<i>Time</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
10:15	Welcome, Objectives and Programme Short introduction of participants	
<b>I) Focal topic: Measuring Impact of RAS Activities</b>		
10:30	<b>Opportunities and Limits of Results Measurement.</b> Illustrated by the Case Study "Horticulture Promotion Kosovo"	Ruedi Felber, NADEL
11:15	<b>Two examples from the field:</b> Outcome Study of Rural Advisory Services in Kyrgyzstan and Citizen Satisfaction Survey of PS-ARD, Vietnam	Peter Schmidt, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation
12:00	<b>Exchange on what can be learnt</b> from the presentations for own activities and challenges in impact measurements → <i>Insights, new questions and other good examples</i>	
12.30	<i>Lunch</i>	
<b>II) 1<sup>st</sup> Results of SDC Mandate: Capitalization of Experiences in RAS</b>		
13:30	Presentation, validation and complementation of the <b>Capitalisation of experiences in Rural Innovation and Advisory Services Overview document</b>	Martin Fischler, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation
<b>III) Exchanging, learning and networking within SFRAS</b>		
14:50	<b>Linking SFRAS to GFRAS</b> Report on GFRAS annual meeting 2011, update on regional networks and partners and outlook on activities planned for 2012	Kristin Davis, Dorothee Löttscher, Lorenz Schwarz GFRAS
15:30	<b>RAS Platform management: Facilitating the dialogue among key stakeholders in agriculture</b> Input by the meeting's host organisation AGRIDEA	Barbara Würth, Agridea
16:00	<b>Tour de Table:</b> News and announcements by the participants	all
16:20	Review of this SFRAS meeting, verification of expectations towards the network, planning of next meeting and next steps	
16:45	Closing	

Measuring Impact of RAS Activities: What can be learnt from the presented examples?





# New Questions



Is logical framework always logical on all levels? (wrong application)

Focus on result chain construction (causality) needed from the beginning and less effort on the baseline?

Direction of Causality Concerning Spill-over Effects?

Involvement of beneficiaries in designing evaluation

Cost and benefit of impact studies?

Cost-benefit-ratio of evaluation?

Correct Interpretation of Data?

How to assess changes in context?

How to measure climate change resilience?

How to deal with 'project' bias in assessments?

Benchmark and comparison between different methods, difficult to do

there is no one good methodology  
↳ need to combine x

How is IMA doing?

# Other good examples



CDE's Study "Quand les greniers se remplissent", 2011

KS FFS Impact evaluation (BSc Thesis 2008)

PIPA-workshops (participatory impact planning) → IRRIC / CGIAR

SFSIP Vietnam; outcome mapping; story telling

→ = Social Forestry Support Project Vietnam (ca. 2002)

Ex-post Impact Study "Postosecho" (Central America)

RISE (see text) eg. Nestle in China

→ = SHL Tool

## Tour de Table: News and announcements by the participants

### Swiss Colleague for Agriculture SHL

by Hans Schaltenbrand

1. **New method tool box for teaching/learning & counseling ready for testing:** Out of about 160 well known methods, our didactic/method staff compiled a tool box consisting of about 25 best practiced methods/tools to creatively designing and sequence learning-teaching lessons and counseling sessions. For every method a precise recipe of two pages has been carefully elaborated. For some key methods a small film sequence will also be made ready. When everything is completed and translated it will be published on our website to be available for all who are interested.  
*→Pls find a short pdf info attached which also explains why we did this task (quality reasons).*
2. **The website of the Agriculture and Rural Development Network of SDC** is worth being visited. We regularly update it via a complementary mandate to the capex mandate of Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation. Pls have a look at it under <http://www.sdc-ruraldevelopment.ch/> . In case you have interesting information which is worth being spread there, pls do send the information to [felix.hintermann@bfh.ch](mailto:felix.hintermann@bfh.ch) .
3. **Cost-Benefit Analysis** seems to be on the uprise again. One of our staff is being mandated by SDC to look into that and support different coordination offices and their programs / projects. Based on the experiences made in the past the CBA as such needs to be seen and judged within a holistic context in which a program/project is embedded. If only applied as single observation or analysis tool it bears certain risks. This needs to be thoroughly considered. We may further inform on this tool which also can be used in RAS programs at a later stage.
4. By 1.1.2012 the Swiss College of Agriculture / Schweizerische Hochschule für Landwirtschaft SHL ([www.shl.bfh.ch](http://www.shl.bfh.ch)) owned by 26 cantons and the Fürstentum Liechtenstein will move its institutional ownership to the canton of Bern under the Bern University of Applied Sciences / Berner Fachhochschule. By doing so, its name will change to **Hochschule für Agrar-, Forst- und Lebensmittelwissenschaften HAFL / School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences.**  
<http://www.hafl.bfh.ch>  
E-mail addresses will remain as they are now.

### Centre for Development and Environment CDE

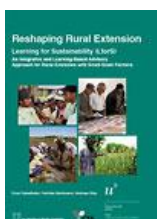
by Felicitas Bachmann & Sonia Ferroni Yameogo

The following two new publications on RAS have been released & can be downloaded from the websites of CDE or of the A+RD network of SDC:



#### [Quand les greniers se remplissent](#)

Les bénéfices du partenariat entre la recherche agronomique, la vulgarisation agricole et des organisations paysannes au Mali, Sonia Ferroni et Ernst Gabathuler, Syngenta Foundation / CDE, 2011



#### [Reshaping Rural Extension. Learning for Sustainability](#)

An Integrative and Learning Based Advisory Approach for Rural Extension with Small-Scale Farmers. E. Gabathuler et al., Margraf Publishers, 2011



## Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture SFSA

by Robert Berlin

### **A Roundtable on Agricultural Extension in Asia “Strengthening Extension for Sustainable Agricultural Intensification and Enhanced Farmers’ Participation in Value Chains” will take place in Beijing, China, in March 2012.**

The objective of the roundtable is to share experience about agricultural extension across four Asian countries (China, India, Indonesia, Vietnam). Experts and stakeholders (policy-makers, practitioners, analysts) from the four countries, and including some international experts will attend the meeting. The main themes for discussion will be Decentralization, public-private partnerships; links to markets; high value activities, linkages with research and technology, information and Communication Technology, Policy and institutions, etc. The organizers are the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), the National Agro-Technical Extension and Service Centre, the Ministry of Agriculture of China and the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (SFSA)

As discussed we (SFSA) propose to present results of the Roundtable during in next gathering in Oct'-Nov' 2012 in Basel.

## SDC's Agriculture and Rural Development Network

by Marylaure Crettaz

The **F2F meeting of the SDC A+RD Network** will take place from April 30th to May 4<sup>th</sup> 2012 in Switzerland. Stay informed about the event through the dgroups list of the A+RD Network. If you are not a member yet, you will be invited by Marylaure to join the mailing list.

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## Next Steps of SFRAS

### **1. E-discussion on Market Oriented Rural Advisory Services**

In the beginning of next year an e-discussion on Market Oriented RAS will be held through dgroups of SDC's A+RD network. SFRAS members are encouraged to join the discussion! Make sure you are member of this dgroups list. If you are not yet, contact [marylaure.crettaz@deza.admin.ch](mailto:marylaure.crettaz@deza.admin.ch)

**2. A face-to-face meeting of the A+RD Network will be held from 30 April – 4 May 2012 in Switzerland.** SFRAS members will be invited. More information through the dgroups list of the A+RD network (see above).

**3. The next meeting of SFRAS will take place in approx. 1 year in Oct/Nov 2012 at Syngenta Foundation in Basel.** Tentative topic will be “pluralistic public-private RAS systems”.

4. For 2013 **Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation** has offered to host the SFRAS meeting.