

SFRAS Meeting, 31 October 2014 at SCD Berne Minutes

The second meeting of SFRAS in 2014 took place at SDC Bern. 20 persons participated in an interesting event. For details of the **Participants**: see *list attached*.

Minutes: Rahel Meier, Agriculture & Food Security Network, SDC, Bern

Presentations	
<p>Stefanie Kägi HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation “SAS Consulting” in Tajikistan. A private enterprise offering a range of modern communication offers to farmers</p> <p>Andreas Schriber Biovision “Farmer Communication Programme” in East-Africa; a complex of various communication technologies</p> <p>Robert Berlin Syngenta Foundation “Farmforce”, a mobile platform developed by the Syngenta Foundation to manage outgrower schemes in 12 countries in Africa. Experiences two years after introduction</p> <p>Conclusion Different approaches in different regions but with the same aims: Increase productivity, efficiency and income. A range of new methods are needed to reach the millions of small scale farmers, many of them living in poverty.</p>	<p><i>See presentations</i></p>
News from GFRAS	
<p>Main findings of the 5th GFRAS annual meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Main results and observations from the Buenos Aires event:</p> <p>Main findings:</p> <p>1) In its existence of 5 years (2010 - 2014) gfras has progressed very well in promoting and strengthening regional RAS-networks (2010: 1; 2014: 12). Average results were achieved in partnerships with policy makers; partnerships with financing organisations and cooperation with agricultural research and innovation systems. Little progress has been made in cooperating with the private sector.</p> <p>2) Priorities for 2015 and 2016 are the elaboration of a new strategy for the period 2016 to 2020. This strategy will be elaborated in 2015 and finalized in the next Annual Conference, Bishkek, October 2015. The new strategy will be aligned to the new post-MDG Development framework.</p>	<p>Simon Weidmann <i>See presentation</i></p>

SDC will play an active role in the process of elaborating the new strategy.

3) A second priority will be the promotion of south-south knowledge exchange among the regional RAS-networks. It was acknowledged that the existing potential has not been sufficiently utilized.

4) SDC will organize a side-event in the Annual conference 2015 with the topic: "How to reach the millions of smallholders with affordable RAS".

For more information see: <http://www.g-fras.org/en/>

GFRAS Events 2015

- "How to reach the millions", 2-6 March 2015, Hanoi Vietnam
RAS-Event organised by Helvetas
More information and registration in December
- GFRAS Annual Meeting in Kyrgystzan, September / October 2015
- AFAAS Extension Week, Ethiopia, Oktober 2015
- RELASER Meeting in Colombia, Autumn 2015
- Global Conference on Women in Agriculture (GCWA2), Africa, Autumn 2015
- GCARD 3 (Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development), Autumn 2015

News from the RAS-World

- IALB / EUFRAS meeting, 14-17 June 2015, Solothurn, "What competences are needed for RAS?"
- Ongoing and recently finalized RAS-oriented international studies at HAFL within the BSs Major International Agriculture.
- Project Helvetas in Laos: Need of more participation of private sector and civil society
- Work with AFAAS in Benin: Who has information about RAS in post-harvest-management?
- Information about micro-insurance projects in Africa

Anton Stöckli

Hans Schaltenbrand,
See PDF

Peter Schmidt

Martin Fischler

Robert Berlin

New SFRAS members

Please inform SFRAS focal point Peter Schmidt about new interested SFRAS members (especially from the French speaking part of Switzerland and from the private sector).

Peter Schmidt

	SFRAS member organisations		SFRAS active addresses	
	April 2014	October 2014	April 14	Oct 14
Academia	5	6	12	14
Networks	2	2	3	4
NGO	12	13	20	22
Consulting	2	4	6	9
Private Sector	4	5	8	9
Administration	2	2	10	11
Total	27	32	59	69

SDC Agriculture and Food Security Network

You can register as new member at <https://dgroups.org/sdc/foodsecurity/>
See also the following link <http://www.sdc-foodsecurity.ch/>



Join the SDC - A & FS Network

Organisational Aspects

What do we want to get out of this meeting?

- Members are interested in SFRAS and will continue. Mandate from SDC to Helvetas about Focal Point SFRAS (including a database)
- Main topics for the future could be
 - How are RAS organised in Switzerland, what can we learn about Switzerland?
 - Link PHM and RAS should be done, improved -> post harvest loss and waste
 - Professional competence of an extensionist
 - Extension policies
 - Gender aspects in RAS
 - 2015: International Year of Soils / What could be done about this and RAS?
 - 2016 focus on land governance

Next meeting

- Organised by AGRIDEA, in Lindau or Lausanne, will take place after the Vietnam-Event (April / May 2015)

AGRIDEA

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Participants

Last Name	First Name	Organization
Bateman	Melanie	CABI
Berlin	Robert	Syngenta Foundation
Cordey	Pierre-André	DEZA
Crole-Rees	Anna	CRC4change
Davis	Kristin	GFRAS
Ernst	Natalie	GFRAS
Fellmann	Felix	DEZA
Frey	Monique	Caritas Switzerland
Heierli	Urs	iDE
Kägi	Stefanie	Helvetas
Klauser	Dominik	Syngenta Foundation
Meier	Rahel	DEZA
Monteil	Philippe	DEZA
Roduner	Daniel	Agridea
Schaltenbrand	Hans	BFH
Schmidt	Peter	Helvetas
Schmutz	Sibylle	Swisscontact
Schriber	Andi	Biovision
Sicks	Andreas	Biovision
Stöckli	Anton	BLW
Weidmann	Simon	DEZA
Zoss	Marc	Heks