
SFRAS MEETING - MINUTES

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT IN RAS

March 22th, 2017, 09:15 – 12:30, Biovision Zurich
Heinrichstr. 147, 8005 Zürich

Link to the documents and presentations:

<https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Agriculture-and-Food-Security/focus-areas-overview/ras-and-agricultural-education/sfras>

1. Agenda

Speaker 1: Stefan Lanz, Systems and Projects Manager, Gebana

Speaker 2: Dionys Forster, Sourcing Specialist, Nestlé

Speaker 3: Johann Züblin, Member of the Board of Directors at PRIME Agri Ltd. Myanmar

9.15	Opening & Welcome	Stefanie Kägi and Shruti Patel
9.20	Creating value in the supply chain: gebana's engagement in rural advisory services for fairtrade and organic quality food products	Speaker: Stefan Lanz, Systems and Projects Manager, Gebana
9.40	Q&A	Moderation: Stefanie Kägi
9.45	Nestlé's engagement in rural advisory services to ensure supply of high quality raw materials	Speaker: Dionys Forster, Sourcing Specialist, Nestlé
10.05	Q&A	Moderation: Stefanie Kägi
10.10	Coffee Break	
10.25	PrimeAgri Myanmar: RAS in a fully integrated rice value chain	Speaker: Johann Züblin, Member of the Board of Directors at PRIME Agri Ltd. Myanmar
10.45	Q&A	Moderation: Stefanie Kägi
10.50	World coffee on private sector RAS 1) Inclusiveness of private sector RAS 2) The role of international cooperation to complement, enhance or facilitate private sector RAS 3) Ecological aspects of RAS –	Table moderation by thematic experts

	opportunities for the private sector	
11.50	Sharing world coffee outcomes	All
12.10	News from members <i>Please report about recent or forthcoming events, publications, projects, initiatives related to RAS</i>	All
12.20	Planning of next meeting	All
12.30	Closing and optional joint lunch	

2. Participants

Attended

Stefanie Kägi	Helvetas
Shruti Patel	Bio Vision
Johannes Brunner	HAFL
Martin Schmid	HEKS
Ernst Bolliger	Individual
Felix Fellmann	SDC
Rudolf Lüthi	Helvetas
Rudolf Schoch	Pakka
Markus Kupper	Swisscontact
Peter Bucher	Agridea
Angela Deppeler	Agridea
Monique Frey	Caritas
Natalie Ernst	GFRAS
Johann Züblin	PrimeAgri
Stefan Lanz	Gebana
Mirjam Moser	Biovision
Andreas Sicks	Biovision
Erich Waldmeier	Consultant
Loredana Sorg	Biovision
Rouven Perez	Syngenta Foundation
Dionys Forster	Nestlé

Excused

Martin Fischler	Helvetas
Daniel Roduner	SDC
Stephanie Huber	Mercator Stiftung
Simon Degelo	Fastenopfer
Markus Staub	Max Havelaar
Sarah Mader	Swissaid
Felicitas Bachmann	CDE
Annick Vollmar	Helvetas

3. Presentations

All presentations are available here:

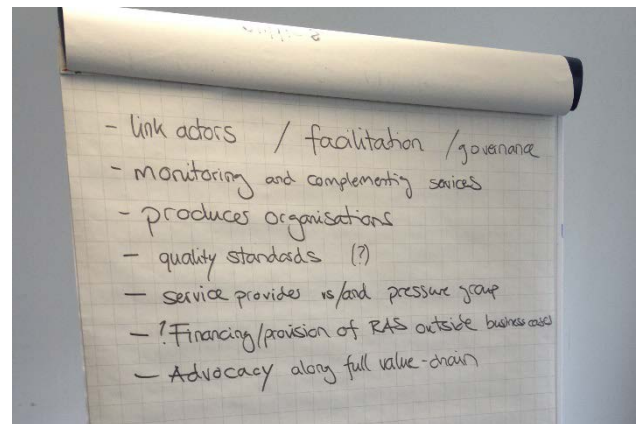
<https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Agriculture-and-Food-Security/focus-areas-overview/ras-and-agricultural-education/sfras>

4. World Coffee

Three table groups worked on the following topics:

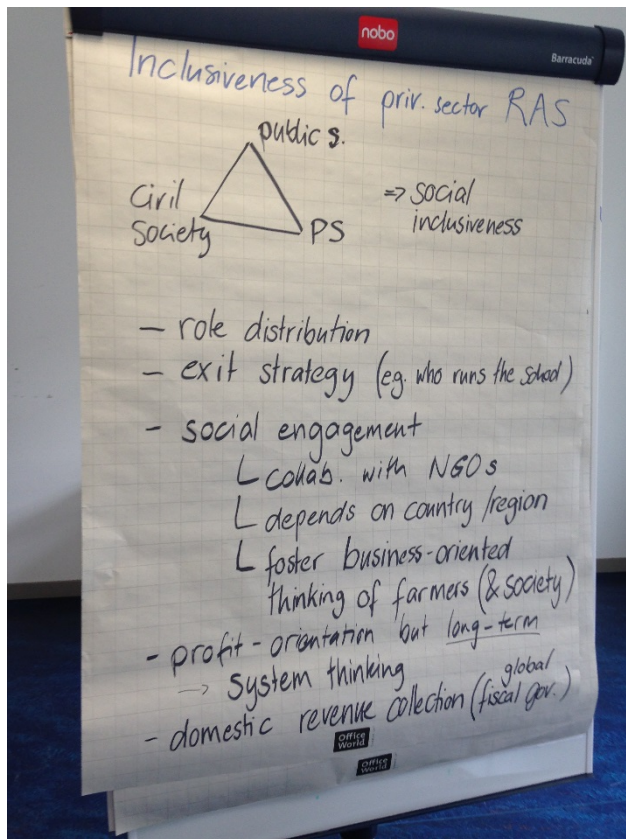
1. What role can international development institutions play in private RAS settings? Key outcomes:

- Linking actors
- Facilitate exchange and coordination
- Support governance structures for better coordination
- Monitoring and complementing services from private companies in order to enhance their inclusiveness and ecological impact
- Support producer organisations to get organised in order to access private RAS
- Role of civil society is (at least) twofold: It can act as service provider or pressure group to put a finger on risks and challenges. Development institutions can support both, but be clear on the roles and objective.
- Support RAS outside the business case
- Facilitate and enhance advocacy along the entire value chain



2. How can private RAS reach out to poor and marginalised producers (inclusiveness)?

3. Environmental aspects of private RAS – opportunities for private companies



5. News from members

- Johannes Brunner (HAFL):
 - Link to **Events in the frame of the 50 years jubilee of HAFL**:
<https://www.hafl.bfh.ch/ueber-die-hafl/portraet/jubilaeum-hafl-2017.html>
 - The following **symposium** is of particular interest for the SFRAS members:
 31.8.2017: **“Beraterinnen und Berater unterwegs: Tätigkeiten im Jahr 2030”**
 Location: HAFL; more information follow
- Natalie Ernst (GFRAS):
 - **Annual GFRAS meeting** on youth and rural urban transformation: *“Rural advisory services and empowered youth for balanced transformation in rural and urban communities.”* Further information here:
<http://www.g-fras.org/en/annual-meeting-2017.html>
 - A **new extensionist learning kit** is available. It encompasses 13 competences to ensure and assess quality of RAS. The focus of the learning kit is on functional skills of extensionists.
- Rudolf Schoch (PAKKA): Pakka is currently assessing new supply **opportunities for Macademia nuts** in Mozambique and Kenya.
- Rudolf Luethi (Helvetas): The Rural Economy team of Helvetas currently elaborates a **new strategy**.
- Angela Deppeler and Peter Bucher (Agridea): **RAS training course for strategic / institutional RAS analysis** will be available in a few months. The course focuses on strategic persons or institutions in RAS and strengthens competences to analyse

RAS systems in a strategic manner and provide organisational development support. The course will be tailored to specific individual requirements.

- Felix Fellmann (SDC):
 - SDC Global Programme Food Security jointly with Syngenta Foundation and ETH Food Systems organises a one-day event on the question: “**How can Africa feed itself?**”. **22 June 2017**
 - Other events on seed systems and value chains will be organised and save the date messages shared with the SFRAS members.
 - SDC initiates a **new learning journey on urban, peri-urban and rural development**.
- Martin Schmidt (HEKS): HEKS will organise an **international Colloquium on Access to land in Kassel**, in June 2017. A follow up event will take place in **Switzerland on 20th June**. Information follows.
- Monique Frey (Caritas): Caritas works in least developed countries that are prone to conflict and prone to climate change. Related to RAS it is still very difficult to bring in private sector partners into these regions.
- Markus Kupper (Swisscontact): The Catalyst project in Bangladesh has been phased out and Swisscontact as capitalised experiences and evaluated impact. A number of documents on the project are available.
- Stefanie Kägi (HELVETAS)
 - Article in the magazine Rural 21 on producer organisations in organic value chains will be published in June 2017

6. Next meeting

Suggested topics:

- Rural Urban Transformation
- Young people:
 - Young people & Media: Is ICT & mobile technology a tool to render agriculture more attractive for young people?
 - General: How to attract young people to agriculture?
- Value addition through RAS:
 - How does RAS contribute to increased income? How can it be measured? How to show the benefits to farmers?
 - How to measure the quality of RAS?
 - How to measure it's impact?
- Value chains
 - Value chain management and traceability systems: Ownership of data? Technologies? (Syngenta could share experiences)
 - Value chains: link to urban/periurban areas
 - Data management, data quality, and data validation in value chain / RAS projects
- Urban farming and RAS (20-25% of fresh vegetables could be produced on roofs)

A doodle will be sent in order to schedule the date for the next meeting. The topic and host will be defined in the coming months.