

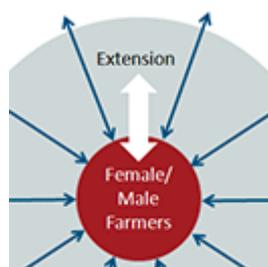
## Newsletter A+FS and e+i / September 2015

The Agriculture & Food Security Network now 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

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### Regional F2F meeting in Vietnam



#### Reaching millions of farmers with RAS – Lessons learned

This article summarises learnings from seven studies to capitalise 20 years of experiences with rural advisory services (RAS) systems in Asian countries. These experiences were the starting point for the regional F2F "Reaching the Millions!" in Hanoi/Vietnam in March 2015. The studies examine how RAS systems reach out to large numbers of farmers in a poverty oriented, ecological and sustainable

way.



#### Hanoi Statement on Rural Advisory Service Systems

In March 2015, 68 experts on rural advisory services (RAS) gathered in Hanoi to discuss how future RAS systems can reach out to millions of agricultural producers with services in a poverty oriented, and sustainable way. The synthesis of this intense five day learning event is presented in the Hanoi Statement on Rural Advisory Service Systems – a tool to design the support of future RAS systems.

#### Look at the seven studies to capitalize experiences and at the Hanoi Statement

Contact: Felix Fellmann, Focal Point A&FS Network, [felix.fellmann@eda.admin.ch](mailto:felix.fellmann@eda.admin.ch)

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### Regional F2F meeting in Nicaragua



#### Multi-Network Event on Climate Smart Watershed Development

Under the title "Rethinking best practices in integrated water and soil management at multiple scales at basin level, integrating climate risks and financial mechanisms for scaling up" a Multi-Network F2F Meeting was held in Nicaragua from 6 to 10 July 2015.

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## Articles by Network Members

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### **Cash transfers – a tool to address acute malnutrition in emergency and transitional contexts?**

(by André Dürr, SDC) There are multiple causes for malnutrition in emergency and transitional contexts. Hence understanding the pre-emergency and emergency-specific causes of malnutrition is essential to plan a sensible intervention. Humanitarian agencies are increasingly using cash transfers to address acute malnutrition. But what does the evidence say?



### **Experiences with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) extension campaign for cassava - using Farmer to Farmer video**

(by Le Ngoc Lan, CIAT) Conventional extension schemes with the use of face-to-face communication are increasingly criticized as being costly, time-consuming and plagued by limited geographical coverage. Training farmers through Farmer to Farmer video is an alternative to address these shortcomings.



### **When nutritious food and safe water are available as needed**

(by Maw Maw Soe, NPO SDC Myanmar) This is the story of Daw Shwe Hmon, a 60 years old grandmother of two children, living in Kyauk Kyi village, Seik Phyu Township, Myanmar. Her participation in a home garden project helps the family to have more diverse food and improved livelihoods.

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## SDC News

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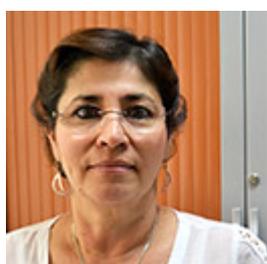
### **SDC's Agriculture and Food Security Portfolio**

The SDC Global Programme Food Security has published an updated overview of SDC activities in the field of Agriculture and Food Security. The document informs about thematic priorities and main partners and it provides statistical data on disbursements as well as a special focus on nutrition.

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## Who is who

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### **Maria Antonia Zelaya Blandon National Program Officer, SDC Nigarcua**

#### ***What is your background and your current job?***

I am an economist, specialised in rural development and agrarian systems. I studied in Nicaragua. After my bachelor degree I did my specialization (Magister) in the "Institut National Agronomique Paris-Grignon" in France. Currently I am National Program Officer for SDC.

#### ***For how long have you been in your current job and what are your tasks? What was your previous job?***

I have been working with SDC for eleven years now. I started in June 2004. My responsibilities were to ensure the project cycle management of projects linked to agriculture, rural development and more recently, climate change and agriculture. Since 2013 I coordinate the activities of the domain "Environmental Vulnerability and Climate

Change” of the cooperation strategy for Central America of SDC. My responsibilities are: a) prepare concept note, b) entry proposal; c) credit proposal, d) government dialogue, e) donor dialogue; f) monitoring and follow up of projects.

Before 2004 I worked with the European Union as Cooperation Adviser for three years; and before that, I coordinated a project called “Food Security European Network” (RESAL)

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

I am very happy to contribute to the reduction of poverty, give opportunities to excluded families and promote gender equality. I also appreciate the professionalism and rigueur of work in SDC. I am always learning and I feel that my work is recognized.

***What are your interests and expectations towards the A+FS Network?***

I am especially interested in: a) the results of studies and research driven by the network, b) the knowledge management (know experiences of the other countries, lessons learned, good practices); c) being up-to-date with new trends of smart agriculture and climate change, rural advisory, etc.

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## **Further Information**

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### **State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015**

The latest edition of the annual UN hunger report "The State of Food Insecurity in the World" was published by FAO, IFAD and WFP in May 2015. According to the report, the number of hungry people in the world has dropped to 795 million – 216 million fewer than in 1990-92 – or around one person out of every nine.

### **How can global nutrition be improved?**

The “Global Nutrition Report 2014” presented in Berlin/Germany in early June, uses more than 80 indicators to demonstrate how hunger and malnutrition as well as obesity can be reduced world-wide. It convenes existing processes, highlights progress in combating malnutrition, identifies gaps and proposes ways to fill them. Report helps to guide action, build accountability and spark increased commitment for reducing malnutrition.

### **Family Farming Knowledge Platform**

In recognition of the contributions of family farmers to food security and poverty eradication worldwide, FAO launches a new digital platform that aims to become a "one-stop shop" for information, data and legislation on the sector. The new platform will allow governments to build stronger policies in support of family farmers and help policy dialogue with family farmers' organisations

### **Handbook for monitoring and evaluation of child labour in agriculture**

This new FAO document states that, while much effort has been invested in preventing and reducing child labour in the production sector of export crops such as cocoa, coffee and cotton, child labour on family farms has remained untouched.

### **The Reduction of women's work burden in agricultural production**

Rural women in developing countries play an active role in small-scale agriculture, currently accounting for 43 percent of the global agricultural labour force. This paper illustrates the role of smallholder women farmers, fishers, forest dwellers and/or livestock keepers, and analyses the factors that lead to time poverty as well as their implications. Recommendations are presented at the research, policy and project level.

### **New online platform on pastoralism**

The Pastoralist Knowledge Hub, a new online platform, aims to connect livestock keepers. It offers a growing database of research on pastoralism, contacts for a worldwide network of pastoral representatives, and discussion forums.

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### **Upcoming Events**

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14 to 17 September 2015 - Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan

#### **Global Good Practices in Rural Advisory Services**

6th GFRAS Annual Meeting,

9 to 13 November 2015 - Isiolo, Kenya

#### **Regional F2F West and East Africa on the topic of pastoralism**

The workshop will take place in Isiolo/Kenya with around 30 participants from West and East Africa. The objective will be to further discuss a number of capitalization studies and experiences and to derive good as well as “bad” practices from many years of work with livestock holders. Results of the studies and of the workshop will be published in our web-page beginning 2016. Recommendations will be taken on board to improve new country strategies and to add value to new project interventions.