

Newsletter A+FS and e+i / April 2016

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

Feature | [Your comments](#)

Nutrition - New Network Focus Area



Malnutrition in all its forms is of greatest global concern: 1/3 of the people on the planet are malnourished and the challenge is spread all over the globe. Marlene Heeb from SDC has initiated the focus area nutrition on our Shareweb in order to deliver a platform for the increasing interest on nutrition in our network. Currently the platform contains key graphs and documents, information on the SDC Working Group Nutrition and examples of SDC projects.

One of those projects is "Sustainable Nutrition for all (SN4A)", implemented by SNV and aimed at supporting small holder farmers in Uganda and Zambia to diversify their food production and consumption. "If I feed her properly, my grandchild can reach her full potential and become a lawyer, a doctor, or a professor" says a grandmother taking part in the SN4A in Uganda. People were not aware that they had stunted children and raising the issue in the community was the first step for change. There are many elements and factors to malnutrition. SNV is working on multiple aspects of the issue. Apart from diversifying food production and consumption, raising the awareness of district authorities is a key element of moving forward within the country.

[Focus Area Nutrition on the A+FS Shareweb >>](#)
[SNV Website on the project "Sustainable Nutrition for all" >>](#)
[Members' articles related to nutrition \(below\)](#)

Articles by Network Members | [Your comments](#)

Tackling malnutrition through livestock based interventions in Ethiopia



[by Lense Gobu, VSF-Suisse, Ethiopia]
VSF-Suisse explores the livestock-nutrition linkage through its emergency veterinary support programme in Ethiopia's Somali Region. VSF-Suisse found that milking goat distribution coupled with emergency veterinary services are effective in addressing acute malnutrition and preventing future relapses. [read more >>](#)

A new approach to tackle nutrition issues facing the same old problems of sustainability



[by Yves Guinand, SDC]
In Rwanda and Burundi a project with a new approach on nutrition for food security is being piloted by UN Agencies. The project, co-financed by SDC, contributes to poverty reduction and improvement of health by reducing causes of malnutrition, and improving nutritional status of mothers and children. Though the project is innovative its long-term success and sustainability depend on the adaptability on-farm and the acceptability of the proposed solutions by the targeted households. [read more >>](#)

Développement de l'agroécologie par l'apprentissage au Sahel



[par Abdramane Traoré et Joël Simonnet]

Le développement de l'agriculture est conditionné au climat, ainsi qu'à l'accès aux ressources naturelles. Au Mali plus particulièrement, si la pratique de l'agroécologie locale donne de bons résultats pour le maraîchage, il reste maintenant à effectuer le passage à l'échelle d'une région entière, voire du pays. Pour ce faire, des difficultés techniques et stratégiques doivent être résolues. [lire plus >>](#)

SDC News | Your comments

OECD DAC Prize goes to SDC supported Plantwise Programme



The CABI-led Plantwise programme, that uses plant clinics and plant doctors to reduce crop losses, won the OECD Development Assistance Committee's Prize 2015 for innovation. The award recognises initiatives that take innovative approaches to international development. By scaling up the benefits for farmers in 34 countries, Plantwise aims to help improve smallholder livelihoods and increase food security worldwide. This prestigious award recognises the efforts of all the Plantwise supporters and partners – over 168 worldwide – who make its innovative approach a reality in policy and practice.

RAS E-Book and Pageflow "Reaching the millions!" now on Shareweb



"How can Rural Advisory Services (RAS) reach millions of smallholder farmers in a poverty oriented, ecological, and financially sustainable way?"

This was the starting question of the learning journey 2015.

The e-book is a compilation of the nine documents published during this learning process, it reflects on 20 years of experiences in Asia, articulates the lessons learned and provides recommendations on how RAS systems can best reach out to large numbers of agricultural women and men producers in a poverty-oriented, ecological and financially sustainable way.

New "GPFS - At Work" on Nutrition



Marlene Heeb started an e-discussion on the new "GPFS - At Work" on Nutrition on our shareweb. Thanks to highly appreciated member comments the paper was adjusted and is now ready to be used at SDC to brief staff on nutrition.

[Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture and Food Systems \(GPFS - At Work, No.9\) >>](#)

Blog Learning Journey "Land Governance" (members only)



Maria Bongard's blog accompanies the learning journey in land governance, started by the SDC A+FS and DDLG Networks. The blog keeps you up to date with our networks current activities in the learning journey. Check it out, we are looking forward to your contributions and rely on your support, and as always: you are invited to comment! (members only)

10 Years Young Professionals for Agricultural Development



Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) is celebrating its 10 years jubilee! Since its beginning SDC is funding the organization that aims at connecting young professionals in the field. YPARD provides information in relation to funding, jobs, events, news, resources for and about young professionals in Agricultural Development. Moreover, they are also active off-line; piloting a mentoring programme, and participating in key events giving a voice to youth.

[Further information and sign up for membership >>](#)

Pastoralism in Africa - Experience Capitalisation



For SDC pastoralism is a key domain in the Sahel and in the Horn of Africa. In a workshop in November 2015 in Kenya, the subgroup "Pastoralism" consolidated the accessible knowledge. The result: a page-flow and nine briefs (in English and French) addressing core issues in pastoralism, as well as a bibliography. The briefs were taken up by the FAO Pastoralist Knowledge Hub and met highly positive responses. Due to the success, Manuel Flury from SDC will launch a new focus area "Pastoralism" on the A+FS Shareweb in summer 2016.

[Experience Capitalization in Pastoralism >>](#)

Network Events | [Your comments](#)

F2F Meeting on Land Governance

5 to 9 September 2016, Sursee, Switzerland

We invite you to our F2F Meeting "Inclusive Land Governance: Road to a better life" that is the highlight of this year's learning journey!

[Register now >>](#)

Fachtagung: Ökologische Landwirtschaft in Afrika

5. September 2015, Bern, Schweiz

Das A+FS Netzwerk der DEZA organisiert zusammen mit SWISSAID eine Fachtagung mit dem Titel "Ökologische Landwirtschaft in Afrika". Im Vorfeld der Veranstaltung wird auf dem Shareweb ein Blog eingerichtet, dessen Resultate in die Fachtagung einfließen werden.

[Provisorisches Programm und weitere Informationen >>](#)

Who is who | [Your comments](#)



MARC BLOCH
Food Security Manager for the Horn of Africa,
SDC Nairobi

What do you enjoy most about your current position?

As Food security Manager for SDC I currently have 3 main tasks:

- 1) develop new programs/projects for the Horn of Africa region
- 2) coach National Programme Officers
- 3) provide technical support and advise to national partners

I would like to point out two points I like in particular compared to other jobs I had in the past: First, I don't have any management responsibilities in my current and can fully concentrate on technical issues related to pastoralism, resilience and institutional development. Every working day poses new challenges and I have much less routine. I also have more and closer contact with my counter parts than in my previous positions as a senior manager.

Second, I closely work with many senior representatives from national and international partners (regional ministers, deputy governors, etc.) and do a lot of high level strategic work. Through this my work has a wider impact than in previous positions.

How does a typical working day of yours look like?

I like to be in the office early, before traffic builds up and all my colleagues arrive. This gives me time to go through my e-mails and get them out of my way or to do some reading. I often have meetings with one of our counter parts to discuss issues related to projects funded by SDC. During these meetings I provide technical advice on issues related to agriculture, food security and institutional development or present the SDC point of view and make sure that projects are in line with our strategies and principles.

I try to be in the field at least once a month to be up to date with realities on the ground and to be able to better understand project challenges and problems. It is important for me to follow up on concrete tasks during these visits. In my view development takes place on the ground and not at the embassy. Then there are also periods when I spend a lot of time on the computer to finalize a credit proposal or work on another document.

A significant part of a typical working day is reserved to give advice to my local colleges and coach them in their work.

Where do you see the benefits of the A+FS network regarding your work?

Having more than 20 years of experience in various sectors and all over Africa I am able to contribute to various discussions that take place within the A+FS network or to assist when a network member raises an issue or has a question.

To be a member of the network also allows me to be up to date with issues addressed by other network members to get information on interesting approaches or innovations in other SDC programs or to get links to information and web sites. In my view, the network contributes to a harmonized SDC approach and strategy in Food Security and guides us in our work. Last but not least, I can be in touch with people I have been working with in the past or know about their whereabouts.

Your Comments

Leave your comments on specific articles or on this newsletter in general!

(only for logged-in members)