

# Newsletter A+FS and e+i / December 2016

The A+FS Network 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](#)

[Rural-Urban Linkages](#) | [Your comments](#) 

## Urban poverty: what consequences for SDC's South Cooperation?



Today, approximately 25 % of the world's poor live in urban areas. This part will increase to 50 % by 2040. In view of such trends, SDC's South Cooperation (SC) launched a reflection on the consequences for SC's strategic positioning: Should SDC (SC) engage in a more substantive way in urban settings and if so, how? Two briefing notes were written in order to lay the basis to answer this question:

### [Cities, urbanization and poverty reduction](#)

This Briefing Note provides some key facts and figures about incidence and characteristics of urban (and rural) poverty, about the main opportunities and challenges of urbanization and about the possible approaches to best tackle the challenges.

### [Urban Development Assistance](#)

This Briefing Note summarises the position of several key development partners in terms of their activities and approaches in urban settings.

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## Learning Journey 2017: Rural-Urban Linkages

In 2017 the A+FS Network will be part of a learning journey on rural-urban linkages. There will be closer collaboration with SDC South Cooperation, Global Programme Migration, the Network Poverty and Wellbeing and other SDC divisions. Within the SDC A+FS Network Serge Oumow will be the expert for urbanisation and food security related issues.

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### [Agricultural Insurance: Offering hope for the future to smallholder farmers](#)

The poorest farmers in the countries of the South are not insured against climate hazards. Micro-insurance aims to mitigate this problem, but achieving this means meeting a triple challenge: it has to be effective, accessible and sustainable. A new SDC Global Brief discusses opportunities, challenges and SDC's involvement.



### [Award for Farmer-to-Farmer Video Platform "Access Agriculture"](#)

Access Agriculture has won GOLD in the Innovation category of the EVCOM Clarion Awards. The Access Agriculture website features "farmer to farmer" videos in local languages. Access Agriculture has been assisted by a contribution from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

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### Video on positive impacts of project in Mongolia

In 2005, on request from herders, SDC supported a stone fenced 1000 ha hay-making area in the Tsengel soum in Western Mongolia under the Green Gold project. Eleven years later, Ms Soyolmaa (SDC communication officer) and Ms Enkh-Amgalan (Green Gold project manager) revisited the site and made an impressive video on the multiple returns of this project.

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Who is who | Your comments 



**SERGE OUMOW**  
Programme Officer, SDC East Asia Division

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

I am what is sometimes appreciated and other times rather decried: a generalist with over 20 years of very eclectic and diverse experience in development work. First a graduate in Russian (Soviet) Studies with a passion for the sea (I wanted to become Captain and ended a few years Seaman in the Swiss merchant navy) and music (thought I could be a Blues Brother in a R'n'B band in Geneva), I started working at the grass root level in NGOs in Central Asia and the former Soviet Union in the early 1990's; joined briefly ICRC in Nagorno Karabakh; and started at SDC as member of the Swiss Humanitarian Corps in Ukraine and Moldova. After a stint at OZA (Russia and Central Asia desk) I left SDC to follow my wife in Warsaw (who worked for OSCE), where I worked as a consultant for funds to new EU member states, before joining WFP in Sudan (the biggest humanitarian operation in the world) responsible for partnerships. After four years in Sudan, Darfur included, and after the secession between North and South, I returned to SDC at the Global Programme Migration and Development as Regional Adviser in West Africa based in Cotonou, Benin. I am now back in Berne with my family and work as desk for Laos and Mekong, where there is a strong AFS programme.

#### **For how long have you been in your current job and what are your tasks/activities?**

I started in September 2016 as desk for Laos and Mekong, so just a few months ago. I am responsible for the overall management of programmes in Lao PDR (three main domains as Governance, EVET and AFS) and the Regional Portfolio of SDC in the Mekong Region: partnerships with Mekong River Commission and Mekong Institute; Mekong Region Land Governance MRLG; and a regional programme on labour migration and skills development.

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

I am a very inquisitive person and remain very open to different subjects. Currently though, my main interest is with the process of urbanization and how to integrate most efficiently our current programmes with the thematic of urban growth and influence. I look forward to working with colleagues at SDC to explore together this issue and try to integrate it into our programming. I am very happy to meet old colleagues again as well as discover new ones in the A+FS Network and work alongside for the coming few years.

### **New Urban Agenda adopted**

The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) has adopted the New Urban Agenda, that acknowledges the key role of food security and nutrition for sustainable development, and the importance of urban rural linkages and integrated territorial development.

### **Land Governance - Focus of latest Rural 21 issue**

Land is a major source of people's identities and livelihoods as well as being a key asset for households. Land ownership and land use rights crucially affect both equality of opportunity and economic and environmental stability. The latest issue of Rural 21 - The International Journal for Rural Development is dedicated to land governance.

### **Pastoralists Do Plan! Community-Led Land Use Planning in the Pastoral Areas of Ethiopia**

Pastoralism is one of the most valuable land use systems found in dryland areas. Common property regimes are the norm and resources are shared between multiple users, demanding complex access and management arrangements. New challenges such as an increasing incidence of drought and other problems such as the invasion of alien plant species are occurring. This Issue Paper published by ILRI reviews comprehensive land use planning in Ethiopia.

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### **SDGs in Action - New Mobile App**

With this new app the UN provides detailed information on each of the 17 Goals, including associated SDG targets, explanatory videos, key data and suggestions on how people can take action to help achieve the goals.