

## Newsletter A+FS and e+i / April 2017

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](#)

[SDC and Urban-Rural Development Dynamics](#) | [Your comments](#) 



**Pio Wennubst, Vice-Director and Head of the Global Cooperation Department, gives us his insights into how SDC as a development agency can be effective under the fast transformations in the rural-urban nexus.**

Urbanization drives profound transformation, presenting both challenges and opportunities for poverty reduction, rural development and food security. The A+FS Network takes part in SDC's reflection process on these transformations with its 2017 [Learning Journey Urban – Peri-Urban Development Dynamics](#).

Contact: *Sophie Hirsig, trainee in the A&FS Network (sophie-lena.hirsig@eda.admin.ch)*

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### **To improve low quality diet: a top priority for the SDGs**

*[by Marlene Heeb, Programme Officer, SDC, Switzerland]*

Malnutrition remains a rising global challenge. Poor quality diet is the number one risk factor in the global burden of disease. Yet, there is no global data on food consumption and diet quality available. SDC supported a consortium of internationally leading researchers on diet quality metrics in their efforts towards closing this gap.



### Potentials and limitations of NRM in Afghanistan

[by Xenia Kirchhofer, Programme Manager, SDC, Afghanistan]

In the remote and largely mountainous regions of Rustaq district in Afghanistan's Takhar province, SDC is funding a research project to better understand the socio-ecological systems in order to inform future context-sensitive natural resource management (NRM) strategies that contribute to more sustainable livelihoods.

New Documents | Your comments



### Phasing out harmful use of pesticides

A new report by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food and the UN Special Rapporteur on toxics, presented to the Human Rights Council on March 7, details the health and environmental effects of excessive pesticide use globally and calls for a comprehensive new global treaty to control it.



### 4 Scenarios for the Future of Global Food Systems

A new World Economic Forum report presents four scenarios for the future of global food systems: Survival of the Richest, Unchecked Consumption, Open-source Sustainability and Local Is the New Global. It aims to provoke and challenge leaders to think in new ways about what the future may bring and to motivate action on the key issues that will shape that future.



### Smallholder farms: distribution and contribution to food security

According to a new study 918 subnational units in 83 countries in Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, and South and East Asia average less than five hectares of agricultural land per farming household. These smallholder-dominated systems are home to more than 380 million farming households, make up roughly 30% of the agricultural land and produce more than 70% of the food calories produced in these regions...



### Die Bevölkerung der Schweiz isst unausgewogen

Die Menschen in der Schweiz essen mehr Fleisch als empfohlen, dagegen konsumieren sie zu wenig Milchprodukte. Das zeigen die neuesten Ergebnisse aus der ersten Nationalen Ernährungserhebung menuCH. Diese bringt auch zu Tage, dass sich 71 Prozent der Befragten am Mittag ausser Haus verpflegen und jüngere Personen vor allem abends öfter kochen als ältere Personen.

(siehe auch Marlene Heeb's Artikel "To improve low quality diet: a top priority for the SDGs")

Discussions on the A+FS Shareweb | Your comments

### A+FS Newsletters 2017: Wish List

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Sophie Hirsig has organized an e-discussion about what topics members deal with and would like to exchange about. It was a lively exchange, and we would like to thank all participants for their valuable contributions. Together, we identified four topics where open questions arise for our work and where there is a call for further dialogue within the community: 1) nutrition and post-harvest management, 2) food security and nutrition in

protracted crisis and/or non-state controlled areas, 3) land governance, 4) M4P approaches and design.

Those willing to share their experiences in articles will be contacted for further newsletters. For those who could not participate in the discussion, you are always invited to share insights in the [CUG](#) or contact Sophie Hirsig ([sophie-lena.hirsig@eda.admin.ch](mailto:sophie-lena.hirsig@eda.admin.ch)).

### Share your experience on rural-urban dynamics!

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The Committee on World Food Security (CFS; joint committee of FAO, IFAD & WFP) has been inviting short summaries of experiences and policy approaches in addressing food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and rural transformation. The A&FS Network collected experiences within SDC, and would especially like to thank Sebastian Eugster at the Desk for South Sudan for sharing their experiences in the project South Sudan, FAO: Urban & Peri-urban Livelihoods. The CFS has extended the [call for submissions](#) until 24 March 2017.

Network Event | [Your comments](#) 

### Seminar I/2017: How can Africa feed itself?

22 June 2017, Ausbildungszentrum Pflege, Freiburgstrasse 130, Ausserholligen, Switzerland

We invite you to the first network seminar of SDC's Global Program Food Security (GPFS) with partners from science, civil society, the private and the public sector.

Register by contacting Sophie Hirsig ([sophie-lena.hirsig@eda.admin.ch](mailto:sophie-lena.hirsig@eda.admin.ch))

Who is who | [Your comments](#) 



**FELIX FELLMANN**  
Focal Point, SDC A+FS Network

Felix currently is the Focal Point of SDC's Agriculture and Food Security Network, based at the Global Programme Food Security at HQ in Bern. He has led the A+FS Network with a lot of enthusiasm, a zest for life and learning. This August, he will go on rotation and has been appointed as Head of Cooperation in Beijing. Before he leaves for this new and exciting journey, [he looks back at the last years as Focal Point of the A+FS Network](#). Thank you, Felix, for all the wonderful moments – we wish you all the best!

*"Dear A+FS Network Members, dear readers, Already three and a half years have passed since I started my exciting job as Focal Point ... "*

### Your Comments

**Leave your comments on specific articles or on this newsletter in general!**   
(only for logged-in members)