

Newsletter A+FS and e+i / June 2018

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Where and how to invest in the rural-urban context?



Until 2050, urban populations in low and middle-income countries will grow from 4 to 6.35 billion. Food insecurity and malnutrition threaten to increase more substantially in cities and towns. What can be done to avoid this? What role can agriculture play to strengthen the poor along the rural-urban link?

In a webinar and an online dialog, members of the A&FS Network found answers. Dialog and webinar are part of a wider reflection process aiming at defining SDC's approach in the context of rural-urban development dynamics.

The dialog showed the potential of investments in the rural-urban context, be it in big cities or in mid-sized towns. Among many others, the following areas of activity emerged from the dialog:

- analyse city food and market systems and develop new market systems
- improve the nutrition situation by prioritising highly nutritious foods containing proteins or micronutrients
- address consumer behaviour through awareness raising and healthy ready-to-eat foods
- face the imminent cooking fuel crisis with fast-growing biomass and more efficient stoves
- set up online job markets to recruit lacking agricultural labour forces
- improve spatial governance of food systems (land tenure, transport, water and waste)

More information:

[Synthesis of webinar and online dialog](#)

[Outcomes in more detail](#)

[Full online dialog \(registered members only\)](#)

[Members' Articles](#) | [Your comments](#) 



Insights from the 2nd International Symposium on Agroecology *[by Manuel Flury]*

The 2nd International Symposium on Agroecology took place at FAO in Rome under the title "Scaling Up Agroecology to achieve the SDGs". Manuel Flury reports about the experiences shared by different countries and actors, the newly established Scaling up Agroecology Initiative, and the next steps decided on by the symposium participants. [\[read more\]](#)



Empowering the new generation in rural areas

[by Manuel Flury and Ueli Mauderli]

“Do not throw money at us, do not invite us anymore to conferences in your countries, come to meet us at our places, to see our ventures, learn from them and engage as partners!” This is the condensed statement young African agripreneurs spelt out at the General Assembly of the Global Donor Platform on Rural Development.

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Reducing grain losses in Tanzania

Tanzanian smallholder farmers lose up to 40% of their harvests due to poor handling and storage methods. SDC's Grain Postharvest Loss Prevention (GPLP) Project works towards the reduction of losses by promoting silo technology and hermetic bags and by improving the policy environment. [read more]



Video about the Mekong Region Land Governance Project

This short documentary provides an insight into the challenges that the Mekong region's smallholder farmers face in terms of rights and access to land and natural resources. It also illustrates how the Mekong Region Land Governance (MRLG) project, co-financed by SDC, is working with partners on various initiatives in the Mekong countries. [watch the video]



2nd Regional Land Forum in Bangkok

The MRLG project and FAO organised the Second Regional Land Forum in Bangkok from 28-30 May 2018. Over 300 participants discussed threats and opportunities of large-scale land acquisitions that have been particularly prominent in the Greater Mekong Subregion. [read more]

Angola	Benin
2.1	4.3
Burkina Faso	Cameroon
4.2	2.1
DR Congo	Djibouti
1.4	3.2

Measuring progress of Africa's agricultural transformation

In 2014, the African Union adopted the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. The declaration sets out seven commitments to achieve by 2025. This landmark report provides an overview of the progress made by the member states up until now.

[read more]

Achievements and lessons learnt of CHAIN project phase I

The Cambodia Horticulture Advancing Income and Nutrition (CHAIN) Project has summarised its outcomes, constraints, success factors and key learnings from the first project phase. [read more]





Dr. Ir. BONAVENTURE VIDJANNAGNI AGBOTON
Senior Programme manager (SDC-Cotonou, Benin)

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

Specifically interested in research and development focused in designing, planning and implementing programmes. My duties dwelt on interactions with farmers, policy and technical standards advice, implementation of research, mobilisation and training teams of technicians and national partners, technology transfer to farmers on biological control methods through Farmers School Field, organisations of meetings, seminars, conferences and workshops. I participated in resource mobilisation activities, organised and delivered capacity building activities with partners, students and farmers organisations. With this, I could monitor and update several points in programs. This also allowed me to anticipate changes required in the initial protocols and technical standards and alert our collaborators, partners and farmers in participating countries.

Which are your favourite instruments?

As SDC Programme Manager DER (“Développement économique rural”, Rural Economic Development) and Head of ESPOIR programme, I am in charge of this programme that contributes to the emergence of Benin's private microenterprises of young people and small and medium-sized agribusinesses (SMEs) to ensure sustainable economic growth, increased employment and income, and a nutritious diet (food security). It carries the hope of a whole generation of entrepreneurs, and helps to meet part of the demographic challenge by creating jobs. The commitment with Government and partners to work together towards a model of inclusive collaboration in order to increase private investment in the agricultural sector, encourage innovation, deliver sustainable food security and nutrition outcomes, create wealth and end hunger.

Your message for your colleagues?

My main motivation for my work is to ensure 1) the quality and technical and financial monitoring of the execution of programs to achieve results, and 2) support to partners to support sustainable development at the heart of social, economic and political innovation of the countries concerned. Learn more by doing and share expertise and experiences with colleague and partners. I am an open and proactive person.

Mr. Bonaventure AGBOTON, a Canadian-Beninese national, has a degree in Agricultural Engineering and a Ph.D. in Applied Agricultural Science in Molecular Microbiology from the University of Göttingen (Germany). After five years at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Benin, he worked for three years in Kenya for the International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE). Mr. Agboton then spent four years in Canada where he put his skills to work for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. He then returned to Benin and worked two years for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as a senior project manager specialising in Agriculture and Economic Growth, in particular concerning the financing of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). He was in charge of Orabank and Ecobank guarantee credits for SMEs. He can speak Fon, Yoruba, Goun, French and English, written as spoken.

Your Comments

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