

Newsletter A+FS and e+i / September 2018

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](#)

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Move towards Climate Resilient Agriculture



The relevance of Climate resilient agriculture has been underscored by the recent heatwaves affecting many parts of the northern hemisphere. The core group of the SDC Agriculture and Food Security Network has prioritized the topic for the years to come. Therefore, it has developed a concept for a learning journey on climate resilient agriculture and discussed it with interested SDC staff and Swiss NGOs.

Whether you are just interested in the topic or you can contribute with your own experience: You are very welcome to participate in the upcoming learning journey! The journey will begin in November with webinars and online dialogs. As a first step you have the possibility to provide your input in a [3 question survey](#) on a) your key interests, b) your suggestions for improvement of the learning journey concept and c) your suggestions for expert inputs at the webinars.

More information in English

- [Imperative climate resilient agriculture](#) (call by Ueli Mauderli)
- [Concept for learning journey](#)
- [Survey: Your input for the learning journey](#)

Plus d'info en Français

- [Impérative d'une agriculture résistante au climat](#) (appel de Ueli Mauderli)
- [Concept d'un parcours d'apprentissage](#)
- [Enquête: Votre contribution pour le parcours d'apprentissage](#)

Mas información en Español:

- [Imperativo de una agricultura resistente al clima](#) (llamada de Ueli Mauderli)
- [Concepto para un viaje de aprendizaje](#)
- [Encuesta: Su entrada para el viaje de aprendizaje](#)

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



[Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development](#)

[by Simon Zbinden]

Global agriculture today is an asymmetry: a technology-driven, highly productive, subsidized and border-protected semi-industrial agriculture on one side and a low-productive, smallholder agriculture with little domestic support or protection on the other side. While Switzerland does hardly export any agricultural raw materials it still protects and supports its own agriculture and thus contributes to this asymmetry ... [\[read more\]](#)



How to stop the Fall Armyworm, also in Asia?

A recent blogpost of CABI shows that the Fall Armyworm is not only threatening crop harvests in many countries in sub-Saharan Africa but is also rapidly spreading across Asia. How can it be pushed back? Different resources provide useful insights: [Video 1](#), [Video 2](#), [FAO Guide for Farmer Field Schools](#).



How to start a new National Agro-development fund?

Agridea supported the Beninese government in setting up an implementation strategy for their newly created National Fund for Agricultural Development (FNDA). They have written a report about the process and results. [[read more](#)]



How to reduce disaster risks in Southeast Asia?

A new factsheet of the SDC Humanitarian Aid Office of Southeast Asia and Pacific provides a good overview of how SDC is mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in its programmes, how it improves its emergency response in the region and how Switzerland contributes to the regional policy dialogue. [[read more](#)]



How to link smallholders successfully to agri-business?

Private sector involvement surged during recent discussions between staff from implementing agencies and SDC around the world and the A+FS Focal Point team. Jessica Graf from Hystra therefore recalls the key insights of a study of the e+i network from 2015 on what matters most when linking smallholders with agri-business... [[read more](#)]



EMILIE AUBERT, Programme Manager for Rural Development and Food Security (SDC Mali)

[French version](#)



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

I discovered the field of rural development rather late, during my posting as a JPO in Niger, 2 years ago, but it seduced me right away because of its direct and concrete ties with people's lives. Agriculture and Food Security are directly linked with the most basic human needs, but they also are at the core of the development process of a country as they bear great economic and social potentials. I find it interesting as well as challenging to work in that field in Mali as we need to take into account many impacting factors, such as climate change, private sector development, humanitarian crisis and political choices made by the government. Therefore, I have no time to be bored!

Which are your favourite instruments?

I could not say that I have a personal favourite instrument, but rather that it depends on the context. Unfortunately, Mali faces numerous challenges that need to be dealt with a combination of our instruments, be they humanitarian, from development or even from human security. Therefore, it is crucial that we, at SDC, exchange information between our own instruments/Directions, but as well as with other partners and the government of the host country.

Your message for your colleagues?

I realize that being based in a francophone region, language can be a barrier for an effective participation of my West African colleagues in the network. I would like to stress that it should not be considered as a lack of interest on our end. In the contrary, we are always happy and interested to take part in such exchanges, especially when they can be made in person, be they in a global F2F or in a regional one just as we organize annually in West Africa. You might by the way want to have a look at our A+FS online reporting on the last regional Westafrican face to face meeting from April 2018 in Burkina Faso on private sector involvement in agriculture in [English](#)  and [French](#)  (members only).

Emilie Aubert is currently assuming the position of Programme Manager for Rural Development and Food Security in Mali. She has previously worked for the SDC in Niger and for the Education Team within the West Africa Division, as a Junior Program Officer. Before joining SDC, she worked for several Human Rights organisations. She studied international relations and development studies at the Graduate Institute (IHEID) in Geneva.

Your Comments

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(only for logged-in members)