

# Newsletter A+FS and e+i|EPS / December 2021

The A+FS Network publishes its Newsletter together with the Employment and Income Network and the Competence Center for the Engagement with the Private Sector (EPS). Please select your area of interest: [Agriculture and Food Security](#) | [Vocational Skills Development](#) / [Private Sector Development](#) / [Financial Sector Development](#) / [EPS](#)

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## A Look Back and a Look Forward

In this editorial the new A+FS focal point team presents their ideas for the network activities 2022. The annual A+FS Network survey provides valuable inputs to gear those activities towards members' needs. To see the full survey results and find out more about the road ahead be sure to see the full editorial.

Three highlights planned for the coming year are:

- A Food Systems Learning Journey
- A Youth Stream E-Discussion
- A regular breakfast- (or lunch-, dinner- or midnight snack-) meeting

While these interactions will be online, they will hopefully be complemented by a F2F meeting towards the end of 2022.

**For more information read the editorial in:**

[English](#) | [Français](#) | [Español](#)

## Changing a village in Upper Egypt, one sponge at a time



*[by Laila Kenaway, SDC Egypt | Reading time: 4 minutes]*

Funded by the Embassy of Switzerland in Egypt, the Masar project (June 2020 to March 2022) aims to assure income generation and women inclusion by supporting the loofah cluster's development, in particular against the backdrop of the COVID-19 induced economic downturn. The project works at the farm-level, together with the Sohag University and local community organisations to improve farming practices ... [\[read more\]](#)

## How the Right-to-Food approach can eradicate hunger



*[by Charlotte Dreger, FIAN | Reading time: 5-6 minutes]*

Today, between 720 and 811 million people are hungry and more than 2.3 billion people do not have access to adequate food, which is more than 30% of the global population. The Right-to-Food approach tackles structural causes of hunger and malnutrition. Human rights are indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. In that sense, the right to adequate food and nutrition (RtFN) is closely interconnected with other human rights ... [\[read more\]](#)

## SDC's nutrition in city ecosystems (NICE) project gets underway



*[by Helen Prytherch, Swiss TPH | Reading time: 3 minutes]*

To improve urban diets for vulnerable city populations in Bangladesh, Kenya and Rwanda, a consortium of Swiss partners has launched the NICE project. NICE works with local authorities to empower women and youth leadership, while addressing both the demand and supply side of city food systems ... [\[read more\]](#)

## Caritas Switzerland applies systemic approaches to developing markets



*[by Rob van Hout & Rahel Wyss, Caritas Suisse | Reading time: 4-5 minutes]*

Caritas Switzerland is increasingly working in fragile contexts and considers market system development (MSD) to be one of the most important approaches in its work in international cooperation. The organisation shares several key factors to consider when planning and putting in practice successful MSD Projects ... [\[read more\]](#)

La version intégrale du dossier thématique est également disponible en français [\[PDF\]](#) | Read the full thematic paper [\[PDF\]](#)

## The challenging path to sustainable groundwater management



*[by Lyian Wand and Nadine Benani, SDC China | Reading time: 3 minutes]*

On 1st December 2021, the Chinese Ordinance on Groundwater Management will come into force. Activities under the Sino-Swiss cooperation project on groundwater management and its multisectoral approach allowed to alleviate some of the challenges in designing the Ordinance ... [\[read more\]](#)

## Land Matrix Analytical Report III: taking stock of the global land rush



*[by Markus Giger, Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern | Reading time: 3 minutes]*

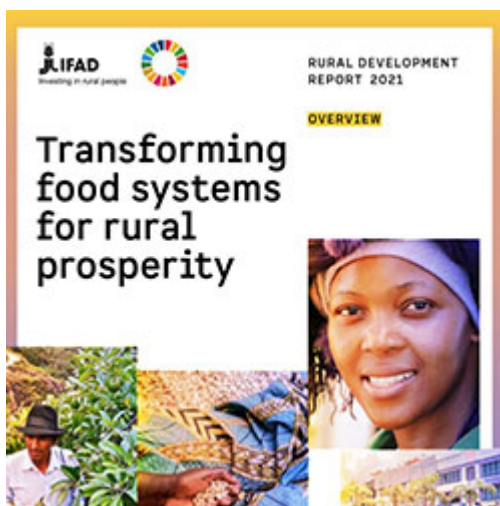
The third Analytical Report of the Land Matrix provides a comprehensive analysis of data and research results on impacts of large-scale land acquisitions in developing countries. The findings are sobering and in part alarming: few development benefits, many human and environmental risks ... [\[read more\]](#)

## Global Nutrition Report 2021



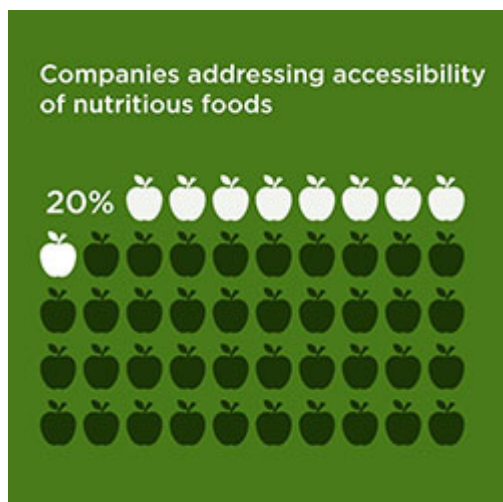
The recently released 2021 Global Nutrition Report provides a concise data-focused update on the state of diets and nutrition in the world. Independent analysis of the best data on nutrition is critical for evidence-based, timely and effective actions to ensure that we deliver on our global commitment to end poor diets and malnutrition ... [\[read more\]](#)

## IFAD's Rural Development Report 2021



IFAD's Rural Development Report 2021 focuses on "Transforming food systems for rural prosperity." It describes the systemic issues that have led to the situation we are in, identifies priorities for transforming our food systems, and provides recommended actions to achieve meaningful change. The report promotes equitable livelihoods for rural people, who are front and center in transforming food systems, alongside the need to improve nutrition and protect the environment ... [\[read more\]](#)

## 2021 Food and Agriculture Benchmark, World Benchmark Alliance



The first ever Food and Agriculture Benchmark measures and ranks 350 of the world's most influential food and agriculture companies on their contributions to transforming our global food system. The benchmark builds upon existing frameworks and targets to holistically assess companies from farm to fork on their environmental, nutritional and social impact ... [\[read more\]](#)

## Reimagining Africa's food future



Africa is estimated to have 60% of the world's remaining arable land, but expanding into it threatens nature. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is calling for a reimagining of Africa's food future that would ensure nature-positive food production at the required scale to realise a food system sustainable for both people and nature. Their paper defines pathways to sustainable agriculture and resilient communities and offers a broad analysis of the factors shaping Africa's food systems ... [[read more](#)]

Events | [Your comments](#) 

## Sustainable production of cotton and cocoa (SFIAR Award 2021)



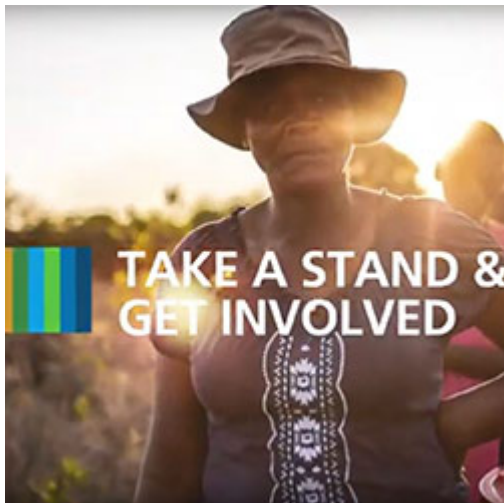
On 15 December 2021 the Swiss Forum for International Agricultural Research honours Dr Amritbir Singh Riar and his team from the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture with the SFIAR Award 2021. They have developed new cotton cultivars suitable for organic production in India. The Master Thesis Award goes to Michaela Kuhn for her research on the gender gap in smallholder cocoa production in Uganda. The online public award ceremony features a keynote by Heinz Zeller of the textile company Hugo Boss followed by presentations of the winning projects and a panel discussion. [[read more](#)]

## Financing for nutrition: Role of development banks



Transforming food systems that can deliver healthy diets, respectful of the environment and in an economically viable way will require an estimated extra US\$300-350 billion per year and enhanced coordination between all sources of finance. Public Development Banks (PDBs) have a particular role in catalysing a change of course across local and global financial ecosystems. On 17 December 2021, a side-event to the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit, will present the PBD coalition proposed by IFAD. [[read more](#)]

## Forum de coopération internationale Suisse



Du 31 mars au 1er avril 2022, le premier Forum suisse de la coopération suisse se tiendra à Genève. Le forum « Protéger la planète pour le bien de l'humanité » se penchera sur les multiples défis du changement climatique pour le développement durable. [[Lire plus](#)]

From 31st March to 1st April 2022, the first Swiss International Cooperation Forum will take place in Geneva. Entitled "For the Planet. For the People", the forum will deep dive into the multiple challenges of climate change for sustainable development. [[read more](#)]

### Who is who | [Your comments](#)

#### Amsalu Andarge Abate



National programme officer,  
GPFS, SDC Ethiopia

What made you choose to work as an NPO at SDC?

I chose to work with SDC because of it allows me to work with vulnerable communities and with diverse stakeholders at national, regional and global level.

Who is your personal hero/heroine?

Nelson Mandela

What is the most important lesson you have learned from your work?

The lessons I am learning include: the new approach towards food systems, how nutrient and healthy foods are extremely important in African agriculture, and the needs of a multi-sectoral approach in programme implementation.

As population pressure continuously affects the natural capital and internal conflicts, drought, floods and COVID-19 has exacerbated food insecurity in the 55 African Union member countries, targeted, multi-sectoral and inclusive approaches are required to feed more people now and in the coming years. At this point the role of agriculture and food security experts are twofold: on the one hand to help political leaders better understand the current situation, and on the other hand to bring country specific solutions that support resilient agricultural development that can feed the existing population and the future generation. I have learned and I firmly believe that without taking into account the population pressure, it is challenging to address persistent food security problems. In most cases, the organisations have loosely considered populations in and across ministries, e.g., in Ethiopia.

Another lesson I have learned is the importance of engaging with the private sector in agriculture. As I perceive it, private actors are important players in agricultural value addition. In most low-income countries production is low and generates low value. Hence, bringing the private sector's expertise in mechanisation could allow to increase productivity and add value to agriculture in these countries, especially in the processing sector. So, our focus should be to encourage and incentivize the private sector to fully engage in food production.

*Mr Abate Amsalu Andarge joined the Swiss Cooperation Office at the Embassy of Switzerland for Ethiopia, Djibouti, South Sudan and African Union as National Programme Officer for the Global Program Food Security on November 15, 2021. He holds a Master of Art in Rural Development and bachelor's degree in agricultural extension.*

*Mr Amsalu has more than twenty years of experience working in agriculture and marketing development in the public and the private sector in Ethiopia. He is proficient in value chain development, capacity building, cooperative support, inclusive marketing development and agricultural extension. He worked for the Government of Ethiopia (Ministry of Agriculture), Cooperative Agency, ACDI/VOCA, Oxfam GB, MEDA, Agriteam Canada, and SNV. His experience in linking smallholder farmers to lucrative local and international markets and enhancing capacities of government institutions, as well as farmer organizations are particularly to be highlighted. During his last assignment, Amsalu has worked for SNV's Livelihoods for resilient Market-led programme, expediting the prolific relationship of development actors to the private sector.*

### **Your Comments**

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 (only for logged-in members)