

## Newsletter A+FS and e+i|EPS / June 2022

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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image from IPES report "Another Perfect Storm?"

**The war on Ukraine** has quickly evolved from being the human tragedy it is in its own right and a challenge to Europe's security structure, to becoming a truly international crisis of global proportions. Especially, food-importing countries are suffering, and people are forced to sacrifice healthy nutritional choices. At the same time, farmers are increasingly having to crop without fertilisers or opting to skip a planting season.

A very timely and readable IPES report, "[Another Perfect Storm?](#)" (presented at the last [Thoughts for Food](#) event) argues convincingly that the current crisis we face cannot be attributed solely to the war on Ukraine. Rather, the report identifies **structural factors which are fundamentally weakening the world's ability to respond more robustly to shock.**

In the A+FS Network, we are currently preparing to launch our **Food System Learning Journey (FSLJ)** in September. The current crisis will of course colour our approach to our learning journey, but also give the undertaking a new sense of direction and urgency.

Your A+FS focal points, Bruce Campbell and Stéphanie Piers

[Read the whole editorial!](#)

## Empower Pastoralist Women in Ethiopia



*[by Abduba Yacob Tulicha, SDC Ethiopia | Reading time: 3 min.]*

One of the major objectives of the SDC funded NRM-Borana project has been to increase the income of pastoralist women in Ethiopia. The project engaged them in income gaining activities such as bee keeping or milk marketing. It also organised courses to improve their literacy and numeracy skills. These activities contribute to the empowerment of women at the household and at the community level ... [\[read more\]](#)

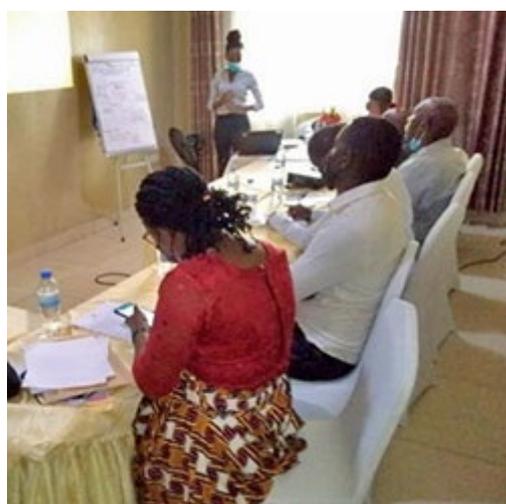
## Snack the System!



*[by Rahel Greter, Swiss Mission to UN in Rome | Reading time: 3 min.]*

Milan – Rome – Davos. These were the locations of the “Snack the System” event series held in May 2022. The events were organized in the context of the SDC funded initiative “Bites of Transfoodmation”. The aim of this initiative is to bring together motivated young individuals who want to change the status quo of our food systems. [\[read more\]](#)

## Multisectoral food systems platforms in Rwanda



*[by Cornelia Speich et al., Swiss TPH | Reading time: 3 min.]*

The Nutrition in City Ecosystems (NICE) project strengthens multi-stakeholder food systems platforms as part of its approach to improve nutrition for city populations. In Rubavu and Rusizi city districts in Rwanda two such platforms were recently launched within existing structures. One of their aims is to improve coordination and planning among nutrition, agriculture and health stakeholders. [\[read more\]](#)

## Launch of Transformative Land Investment Initiative



[by George Schoneveld, CGIAR | Reading time: 2 min.]

In January 2022, CIFOR-ICRAF and partners, with the support of SDC, launched an initiative aiming to transform the business practices and models of land-based investors in the Global South. The initiative will help low-income countries capitalize on investor interest in their farmland so they can more effectively transition toward a sustainable food system. [\[read more\]](#)

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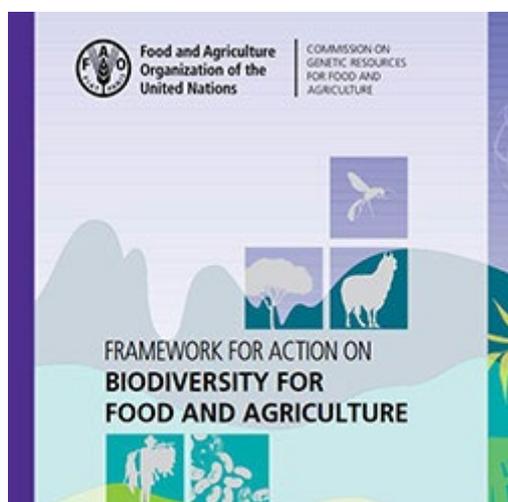
## Stories from Rwandan biowaste workers



The SDC-funded project RUNRES supports companies that are trying to recycle organic waste into fertilizers and animal feeds. In the framework of this project, ETH Zurich doctoral student Mélanie Surchat analysed the social sustainability of these innovations. Some results of the doctoral thesis are presented in a photovoice exhibition that shows pictures taken by workers from biowaste innovations in Rwanda and tells their stories. [\[view the exhibition\]](#)

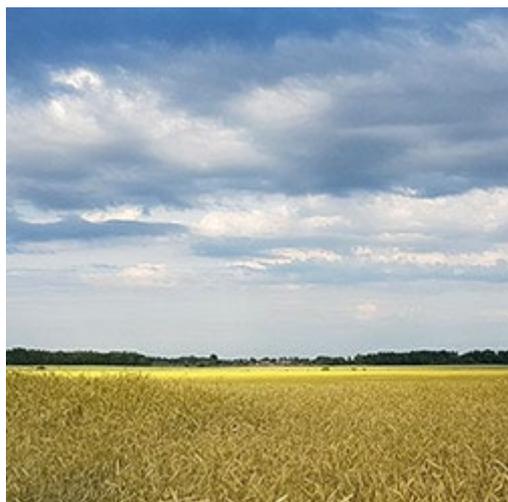


## Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture



FAO recently published the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture. It contains more than 50 individual actions grouped into three strategic priority areas: 1) characterization, assessment and monitoring of biodiversity for food and agriculture; 2) management of biodiversity for food and agriculture and 3) institutional frameworks for biodiversity of food and agriculture. [\[read the report\]](#)

## Ukraine Focus Area Page on A+FS Shareweb



What are the world food security implications of Russia's military aggression against Ukraine? A new Focus Area page on the A+FS Shareweb informs about challenges and risks for global food security in a time of an already ongoing food security crisis. The page also introduces the Swiss Response to the Crisis, which consists of the Humanitarian Response, the monitoring of multilateral agencies and the support of global efforts towards a food system transformation [[view the page](#)]

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



**Patrik Olsson**

Programme Officer  
Global Programme Food Security, SDC

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

Getting involved with many different actors is the most refreshing privilege I have in my job. Explaining difficulties in current crises to politicians, understanding the problem of a small scale goat breeder in Jordan and negotiate on better gender wording in guidelines with the UN challenge me every day in a positive way. I need challenges, otherwise I get bored too quickly. Not to forget: in a Federal Administration considerable administration work remains, which challenge in a different way.

### Who is your personal hero/heroine?

Alaa Salah of Sudan said: "I was raised to love our home". With that love she is fighting for a change. She is a wonderful example of a person fighting for basic human rights, knowing she exposes herself and puts herself in danger through her actions. Alaa Salah is just one example of strong persons being engaged in strong civil societies, which are needed in every country to challenge

governments and societies to advance. But Alaa Salah is a very bright star in the sky at night.

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

Listen to people and understand what they want to tell you, is one of the most important abilities in my work. We all come with prejudice. But we need to be able to judge situations and people in a different way upon listening. And even better is to learn to avoid prejudice.

*Patrik Olsson was born and grew up in Langenthal, the Kanton of Bern, Switzerland. He did advanced studies in geography with a specialisation in hydrology and geomorphology (Master, 1998, Bern) and biology (Bachelor, 1996, Bern), with a later focus on spatial data analysis and worked in applied science and the private sector before joining Swiss Development Cooperation in 2004. He had various postings abroad, including being the SDC head of office in Haiti and Sudan and leading the humanitarian response in the Yemen crises. Currently he is the responsible at the Swiss Development Cooperation Global Programme Food Security for IFAD and land related issues.*



**Rahel Streuli**

Academic Intern  
Global Programme Food Security & Global  
Programme Health, SDC

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

What I love about my internship at the SDC is that my work is very diversified. No day is like the other. And as I work for both the Global Programme Food Security and Global Programme Health, I work on a large range of topics, with many different people and have varied tasks. But what I like and enjoy most about my internship is how much I get to learn each day. Through the events and presentations I get to attend, and the articles and documents I read each day, and most importantly in conversations with the many people I meet, I really learn a lot about some of the challenges our world faces and how SDC responds, how and where SDC works and I also get to develop my hard and soft skills.

What is your favourite quote and why?

My favorite quote is from Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the second female associate justice the US Supreme Court has seen and a fighter for women's rights and gender equality: "Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you".

I like it because it reminds me to reflect on how I approach anything which is important to me and to which I commit myself. Being passionate and committed is essential, but in order to make a difference you need to be able to pull others into the fight with you.

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

Step out of your comfort zone. Getting outside my routine and ordinary, challenging myself and having new experiences helps me to improve my performance and to keep an open mind. In my internship I repeatedly get the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone and I realized, accepting and embracing these challenges really helps my personal growth. ce.

*Rahel Streuli was born in Zurich and grew up in Kanton Schwyz and Lucerne. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from the Bern University of Applied Sciences as well as a Bachelor's degree in Social Anthropology and Interreligious Studies from the University of Bern. During her studies, she has done several internships in different sub-Saharan-African countries (Benin, Guinea, Zambia, Tanzania). Rahel has been working as an academic intern with the Global Programme Food Security and the Global Programme Health since February 2022. Among her duties, she collects and creates content by and for the Agriculture and Food Security Network members, through the shareweb and the Newsletters – and is always looking for more!*

### Your Comments

**Leave your comments on specific articles or on this newsletter in general!**

 (only for logged-in members)