

Evaluation of the Joint F2F Gender and Agriculture & Food Security 2014

The joint F2F Gender and A&FS was in general a success. The atmosphere during the whole week was very good and also very familiar. This encouraged and promoted the informal exchange between the participants, which was perceived as very useful. The feedbacks of the participants of the Gender-net were in general very positive.

Overall Assessment

All in all, the atmosphere was excellent. A global f2f remains a unique opportunity to dynamize the net and connect 'old' and 'new' members. According to the ratings, the major highlights were Monday (with the institutional modules, incl. on Annual reports), the field trips on Wednesday and the regional workshops and platforms on Friday. The joint day with the Agriculture and Food Security net on Tuesday was highly appreciated, but the high number of people and case studies made an in-depth discussion and clear learnings difficult. It is concluded that less is more meaning that programming should be less dense to provide more space for discussion and exchange. Also, a joint f2f between two networks is an excellent opportunity for exchange and learning, but each net also needs enough space and time on their own.

All materials, input, videos and pictures are still available on the f2f blog on the shareweb:

http://www.sdc-gender-development.net/en/Home/f2f_2014

Feedback from the participants /Online Survey

Topics/ specific programme points:

A big majority of the participants (80-95%) perceived the topics which were covered during the F2F as very useful or useful. The positive peaks in the week were Monday afternoon (Gender mainstreaming & Quality assurance) as well as the regional meetings on Friday. Especially the joint regional meeting of the OSA and DAO was rated as very useful. One participant felt that Asia had less space in the regional meetings.

The days which were perceived as the least useful were Thursday (afternoon) and Tuesday (afternoon). Still even these two days were rated by 80 and 85% of the participants to be (very) useful.

Cooperation with A&FS-Net:

Also the cooperation with the A&FS-Net and the thematic learning was rated as (very) useful by a majority of the participants (80-95%). Various participants mentioned that they think that the members of the A&FS net can now better understand the gender aspects in agriculture. Furthermore, they mentioned that they themselves got a better insight into the specific challenges for gender issues in agriculture – even though this knowledge is not in all cases the most relevant for their work in their respective COOFs. Still most participants also mention that they will try to stay in contact with the members of the A&FS network in the future.

Objectives of the participants:

All the respondents feel that they fulfilled their own objectives for the f2f. Especially the newer members of the network learned a lot about their role and tasks as a Gender Focal Point and how to work more efficiently on gender issues. The different tools, the how-to-note, and best practices that were presented during the f2f were perceived as very helpful for the future work of the GFP.

However, one participant mentions that it would have been very useful to have worked on examples of good gender indicators, do an exercise on how to 'gender' a gender blind programme and to learn what questions have to be asked in a gender analysis.

Useful take home messages for work in COOFs:

Consistent with the above mentioned points, the participants also mention that they do take home different useful messages and tools. The following points which were perceived as very useful were mentioned:

- Better information about Gender & the annual report
- Information about the post-2015 agenda
- Influence of the agriculture policies on gender roles
- Engaging men into gender projects is important and necessary
- "Silo thinking" is not useful, it is better to work together with other networks
- Informal exchange with other participants of the two networks

Facilitators and time management:

The facilitation of Corinne Demenge and Corinne Sprecher was highly appreciated by all participants. According to all participants they managed to create an environment for exchange, to encourage questions and discussions, and provided adequate guidance throughout the programme.

In general all participants perceived the time to exchange within the programme as satisfying but there was a wish for more time for informal exchange outside of the programme. The balance between inputs and discussion was rated as satisfactory.

Communication and Social Reporting:

The communication during the event was perceived by all participants as (very) useful. However for the communication before the f2f, it would have been better to inform in a more structured manner and not in "dribs and drabs" as it was mentioned by one participant. Still around 85% of the participants perceived also the communication before the event as useful or even very useful.

The Social reporting and the blog were appreciated by a majority of the participant as (very) useful (80%). According to a big majority the Social Reporting also allowed the participants to bring in their own perspective, which was seen by the participants as something important. But the question was raised how more people could be informed without necessarily having to connect to the blog.

One person even mentioned that he or she is still not able to use the shareweb in an appropriate manner.

Logistics:

In general all participants were quiet satisfied with the venue, only one participant gave the feedback that the KK Thun was not very suitable for group work.

Furthermore it was suggested that a next global f2f meeting should take place in one of the partner countries. This would allow to see concrete interventions in the field and not always Swiss reality as a context. Also choosing a more isolated location where everybody has to stay together might also reinforce the network dynamics.

The translation was rated by 83.34% as (very) satisfying, but one person gave the feedback that the Translation from English to French was not very good.

Wishes for Follow-Up:

The following wishes for a follow up by the gender net and/or SDC Gender Focal point were mentioned:

- Improve the knowledge of how the colleagues from office and partners can be advised in the Gender mainstreaming process.
- Capacity building of gender Focal points on contemporary issues and skills / concrete training for Gender Focal points
- Sharing examples of gender action plans / promote best practices
- More structure of the gender net in facilitating discussions. Discussion could be announced in advance and the regions could be given specific periods for sharing their views
- Further integration of gender in other thematic networks
- Ensure that the perspective of global cooperation (with its intervention logic) is sufficiently represented in a next event
- Gender and local governance
- Further sensitization of network member on questions related to women, peace and security
- Post-2015 agenda

- Regional follow-up exchanges and activities
- Organize a gender seminary for the staff in the COOF

Feedback from the f2f Core group

In general the core group (Gender and A&FS) perceived the f2f as very positive, especially the fact that there was enough time to exchange with and learn from the different NPOs was perceived as very positive. The programme on Tuesday was also eye-opening for the relevance of gender policies still in these days (and also in Switzerland).

The more critical points that were mentioned are the following:

- There were too many changes of places during the whole week, this led to a sort of restlessness within the group
- Because of the high number of participants on Tuesday the very positive dynamic within the group on Monday was somewhat lost
- The case studies on Tuesday (and for A&FS also on Monday) were rather superficial. It might be better for next time to have only 1 or very few cases for the whole day and treat these cases very intensively with insiders who have a lot of knowledge about the case, context etc. A bigger group does not necessarily require more cases to be discussed.
- While the keynotes in the morning were very inspiring and complemented each other very well, the workshops in the afternoon were on a rather theoretical level and not very practically orientated. It would have been interesting to discuss more best practices and include the knowledge of the Gendernet members from the Coofs.
- The organization of a joint f2f demands a lot more work and time in the organizational process; this might also be done in a simpler manner.

Planned Follow-Up:

- 1) Strengthen regional networks and thematic working groups
 - o Strengthening or creation of regional platform and thematic working groups.
 - o A first working group is established on Gender, Conflict and Fragility (jointly with the Conflict and Human Rights Network)
- 2) Thematic Products
 - o Fact Sheet on Gender, Land and Sustainable Development
 - o Bridge/Pack: Possible workshop in autumn to the new pack
- 3) Shareweb / Communication
 - o Renew Shareweb (content and structure)
 - o Creation of a Gender Newsletter (3x/year)
- 4) Gender Capacity Building: Define target group specific training products (i.e. Training of trainers: Workshops for Gender Focal points who then train partner organizations)
- 5) Post-2015 Discussion: Keep the gender net up to date about the ongoing discussion.