



---

## SFRAS MEETING 5.11.2015

---

**Time:** 13.15 – 16.30

**Venue:** HEKS/EPER, Seminarstrasse 28, 8042 Zürich

**Programme:**

13.20	Welcome & Introduction	Peter Schmidt, HELNETAS
13.30	<b>Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) and Rural Advisory Services (RAS)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to the HRBA</li><li>• Link between HRBA and RAS: HEKS case study</li><li>• Discussion</li></ul>	Rahel Hürzeler, HEKS Martin Schmid, HEKS
15.00	Coffee Break	
15.20	<b>Report from the GFRAS Annual Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A synthesis of the GFRAS Annual Meeting 14 to 17 September in Kyrgyzstan</li></ul>	Daniel Roduner, Agridea
15.50	<b>News from members</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please report about recent or forthcoming events, publications, projects, initiatives related to RAS</li></ul>	All
16.30	Apéro	Offered by HEKS

---

### 1. Human Rights-based Approach & Rural Advisory Services

---

An input from HEKS/EPER (see presentation) outlined the linkage between the Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) and Rural Advisory Services (RAS).

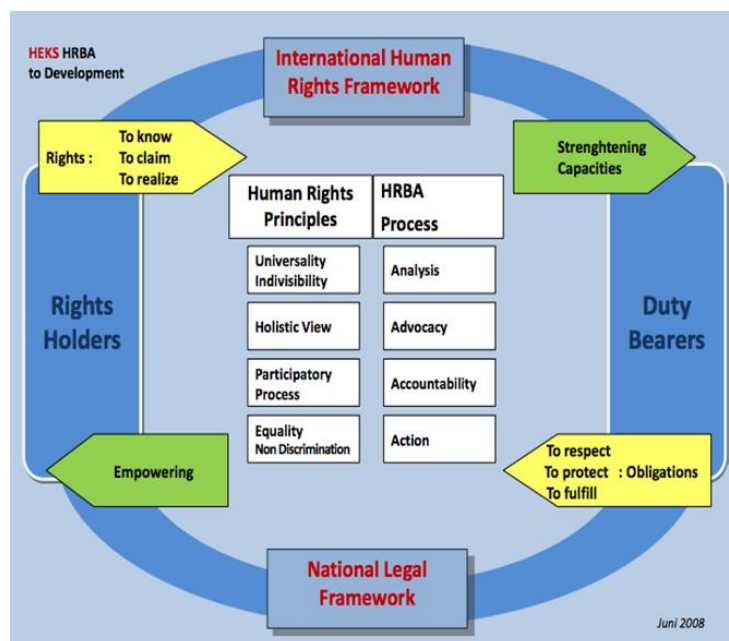
After an introduction to the HRBA (see figure below) the link between HRBA and RAS was outlined and related to the Hanoi statement which from the view of HEKS/EPER clearly comprises a rights-based view with the following three requirements stated in the framework:

- Strengthened voice of agricultural producers and local leadership to enhance social equity of RAS and policy implementation.
- Government is responsible to facilitate a transparent and inclusive policy process with adequate participation of farmers, their organisations, and RAS providers.
- Capacity development of individual, organisational, policy and advocacy, networking capacities of RAS providers.

By means of three HEKS/EPER case studies from Brazil, the Philippines and India dealing with access to land issues the link between the HRBA and RAS was illustrated. All three projects contain among others activities related to (i) sensitisation of local communities on their rights, (ii) legal assistance to claim these rights vis-à-vis the relevant duty bearers, (iv) the facilitation to bring all relevant actors together (incl. government institutions), and (v) mobilisation of local communities. From the view of HEKS/EPER these are all RAS provided to local communities and at the same time they are rights-based.

A group work and discussion revealed six statements / perspectives concerning HRBA and RAS:

- Interventions should be focussed on both sides (rights holder and duty bearers)
- Concerted action by multiple actors are required at various levels (including the legal framework and policies) for effective development interventions
- The right to food is the key right to advocate for rural development issues
- Land tenure security as basis for productivity (RAS) (as collateral)
- Strengthening of organisational (rights-based) capacity of producer organisations
- Promotion of rights-based RAS by GFRAS.



## 2. GFRAS annual meeting

Several members of SFRAS attended the global GFRAS conference in September 2015 in Kyrgyzstan. They reported as follows:

### Daniel Roduner

- The annual meeting is the largest gathering where members of GFRAS meet to exchange and learn.
- In 2015, GFRAS started an initiative to collect Global good Practices (GGP) from RAS practitioners. The collection of GGPs papers is published on the GFRAS webpage: <http://g-fras.org/en/knowledge/global-good-practice-notes.html>
- This year, the annual meeting focused on global good practices (GGP) in RAS.
  - What are GGPs?
  - How do we use GGPs in practice?
  - How can GFRAS improve the usefulness of GGPs?
- In total, 130 members participated at the annual meeting, and 12 relatively young RAS networks (approx.. 5 years) were represented.
- Several parallel workshops and inputs took place, a sharefair was organised, and the meeting offered diverse other opportunities to exchange and learn Basically, the idea of the annual meeting was to show participants the full range of RAS interventions and to exchange about these diverse functions of RAS.

- Before the meeting, GFRAS steering committee met to take the new GFRAS strategy a step further. One of the core questions was the long-term and continuous financing of GFRAS, which is presently exclusively based on donor funds.

#### **Felix Fellmann**

- Why do we need a new strategy for GFRAS?
  - to align GFRAS with SDGs
  - to better integrate GFRAS into SDC strategies
  - to include other sources of finance

#### **Peter Schmidt**

- One workshop of the annual meeting discussed the Hanoi Statement with focus on agricultural innovation systems.

**The final report on the GFRAS annual meeting** is accessible by mid-November. See: <http://g-fras.org/en/events/gfras-events/annual-meeting-kyrgyzstan-2015.html>

The **annual meeting 2016** will take place in Cameroon; in **2017**, it will take place in Australia.

---

### **3. News from members**

**Daniel Roduner:** A RAS training based on the publication “Agricultural Extension” was developed by Agridea in 1991 and now Agridea plans to up-date these. Agridea plans to offer such a training again in 2016. The target group for the training includes collaborators of INGOs and experts working on RAS.

#### **Hans Schaltenbrand:**

- HAFL is working on a mandate to capitalise SDC financed agricultural projects in Vietnam, including the RAS related projects ETSP and PS-ARD. The study will be finalised by March 2016.
- HAFL will be a subcontractor of HELVETAS for the new National Advisory Service Development Programme, an SDC project in Nepal

**Felix Fellmann:** The A&FS network has started a new learning process on land tenure. Three networks are involved in this process: A&FS (lead), Democratisation Decentralisation and local Governance Network (DDLGN), Gender Network, and Conflict Network. The process includes five studies on land tenancy 1) in Switzerland, 2) 1 country of Mekong Region (Vietnam or Laos), 3) 1 country in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya), 4) Kyrgyzstan, and 5) Latin America (possibly Brasilia). The objective of the studies is to provide an overview on land tenure aspects of the analysed countries and to critically discuss the countries land tenure systems based on to the seven SDC principles on land tenure. In each country, SDC will gather several resource persons to provide feedback on the studies.

- The results will be presented and discussed at the A&FS F2F meeting taking place in Switzerland, 5-8 September 2016
- Outputs: Studies, synthesis papers, videos
- In autumn 2016: SDC will present the learning results at SFRAS meeting

#### **Sarah Mader**

- Swissaid has organised a learning event in 2015 on ecologic agriculture
- Swissaid will organise an e-forum and a meeting/conference on ecological agriculture jointly with SDC in 2016

**Erich Waldmeier**

- Ongoing discussion of CARITAS with institutions in the Balkan region in order to strengthen joint education for extension.
- A RAS network for the Balkan region has been founded: **The South Eastern European Advisory Service Network (SEASN or ASN SEE)**. The network will be a subchapter of the EUFRAS network.

**Samuel Bauer**

A book on Experiences in Private Rural Advisory Services has been published: Yuan Zhou and Suresh Chandra Babu (2015): Knowledge Driven Development. Private Extension and Global Lessons. Public Food Policy and Global Development. AP.

**Alexandra Carter**

20 GGP's have been published -> See GFRAS homepage

**Stefanie Kaegi**

- Publications of the five CAPEX RAS studies and the Hanoi statement on the SDC Shareweb: <https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Agriculture-and-Food-Security/focus-areas-overview/ras-and-agricultural-education>
- Article on the studies and the Hanoi statement in Rural 21 in December 2015
- E-publication of all documents in 2016

**Felix Fellmann**

Analysis of the SDC CAPEX RAS learning process:

- A student writes a Master Thesis on the applications of the Hanoi Statement with focus on the Hindukush region
- A short movie about the CAPEX learning process is being developed
- An SDC survey on the application of the Hanoi Statement will take place in March 2016, one year after its endorsement

**Peter Schmidt**

Helvetas conducted a training on participatory extension in Afghanistan for project staff that work on extension. The training modules explain extension, participation, project cycles, FFS in a simple and well understandable way. All modules are publicly accessible on the Helvetas Afghanistan Website.

<http://afghanistan.helvetas.org/>

---

## 4. Next meeting

---

**Spring 2016**

- Host: Swisscontact
- Main theme: Roles and capacities of farmer cooperatives in RAS,
  - based on the GFRAS publication "Producer Organisations in Rural Advisory Services: Evidence and Experiences" (<http://www.g-fras.org/en/knowledge/gfras-publications.html>)
  - experiences of SFRAS member organisations with producer organisations in RAS
- Additional input: Capitalisation of experiences from agricultural projects in Vietnam (HAFL)

**Autumn 2016**

- Global donor platform (SDC)
- Results of the learning journey on land governance (SDC studies)
- Applications of the Hanoi statement (SDC)

**Participants:**

Daniel Roduner, Agridea  
Hans Schaltenbrand; HAFL  
Vitoria Biedermann; Swisscontact  
David Schwitter; World Vision  
Marc Zoss; HEKS  
Martin Schmid; HEKS  
Felix Fellmann; DEZA  
Sarah Mader; Swissaid  
Erich Waldmeier; Freier Konsulent  
Rahel Hürzeler; HEKS  
Samuel Bauer; Syngenta Foundation  
Alexandra Carter; GFRAS  
Stefanie Kägi; Helvetas  
Peter Schmidt; Helvetas

**Excused:**

Johann Züblin  
Anna Crole Rees  
Gian Nicolay, FIBL  
Anton Stöckli, BLW  
Hans Joehr, Nestlé  
Felicitas Bachmann, CDE

10.11.2015 / Martin Schmid, Stefanie Kägi, Peter Schmidt