

SFRAS Meeting – Minutes

November 30th, 2016, 09:15 – 12:15;

Main theme: Learning Journey on Land Governance (SDC)

Host: SDC Bern

Moderation and Minutes: Stefanie Kägi, Helvetas

Link to the documents: <https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Agriculture-and-Food-Security/focus-areas-overview/ras-and-agricultural-education/sfras>

1) Agenda

9.15	Opening & Welcome	Stefanie Kaegi, Helvetas
9.25	Inclusive Land Governance – Road to a better life Insights of the F2F Meeting of the Agriculture and Food Security Network of SDC	Felix Fellmann and Martina Hickethier, SDC
9.55	Group discussions: Rural Advisory Services and Land Governance	All
10.25	Sharing insights of group discussions	
10.40	Coffee Break	
11.00	- New GFRAS Strategy 2016-2010 - Report from GFRAS Annual meeting on the role of rural advisory services for inclusive agripreneurship;	Karim Hussein, Executive Director GFRAS
11.20	Update on the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development New Strategy of the A&FS Network	Felix Fellmann
11.40	News from members <i>Please report about recent or forthcoming events, publications, projects, initiatives related to RAS</i>	All
12.10	Next Meeting: Date, subject and host	
12.15	Closing	

2) Participants

Peter Bacher, Agridea
Martin Fischler, Helvetas
Monique Frey, Caritas Schweiz
Martin Schmid, HEKS/EPER

Christina Grünewald, Swisscontact
Angela Deppeler, Agridea
Erich Waldmeir, Selbstständiger Consultant
Karim Hussein, GFRAS
Daniel Roduner, SDC
Ernst Bolliger, EB Consult
Hans Schaltenbrand, HAFL
Felix Fellmann SDC
Martina Hickethier, SDC

Excused

Sarah Mader, Swissaid
Felicitas Bachmann, CDE
Markus Kupper, replaced by Christina Grünewald, Swisscontact
Andreas Sicks, BioVision
Anton Stöckli, BLW

3) Opening and welcome

Stefanie Kägi and Felix Fellmann welcome the participants and introduces to the subject of the meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

4) Input on inclusive land governance

Felix Fellmann presented the process of the 2016 learning journey on inclusive land governance.

- 1) Interviews with 10 resource persons in diverse countries were conducted in order to define the main issue related to land governance.
- 2) SDC mandated the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and Agridea to conduct case studies on land governance in Cambodia, Brazil and Mozambique, respectively Switzerland for Agridea. These studies provided evidence for indept and contextualised discussions in the frame of the F2F Meeting. All studies are available here: <https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Agriculture-and-Food-Security/focusareas/Pages/documents-f2f-2016.aspx>
- 3) The A&FS F2F Meeting took place in collaboration with the DDLGN network: 5 days of intensive work on the issue of land governance resulted in the formulation of 11 recommendations on how to address the issue in the context of development interventions.

Martina Hickethier presented the 11 recommendations -> see presentation here: <http://sdc.pageflow.io/inclusive-land-governance-road-to-better-life#73575>

5) Group discussion on the participants' experiences related to inclusive land governance

The participants shared in three groups each their experiences and views on 3-4 recommendations. The leading questions were:

- What experience do you/does your organisation have with one or several of these recommendations?
- What challenges appeared and how did you address them?

The group discussions can be summarised as follows:

Group 1: Recommendations 1-4

- 1) Make a very solid context analysis before designing a development intervention
- 2) Promote an integrated approach towards land governance
- 3) Empower local level actors and improve links to national level
- 4) Stay engaged in national policy dialogue

Discussion: Main issues are to really stay engaged in policy dialogue and to empower local level actors to participate. Project should keep that in mind during their span of life. To promote an integrated approach towards land governance one needs to consider time and continuity – both are crucial to achieve results. The context analysis is key, but in its comprehensive form often missing.

Group 2: Recommendations 5-8

- 5) Pursue a multi-stakeholder design of interventions
- 6) Promote the creation of evidence and access to information
- 7) Be cautious with promoting formalisation of land titling systems
- 8) Apply a systemic governance perspective

Discussion:

One need to consider that ownership of land is not only with a private person, but may as well be with an organisation or community. This is crucial to take in mind when developing projects. An example is a Helvetas project that promotes collective land user rights of youth groups in Ethiopia.

Often land titles are promoted with the goal that land titles serve as collaterals for accessing finances. The benefit and in particular the risk of such loans need to be assessed carefully.

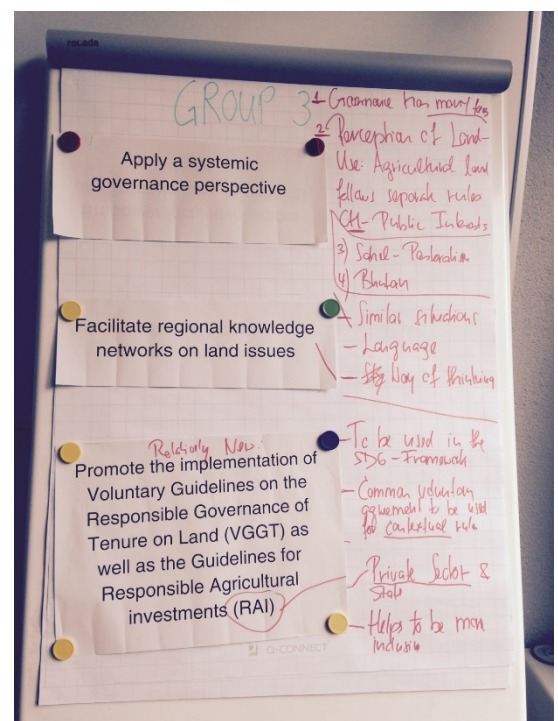
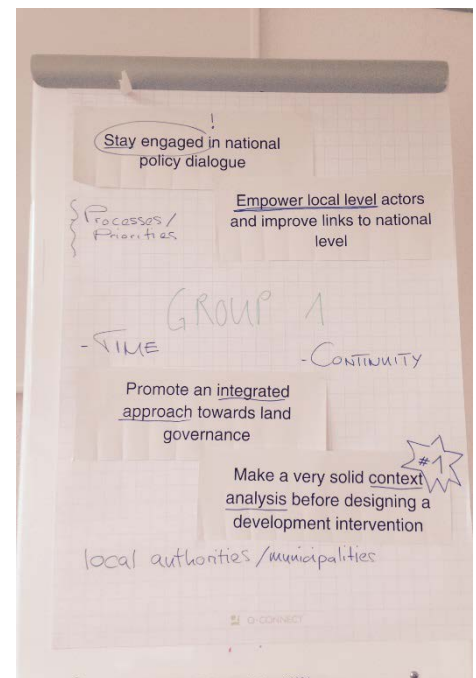
Further, there is a need to challenge the dominant thinking that land titling is the the only way to secure property/user rights.

There is a need to protect rural land from selling and from urbanisation. Means are territorial planning and a differentiated law on land use. Learning visits to Switzerland with one of the most complex land law system are an interesting opportunity to discuss how complex land law systems have historically developed and function today.

Related to the multi-stakeholder intervention it is crucial to carefully define who are stakeholders, who not (eg. Are private companies interested in land use considered stakeholders?). All stakeholders should be involved and the exchange platforms moderated in a fair and inclusive way.

Group 2: Recommendations 9-11

- 9) Acquire specific know-how for dealing with conflicts
- 10) Promote the implementation of Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure on Land (VGGT) as well as the Guidelines for Responsible Agricultural investments (RAI)



11) Facilitate regional knowledge networks on land issues

Discussion: There is a need that agricultural land follows different rules than other lands, since there are/should be public interests to protect agricultural land. (eg. Switzerland)

Regional networks are particularly important since they take into account the similarities of the regions, such as language, way of thinking, possibly land use habits etc.

The VGGT are relatively new and they are to be used in the SDG framework. The RAI supports private sector to be more inclusive and serve as well as a framework for interventions.

9) Coffee Break 20'

10) Input on GFRAS Strategy 2016-2020 and on the GFRAS annual meeting 2016/17 (Karim Hussein)

The presentation of Karim Hussein, new executive director of GFRAS, is available here.

https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Agriculture-and-Food-Security/focusareas/Documents/ras_sfras_meeting_2016_11_30_qfras.pdf

Basically, the **vision** of GFRAS 2016 for rural advisory services is to effectively contribute to agricultural innovation systems for sustainable development. The **mission** is to provide advocacy and leadership on pluralistic demand driven rural advisory services for sustainable development.

Strategic fields are:

1. Advocacy and support for an enabling policy environment and appropriate investment in RAS
2. Professionalisation of rural advisory services
3. Facilitation and enhancement of effective and continuous knowledge generation and exchange

The leading questions of the GFRAS annual meeting were:

1. What is agripreneurship, why is it relevant, what can RAS do?
2. To strengthen inclusive agripreneurship, what are the roles and capacity needs of: (i) individual extensionists; (ii) RAS organisations; and (iii) the enabling environment?

Q&A

Q (Monique Frey): What is the linkage between the outcome of the GFRAS meetings and the Hanoi Statement? Did the GFRAS assembly verify or contradict certain aspects of the statement?

A (Felix Fellmann): The learning of the Hanoi Statement is already integrated into GFRAS, since most of the board members of GFRAS participated in the elaboration of the Hanoi Statement.

A (Stefanie Kägi): The outcomes presented by Karim fully reflect the Hanoi Statement. As soon as the full report of the GFRAS meeting will be available, I will compare them with the Hanoi Statement and find out whether there are contradictions or/and complementation.

Ernst Bolliger participated at the GFRAS annual meeting and shares some of his thoughts on the GFRAS annual meeting: There is a huge difference on the capacities of diverse farmers to become agripreneurs (field size, geographic location, understanding of businesses, willingness to become an entrepreneur etc.). It is to be considered whether the concept should/can be applied for all farmers or just for a selection, e.g. for young farmers or/and for agricultural professional with a higher degree of education. Furthermore the term "inclusive agripreneurship" might overstretch the concept of agripreneurship. There is a risk that the concept is simply not applicable for **all** farmers and it might be more realistic to use it for a selection of farmers.

11) Input on the Global Donor Platform and the new A&FS Strategy (Felix Fellmann)

GDP Introduction: “The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development is a network of 38 bilateral and multilateral donors, international financing institutions, intergovernmental organisations and development agencies. Members share a common vision that agriculture and rural development is central to poverty reduction, and a conviction that sustainable and efficient development requires a coordinated global approach. Following years of relative decline in public investment in the sector, the Platform was created in 2003 to increase and improve the quality of development assistance in agriculture, rural development and food security.” Reference and further information <https://www.donorplatform.org/>

Felix Fellmann: The Platform has a particularly effective work stream on land governance. The platform provides very useful and actual information on the subject via the homepage, which is worth checking from time to time: <https://www.donorplatform.org/land-governance/on-common-ground>

A&FS Strategy: The new strategy is also a result of the ongoing budget shortenings for SDC. The new strategy foresees a reduction of about 10% of the 250 ongoing A&FS projects. The reduction concerns a selection of projects related to farmer groups and post-harvest management. PH-Management will remain a focus of SDC interventions, but the subject will be handled solely by the regional cooperation offices and not by the A&FS network anymore. Therefore, the A&FS network will not initiate any new projects related to PH-Management. The new focus of the A&FS Network will be on seeds (diversity, quality and access). The network will explore opportunities to enter this topic and develop a portfolio in the course of the next four years.

12) News from members

General: The input “20 years of SDC engagement in agricultural development in Vietnam – an experience capitalisation (HAFL/SDC)” has been postponed since the study is now being discussed internally and results shall be shared after these internal discussions.

Hans Schaltenbrand will retire in the course of 2017. He will look for a successor that will represent HAFL at SFRAS.

In 2017 HAFL will send 18 students to 6month project assignments in development countries. The assignments will be organised in collaboration with Helvetas and other organisations.

Christina Grünewald: The Catalyst Project is going to phase out in 2016/17. Swisscontact is in process of evaluating and capitalising the experiences of the MSD/RAS project and elaborated a range of case studies that can be shared once they are finalised.

Monique Frey: There was a national conference on RAS held in Kosovo, where the Caritas RAS projects of the region played a major role. Currently Caritas capitalises their experiences with these RAS projects in the Balkan. The outcomes can serve as an input to the SFRAS meeting either in March or November 2017.

Peter Bacher: Agridea develops a three day course for RAS practitioners in strategic positions. The course will provide methods and tools to analyse RAS as a knowledge and innovation system. The basis course will be ready by March 2017, whereas adaptations and additions for specific users will then be further elaborated.

Stefanie Kägi: 1) The book “Rural Advisory Services and International Cooperation” is now available in a print and online version. Those who would like to have a print version are kindly asked to contact Stefanie directly (stefanie.kaegi@helvetas.org). The online book is available here:

- https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Agriculture-and-Food-Security/focusareas/Documents/ras_capex_ebook_2016.pdf
- https://assets.helvetas.ch/downloads/rural_advisory_services_and_international_cooperation_2016.pdf

The studies and articles are also available separately here:

<https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Agriculture-and-Food-Security/focus-areas-overview/ras-and-agricultural-education>

2) Helvetas is in a process of capitalising the experiences of their organic cotton projects in Mali, Burkina Faso and Kyrgyzstan. The three SECO projects will be phasing out by end of 2016. Stefanie will share the study once it is finalised.

3) FAO elaborates a framework for analysing the inclusiveness of RAS projects in collaboration with KIT. The framework will be tested and finalised in the course of 2017.

4) IDH has published an interesting study on diverse RAS models. The study is available here: <http://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/uploaded/2016/10/Service-Delivery-Models-Insights-for-continuous-improvement-and-farm-impact.pdf>

13) Next meeting

Proposed subjects:

- There is continuing wish of SFRAS to increase exchange with and participation of private sector within the Forum. In 2017 one of the two meeting will focus on private sector engagement in RAS. Potential private sector representatives are COOP, Reismühle Brunnen, BCI, Reinhart AG, Elmertex
- HAFL, Swisscontact and Helvetas are involved in two SDC Projects in Nepal: National Agricultural Service Development Project, National Agricultural Market Development Project. The two projects do well reflect the demand and support side of RAS, as well as engagement of private sector. The three organisations could share insights on ongoing processes and project designs.
- Share learnings from Caritas and Swisscontact capitalisations studies
- 20 years of SDC engagement in agricultural development in Vietnam – an experience capitalisation (HAFL)

Host: HELVETAS for the private sector meeting; Caritas for the meeting on NASDP and Capitalisation studies

Date: March 2017, a doodle will sent with the minutes.