What’s new?

Check out the RISE team’s revamped website, it includes the most up to date information for the different areas of work and can be accessed at http://www.fao.org/rural-institutions.

Strengthening Extension and Market Oriented Services in Oman. The RISE team supported the formulation of a Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) project that aims to strengthen extension and related support services to support market-orientation of small- and medium-scale farmers. The UTF agreement was signed by FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on the 2nd of July 2018. The project will be implemented as a pilot in Al-Batinah region, focusing on selected commodities of locally produced fruits and vegetables, and will work with the Omani farmer association as its focus group within the farming community. For more information contact May.Hani@fao.org.

Next issue

- Impact Study of Dimitra Clubs in Niger
- APEC food Security Dialogue in Papua New Guinea
- Dimitra Clubs Advocacy in Central African Republic

Team Updates

Tiziana Franceschelli
After nine years of dedicated service, Tiziana Franceschelli moved from FAO to join the UN Secretariat for Disaster Risk Reduction in Belgium. The team is happy to see her take up new challenges and advance in her career! Yet, we will surely miss her!

Leonardo Leon
Leonardo is a native from Peru and has been in FAO since 2007 and in the ESP Division since 2014. He has recently joined RISE as Team Assistant – we wish him all the best and a warm welcome to the team!

Liila Bagby
The team is also waving good-bye to our intern, Liila, who supported the RISE Team with its work in territorial development and communications. Liila will be returning to the United States to complete her Master’s in Regional Planning from Cornell University.

FAO-SEWA Meeting and Discussion: Success!

A strategic meeting was held at headquarters on June 15th to explore additional partnership opportunities and to mobilize resources in the context of the MoU between FAO and India’s Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA). There is a confirmed consensus that the FAO-SEWA Partnership is providing a wide range of benefits and services. ESP will draft a program concept note, based on the results of this meeting. For more information, contact Vito.Cistulli@fao.org.
THE FAO (RISE) TEAM
aims to strengthen formal and informal rural institutions and organizations to reduce rural poverty and empower rural populations through four areas of work:

TERRITORIAL APPROACH
The prevalence of poverty and hunger and wide geographic disparities around the globe calls for a paradigm shift capable of capturing the diversity and the multidimensional nature of food insecurity and poverty and to ensure inclusive solutions to these challenges.
Contact: Vito.Cistulli@fao.org

INCLUSIVE PLURALISTIC SERVICES
Today’s farmers and producers require access to a wide range of services that enable small-scale producers and their organizations to meet specific needs and demands; engage with markets and improve their livelihoods.
Contact: May.Hani@fao.org

RURAL FINANCE
Increasing finance and investments in rural areas is a vital part of addressing food security and poverty reduction and for achieving greater financial inclusion, seizing investment opportunities and mitigating risks for rural communities.
Contact: Azeta.Cungu@fao.org
Join the Rural and Agricultural Finance and Investment Technical Network (RAFI-TN) at RAFI-TN@fao.org

SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION
Gender and social inequalities hinder the rural transformation that is needed to reduce rural poverty and hunger in developing countries. Participatory communication, community mobilization and gender transformative approaches that enable people take ownership of their own development.
Contact: Christiane.Monsieur@fao.org

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division
Rural Institutions, Services and Empowerment (RISE) Team
www.fao.org/rural-institutions
Rural-Institutions@fao.org

4th Annual Rural and Agricultural Finance Programme (RAFP)
With the support of the CABFIN Partnership (FAO, IFAD, GIZ, the World Bank, UNCDF), the Boulder Institute of Microfinance, and the Rabobank Foundation, RISE’s Rural Finance colleagues contributed to the annual RAFP course in Utrecht in July. This programme is unique in that topmost experts from leading organizations in the fields of rural and agricultural finance (e.g. FAO, IFAD, the World Bank, the IFC, Rabobank, Root Capital, etc.) aim to deliver cutting-edge education on a series of specialized topics related to rural and agricultural finance to a community of interested development practitioners. More information on the Programme here.

October 2018
Spotlight on rural finance in Accra!
RISE’s rural finance colleagues and the work FAO does in this area of work will be at the centre of a series of activities in collaboration with the African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (AFRACA) in Accra, Ghana from 8-12 of October, 2018:
Training on the Agricultural Loan Analysis for AFRACA member institutions and partners. A workshop to upgrade and pilot an agricultural loan appraisal tool, called the “Agricultural Loan Analyzer”. It is an Excel-based tool that facilitates both simple and complex agriculture and agribusiness loan appraisals and enables structured, efficient and effective agricultural loan appraisal.

The workshop will convene all relevant stakeholders (FinTech’s, Financial Service Providers and other relevant experts) to guide and fine tune the scaling-up of the tool, and will additionally contribute to the efforts for improved materials for capacity building and dissemination activities related to the Agricultural Loan Analyzer.

Stakeholder meeting to support the overall direction and short, medium and long-term corporate strategy of AFRACA. These stakeholder consultations will address the preliminary steps for achieving a solid impact assessment. They also aim to deliver cutting-edge knowledge on a series of specialized topics related to rural and agricultural finance to a community of interested development practitioners. For more information, visit: https://www.bouldermicrofinance.org/boulder/EN/RURAL

MISSIONS COME AND GONE

Netherlands: 16-27 July 2018
Rural finance members attended the 4th Edition of the Rural and Agricultural Finance Program training. Topics and discussions touched on how to efficiently reach smallholder farmers.

Niger: 25-31 July 2018
Team members traveled to Niger for the launch of the FAO support Programme Projet d’Appui à l’Agriculture Sensible aux Risques Climatiques (PASEC), and to develop the implementation strategy.

Zimbabwe: 2-13 September 2018
A joint TCI-ESP Technical Support Mission to Zimbabwe to support the National Project Team in revisiting the implementation experiences of the rural finance component and identify priorities and adjustments for the extension phase of GCP/ZIM/025/UK

Oman: 26 September 2018
A project inception workshop on pluralistic service systems will be held in Oman in September and serve to develop an effective programme implementation strategy.