

FAO'S RURAL INSTITUTIONS, SERVICES AND EMPOWERMENT (RISE) TEAM

# ON THE RISE

STRENGTHENING RURAL INSTITUTIONS AND EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO REDUCE POVERTY

## What's new?

The month of May began with a **workshop on Access to Services** for rural poor and smallholders. The purpose of the event was to highlight how access to services by vulnerable farmers and rural households can contribute to achieve poverty, hunger, and inequalities reduction. The discussion stressed among other things that, access to services does not only refer to the physical proximity to the service provision, but more importantly to the affordability and quality of the service. The interventions of the many participants, including guests from international organizations such as IFAD, GFRAS, and KIT highlighted that, given the strategic role of rural services in poverty reduction, and the cross-cutting nature of this area of work, efforts should be increased to mainstream it in FAO Strategic Framework, and strengthen the coordination between the work conducted by various divisions of FAO in order to ensure coherence programmatic and scale-up successful practices.

**Dimitra** made presentations during a **webinar** organized by the Knowledge Sharing Platform on Resilience (KORE) which built on the experience and the impact of the Dimitra clubs, and the challenges of upscaling and outscaling the programme. Among the outcomes of the webinar, the strong interlinkage between resilience and empowerment was emphasized, as well as the role that the Dimitra clubs could offer in strengthening this connections.

Resilience was also addressed by a **webinar on “Risk transfer and Insurance for Rural Resilience”** held by the **Rural Finance team**. This webinar explored the role of insurance for rural resilience, referring to insurance as an effective tool to promote and protect rural livelihoods. Additionally, the role of game changers such as remote sensing and digitalization were approached as possible ways of scaling up this kind of insurance.

## Next issue

- **Webinar** on Rural Finance Technical Network (FAO, July)
- **Event** on Rural and Agriculture Finance Programme (Turin, July – August)

## WELCOME TO THE DIVISION!

### Ms. Junko Sazaki

We are pleased to welcome Ms. Junko Sazaki as new ESP director. We look forward to taking advantage of her long standing and world-wide experience to support RISE team in strengthening and further developing the role of rural institutions in FAO effort to eradicate hunger and rural poverty.

Ms. Sazaki has worked for different UN organizations such as UNFPA, UNV and while covering over 120 countries in Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, and Africa.



### European Development Days (EDDs)

Vito Cistulli, FAO Senior Policy Officer, was invited to participate in a panel discussion on Territorial Approach to Food Security and Nutrition policy during the EDDs that took place in Bruxelles on 7-8 June. Other members of the panel included representatives from DEVCO, BMZ (German Cooperation Agency), and Multilateral Development Agencies. Bilateral meetings took place after the panel to explore funding opportunities for the implementation of the joint FAO-OECD-UNCDF initiative on “Adopting a Territorial Approach to FSN policy” in selected countries.

**THE FAO (RISE) TEAM** aims to strengthen formal and informal rural institutions and organizations in an effort to reduce rural poverty and empower rural populations, through:

### 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 multi-dimensional nature of food insecurity and poverty and to ensure inclusive solutions to these challenges.

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### 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.

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### RURAL AND SMALL-SCALE AGRIBUSINESS 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.

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Join the Rural and Agricultural Finance and Investment Technical Network (RAFI-TN) at [RAFI-TN@fao.org](mailto: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 trans-formative approaches that enable people take ownership of their own development.

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## Recent Resources and Publications



- Adopter une Approche Territoriale dans les Politiques de Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle (FAO, OECD and UNCDF, 2017)
- Innovative risk management strategies in rural and agriculture finance – The Asian Experience (FAO, 2017)
- Regional Outlook (Chapter 10) "Global dimensions of malnutrition: Territorial perspectives on food security and nutrition policies" (OECD and FAO, 2016)
- Dimitra Newsletter No.29 « Rural women's empowerment and collective action » (EN – FR) (FAO, 2016)
- Towards Inclusive Pluralistic Service Systems – Insights for Innovative Thinking (FAO, 2016)
- New directions for inclusive Pluralistic Service Systems (FAO, 2016)
- Conceptual Framework on Pluralistic Service Systems Market-Oriented Services for reducing rural poverty (FAO, 2016)

### IN THE PIPELINE...

- Publication - **Social Network Analysis for Territorial Assessment of Food Security and Nutrition Systems (FSNS): A Methodological Approach**, aimed at supporting countries in improving inclusiveness and sustainability in Food Security and Nutrition Systems (FSNS).
- Publication - **A joint collaboration** with the FAO Governance team, the Farm Forest Facility (FFF) Programme, Office for Partnerships (OPC) and IDWG to **develop a framework of FAO's work on rural institutions**.
- Coaching Training - The **3rd edition of the Rural and Agricultural Finance Programme** will take place at the ILO Training Centre in Turin **from the 17th of July to the 4th of August**. This high-level programme wishes to increase the expertise on a number of elite students on topics related to rural and agricultural finance. The Programme is jointly organized by the CABFIN Partnership (FAO, IFAD, GIZ, World Bank and UNCDF) and the Boulder Institute of Microfinance.
- Coaching Training - The **Rural Finance Team, together with ADA Microfinance will provide coaching to** a selected number of **microfinance institutions** from West African countries as part of a five-day event which will be held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, on the second week of August. The aim will be to identify weak points and specific capacity gaps of each of these institutions in order to design individualized roadmaps of technical support



### MISSIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE RISE TEAM

#### Bruxelles: 8 June

To participate in the EDDs event to discuss the next steps to undertake in the context of FAO-OECD-UNCDF initiative on Territorial approach to Food Security and Nutrition

#### Kenya: 19 – 23 June

To start a study on Territorial Analysis of Food Systems using the Social Network Analysis (SNA) approach

#### Iran: 28 April – 10 May

To provide technical support to formulate project with the Government of Iran to improve productivity, market linkages and farmers' revenue

#### Niger: 1 – 7 May

To strengthen Dimitra Clubs' partnerships and explore resource mobilization opportunities in the context of the Rural Women Economic Empowerment (RWEE) joint programme

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