

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

# ON THE RISE

STRENGTHENING RURAL INSTITUTIONS AND EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO REDUCE POVERTY

## What's new?

Workshops and trainings on **socio-economic empowerment of rural people and community mobilization** and **rural and small-scale agribusiness finance** in Niger and Italy kept the RISE Team busy during the summer.

The **Dimitra team**, in collaboration with the Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division, organized a training and knowledge exchange workshop in Niger in the context of the FAO-South-South Cooperation initiative in the Sahel region (Mali, Niger and Senegal). Participants from the three countries exchanged on experiences related to social cohesion, community mobilization and people's empowerment. FAO-Dimitra Clubs were recognized as key drivers for socio-economic development and crucial for resource mobilization, community dialogue, inclusiveness, gender equality and empowerment of whole community.

The **Rural Finance team** played a leading role in the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Rural and Agricultural Finance Programme (RAFP) at the ILO International Training Center in Turin. The intensive *rural and agricultural finance course* organized by the CABFIM partnership and the Boulder Microfinance Institute saw the Rural Finance team act as both technical director and trainers of the courses, which also included two agricultural finance professionals from SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association), an Indian trade union currently collaborating with ESP.

## Next issue

### CFS Side-events:

- **Territorial Approach**  
(Oct. 11 from 13.00-14.30)
- **FAO-Dimitra project**  
(Oct. 13 from 13.00-14.30)

## WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

### Mr. David Berno

A warm welcome to David Berno who joins the *Rural and small-scale agribusiness finance* team within RISE as a Senior Rural Finance Consultant. David will lead the activities under the FAO – Rabobank collaboration on linking microfinance institutions to producer organizations in Ethiopia and will contribute to the implementation of the various normative activities under the Improving Capacity Building in Rural Finance (CABFIN) project in collaboration with key project partners including IFAD, GIZ, UNCDF, and WB.

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## FAO-Dimitra: making roots

Delegations were invited to plant 1000 fruit trees in Niger as a symbol of solidarity among Sahelian countries in the fight against climate change. Among the thousand trees planted, one was named in honor of FAO Director General José Graziano da Silva (photo).

The second phase of the FAO – South-South Cooperation project will kick off in November with delegations from Niger visiting both Mali and Senegal. Participants have already requested a third phase, which would take place in 2018 to increase exchange opportunities.

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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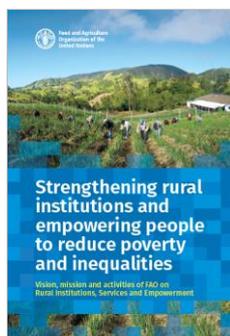
Join the Rural and Agricultural Finance and Investment Technical Network (RAFI-TN) at [RAFI-TN@fao.org](mailto:RAFI-TN@fao.org)

### 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 transformative approaches that enable people take ownership of their own development.

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## Recent RISE resources and publications

### BROCHURE | Strengthening rural institutions and empowering people to reduce poverty and inequalities

Vision, mission and activities of FAO on Rural Institutions, Services and Empowerment (FAO, 2017)

### VIDEO | Dimitra Clubs. Stepping stones for

action in rural areas is the fifth video of the Dimitra series (Impact of FAO-Dimitra Clubs: Empowering Rural People). Available in [French](#) and [English](#).



## IN THE PIPELINE...

Side Events during the 44<sup>th</sup> Committee on Food Security (CFS) in October 2017:

**Territorial approach to urban rural transformations and food security in Africa** will focus on the ability of territorial approaches to respond to Africa's challenges of today and tomorrow, and set the stage for further work and collaboration in moving such approaches forward.

**FAO Dimitra Clubs for improved food security and nutrition** will present this FAO good practice and its significant impact on rural transformation processes, gender equality and community mobilization, with experiences from the field in sub-Saharan Africa. The event is organised jointly by Belgium, the EU and FAO.

### Publications:

**Social Network Analysis for Territorial Assessment of Food Security and Nutrition Systems (FSNS): A Methodological Approach** aims to support countries in improving inclusiveness and sustainability in FSNS.

**Dimitra Newsletter 30.**  
Impact of FAO Dimitra Clubs in sub-Saharan Africa

### Initiatives:

**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.**

**A rural finance workshop in Beijing** in September will provide opportunities to discuss the effective ways rural finance concepts can be delivered through trainings.

## MISSIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE RISE TEAM



**France: 09 – 13 July**  
Exchange visit in Brittany with dairy cooperatives from Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia to strengthen their agricultural and institutional capacities.

**Italy: 17 July – 04 August**  
Participate and lead the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Rural and Agricultural Finance Programme at the ILO Training Center in Turin.

**Iran: 21 – 30 July**  
Technical support to formulate a Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) project to strengthen the organization and integration of small-scale family farms to improve productivity.

**Niger: 02 – 04 August**  
Support and participation in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the FAO-SSC initiative with participants from Mali, Niger, and Senegal on social cohesion, and gender and people's empowerment