



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

# ON THE RISE!

STRENGTHENING RURAL INSTITUTIONS AND EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO REDUCE POVERTY

## What's new?

March kicked off with the release of two **publications on inclusive pluralistic service systems**; another on **recent innovative risk transfer and sharing strategies** used by private or public financial institutions and enterprises leading agricultural investments in Asia, and a fourth was the French translation of a joint publication on **Adopting a Territorial Approach to Food Security and Nutrition Policy**.

SP3 organized a workshop on **People's Empowerment and Collective Actions**, which **gave visibility to Dimitra** and an opportunity to explain how their project on Community Mobilization supports the FAO strategic objective on Eradicating Rural Poverty. Impacts of the Dimitra approach were showcased and discussions were held on the need to mainstream the approach in strategies, programs or policies at national level.

From March 18-25, a team of FAO specialists in Gender, Rural Finance, Partnerships, Land Tenure and Communications took part in a field mission to India in the context of the **three-year FAO-SEWA MoU** that was signed in October 2015. The mission served to finalize the work plan and to kick **start the implementation of the activities** in rural finance, value chains, and communications.

## Next issue

- **SP3 Workshop** on Access to Rural Services (FAO, May 16)
- **Event: Dimitra and RISE contributions** to rural transformation, gender and social transformations (FAO, May 31)

## WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

### Denis Herbel

A senior consultant with experience in participatory approaches and partnerships, Denis will contribute to the promotion of producer organizations and to the work on pluralistic service systems.

### David Kahan

David is a former staff member, returning to FAO-HQ to offer his valuable experience to the ongoing work on market-oriented services.

### Jordan Treakle

Jordan will contribute to the ongoing work on the territorial approach to food security and nutrition and coordinate the FAO-SEWA Partnership with Francesca Guarascio.

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## FAO-SEWA PARTNERSHIP

SEWA began in 1972 as a trade union of self-employed women, which grew out of India's oldest and largest union of textile workers, the Textile Labour Association (TLA). The inspiration for the union came from Mahatma Gandhi, who led a successful strike of textile workers in 1917. He believed in creating positive organized strength by awakening the consciousness in workers.

**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.

Contact: [Vito.Cistulli@fao.org](mailto: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](mailto:May.Hani@fao.org)

### RURAL AND 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.

Contact: [Akos.Szebeni@fao.org](mailto:Akos.Szebeni@fao.org)

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.

Contact: [Christiane.Monsieur@fao.org](mailto: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](http://www.fao.org/rural-institutions)  
[Rural-Institutions@fao.org](mailto:Rural-Institutions@fao.org)

## Resources and Publications



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

## IN THE PIPELINE...

- A 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).
- **A special event on May 31, 2017** to highlight RISE's key contributions in the areas of rural transformation, gender and social mobilization, focusing particularly on the **FAO-Dimitra Programme** and possible opportunities for scaling up the approach in different contexts.
- **A request** from the Caisse Nationale de Mutualité Agricole (CNMA) to assist with the organization of an **International seminar on risk management** in Fall 2017. The event will focus on agriculture insurance as a tool for climate change risk management.
- A publication on **Pluralistic Market-oriented Services** to illustrate how rural services contribute to enhancing agriculture-based livelihoods and reducing rural poverty.
- **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**.
- **An SP3 workshop** to discuss the role of FAO in supporting countries in the improvement of their capacities in **rural service provision** in view of the 2018-2019 planning cycle.
- **A 2-day workshop on the Dimitra Clubs approach** for Belgian NGOs and their partner in Niger is being planned for September 2017 (event financed by the Belgian Cooperation).

## MISSIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE RISE TEAM

### 18-25 March: India

Develop workplan for FAO-SEWA three-year partnership

### 18-21: Morocco

Territorial Approach to FSN presented at the Salon de l'agriculture

### 21 April – 3 May: Laos and Thailand

Prepared and facilitated a 5-day training on agricultural rural finance

### 30 April – 5 May: Niger

Resource mobilization for the RWEE and FAO-Dimitra Programme

### 24-27 April: Senegal

Regional workshop on climate resilience in West Africa and the Sahel.

