



Sustainable Agriculture
and Rural Development
MOUNTAIN POLICY PROJECT

Adelboden Group

Mission

To face the growing challenges of climate change, poverty and environmental degradation affecting mountain regions, the mission of the Adelboden Group Bureau is to bridge knowledge with strategic action to promote the coordinated development of a balanced set of policies, institutions and processes based on a multi-stakeholder approach through innovative partnerships for the well being of mountain communities and the sustainability of mountain agriculture and environments.

A platform of discussion

Mountain people are **more exposed to poverty and hunger** with almost 25% of the 840 million undernourished people in the world living in rural mountain areas of developing and transition countries. Mountains are the source of the world's great rivers **providing safe freshwater to half of humanity**, and are **storehouses of the genetic diversity that helps feed the world**. The sustainable development of mountain areas is not only important to address basic needs of mountain people, but also helps to ensure adequate water supplies, environmental stability, biodiversity conservation, rural–urban population balance, sources of valuable agricultural products and the preservation of cultural heritage for the rest of the world.

In light of this situation, the participants of the **Adelboden International Conference** on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions (Adelboden, Switzerland, June 2002) jointly agreed to “**call on interested countries and other partners to establish an Adelboden Group** on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in the Mountain Regions...”. According to the Declaration adopted by consensus at Adelboden, this Group is intended to be “**a platform for discussion of policies and policy instruments, exchange of experience, and preparation of initiatives**”. The Adelboden Group consists of different stakeholders (civil society, governments and international organizations) from all regions of the world.

An essential partner for the SARD-M Project

The activity of the Adelboden Group has been focused on the FAO SARD-M Project. The Group provided inputs for the formulation of the Project (First meeting in September 2003), proposed its priorities (Second meeting, October 2004), and discussed and proposed the orientations for its implementation through the Interim Bureau (meetings in December 2005 and November 2006). At its Third meeting in October 2007, the Group discussed and endorsed the key principles identified by the SARD-M Project for improved policy packages and institutional processes for SARD-M as well as major issues of importance to address in the future. These were outlined in a “**Statement of the Adelboden Group on SARD-M**”, which includes commitments by the various stakeholders for the dissemination of SARD-M Project findings, networking and collaboration for the integration of the SARD-M approach.



Mandate and activities for 2008-2009

The Bureau of the Adelboden Group met in March 2008 and defined the Group's mandate as follows:

1. Assist national governments to incorporate a "Policies, Institutions, Processes" (PIP) multisectoral approach.
2. To be an action oriented think-tank for early identification of new actions / tools / mechanisms required for both public and private actors to cope with new challenges.
3. Act as a catalyst and driver for PIP through members (organizational and individuals) and appropriate mountain projects (SARD-M)
4. Support local actions to improve mountain livelihoods including through pilot projects with members and partners of governments, NGOs and civil society.
5. Facilitate exchanges of experiences and knowledge amongst various levels of members / players.

For 2008-2009, the Adelboden Group will continue its advisory role to the SARD-M Project, advocate on SARD-M policy issues at various events, including the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) and work towards mobilising funding for projects aiming to valorise positive externalities of mountain regions.

Members of the Bureau

The Bureau of the Adelboden Group has been constituted taking into consideration its different stakeholders in a balanced manner (civil society, governments and international organizations, geographic regions, etc.). The following members have been elected for two years:

▲ **President:** Ms. Jeannette Gurung, Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management

▲ **Secretary:** Mr. Hans-Jörg Lehmann, Swiss Permanent Representative to FAO

▲ **Representatives of Governments:**

- Argentina – Mr. Carlos Alberto Cattaneo, Ministry of Agriculture
- France – Mr. Jean-Jacques Soula, French Permanent Representation to FAO
- Morocco – Mr. Mohamed Ait Kadi, General Council of Agricultural Development
- Peru – Mr. Sergio Kostritsky, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

▲ **Civil Society:**

- Kenya Freedom From Hunger Council – Mr. Omondi Michael Ojiambo
- International Charitable Foundation "Heifer Project International" - Ukraine, Mr. Viktor Teres

▲ **International Organisations:**

- CGIAR – Global Mountain Programme, Mr. Gete Zeleke
- FAO: SARD-M Project Coordinator, Mr. Jean Gault
- UNEP, Interim Secretariat of the Carpatian Convention: Mr. Harald Egerer

Contact Information



Third Meeting of the Adelboden Group

▲ **Adelboden Group**

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