

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

# ON THE RISE

STRENGTHENING RURAL INSTITUTIONS AND EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO REDUCE POVERTY

## What's new?

### International Scientific Conference on Living Territories (Montpellier, 22-24 January):

In collaboration with CIRAD, the Center of Excellence in Food Security (South Africa) and with the financial support of DPS, FAO played a major role in co-organizing a session on the *Territorial Approach to Rural Transformation for Food Security* during the conference, and also acted as a member of the Scientific and Steering Committee. This provided FAO with a platform from which to share its knowledge and experience on territorial approaches - including landscape approaches, food security, rural transformation and urban-rural linkages - with research institutes, academia, development partners, civil society and resource partners present at the event.

The possibility of creating an international coalition of partners and governments for the promotion and mainstreaming of territorial approaches in SDGs, as well as in national development strategies and policies was discussed in a restricted meeting. The discussion among representatives from CIRAD (organizer), the French Development Agency (AFD), the German Development Agency (BMZ), GIZ, DEVCO, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the French Ministry of Agriculture, the International Land Coalition, the Global Land Programme and FAO – and with the support of NEPAD, OECD and UNCDF – served to follow up on a similar meeting that took place during a CFS Side Event organized by FAO on the *Territorial Approach to Food Security and Rural Transformation* in October 2017. The next step? CIRAD will prepare a short position paper on territorial approaches that will be signed by the partners and used to raise awareness during a number of important international events in the near future that have yet to be identified.

### Capacity Building in Rural Finance (CABFIN) Meeting (8 March):

The Annual Meeting for the CABFIN Partnership, held in IFAD Headquarters, brought together rural finance experts and practitioners from leading international agencies (FAO, IFAD, GIZ, UNCDF and World Bank) to discuss achievements and the common work plan for the year to come. Among the main outcomes of the meeting, are the definition of the CABFIN portfolio of work in terms of innovative capacity building, new research proposals in the fields of rural and agricultural finance - with a specific focus blended finance, agri-guarantee schemes, and innovative agri-risk management solutions. Another highlight was the inclusion of WFP and CGAP in the CABFIN Partnership.

## Next issue

- SEWA panel presentation
- Impact Study of Dimitra Clubs in Niger

## WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

### Verdiana Biagioni Gazzoli

Verdiana will contribute to the monitoring and reporting of RISE team activities. She previously worked with the Social Protection and SP 3 Management teams.

### Liila Bagby

Joins the team as a student intern currently pursuing a Masters in Regional Planning. Liila will assist with the implementation of the FAO-SEWA MoU and other RISE team projects with a focus on Governance.

## The Dimitra Clubs in Action 30<sup>th</sup> issue of the Newsletter

A special *triple* edition of the newsletter - set to be published in April - will focus entirely on stories collected from Dimitra Clubs in several sub-Saharan countries around eight important RISE themes: community mobilization; gender and women's leadership; food security and nutrition; social cohesion and peace; rural organizations; adaptation to climate change; information and knowledge; and youth. Stay tuned for its release!



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

Contact: [Christiane.Monsieur@fao.org](mailto:Christiane.Monsieur@fao.org)

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## Publications and Multimedia



### Agricultural investment funds for development:

Descriptive analysis and lessons learned from fund management, performance and private-public collaboration



**Social Network Analysis for Territorial Assessment of Food Security and Nutrition Systems (FSNS): A Methodological Approach**



## In the Pipeline...

### Events and Meetings

#### FAO-SEWA meeting and discussion

Hosted by FAO in May to explore partnership opportunities and to mobilize resources in the context of the MoU between FAO and India's Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA).

#### In Practice

**FAO's methodology for Social Network Analysis for Food Security and Nutrition Systems (FSNS)** is currently being tested in Kenya. Further developments to come, and a final report will be shared in 2018.

### Publications

**Impact Study of the Dimitra Clubs in Niger.** This study delves into how Dimitra Clubs contribute to gender equality and women's leadership, more resilient livelihoods and community well-being in Niger.

**A global study on producer organizations, service provisions and market linkages** presents examples that show how farmers can overcome critical constraints through organized action.

## UPCOMING AND PAST MISSIONS

#### France: 22-24 January

RISE Team Senior Policy Officer participated as a panelist for the Living Territories Conference in Montpellier, France

#### Lebanon: 10-17 February

Provided technical backstopping as lead technical officer to the project *Promotion of agricultural livelihoods and employment through investment in land reclamation and water reservoirs*.

#### Caribbean: May 2018

Mission to Jamaica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines to gather data to develop a feasibility study on the introduction of agricultural insurance products for building resilience against natural disasters.

#### Republic of Korea: May 2018

ESP-Director and a RISE member to attend the *2nd Global ODA Forum for Sustainable Agricultural Development* to share strategies for cooperative management in agriculture and rural sectors and to explore opportunities for regional development.

#### India: May 2018

RISE Team members will travel to India and Thailand for a mid-term review of the FAO-SEWA Partnership, with expected field visits in Gujarat, India and stop-overs with the FAO India and FAO RAP offices.

**Kenya:** May 2018. Final workshop of the NADHALI project aimed at the assessment of urban food systems and rural urban linkages. The findings of the study on the Territorial assessment and mapping of the Food Security and Nutrition System in Nairobi County will be presented.

