

ROSA Newsletter



OPERATIONAL FOOD SECURITY NETWORK

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SUMMARY: ROSA Food Security Network migrates to the capacity4dev.eu Platform
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VIEWS ON CURRENT ISSUES



ROSA Food Security Network migrates to the capacity4dev.eu Platform

Within the context of the rationalisation of the European Commission's communication and knowledge management tools, the ROSA platform migrated into Capacity4Dev, replacing thereby the old Food and Nutrition Security group. In this interview, Laura Gualdi, Programme Manager for Food Security at EuropeAid, shares her thoughts on the importance of knowledge management tools and the advantages of integrating the ROSA (Réseau Opérationnel de Sécurité Alimentaire) network into a wider platform.

Set up in 2007 by EuropeAid, [ROSA](#) is the European Commission's Operational Food Security Network. It comprises over 300 practitioners working on food and nutrition security in European institutions and with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), research institutes, regional and international organisations. The network is supported by a virtual space to exchange ideas and share knowledge; it provides access to information on issues relating to food security.

Until recently the ROSA community was housed in a platform accessible only to its members. It is currently being transferred to capacity4dev, which will make the **Food and Nutrition Security – ROSA group** one of the largest on the platform and the ideal space for those working in this area to share, grow and learn from each other. This integration has also opened up the ROSA community. "A year ago we realised that there is information that is worth sharing with a wider audience," explained Ms Gualdi, who hopes that this migration will both increase exchanges among ROSA members and contribute to more engagement on capacity4dev.

One of the main driving forces behind the network was to open up a direct communication channel with people who have experience working on the ground. However, since "food security is quite a cross cutting issue," Ms Gualdi explained that one of the reasons ROSA moved to a more extensive platform was that "it offers ROSA practitioners an opportunity to interact with other groups dealing with overlapping topics, which makes the sharing of information and the shift from one subject to another easier."

The [ROSA document library](#) contains 700 documents in English French and Spanish. These include documents (agendas, lists of participants, presentations, minutes) relating to EC regional and thematic seminars, ROSA newsletters and key resources; particularly those representing the basis of EC food security initiatives.

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The **ROSA website** will shortly be taken offline. However, all of the content has been archived both on capacity4dev.eu and on a CD-ROM. The disk contains the newsletters, seminars and the document library (including all policy and evaluation documents). This is particularly valuable as a starter kit for new staff in EU delegations, to provide them with what they need to know about food and nutrition security and to help them figure out their first steps. If you would like to request a copy of the CD-ROM please email EuropeAid-ROSA@ec.europa.eu.

Some ROSA members have also been identified as regional or topical focal points for the network. Ms Gualdi hopes to introduce them as peer-to-peer supporters that capacity4dev members can contact with questions related to food and nutrition security issues through the [Peer Support tool](#).

ROSA is currently **managed by EuropeAid's unit for Rural Development, Food Security, Nutrition** working alongside a team of experts. This same unit also manages two other groups on capacity4dev on the topic of Agriculture and Rural Development. "We will clearly have to make an effort to try to use and develop all these groups in a coordinated way, considering that it is the same unit supporting them," said Ms Gualdi. "Since capacity4dev is trying to increase the ability of EC staff to manage knowledge, I think it's really important that this ability is developed internally, which doesn't mean that we will not need to still have external support, but we really need to take ownership of this technology."

She encourages EC staff to consider capacity4dev "not as a project but as a tool that we have the reflex of using spontaneously every time we need to communicate and manage knowledge. Only by doing this will [knowledge sharing tools] become economically sustainable."

The migration to capacity4dev is an important **milestone in the EC's effort to rationalise knowledge sharing platforms in EuropeAid**. Although managed by the Food Security unit, ROSA was created with support from the Training, Knowledge Management, Document Management unit at EuropeAid. Giulio Groppi, who works for this unit, was involved in the collaboration and commented that he is pleased to see how the network has evolved over the years. He believes that this recent migration is an important step forward in consolidating knowledge management within EuropeAid.

This collaborative piece was drafted with input from Laura Gualdi, Giulio Groppi and Raymond Lataste with support from the ROSA Moderating Team and capacity4dev.eu Coordination Team.

AGENDA



Upcoming events

13-15 May: International conference on forests for food security and nutrition – Rome [>>>](#)

14-15 May: Conference "Bridging the nutrition security gap in Sub-Saharan Africa" – Paris [>>>](#)

13-14 June: G8 Summit – Special event on hunger and nutrition – UK

13-14 November: International Conference on Nutrition. 21 years later (ICN+21) [>>>](#)

Past events

● **Resilience: A global concept focusing on the Sahel region – Dakar, 26-27 February 2013:**

The University of Wageningen, Groupe URD and Care Netherlands held a feedback and discussion workshop on resilience, with a special focus on the Sahel region. Representatives from the national governments (Senegal and Mauritania), AGIR Sahel initiative, IASC, OCHA, FAO, OXFAM GB and Groupe URD facilitated discussion panels with 60 participants from relief and development organisations working in the Sahel region. This workshop was part of the RESILIENCE research project jointly conducted by the three organisers. In the framework of this project, several workshops have been organised, documentaries on field experiences produced and a toolkit for practitioners (see online resources below). More information on the event's webpage [>>>](#)

● **Agriculture resilience in the face of crises and shocks – Brussels, 4 March 2013:**

This briefing has been organised by CTA in collaboration with the ACP Secretariat, EuropeAid, Concord and IFPRI. A first panel discussed approaches and instruments for building resilience in agriculture, providing an overview of the key concepts, challenges and opportunities in building a resilient agricultural system in ACP countries. The second panel presented proven successes in building resilience and main best practices to be implemented. A briefing note was prepared on the topic, together with a more detailed reader compiled by IFPRI and CTA. [>>>](#)

EC's latest news

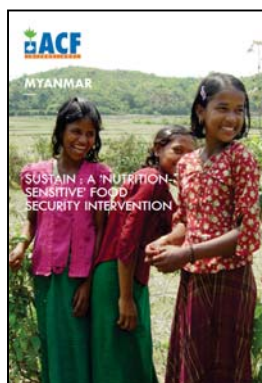
- **New policy to improve maternal and child nutrition in external assistance – March 2013:** The new EU strategy was presented in a communication officially adopted on 12 March and presented at the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Movement meeting in Brussels (14-15 March). It complements the EU's existing food security policy, in particular the 2010 policy on food security, the 2011 policy on food assistance and last year's Communication on the EU approach to resilience. The Communication envisages to allocate more funds for nutrition and food aid from the EU humanitarian and development budgets, as well as to target this aid more effectively and accountably. The Commission has identified three strategic priorities for its work : i) enhancing mobilisation and political commitment for nutrition, ii) scaling up actions at country level and iii) strengthening the information base for decision making and offering technical expertise and assistance. >>>

ROSA NEWS



New online resources

- ***Tipping the balance. Policies to shape agricultural investments and markets in favour of small-scale farmers, Oxfam, IIED – December 2012:*** This report studies the role of public policies and market governance in ensuring inclusive sustainable development. It identifies the key policy levers and how these tip commercial investments in favour of either small- or large-scale farming, and how policy levers influence market governance to constrain or support the sharing of risk and reward between small-scale producers and the rest of the market. The focus of the analysis is on national policy, with international policy discussed insofar as it affects national policy and investment processes. The work was supported by four country case studies, conducted in Guatemala, Nigeria, Tanzania and the Philippines. >>>



- ***Maximising the nutritional impact of food security and livelihoods interventions: Case studies in Myanmar, Mali and Haiti, ACF – August 2012:*** As part of its work to promote food security and livelihoods interventions aiming at preventing undernutrition, ACF has produced a set of case studies based on recent and current nutrition-sensitive interventions in different contexts. These first case studies highlights lessons learnt from three ACF projects implemented in Myanmar, Mali and Haiti. They show how food security interventions can contribute to a better nutrition, by using a nutrition lens at different steps of the project cycle management.

Case study in [Myanmar](#), in [Mali](#) and in [Haiti](#)

- ***Monitoring the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests, FIAN – June 2012 :*** This study is intended to contribute to the effective implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines by exploring ways of monitoring the governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests. It provides an mapping of existing and commonly used monitoring systems and practices by civil society organisations and international institutions. It further presents some illustrative examples of monitoring initiatives and identifies some characteristics of monitoring carried out by CSOs. >>>

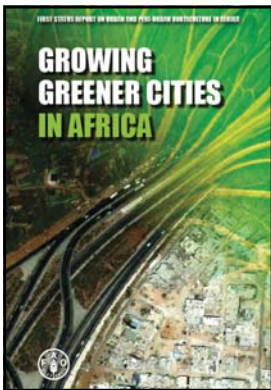
- ***Agricultural markets and small-scale producers: Access and risk management tools. Information note, EuropeAid – May 2012:*** This information note provides a review of some tools that contribute to improving smallholder access to agricultural markets: market information system, inventory credit, agricultural commodity exchanges and contract farming. In addition, two risk management tools that have recently emerged are briefly examined: index-based insurance and smoothing funds. Examples of measures are set out in the annexes. >>>



- **Reaching resilience. Handbook 2.0 for aid practitioners and policymakers, Care Netherlands, Wageningen University, Groupe URD – 2012** : This handbook insists on the importance to integrate disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and poverty reduction to implement actions and strategies to foster resilience at the local level. It develops an approach to resilience that consists in eight key points, each of them detailed in several concrete action points. This handbook is part of the RESILIENCE toolkit that has been developed by the three authors with support from EuropeAid. [>>>](#)

External resources and links

- **Second generation of market information systems**: The MIS 2G portal gathers several documents on the topic jointly published by CIRAD, CTA and AFD: research results, synthesis, policy notes, proceeding from policymakers meetings and workshops. [MIS 2G](#).



- **Resilience, new utopia or new tyranny. Reflection about the potential and limits of the concept of resilience in relation to vulnerability reduction programmes, IDS working paper – September 2012**: While the paper highlights some positive elements –in particular the ability of the term to foster integrated approach across sectors– it also shows that resilience has important limitations. In particular it is not a pro-poor concept, and the objective of poverty reduction cannot simply be substituted by resilience building. [>>>](#)

- **Growing greener cities in Africa, FAO – 2012**: This document is the first study report on urban and peri-urban horticulture in Africa. Based on an Africa-wide survey and on country case studies, the first part provides an overview of the current situation in the African continent. The second part offers a series of 22 country profiles that detail the key points of urban and peri-urban horticulture and elaborates some recommendations for each country. [>>>](#)

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This bulletin was written by the GRET team in charge of animating ROSA.

The network is an initiative of EuropeAid (Unit C1 – Rural development, food security and nutrition in collaboration with Unit R7 – Training, knowledge management, internal communication, documentation).

The points expressed do not reflect the official position of the European Commission.