

ROSA news

The online network on food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture and rural development



2015

European year

for development

The *zoom article* in this issue, Number 50, looks at how food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture are addressed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed at the UN General Assembly held at the end of September in New York, USA. The article is based on interviews with Gerda Verburg, Chair of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and Chair of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Agenda Council on Food and Nutrition Security, and with Stineke Oenema, co-Chair of the CONCORD European Food Security (EFSG).

The international Day of the Girl Child – 11 October – provides the inspiration for the short article in the section *News on Current Issues* which considers the importance of gender and women in food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. *Latest news from the European Commission* covers among others October, the Month of Food Security during the European Year for Development, focusing on the various materials to be launched during the month. To follow the European Year of Development, consult its website.

News and events during the month of food security can be followed on ROSA. Additional items include information on past and current conferences and events, and summaries of new, interesting resources.

ROSA News is a product of the ROSA network on Capacity4Dev. To receive this newsletter, you should join the ROSA network, using the link at the bottom of this page. From June 2015, the ROSA network has become the online network on food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture and rural development.

The newsletter is being produced by Sarah Cummings and Paolo Sarfatti of the Integrated Support Service-Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (ISS-FANSSA – <mailto:EuropeAid-FANSSA@ec.europa.eu>). You are welcome to post comments on the ROSA group on Capacity4Dev or to contact the ISS-FANSSA team by e-mail.

Happy reading!

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Food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture

IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), agreed at the UN General Assembly in September 2015 in New York, USA, embrace a new holistic international development agenda for the 2016-2030 period. Food and sustainable agriculture are well represented in these SDGs with their own goal, Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. The SDGs have a much wider scope than the MDGs and are setting targets for social, economic and environmental issues which should make them more sustainable. In addition, they reflect the universal, moral principle that every country should play its part in delivering the global vision. For this reason, the goals apply to both developing and developed countries. The SDGs are also different in recognising the extent to which current global challenges are integrated. They are attempting to set transformative targets, addressing the root causes of poverty and systemic barriers to sustainable development.

The SDGs were developed following a multi-stakeholder process led by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) which was tasked with developing a proposal for the UN Secretary General. In parallel, stakeholder consultations at the global and national levels, and numerous workshops, statements, and reports by UN and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), think tanks and academics, also helped to shape the agenda.

This article, based on interviews with Gerda Verburg and with Stineke Oenema and reflecting their personal opinions, considers food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture in the SDGs.



WFP-SG side-event on Zero Hunger Challenge Photo DPI-Li

The multi-stakeholder process related to the SDGs

In the two-years prior to the agreement on the SDGs, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) worked to inform its partners, and to network and lobby related to the SDGs. As Gerda Verburg notes:

With CFS, it starts with the topics and then the multi-stakeholder process follows and you're trying not to invent several wheels at the same time.

Although development of the SDGs was a participatory, multi-stakeholder process in which many stakeholders were consulted, the actual negotiations around the SDGs were undertaken by countries. However, the country representatives were open to advice and inputs from others, including from the CFS and the World Economic Forum (WEF). As Gerda Verburg notes:

Although the final negotiations were undertaken by governments, the windows and doors were virtually open to inputs from other stakeholders, and I applaud this approach.

CFS and its policy guidelines and recommendations have been explicitly recognized in the Agenda 2030 and the Financing for Development outcome document for their important role and inclusiveness. These documents endorsed the influential Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security which promote secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests as a means of eradicating hunger and poverty. The Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems were approved by CFS on 15 October 2014. The Principles address all types of investment in agriculture and food systems - public, private, large, small - and in the

production and processing spheres. Both the Principles and Voluntary Guidelines were mentioned in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the outcome document of the Third Financing for Development Conference which took place in July 2015 and one of the key international events in the process leading up to endorsement of the SDGs, recognising the work of CFS in this field.

Gerda Verburg is positive about how the SDGs have been developed. First, because there has been a multi-stakeholder process involving many partners, a process supported by the UN Secretary General. Second, she considers that the SDGs are an improvement on the MDGs because they explicitly include sustainable agriculture, something not mentioned in the MDGs. Third, clear indicators will be developed to measure progress. The indicators will be developed by the Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators created by the Statistical Commission of

the UN, and comprising Member States, with regional and international agencies as observers. Gerda Verburg considers that in order to achieve concrete results, this process will have to be supported by 'big data'. Such data will need to be reliable, compatible, publically accessible, transparent, and comparable.

Europe and the SDGs

Both Gerda Verburg and Stineke Oenema recognise the role that the EU has played in the negotiations around the SDGs. Gerda Verburg argues that Europe has played an active, positive, inclusive role in the SDGs and that the EU is building a track record on multi-stakeholder processes, putting structures and networks in place so that it can work with the private sector. She hopes that Europe continues to support developing economies and that EU member states become active in the implementation of the SDGs in their own countries, rather than focusing on the implementation in developing and emerging countries. Stineke Oenema considers that Europe is starting to acknowledge that food systems inside Europe also have an impact in food systems in developing

Big data and open data

Big data is the term used to describe very large, complex, rapidly-changing datasets. It is very often linked to the term 'open data' which is accessible public data that people, companies, and organisations can use to launch new ventures, analyse patterns and trends, make data-driven decisions, and solve complex problems. According to the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, set up by the UN Secretary General, indicators for national, regional, thematic, and global monitoring are needed if the SDGs are to provide a rich, integrated, and dynamic framework. At the basis on these indicators, 'a data revolution for the SDGs' is required. Official statistics derived from surveys and other official administrative data are expected to play a critical role but they will need to be complemented by unofficial data and other performance metrics, including business metrics, polling data, and georeferenced information.

countries. In 2010, the EU developed a 'good food security policy framework' but, she argues, an additional step now needs to be taken in which there is a greater recognition that the main issue is not just about food security in developing countries but that management of the food system in Europe – consumption, trade, production – also has an important impact on developing countries:

It is not just about development aid because our consumption patterns and trade have a big impact on budgets and agricultural production in the South.

Embracing the SDGs at regional and continental levels

There is evidence that the SDGs are being embraced at regional and continental levels and that this may have the effect of re-focusing international attention on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. In January 2015, African Union Heads of State adopted the **Common African Position (CAP) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda**, recognizing that Africa will not achieve the MDGs by the end of 2015. Based on a two year consultation process, the CAP presents Africa's priorities for the post-2015 agenda under seven pillars: environmental sustainability, natural resources management and risk management of natural disasters; finance and partnership; human-centred development; peace and security;



President Uhuru Kenyatta @UN Women-Ryan Brown

The Post-2015 Development Agenda is intrinsically linked to Agenda 2063, the African 50-year vision. One cannot be attained without the other. Successful implementation of Agenda 2063 will give impetus for the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma,
African Union Commission

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed

2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries

2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round

2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

science, technology and innovation; and structural economic transformation and inclusive growth. Under structural economic transformation and inclusive growth, the CAP highlights commitments related to agriculture, food security and nutrition, green growth, infrastructure and information and communications technology. In a recent article, the Executive Director of the African Progress Panel, Caroline Kende-Robb, argues that 'the SDGs will only succeed, however, if they can succeed in Africa' arguing that the current energy crisis and agricultural production represent huge opportunities for African development.

According to the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the importance given to sustainable agriculture within the SDGs, and in particular its linkage with food and nutrition security, provides the opportunity for Caribbean countries to develop and strengthen agriculture. It argues that realizing the cross-cutting and

full potential of agriculture is an important challenge because the Caribbean has arguably neglected agriculture. The changing structure of Caribbean output and trade has been focused on services at the expense of agriculture, neglecting the development of agro-industry. Through the development of agro-industries, forward and backward linkages can be created and access to markets, finance and technical assistance facilitated for small producers, promoting their inclusion in modern and efficient value chains. Agriculture has also proven less volatile than, for example, tourism during global recession. In addition, agriculture is still an important area for gender sensitive economic engagement supporting livelihoods in Caribbean countries.

Outstanding issues

The SDG paradigm shift appears to be providing an opportunity for policymakers to focus on sustainable agriculture, with the common objectives of diversifying

the income and employment base of economies to improve the food security and nutritional status of households. Although there is evidence that the SDGs are being embraced at a national and regional level, some criticisms are being voiced. Stineke Oenema doubts whether the SDGs will be achievable because 'they represent a long, ad hoc shopping list with no priorities.' She argues that:

On the whole, civil society was very disappointed about financial commitments made by the Third Financing for Development Conference and there is a feeling that the SDGs are not ambitious enough on the subject of the food and nutrition security agenda because this agenda is so much cross-cutting. In addition, there is hardly any reference to human rights, leading to the lack of priority setting in policies and implementation.

Stineke Oenema also questions the commitment of developed countries to



Gerda Verburg

H. E. Gerda Verburg is currently Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) which she describes as an 'interesting, beautiful position' as well as being Chair of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Agenda Council on Food and Nutrition Security. She will be stepping down as the Chair of CFS after her term ends at CFS 42

in October 2015. Gerda Verburg's official position is that of Ambassador of the Netherlands to the three Rome Agencies: the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). She is a Dutch diplomat, and former politician and trade union leader.



Stineke Oenema

Stineke Oenema is Strategic Advisor to the Board of the Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO), the Netherlands, on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture, working for programme development and capacity building with ministries, civil society

organisations and other networks. She has been a member of the CONCORD European Food Security Group (EFSG) since 2004, chairing it since 2010 and is currently its co-chair. She is also a member coordination committee of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) of the CFS.

the SDGs. In many countries, as was the case in the Netherlands, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been negotiating the SDGs while other ministries will be called on to implement them. In the case of the Netherlands, it is the Ministry of Economic Affairs that will decide what sort of agriculture will be taking place in the Netherlands. This could have a negative effect on developing countries because European trade and agriculture is still not completely coherent with the development agenda. She argues: 'Many commentators deny that this problem exists but, again it is the coherence agenda.' She argues that Ministries of Foreign Affairs should develop common food and nutrition security policies with the domestic ministries, recognising the impacts that this can have on the developing world.

Gerda Verburg argues that although the SDGs present a unified, holistic agenda, there will always be some commentators who wanted something different:

Consensus building doesn't mean that everything on your agenda will be in the SDGs; it is more likely that, while some of your priorities are taken on board by the other negotiators, you will also miss something, or would like more of something. And it is easy to criticise but you have to recognise that the preparation, through a multi-stakeholder process, already represents a huge step forward.

However, she notes that implementation will not be one-size-fits-all and it still needs to be tailored to regional and national priorities. For Gerda Verburg, critics have an opportunity to engage with the SDGs during regional and national implementation.

There has also been criticism by civil society about the extent to which nutrition has been fully integrated into the SDGs with some commentators, such as members of the International Coalition on Advocating Nutrition (ICAN), saying that the SDGs should have gone further

European Food Security Group (EFSG), CONCORD

The EFSG offers a forum for European NGOs involved in food and agriculture issues, and acts as a reference group in CONCORD for regular dialogue between NGOs and with European institutions and Members States. CONCORD is the European confederation of relief and development NGOs, representing 25 national NGO platforms and 18 international networks across Europe. The EFSG aims to build the expertise of its members and their strategic partnerships with European civil society and with organisations and networks in developing countries. →

in the way they have integrated nutrition into different goals. As Stineke Oenema argues, nutrition is not a 'programme', it is interconnected with all 17 SDGs, and represents both an input and an output.

Gerda Verburg considers that the outcome documents of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) which took place in November 2014, namely the [Rome Declaration on Nutrition](#) and the [Framework for Action](#) will both be part of the SDG process and will effectively help integrate nutrition more broadly:

It is crystal clear that [both outcome documents] will play a role in incorporating nutrition at a national level. You need to leave room for people working at country level and understand that writing papers won't solve problems. Instead, the proof of the pudding will be at grassroots level.

The way forward

On the whole, there appears to be optimism about the goals. Stineke Oenema

World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Agenda Council on Food and Nutrition Security

The WEF Global Agenda Council on Food and Nutrition Security aims to ensure sustainable food and nutrition security for all. It provides thought leadership and expertise to help achieve this goal. In working towards this goal, it focuses on nutrition, environmental sustainability, responsible investment, agricultural productivity, the reduction of food loss and waste, the food/water/energy nexus, the nutrition/health/agriculture nexus, and how to leverage public-private collaboration.

Two main initiatives comprise:

- GrowAfrica: a multi-stakeholder platform with the goal of accelerating private sector investment in 12 CAADP Partner Countries →
- New Vision on Agriculture →

The role of the EU

The EU has been a leading voice in the post-2015 process right from the start and we stand ready to fully implement this new Agenda at home, and to support others to do the same. The recent collective EU recommitment to reach 0.7% of GNI for official development assistance within the timeframe of the 2030 Agenda is a clear demonstration of EU's commitment to supporting our partner countries to implement the SDGs.

Neven Mimica, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, 25 September 2015

argues that the SDGs are an important opportunity and represent a step forward when compared to MDGs because of their focus on developed countries, the fact that they are more global, there is an important role for developing countries, and that they incorporate the environmental, sustainability agenda.

Gerda Verburg would like to see the SDGs drive the political decision making agenda in many countries, representing their recognition of the political importance of zero hunger and sustainable agriculture. She argues that the main challenge will be the implementation of the SDGs at country level and is encouraging countries to take the lead in this process. In particular, she would like to see a process of 'name and fame' rather than 'name and shame', putting the emphasis on highlighting good examples and inspiring others, not only as advertisement, but for durable results. In this context, she notes that Colombia – which originally called for universal SDGs with Guatemala – is integrating the SDGs into its legal framework. In addition, Rwanda has decided to become self-sufficient in food and agricultural products in general, a development which she applauds. CFS represents a platform to name and fame, to inspire and encourage.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

The CFS was set up in 1974 as an intergovernmental body to serve as a forum for review and follow up of food security policies. In 2009, it went through a reform process to ensure that the voices of other stakeholders were heard in the global debate on food security and nutrition, aiming to be an inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together in a coordinated way to ensure food security and nutrition for all.

The Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) of the CFS is the largest international mechanism of civil society organisations (CSOs) seeking to influence agriculture, food security and nutrition policies and actions – nationally, regionally and globally. The CSM is reaching out to hundreds of CSOs in all continents, sharing information with them on global policy debates and processes, promoting civil society consultations and dialogue, supporting national and regional advocacy and facilitating the participation of a diverse range of CSOs at the global level in the context of the CFS. →



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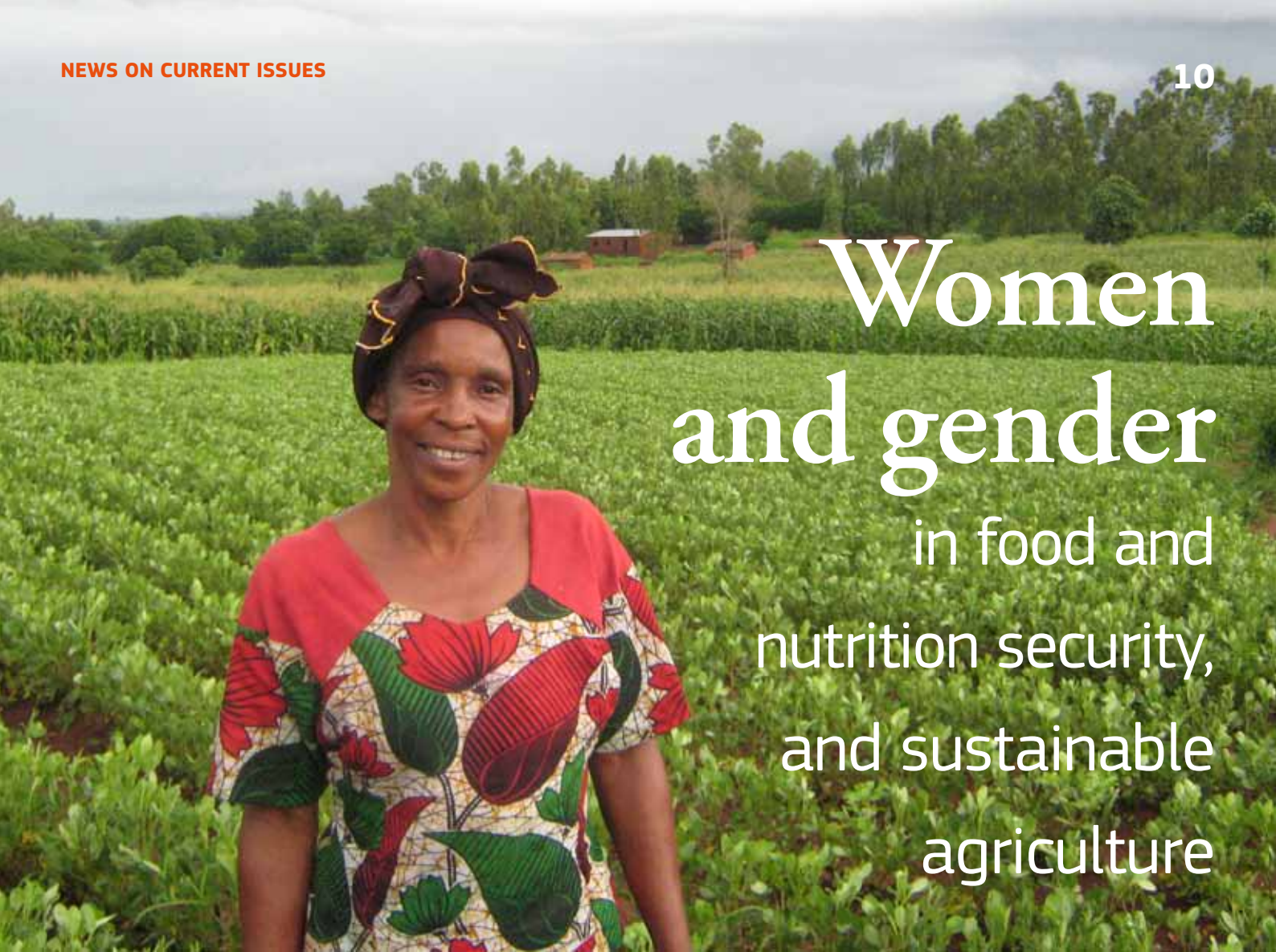
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Women and gender

in food and nutrition security, and sustainable agriculture

Farmer shows groundnuts to programme manager, Malawi Photo DG DEVCO Photo Library

In October: Month of Food Security, the second week has been dedicated to women and gender because 11 October is the **International Day of the Girl Child**. International attention has also been focused on women and girls because the new Sustainable Development Goals have a key focus on women and gender with a stand-alone goal on gender equality while gender sensitive targets are integrated into other goals:

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The strong EU position in the post-2015 development agenda contributed to gender equality being accepted as a central element of the new SDGs. As EU Commissioner, Neven Mimica, noted at a **meeting with journalists** in March 2015:

Among these goals it's really gender equality and women's empowerment that must have a very prominent role. This is really what the EU, the member states, and our Commission, will really focus on.

Women and the new development agenda

The role of women and gender is at the forefront of the new development agenda. In the words of the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon:

The newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals rightly include key targets for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They offer an opportunity for a global commitment to breaking intergenerational transmission of

poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination – and realizing our vision of a life of dignity for all.

As the global community launches the SDGs for implementation over the next 15 years, the International Day recognises the achievements made in supporting young girls. In recognition of the importance of investing in adolescent girls' empowerment and rights, the theme of International Day is The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030.

The role of rural women is also receiving attention with the **UN emphasising that rural women are critical for achieving the transformational economic, environmental and social changes** required for sustainable development, particularly in dealing with climate change.



Mzuzu Coffee Planters Cooperative Union Limited, Tanzania Photo Ilona Gruenewald, DG DEVCO Photo Library

Realising gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets. The achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities. Women and girls must enjoy equal access to quality education, economic resources and political participation as well as equal opportunities with men and boys for employment, leadership and decision-making at all levels.

Women in the SDGs



A new study, published on 15 October, by the World Bank and other agencies has measured the economic costs of the gender gap in agricultural productivity in three African countries: Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda. It provides further evidence that reducing the gender gap translates into significant poverty reduction and improved nutritional outcomes. Closing the gender gap in agricultural productivity could potentially lift as many as 238,000 people out of poverty in Malawi, 80,000 people in Tanzania, and 119,000 people in Uganda.

New EU framework

Reflecting attention for women and gender in the SDGs, the EU launched a new framework for action **Gender equality and women's empowerment: transforming the lives of girls and women through EU external relations 2016-2020** in September 2015. The new framework covers the EU's activities in third countries, especially in developing and neighbourhood countries, including in fragile, conflict and emergency situations. Its implementation is the

joint responsibility of the Commission services and the European External Action Service (EEAS). An essential part of this framework will also be to promote policy coherence with other internal EU policies, consistent with the policy coherence for development agenda. It also aims to shift the institutional culture to more effectively deliver on EU commitments related to gender and women. It will come into operation in January 2016.

The new framework concentrates on three thematic pillars:

- Ensuring girls' and women's physical and psychological integrity
- Promoting the social and economic rights / empowerment of girls and women
- Strengthening girls' and women's voice and participation.

The Agriculture and Nutrition Extension Project (ANEP) in Nepal is working to improve the food security and nutrition of the poorest and most vulnerable households in both rural and urban areas. It has been organising farmers into groups linked to collection centres, and training them in innovative techniques needed to grow large yields of high-quality vegetables for sale. 60% of ANEP trained people are women.



Khadga Gurung,
ANEP Field
Team Leader

→ ROSA



Trained Barbaig women act as auxiliary vet experts, Tanzania Photo Sawiche Wamunza, DG DEVCO Photo Library

Food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture

In the socio-economic pillar, the framework notes that women still do not earn the same wages as men and do not have the same access to, or control over, productive resources such as land. Women have less access to productive resources, including financial services. In Niger, only 9% of the land is reported as owned by women while 93% of agricultural farms are managed by men in Albania. Laws that discriminate against women exist in many places and limit their participation in the economy. Increasing women's ownership over resources and their participation in society and economy is a matter of social justice but also contribute to stronger, more inclusive economic growth that benefits society as a whole. An FAO study has estimated that if women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could

increase yields on their farms by 20-30% and raise total agricultural outputs, lifting an estimated 100-150 million people out of hunger worldwide.

In the period 2007-2013, the EU committed an amount of around €1,258 million to activities targeted at improving gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment. Provisional OECD data shows that in 2013, 39% of the EU Official Development Assistance (ODA) considered gender dimensions as either significant or principal. A number of targeted activities are to be funded within the current EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, primarily through the Global Public Goods and Challenges thematic programme included in the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) with around €100 million committed to work to improve the lives of girls and women.

Objectives

For the three thematic priorities (physical and psychological integrity, economic and social rights, voice and participation), EU actors are not expected to report against all objectives. They are required to identify which specific objectives they will focus their interventions on, either through targeted gender actions or through mainstreaming gender equality in other actions (at relevant level dependent on the type of programme). Objectives directly relevant to food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture include:

- Healthy nutrition levels for girls and women and throughout their life cycle
- Equal access by women to financial services, productive resources including land, trade and entrepreneurship



Income-generation project in Abkhazia, Georgia Photo: Maria Van Ruiten, DG DEVCO Photo Library

EU Guidelines

The EU is currently developing a publication, Tackling gender inequalities: how to integrate gender into EU food, nutrition and agriculture programmes, to support the EU and Member States in systematically integrating gender dimensions into programmes. The guidelines explain why a gender perspective on women, food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture is important and provides guidelines for integrating a gender equality perspective into EU Action Documents. Two annexes describe tools for integrating a gender equality perspective into food and

nutrition security and sustainable agriculture interventions:

- Tools for integrating a gender perspective in programmes
- Tools for gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation.

It is my firm conviction that our new approach will not bring only words but concrete actions and results. It will be translated into real improvements in the livelihoods of women and girls in third countries – where progress needs to be accelerated if we are to transform our world and unlock a development that is really sustainable.

Neven Mimica, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development

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Euractiv - Mimica: 'I will be the most vocal male feminist' – March 2015 →

IISD - UN Spotlights Role of Rural Women in Climate, SDGs – October 2015 →

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UN Women/World Bank/UNEP/UNDP – The cost of the gender gap in agricultural productivity in Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda – October 2015 →

October: Month of *food security*

October is the Month of Food Security of the European Year for Development and is being marked by the publication of videos, stories of the week and case studies, as well as by face-to-face events. You can follow these new publications and events on the [ROSA network](#).

On the occasion of the World Food Day 16 October, [Commissioner Mimica has published a blog post](#) to highlight that innovative financing is essential to increase agricultural production and fight hunger. On the same day, the 'voices and views' article [Addressing nutrition can drive development](#) – with collaboration on an interview of Jean-Pierre Halkin, Head of Unit DEVCO C1 has been published on Capacity4Dev

The videos promoted during the month are short animation films which explain some of the key issues surrounding food and nutrition security, focusing on the EU's role. The videos can all be found on the EU's video channel on YouTube, [EU and the world](#). The video [EU activities to improve food security](#) shows with infographics that hunger is a challenge in many parts of the world. In two minutes, the video shows how the EU is actively helping to address hunger by investing in family farming which improves food security, creates jobs and fights poverty. [Developing agriculture to end hunger](#) shows how the EU is supporting agriculture in 60 countries to improve sustainable farming and food and nutrition security, with more than €8 billion by 2020. [Sokhna Faye: a female onion farmer in Senegal](#) tells the story of a successful onion farmer in Senegal. The video [Every cup of coffee we drink can benefit less developed countries](#) shows how EU support to coffee production in Tanzania helps farmers to improve their livelihoods. [Addressing undernutrition](#) explains that the EU is committed to support partner countries to reduce the number of children suffering from undernutrition by 7 million by 2025.



Developing agriculture to end hunger



Addressing undernutrition



Sokhna Faye: a female onion farmer in Senegal

During October, stories on food security can be found on the [European Year for Development](#) website and new case studies have been developed on the [Europeaid website](#). The stories and case studies focus on food security projects and programmes world-wide and have been prepared by the EU Delegations. For example, the story of the week for the second week in October is [Sustainable fishing catching on in Madagascar](#).

A number of lunch-time conferences have also been planned at the [External Cooperation InfoPoint](#) in Brussels:

- 1 Oct Plantwise: lose less, feed more. Improving plant health to increase food security and improve livelihoods – CABI
- 13 Oct [Starting from Girls, Including girls in nutrition, agriculture and food security – Save the Children](#)
- 16 Oct The State of Food and Agriculture 2015 (FAO): Social protection and agriculture: breaking the cycle of rural poverty – Food and Agriculture Organisation
- 19 Oct Launch of the 2015 Global Hunger Index, Armed conflict and the challenge of hunger – Alliance 2015
- 20 Oct The Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) Study: Present and Future Perspective – World Food Programme
- 22 Oct Nutritional risks of agricultural interventions – CIRAD
- 26 Oct Aflatoxin contamination of food and feed: the role of multi stakeholders research consortia between Africa and Europe – Paepard



Sustainable fishing catching on in Madagascar

In addition, 26-30 October is the [Sahel and West Africa Week 2015](#) at the Milan Expo, organised by OECD-Club du Sahel and the European Union. The Week will raise public awareness of the Expo's theme [Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life](#) from a West African perspective. It will bring together regional organisations, representatives from West African governments and OECD countries, and experts in several events, including a two-day Forum to discuss the impact of on-going transformations on food security and resilience; a special session of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) and a meeting of the Senior Experts Group of the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR) – Sahel and West Africa. The Week is organised by the Sahel and West Africa Club and its Members and partners, by invitation of the EU.



Annual Action Programme

The Annual Action Programme for the food and nutrition security & sustainable agriculture component of the Global Public Goods and Challenges thematic programme was adopted last August and is now published. It provides more than € 228 million to the following programmes:

Land Governance Programme

This programme supports the responsible governance of land tenure by promoting the [Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of national food security](#) (VGGT). The programme is country-based, responding to needs in 8 countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Sudan, Uganda, Pakistan, Brazil and Colombia). In addition support will be provided to the [International Land Coalition](#) because of the importance of civil society to land governance and to the [Land Matrix Initiative](#), recognising the need for information and data on land deals. Monitoring of progress of the in-country projects and exploring lessons learned for the further promotion of the VGGT will be ensured by FAO.

Inclusive and Sustainable Value Chains and Food Fortification

This multi-country programme focuses on 60 countries with food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture as a focal sector in cooperation with the EU and with high levels of undernutrition. It supports the development of inclusive, sustainable agriculture-based value chains and the strengthening of evidence and access to fortified food. The programme will be implemented through a mix of modalities including technical assistance, call for proposals and blending.



Land Governance Programme

National Information Platforms for Nutrition (NIPN)

This multi-country programme is currently setting-up of Information Platforms in Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Burundi, Niger, Kenya and Laos. The programme will be extended to more countries as soon as financial resources are available and interest is expressed by countries. This action aims to improve partner country capacity for collecting and using nutrition information.

Pro-Resilience Action (PRO-ACT-2015)

This programme covers interventions in West Africa, Syria, Nigeria, Burundi, Gambia, Sudan, DPR Korea, Cape Verde, responding to major post-food crises, promoting structural and resilient actions, and building capacity of public institutions and private organisations to respond to food crises. The direct focus of these actions is on long-term solutions to food crises. The programme will be implemented using a variety of modalities.



Improving farmers' access to markets, Bhutan Photo: Etienne Claeye, DG DEVCO Photo Library



Speakers answer questions from the audience
Photo: IFPRI/Xinyuan Shang

2 September 2015

IFPRI Policy Seminar on the SDGs

The seminar *The road to New York: keeping the SDGs agenda in focus* took place on 2 September. Panellists comprised Shenggen Fan and Claudia Ringler from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Francisco Ferreira from the World Bank, Homi Kharas from the Brookings Institution, and Andrew Steer from the World Resources Institute. They discussed and debated SDG implementation. The panellists raised cross-cutting issues and opportunities, including accountability, measurement, multi-sectoral engagement, financing, and overall coordination and alignment. A challenge for adoption is not necessarily the number of goals and targets, but financing. Countries and communities will play an important role in implementation. → ROSA

UPCOMING EVENT

30 November-11 December
UN Climate Change
Conference COP21,
Paris, France →



Lovin Kobusingye, Kati Farms Photo: CTA Brussels Briefings

17 September 2015

Brussels Briefing on Women Entrepreneurs - key players in ACP agribusiness development

The 42nd Brussels Briefing discussed the key challenges and new opportunities to enhance female agribusiness in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, reviewing the success of women entrepreneurs and the lessons learned from research and practice. It aimed to promote the exchange of information on best practices and drivers of success, including perspectives on different policy options. Women are clearly an important part of the agricultural labour force but agriculture and agricultural value chains are equally important to women as a source of employment. Addressing gender-based constraints in employment and productivity can increase competitiveness. When more than half of a country's potential labour force is not used efficiently, competitiveness with other countries is negatively affected. A gender approach to value chain analysis and development allows for the consideration of groups and individual men and women's access to productive activities; differential opportunities for upgrading within the chain; and gender-based division of activities. → ROSA



High Representative Frederica Mogherini at the UN General Assembly Photo: EEAS

25-27 September 2015

United Nations Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda

On 25 September, more than 150 world leaders embraced a sweeping 15-year global plan of action to end poverty, reduce inequalities and protect the environment, known as the SDGs, at the opening of a special UN summit. The document *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* comprising 17 goals and 169 targets will come into effect on 1 January 2016, replacing the Millennium Development Goals set in 2000. Delegates also discussed the importance of partnerships in meeting challenges that might undermine the achievement of the SDGs, from climate change to terrorism. → ROSA

Global Nutrition Report 2015

Launched on 9 September 2015, the report argues that ending malnutrition in all its forms will drive sustainable development forward; this point needs to be emphasized more strongly in efforts to achieve and monitor the SDGs. Although a great deal of progress is being made in reducing malnutrition, it is still too slow and too uneven, while some forms of malnutrition, namely adult overweight and obesity, are increasing. Concrete actions to address malnutrition, backed by financing, are being scaled up but not enough to meet the 2025 World Health Assembly (WHA) targets or the SDG target of ending malnutrition in all its forms by 2030. Commitment to and financing for nutrition will need to be ramped up significantly. A virtuous circle of improved nutrition and sustainable development can be unleashed if action to address malnutrition in all its forms can be embedded within key development sectors. The accountability of all nutrition stakeholders needs to improve if this virtuous circle is to be fully realised. → ROSA



A time for change? Comments on Chad's draft Land Code

Published in July 2015 by Tearfund and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), this report (also available in French) argues that the process to develop a new Land Code in Chad is a positive step forward: a unified text can help to ensure internal consistency and to make land law more accessible. It also considers that the draft Code improves, to a degree, the protection of certain customary rights. However, fundamental aspects of the draft Code reflect policy orientations that would need careful thinking through, including in light of international guidance and best practice. The authors consider that addressing these issues would require a substantial overhaul of the current draft, rather than simply amending the wording of its existing provisions. → ROSA

Lesotho child cash grants show surprise side effects

Published in September 2015, this article considers the Child Grants Programme (CGP) in Lesotho, a joint project of the EU with the Lesotho government which aimed to help orphans. A study by Oxford Policy Management found that nearly all the families who received grants spent the money on their children, with positive results across several indicators: a rise in the percentage of boys enrolling in school instead of taking up the traditional role of cattle herders and a 15% reduction in morbidity among children under the age of five. Unexpectedly, the grants also helped to reduce the annual period of severe food shortages by 1.7 months. → ROSA



→ ROSA

RPCA film tells a Sahel and West Africa success story

Launched on World Food Day 15 October 2015 and funded by the EU, the 21 minute film on the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) details the RPCA's key achievements and challenges. The film gives witness to the diversity of RPCA members and to their commitment. It aims to raise awareness about the success of the Network which for 30 years has been engaged in the fight against food and nutrition insecurity in the Sahel and West Africa. → ROSA



Nutrition and the SDGs

A blog post on ELDIS considers how the SDGs shape up with respect to nutrition. Asma Lateef, Director of Bread for the World Institute with Jennifer Thompson and Joanna Francis of Concern, members of the International Coalition on Advocating Nutrition (ICAN), argue that the target to 'end malnutrition in all its forms' in the final draft SDGs reflects a sea-change since the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They consider that the international community now understands and is responding to the evidence about the devastating personal and societal costs of undernutrition. → ROSA

Africa South of the Sahara Food Security Portal

Launched on 16 September 2015 in Brussels, Belgium, the new portal focuses on agriculture, food security, and nutrition in Africa south of the Sahara. It is designed to strengthen capacity for timely food security information, policy research, and analysis to ensure the continued improvement of the region's food and nutrition security. It is also available in French and Spanish. The portal was created by IFPRI with support from the European Commission. → ROSA





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Directorate General International Cooperation and Development,
Rue de la Loi 41, B-1049 Brussels.

ROSA Network:
<http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/hunger-foodsecurity-nutrition/dashboard>

For further information on ROSA News email:
EuropeAid-FANSSA@ec.europa.eu