

ROSA news

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



Sun drying rice at semiauto mill, Bangladesh. Photo: GAIN

The *News on Current Issues* article in this issue, No. 52, reviews the current status of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), based on an interview with Andrew Hilton of the FAO. *News from the European Commission* introduces a Call for Proposals on Sustainable Inclusive Value Chains (Lot 1) and Food Fortification (Lot 2). Additional items in this issue 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**, the online network on

food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture and rural development on Capacity4Dev. The newsletter is produced by Sarah Cummings and Paolo Sarfatti of the Integrated Support Service - Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture. You are welcome to post comments on the ROSA network on Capacity4Dev or to contact the ISS-FANSSA team by e-mail (EuropeAid-FANSSA@ec.europa.eu).

Happy reading!



IN THIS ISSUE

02

News on current issues
Global recognition of the importance of tenure governance: an interview with Andrew Hilton

05

Latest news from the European Commission

06

Events

07

New online resources

08

External resources and blogs

To subscribe to this newsletter, register on Capacity4Dev and join the ROSA network on food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Global recognition of the importance of

TENURE GOVERNANCE

An interview with Andrew Hilton

This article reviews the current status of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (commonly known as VGGT), based on an interview with Andrew Hilton, Senior Land Tenure Officer with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The VGGT were developed between 2009 and 2012 by a global partnership of international, regional and national organisations following an inclusive process of consultation and negotiation. They promote secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests as a means of eradicating hunger and poverty, supporting sustainable development and enhancing the environment. The FAO is one of many organisations facilitating the implementation of the VGGT. It supports VGGT implementation as part of its mandate to help countries modernise and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices. In partnership with governments, civil society organisations, cooperatives and producer organisations, the private sector, academia and research institutes, the World Bank and other UN agencies, FAO works to improve the governance of tenure for the benefit of all, with an emphasis on vulnerable and marginalised people.



Women's group in Bo District, Sierra Leone, discussing forest tenure rights with FAO staff.
Photo: FAO/Christian Schulze.

Committee on World Food Security

In May 2012, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) led the intergovernmental negotiations that endorsed the VGGT. CFS is an intergovernmental body, reporting to the UN General Assembly, which develops and endorses policy recommendations and guidance on a wide range of food security and nutrition topics. While FAO hosts CFS at its headquarters in Rome, it is a separate entity.

International support for the Voluntary Guidelines

The FAO is supporting the VGGT through a global implementation programme of awareness raising, capacity development, support to countries, development of partnerships and monitoring. The programme has a dedicated land tenure team of approximately 20 staff located at the headquarters in Rome, who work with decentralized land tenure officers based in Accra, Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Budapest, Cairo and Santiago. Operating under the chapeau of the VGGT, the team works in close collaboration with FAO colleagues of other technical units such



Participants at Africa regional VGGT-informed forest tenure training, Uganda. Photo: Toon De Bruyn.

as those in the forestry, fisheries, and legal offices. A task force is also responsible for ensuring that the VGGT are promoted throughout the FAO organisation as a whole, including the decentralised offices. The global programme is co-funded through the FAO regular programme and through the voluntary contributions of bilateral resource partners, including the EU. The EU recognises that securing responsible access to land and other natural resources is crucial for fair and sustainable development, food security and good governance. To this end, the EU is not only supporting the efforts of FAO but also funding a €60 million programme to promote the VGGT in 18 countries, with a strong focus on Africa.

On 15-17 February 2016, the EU also organized a seminar in Brussels, Belgium, in collaboration with FAO, the International Land Coalition (ILC), and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). The seminar was attended by more than 30 EU officers from EC headquarters and 20 EU Delegations, and its scope was in part to increase awareness of the VGGT and to strengthen their implementation at national level.

An interview with Andrew Hilton

During the seminar Paolo Sarfatti, ISS FANSSA Team Leader, interviewed Andrew Hilton, currently responsible for coordinating the FAO Global Implementation Programme supporting

the VGGT. He is head of the trust fund programme which promotes the recognition and safeguarding of tenure rights in developing countries, particularly those of vulnerable and indigenous people. His role is to ensure that projects are formulated and implemented in the best possible way to achieve the goals of raising awareness, developing global capacity building tools and supporting countries and vulnerable groups.

Implementing the VGGT

Commenting on the importance of the VGGT, Andrew Hilton considers that tenure security and responsible governance of land, fisheries and forests are crucial factors in the eradication of hunger and poverty because they play a central role in determining if and how people, communities and others are able to acquire rights to use and control natural resources:

‘Secure access to these resources can allow families to produce food for consumption, thus helping to ensure food security; it also provides a valuable safety net as a source of shelter, food and income in times of hardship. Secure tenure brings with it the confidence to invest in sustainable practices, which is at the heart of all food production.’

Commenting on the difference between land governance and tenure governance, he argues that these terms are not interchangeable:

“

The EU recognises that securing responsible access to land and other natural resources is crucial for fair and sustainable development, food security and good governance.

”

Global Donor Working Group on Land

To improve coordination mechanisms, the EU initiated and chaired the EU Working Group on Land until 2013. Building on this successful experience, the Global Donor Working Group on Land was created in 2013. Bringing together donors and specialised international institutions, it aims to improve coordination at the global level and to facilitate agreement on joint actions. Its Secretariat, hosted by the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, publishes the main highlights of the Group activity. It recently undertook an exercise to map global land interventions, providing an inventory at country level and aiming at coordination and development of complementarities.

‘When we talk about tenure we are talking about how people hold, access and use natural resources. These take many forms and there are many different types of rights which people may have to use natural resources, so they apply equally to forests and fisheries, not just land. These rights can vary from outright ownership, to grazing rights over common land to the right to collect forest products or the right to fish in specific places. They may be formally recognised, sellable, inheritable, informal or customary. When we talk

about governance, it is really about how these resources are administered – how decisions are made and what institutions implement them. The VGGT therefore provide a framework that can be applied equally to the governance of land tenure, fisheries tenure and forest tenure.’

Challenges and lessons learned

Previously, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) made no reference to issues of tenure – how rights to natural resources are held, accessed and administered. However, the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include clear targets which put tenure, especially related to land and gender, firmly on the global agenda. Andrew Hilton is very positive about the recognition of tenure within the SDGs: ‘We are very pleased about that. It is a very powerful recognition of the importance of responsible governance of tenure in meeting our development objectives.’

According to Andrew Hilton, the biggest challenge facing the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines is getting the political will to bring about changes in how the rights to natural resources are governed and hence ensuring vulnerable groups have equitable access to them at the country level. Another important challenge is the lack of capacity of actors at all levels, from federal to local governments, civil society organisations, and others. The issues associated with the governance of rights to natural resources are complex and sensitive. The recognition of legitimate customary tenure rights held by communities, indigenous peoples, and vulnerable individuals can pose a threat to those who benefit from the status quo. Therefore, there are many obstacles in the way and bringing about changes in policies, laws, institutional frameworks and most of all peoples’ attitudes will take time. Andrew Hilton considers that the main lesson learned so far is that countries need support in bringing about this change and that this support needs



Andrew Hilton giving a presentation on the VGGT.
Photo: FAO/Federica Gabellini.

to be continuous. This requires raising awareness and building capacities, but this is not enough if there is no follow-through. Long-term impact will take commitment and concerted support. As Andrew Hilton notes:

‘The VGGT have helped to create a historic window of opportunity for change: FAO is committed to playing its part together with the vast number of organisations supporting their implementation.’

The global recognition and take-up of the VGGT is unprecedented. Andrew Hilton is of the opinion that the resources invested are starting to bear fruit, with real results now being seen:

‘At FAO we are currently finalising discussions with a number of our resource partners for a second cycle of projects which build upon our initial work. This shows a recognition and commitment for the long-term nature of interventions that are required to help countries implement the VGGT. We will continue to develop partnerships with others to ensure a scale-up of support to countries implementing the VGGT. It’s not the end of the story, for sure, but it’s certainly a good beginning.’

The views expressed in this interview do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the FAO.

“The issues associated with the governance of rights to natural resources are complex and sensitive. The recognition of legitimate tenure rights held by customary communities, indigenous peoples, and vulnerable individuals can pose a threat to those who benefit from the status quo.”

ROSA sources

Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security →

EU support to rural land governance: State of play 2014 →

Land tenure and gender: approaches and challenges for strengthening rural women’s land rights →

FAO E-learning courses on governance of tenure →

Other sources

International Land Coalition →

Land Matrix →

IIED →

Call for Proposals: Sustainable Inclusive Value Chains and Food Fortification

This Call for Proposals with a value of €57 million was launched in February and recently closed. It has the objective of developing inclusive and sustainable agriculture-based value chains (Lot 1) and fortified foods (Lot 2) that improve food security for the poor and vulnerable and that reduce poverty and under-nutrition. Lot 1 specifically focuses on smallholder farmers and micro, small and medium enterprises in developing countries as final beneficiaries by increasing income opportunities, creating jobs and business opportunities along the agricultural supply chains in an inclusive and sustainable manner. Lot 2 aims to strengthen the production, diffusion and consumption of accessible, technologically viable and culturally acceptable fortified food, compliant with national and international standards. It will involve working with government and intergovernmental regulatory bodies, the food processing private sector operators and civil society, reinforcing public-private partnerships. The public session providing information on the calls which took place on 25 February 2016 is available as a video via web streaming.

→ ROSA



→ Discover the ROSA network

Photo: GAIN

Past events

26-28 January 2016

Designing the path: a strategic approach to EU agricultural research and innovation

Challenges faced by agriculture and rural areas and the long-term character of research activities call for a strategic approach to research and innovation. Organised by the European Commission, the conference presented the main elements of a long-term strategy for EU agricultural research and innovation and discussed its content, in particular several dimensions of the manner in which it could be implemented. Although the conference was primarily focused on agricultural research and innovation within the EU, the role of agricultural research in the EU's international cooperation was also considered. Many of the presentations focused on agricultural research and innovation in developing countries. Prior to the conference, the paper [A strategic approach to EU agricultural research and innovation](#) was published to facilitate discussion. The conference brought together over 500 participants including scientists, relevant science networks, other stakeholders, and international organisations.

→ ROSA

15-17 February 2016

The role of agricultural biotechnologies in sustainable food systems and nutrition

This international symposium brought together more than 400 participants, including FAO member states and representatives of civil society, research and the private sector, to discuss the potential of biotechnology to eradicate hunger and malnutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Attention was focused on a broad range of agricultural biotechnologies covering relatively simple applications such as fermentation, bio-fertilizers, disease diagnostics, bio-pesticides, and marker-assisted crop breeding. Parallel sessions were concerned with various aspects of agricultural biotechnologies such as climate change, resource use, social and economic impacts. Despite the controversy on GMOs, there seemed to be an emerging awareness that biotechnologies are broader than GMOs and that biotechnologies and agroecology have to live together and be more integrated if agriculture is to be more sustainable, particularly for smallholder farmers. FAO is ready to play a role as a platform for further developing this integration.

→ ROSA

→ [Discover the ROSA network](#)

15-17 February 2016

Seminar on hot topics in sustainable agriculture and land governance

With the adoption of the SDGs last September, sustainable development is now a global goal. This seminar, organised by Unit C1 of DG International Cooperation & Development (DG DEVCO), focused on two 'hot topics' in this context, namely land governance and sustainable agriculture. It brought together 42 participants from 20 EU Delegations and from DG DEVCO and DG Research & Innovation, together with representatives of development agencies from EU members states (Spain and Germany). Presentations were made by representatives of a variety of organisations: the Centre for Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD); the FAO; the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED); the International Land Coalition (ILC); and DG DEVCO. The session on land governance was mainly based on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and on how to implement them at country level. Participants were informed about the different models of sustainable agriculture: sustainable intensification, agroecology, ecological intensification, and climate smart agriculture. All the presentations made during the seminar are available on ROSA.

→ ROSA



Sticky notes from interactive session.
Photo: Paolo Sarfatti.

Upcoming events

13-15 April

Restricted meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA)

→ ROSA

13-16 June 2016

7th Africa Agriculture Science Week (AASW) and FARA General Assembly

→ ROSA

Indian seeds in Africa: a scoping study of challenges and opportunities

Published in January 2016, this Future Agricultures Working Paper No. 135 considers whether India's thriving seed sector could play a role in delivering affordable, high-quality seeds to African farmers, similar to the role played by India's generic pharmaceuticals industry. India shares some of the diverse agro-ecologies and crops found in Africa so it is plausible that technologies and methods used by Indian farmers might also be relevant to African situations. India's development story, as an emerging economy with millions of its own small-scale cultivators, might provide relevant knowledge, expertise and investments to help develop the seed sector in Africa, supporting economic development, food security and poverty alleviation. There will be different opportunities and strategies in different crop markets, regions and countries because the seed sector is not homogeneous but segmented for different crops and seed technologies that have different biological characteristics, and divided into informal as well as formal seed systems with different institutional frameworks and socio-economic functions. Market forces and the entrepreneurial capacities of Indian seed firms will largely determine whether they are able to open up and exploit new markets in Africa.

→ ROSA

Second Report on the State of the World's animal genetic resources

This report, published by the FAO in December 2015, addresses the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture (AnGR), comprising the genetic resources of mammalian and avian species used or potentially used for food and agriculture. It provides a broad overview of livestock diversity, including the origins and history of AnGR; the status and trends of AnGR (the state of genetic diversity as indicated by the risk status of breed populations); the state of gene flows (movements of AnGR around the world); the uses, roles and values of AnGR; the adaptedness of AnGR to environmental stressors; threats to AnGR; and the influence of genetic diversity on the composition of animal-source food products. The report discusses livestock-sector trends and how they are affecting AnGR and their management, together with the state of capacity to manage AnGR, including institutional frameworks, programmes for inventory, characterisation and monitoring; breeding strategies and programmes; conservation programmes; the use of reproductive and molecular biotechnologies; and legal and policy frameworks.

→ ROSA

Qualitative research on the impacts of social protection programmes on decent rural employment: a research guide

Published by the FAO in 2016, this updated guide describes in detail the sequencing, timing and methodology of the research process to be implemented in each country of study: training, fieldwork preparation, a simple and clear fieldwork roadmap, the theory of change hypotheses for the studies, guiding questions and research tools. It will be used to conduct qualitative research and will also serve as a basis for future FAO research in social protection and decent rural employment.

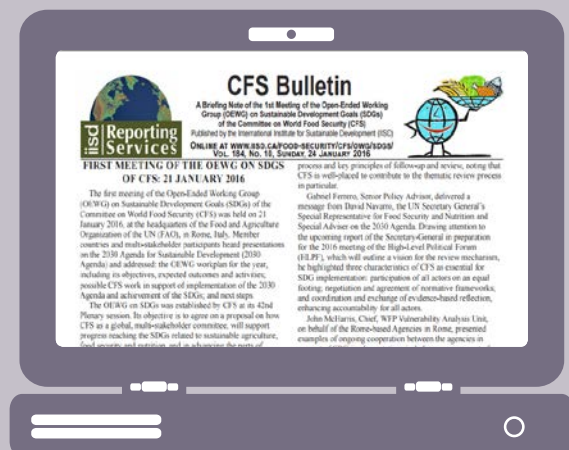
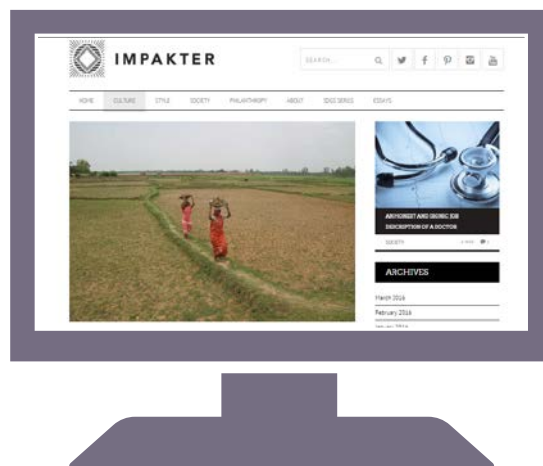
→ ROSA



Helping to invest more and better: FAO Investment Centre celebrating 50 years of activity

This blog post, published on 11 January 2016, reviews the work of the FAO Investment Centre which recently celebrated 50 years of activity supporting FAO member countries in developing investment operations for agricultural development, food security and rural development. Over the last 50 years, the Centre has provided substantial support in the formulation of more than 2,000 investment projects and programmes in 170 countries, contributing about USD 100 billion in investment to the rural sector.

→ ROSA



Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

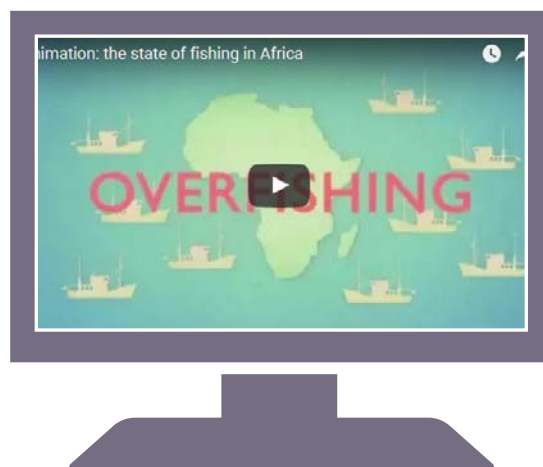
Published on 24 January 2016, this two-page Briefing reviews the first meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the CFS, which took place on 21 January. The OEWG on SDGs is developing a proposal on how CFS will support progress reaching the SDGs related to sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition, and in advancing the parts of the 2030 Agenda which fall within its mandate. A proposal will be submitted to the 43rd plenary session of CFS in October 2016.

→ ROSA

Fisheries in Africa

Published on 4 February 2016 by the Africa Progress Panel, this video presents the estimate that illegal and unregulated fishing costs West Africa alone USD 1.3 billion a year. The livelihoods of artisanal fishing people are being destroyed, Africa is losing a vital source of protein and nutrition, and opportunities to enter higher value-added areas of world trade are being lost. The Africa Progress Report 2014 [Grain, fish, money: financing Africa's Green and Blue Revolutions](#) highlights key steps to halt the shadowy practices in ocean fishing across the globe. This is related to the new global [Fisheries Transparency Initiative](#).

→ ROSA



→ Discover the ROSA network



© European Union 2016

Published by Directorate-General International
Cooperation and Development, April 2016.

The contents of this publication do not necessarily represent
the official position or opinion of the European Commission.
Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on
behalf of the Commission is responsible for the use which
might be made of information in this publication.

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