



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

ON THE RISE

STRENGTHENING RURAL INSTITUTIONS AND EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO REDUCE POVERTY

What's new?

Check out the RISE team's revamped website! It includes the most updated information about the different RISE areas of work. It can be accessed here: <http://www.fao.org/rural-institutions>.

A scoping mission in Jamaica, Grenada, and St. Vincent. Stakeholder consultations were held and data was gathered for a regional *Technical Cooperation Programme* that seeks to promote an enabling environment for agricultural insurance schemes within the broader context of integrated, disaster risk management, and resilience strategies. The team is currently working on collating and analyzing the information that was collected to identify and elaborate country-specific strategies and follow-up interventions. For more information, contact the rural finance area of work.

FAO's methodology for Social Network Analysis for Food Systems Assessment and Mapping testing in Nairobi recently concluded with the drafting of a findings report. A very important preliminary insight of the findings is that food insecurity in urban areas is strongly correlated with the physical distance of consumers from the key retail and distribution markets. Even more so with their centrality in the food trading network of the vendors that serve them. That is, the higher the physical distance and the higher the dependence on peripheral vendors, the higher the level of food insecurity.

Next issue

- SEWA panel presentation
- Impact Study of Dimitra Clubs in Niger
- 4th Annual Rural and Agricultural Finance Programme (RAFP)

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

Azeta Cungu

Azeta joins the team as a Policy Officer, and will contribute to the RISE team's work on rural finance. She holds a Ph.D. in Development and Transition Economics and was formerly part of the SP4 Management team.

Xia Zhang

Xia joins the team with a background in insurance and previously worked with the Agricultural Information Institute. He holds a Ph.D. in Finance and will contribute to the RISE team's forthcoming work in Fiji on agriculture insurance.

Congratulations!

On May 29th, the Government of Niger signed a Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) project agreement with FAO. The first in the history of the country. Through this agreement, Niger will be both a donor and a recipient of FAO technical assistance for the Dimitra Clubs and Farmer Field Schools. This includes approaches and FAO-developed tools to support the Government-executed World Bank Programme (Projet d'appui à l'agriculture sensible aux risques climatiques – PASEC).

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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

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

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

Join the Rural and Agricultural Finance and Investment Technical Network (RAFI-TN) at 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.

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FAO-SEWA meeting and discussion

FAO hosted a strategic meeting at headquarters in June to explore additional partnership opportunities and to mobilize resources in the context of the MoU between FAO and India's Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA). This ongoing partnership aims, in part, to increase rural women's inclusion in policy dialogues, reinforce the rights of the most marginalized women, and expand the scope of socio-economic services and opportunities for farmers and rural communities. For more information, please contact the socio-economic empowerment and community mobilization area of work.

In Action

Another 250 Dimitra Clubs

By the end of 2018, Senegal will have over 300 Dimitra Clubs in several regions (Velingara, Kaolack, Tambacounda, Vallee du Grand Fleuve, Kaffrine, Louga). Most clubs were set up in the framework of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project on climate resilience through the Farmer Field Schools. They provide an empowering space for rural communities to find solutions to community challenges with special attention to climate change.



Stepping Stones towards Climate Change Resilient Communities in Rural Senegal

For more information, watch FAO video:
"Stepping stones towards Climate Change – Resilient Communities in Rural Senegal"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7aWWtDbI5Y>

MISSIONS COME AND GONE

Caribbean: May 2018

Mission to Jamaica, Grenada, and St. Vincent to gather data and hold discussions with relevant public and private stakeholders to define country-specific strategies on how to support the creation of an enabling environment for agricultural insurance tools and other risk transfer/management systems against natural hazards.

Republic of Korea: 9-11 May 2018

ESP-Director and Senior Policy Officer participated in the *2nd Global ODA Forum for Sustainable Agricultural Development* to share strategies for cooperative management and development in agriculture and to explore opportunities for regional cooperation. The mission revealed strong interest and commitment of the Korean Government to strengthen collaboration with FAO. ESP was congratulated for the submission of a project proposal that was selected for funding in 2019.

Mozambique: 28-31 May 2018

RISE team members attended the "Cooperatives for Zero Hunger in Africa" conference of the International Cooperative Alliance-Africa branch. FAO presented its cooperative approach for achieving SDGs 1 and 2 through service provision and access to markets.

Slovenia: 14-16 May 2018

The Dimitra Clubs international Coordinator and the focal point for West Africa were invited to a panel entitled "Synergies for scaling up: European and African Cooperation in the setting of Global Standards" that took place during the Lubjiana 7th International Africa Day Conference: Africa and Europe from Common Interests to Transformative Cooperative on Governance. The Dimitra Clubs provided concrete examples to illustrate the importance of empowerment of rural people and community and local governance.

Senegal: June 1-14 2018

The mission supported the launch of the Dimitra Clubs component of the GEF-funded *Climate Resilience Project* executed by FAO. Two workshops were organized in Niore and Tambacounda - with the highest authorities - and included a five-day training for 20 Dimitra Club facilitators. In this project, the Dimitra Clubs act as a tool for promoting community mobilization and gender equality. It complements the Farmer Field schools methodology by providing communities with a space to discuss and find workable endogenous solutions to climate change.