



# 2017 GAFSP Knowledge Forum: Summary Notes

May 30 – June 1, 2017  
FAO Headquarters, Rome

**Knowledge Forum 2017**  
**May 30 -June 1, 2017**  
**Summary note**

The third GAFSP Knowledge Forum, a key learning event, was held at the Food and Agriculture (FAO) headquarters in Rome from May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The event gathered about 60 participants involved in the design and implementation GAFSP-funded projects. Participants included project task team leaders of GAFSP-funded Public sector window projects, Action Aid Civil Society Organizations (CSO) representative to GAFSP, donor representatives, International Finance Corporation (IFC) / GAFSP Private Sector Window representatives, and GAFSP Coordination Unit (CU). The welcome address was given by Dan Gustafson, Deputy Director-General of FAO.

The Knowledge Forum brought together strategic and operational insights drawn from the Program's Public and Private Sector Window projects. The Forum provided a robust and interactive platform to share tacit knowledge and experiences, including ways to improve efficiency and effectiveness of project delivery and increase impact on rural poor; to implement GAFSP's new Monitoring and Evaluation Plan including Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES); and to implement the newly-designed GAFSP's Operations Portal. Task team leaders from the Public Sector Window and investment officers from the Private Sector Window delivered engaging and inspiring "Pecha Kucha" style talks to share project outcomes and lessons learnt. The cross-institutional and cross-regional participation enabled the sharing of a broad range of perspectives on developmental challenges across the entire agricultural value chain in different countries.

This three-day meeting was organized in several sessions covering a range of topics: session 2: Sharing GAFSP Public Sector Window project experience; session 3: GAFSP Private Sector Window; session 4: GAFSP Operational and Thematic Priorities - Small group discussions; session 5: M&E Updates; session 6: Impact evaluation; session 7: Missing Middle Initiative; session 8: GAFSP Market Place; session 9: GAFSP Public Sector Window Operational Matters; session 10: GAFSP Projects and Civil Society Organizations; session 11: GAFSP Portal; session 12: Lessons from the Committee on World Food Security (CFS); and session 13: GAFSP 2.0 Moving forward. The discussion points and lessons are summarized below.

An innovative Market Place was organized at the Forum that brought together existing and potential technical partners like the World Bank's Development Impact Evaluation team (DIME), one of the CGIAR Centers - International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), France-based CIRAD, The Netherlands-based SCOPE Insight, European Space Agency (ESA), 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP), and the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR). Forum participants interacted with technical partners to gain knowledge about their respective specialization and capacities.

Key Lessons from the Knowledge Forum:

*For CU attention:*

- Importance of South-South exchange in terms of visits and knowledge sharing is growing.
- If needed, it is important to coordinate with GAFSP Coordination Unit for project restructuring.
- Expanding GAFSP Knowledge Forum beyond Supervising entities to implementing agencies/government partners.

*On Technical Assistance:*

- The importance of unallocated technical assistance funds in projects cannot be over emphasized, as one cannot foresee all the technical needs at the start of implementation.

*On project implementation:*

- Combination of short- medium- and long-term measures are demonstrating effective ways to address food insecurity.
- Coordination and cooperation among and between line ministries are very important for any successful implementation of any schemes.

*On M&E:*

- Improving the access to quality inputs and extension services helps increase productivity.
- Investment in proper Monitoring and Impact Evaluation is a must
- Importance of evidence through some form of impact assessment – a mixed method is gaining importance even in an experimental/RCT-type evaluation.
- There was great interest among the Forum participants on Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), which is an experience-based metric of severity of food security that relies on people's direct responses.

*On Nutrition related:*

- Bringing together different institutional partners to act cross-sectorally requires strong leadership and convincement about the double win of focused ag-nutrition innovations
- Mainstreaming nutrition-sensitive agriculture within the agriculture sector will require revamping our 'usual way of thinking'.
- There are good examples of partnership between FAO and WFP in the agriculture sector that have lessons related to fragility, conflict and food and nutrition security.
- Risks can be managed successfully by partnering with different stakeholders for implementation of different types of activities.

*On Infrastructure:*

- Investments in improving/upgrading rural roads and expanding irrigation facilities have been helping the poor to access markets, social and commercial services, improving connectivity among the farms and farmers, and enabling them to increase returns from their existing activities.
- Management entities are key in ensuring efficient management of project equipment or facilities.

*On Agro-processing related:*

- To increase youth employment, provide opportunities for youth in service sector including irrigation, agro-processing, agriculture technology, project incubation etc.
- Agro processing requires more sensitization for change of attitude.

*On farmer-based organizations:*

- It is critical to involve beneficiaries/ farmer-based organizations at all levels of project implementation.

*On communication:*

- There is need for more investment in communication and to have a clear communication strategy in order to enhance community acceptability of project outputs/outcomes.

## 2017 Knowledge Forum Program

Iraq Room (A235), FAO Headquarters, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome, Italy

**DAY 1: Tuesday, May 30**

8.00-8.30 am	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
8.30 am – 9.30 am	<p><b>SESSION 1: Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of Participants</li> <li>- Welcome – <i>Dan Gustafson, FAO</i></li> <li>- Overview of GAFSP Portfolio – <i>CU</i></li> <li>- Ice Breaker</li> </ul>
9.30 am – 10.30 am	<p><b>SESSION 2: Sharing GAFSP Public Sector Window Project Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ‘Pecha-kucha’<sup>1</sup> style talks on GAFSP Public Sector Window projects: Innovations and Thematic lessons. Featuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Aimee Marie Ange Mpambara (Rwanda)</li> <li>o Augusto Garcia Barea (Nicaragua)</li> <li>o Ndaya Beltchika (Sierra Leone)</li> <li>o Joseph Coompson (Zambia)</li> <li>o Piseth Vou Long (Cambodia)</li> <li>o Takayuki Hagiwara (Mongolia)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10.30 am	<b>TEA/COFFEE BREAK</b>
11.00 am – 12.00 pm	<p><b>SESSION 2: Sharing GAFSP Public Sector Window Project Experience (Continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o TTL talks continue</li> <li>o <i>Open Discussion</i></li> </ul>
12.00 pm	<b>LUNCH</b> ( <i>8th floor, FAO Buffet Restaurant, ‘C’ Building next to the BlueBar</i> )
1.15 pm – 3.30 pm	<p><b>SESSION 3: GAFSP Private Sector Window</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overview of financial instruments in the GAFSP Private Sector Window</li> <li>- ‘Pecha-kucha’ style talks on GAFSP Private Sector Window investment and advisory services. Featuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Niraj Shah</li> <li>o Makiko Toyoda</li> <li>o Philipp Farenholtz</li> <li>o Nelly Feze</li> <li>o Emi Kitasako</li> <li>o <i>Open Discussion</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> ‘Pecha-kucha’ or Japanese for ‘chit-chat’, is a short and structured presentation style that focuses on key innovative ideas or core points delivered within 6-8 minutes.

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**DAY 1: Tuesday, May 30 cont.**

3.30 pm	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
4.00 pm - 5.30 pm	<p><b>SESSION 4: GAFSP Operational and Thematic Priorities - Small group discussions</b></p> <p>- Breakout discussions - suggested topics, with additional topics to be finalized in-session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Fragility &amp; Conflict;</li><li>○ Youth Employment;</li><li>○ Climate Change;</li><li>○ Opportunities for Collaboration between Public and Private Sector Windows;</li><li>○ Other topics in response to team leaders' request</li><li>○ <i>Feedback to plenary</i></li></ul>
5.30 pm	DAY 1 CONCLUSION



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**DAY 2: Wednesday, May 31**

8.30 am	<b>RECAP OF DAY 1 PROCEEDINGS - CU</b>
8.45 am – 11.00 am	<p><b>SESSION 5: M&amp;E Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Launch of the new M&amp;E Plan and Indicators - <i>CU and Private Sector Window Secretariat</i></li> <li>- GAFSP Goals: The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)- <i>Voices of the Hungry team, FAO</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Q&amp;A/Open discussion</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
11.00 am	<b>TEA/COFFEE BREAK</b>
11.30 am- 1.15 pm	<p><b>SESSION 6: Impact Evaluation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impact Evaluation: Guidance on policy, process and methodology – <i>CU</i></li> <li>- Case study presentations on Impact Evaluations in the GAFSP portfolio – <i>Public and Private Sector Windows – TTLs. Featuring:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Ziauddin Hyder (Uganda)</i></li> <li>o <i>Paolo De Salvo (Haiti)</i></li> <li>o <i>Private Sector Window</i></li> <li>o <i>Open Discussion</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1.15 pm	<b>LUNCH</b> ( <i>8th floor, FAO Buffet Restaurant, 'C' Building next to the BlueBar</i> )
2.30 pm- 3.00 pm	<p><b>SESSION 7: Missing Middle Initiative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overview and update on GAFSP's new Missing Middle Initiative - <i>CU</i></li> </ul>
3.00 pm	<b>TEA/COFFEE BREAK</b>
3.30 pm – 6.00 pm	<p><b>SESSION 8: GAFSP Market Place</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 'Pitches' by current and potential technical partners of interest to GAFSP [3 mins each]: Featuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Agricultural Research for Development [CIRAD]</i></li> <li>o <i>European Space Agency [ESA]</i></li> <li>o <i>Global Forum on Agricultural Research [GFAR]</i></li> <li>o <i>International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas [ICARDA]</i></li> <li>o <i>SCOPE Insight</i></li> <li>o <i>World Bank's Development Impact Evaluation [DIME]</i></li> <li>o <i>10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns [YFP]</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- <i>Open Market Place</i></li> </ul>
6.30 pm	<p><b>GAFSP Reception (Terrace, FAO Headquarters, Rome)</b> <i>All Knowledge Forum participants are invited</i></p>



## DAY 3: Thursday, June 1

8.30 am	<b>RECAP OF DAY 2 PROCEEDINGS - CU</b>
8.45 am – 10.30 am	<p><b>SESSION 9: GAFSP Public Sector Window Operational Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Updated Supervising Entity Guidelines: New project processing steps; project re-structuring; project reporting; and project closing</li> <li>- Multiple Supervising Entities: Technical Assistance &amp; Investment Lending arrangements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o TTL presentations</li> <li>o Small group discussion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10.30 am	<b>TEA/COFFEE BREAK</b>
11.00 am- 12.00 pm	<p><b>SESSION 10: GAFSP Projects and Civil Society Organizations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overview and update on GAFSP’s engagement with partner civil-society organizations</li> <li>- <i>ActionAid CSO Representative to GAFSP</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Presentation and discussion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
12.00 pm	<b>LUNCH</b> ( <i>8th floor, FAO Buffet Restaurant, ‘C’ Building next to the BlueBar</i> )
1.00 pm- 2.30 pm	<p><b>SESSION 11: GAFSP Portal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstration of the GAFSP Portal – CU</li> <li>- Hands-on exercise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Q&amp;A</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.30pm – 3.00pm	<p><b>SESSION 12: Lessons from the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An opportunity to hear about policy priorities and tools from the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) – <i>Deborah Fulton, Secretary of CFS</i></li> </ul>
3.00 pm – 4.00 pm	<p><b>SESSION 13: GAFSP 2.0 - Moving Forward, Co-Chairs: FAO and GAFSP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation/Discussion</li> <li>- Closing remarks – CU</li> </ul>
4.00 pm	<b>FORUM CLOSES</b>