

Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)

**Executive Minutes
Steering Committee Meeting**

July 27, 2023

Virtual format

GAFSP Steering Committee Chair

Mr. Hong-Won Yu

Director, Food Security

Global Affairs, Canada

GAFSP Co-Chair and GAFSP Private Sector Window Donor Committee Chair

Mr. James Catto

Director, Office of International Development Policy, International Affairs

United States Department of the Treasury

Accepted for the Steering Committee

HONG-WON YU

Accepted for the Private Sector Window Donor
Committee

JAMES CATTO

SIGNED HWY

SIGNED JC

HONG WON YU

JAMES CATTO

Chair, GAFSP Steering Committee

Co-Chair, GAFSP Steering Committee

Chair, Private Sector Window Donor Committee

WELCOME, INTRODUCTION, AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program's (GAFSP) Steering Committee (SC) convened a virtual meeting on July 27, 2023. The objectives of the meeting were to decide on the allocation of GAFSP funding towards Producer Organization (PO)-led project proposals submitted under the GAFSP's 7th Call for Proposals (CfP) and to update the SC on the progress, outstanding questions, and next steps related to strategic GAFSP initiatives, including the revised intervention model and pilot project proposed for the Business Investment and Financing Track (BIFT), the proposed financing modality for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the proposed Conflict of Interest Policy (CoI), the five-year evaluation of the GAFSP, and the Revised Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Plan. A list of meeting participants is provided in Annex 1.
2. The opening remarks were provided by Mr. Mamadou Cissokho, honorary President of ROPPA and CNCR. In his remarks, Mr. Cissokho thanked the donors who continue to allocate resources to the Program and emphasized that GAFSP is an important initiative that must be protected. He noted that the Missing Middle Initiative (MMI) has produced positive results that must be sustained and developed further and congratulated the Program on the launch of the PO-led track. In addition, he described GAFSP implementation modality as unique and inclusive where CSOs act as a bridge between producers and other stakeholders. Mr. Cissokho encouraged GAFSP to reinforce partnerships that channel support towards producer organizations and their communities. He stressed that the private sector in the rural areas are smallholder farmers who must remain at the core of all initiatives and interventions.
3. The SC Chair, Mr. Hong Won Yu, Director, Food Security Global Affairs, Canada, welcomed all SC Members and the Technical Advisory Committee PO (TAC-PO) Chairs. He also acknowledged members who were unable to attend and recognized their alternates. The draft agenda, circulated in advance of the meeting, was adopted and is provided in Annex 2.

UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEE

4. The Coordination Unit (CU) presented an update from the Trustee and highlighted that, as of June 30, 2023, funds (net of restricted funds) available to the SC for allocation amount to US \$137.1 million.

OVERVIEW OF 7TH CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR GRANT FINANCING

5. The CU presented an overview of the Producer Organization track and the PO-Call under the 7th Call for Proposals. The PO-Call objective is to finance POs to strengthen their capacity to support members and to scale up existing activities that improve members' resilience to food and nutrition security (FNS) crises. In particular, the 7th Call would support experienced POs to quickly respond to the current FNS crisis. The TAC-PO presented an overview of the methodologies and review process of the 41 full proposals received (for a total value of US \$105.9m). The TAC-PO noted new challenges under this PO-Call, including a two-stage process; the need to meet three conditions (i.e. (a) scale up existing activities, (b) support capacity enhancement activities, and (c) led by experienced POs); and the high number of proposals.
6. The SC acknowledged the excellent work of the CU and the TAC-PO in coordinating and evaluating the proposals under this PO-Call. The key areas that were raised by SC members and discussed during the meeting, included: (a) potential misalignment between PO-led projects and local government plans that prevent efforts to scale up support; for which the CU noted that a new element of this PO-Call was the requirement of Supervising Entity (SE) notification of governments of proposals for PO-led projects; (b) the question whether covering only experienced POs is the best approach, and on how to include lower capacity POs without prior

experience working with development partners in the future. During the discussion, the CU noted that the criterion of working only with experienced POs applied only to this PO-Call to ensure rapid response to the ongoing FNS crisis but does not set precedent for future Calls. Participants also raised the issue of how risk and fragility were factored into the evaluation of proposals; for which the TAC-PO confirmed that risk is inherent in many of the projects and that this was factored into the evaluation of proposals. The question of whether GAFSP should emphasize the alignment with Paris agreement was also raised. The CU notes that each Supervising Entity applies its operational procedures to GAFSP-funded projects, including on climate related activities.

SEVENTH CfP: RESULTS OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REVIEW, DISCUSSION OF PROPOSALS AND SELECTION OF GRANT AWARDS

7. The 7th CfP for PO-led projects closed on May 9, 2023. The Program received 41 complete applications, with more than 60% of them from the Africa region. The TAC Chair presented the approach and methodology followed to assess proposals received and analyzed trends and challenges in the submissions that were considered for the 7th CfP.
8. The Steering Committee allocated grant funding to 15 projects, totaling US \$33.93 million.

Table 1: List of approved GAFSP allocations in alphabetical order

	PROJECT	PO	SE	US\$ MILLION
1	BANGLADESH	SBKS	FAO	\$1.49
2	CHAD	CNCPRT	IFAD	\$2.29
3	GUINEA	FOPMA-BG	FAO	\$1.86
4	KYRGYZSTAN	KAFLU	IFAD	\$2.50
5	KYRGYZSTAN	ACMT	WFP	\$1.60
6	LAO	LFN	WFP	\$2.75
7	NEPAL	NACC	FAO	\$2.45
8	NICARAGUA	FA	IDB	\$2.0
9	NICARAGUA	CSM'20RL	WFP	\$2.8
10	NIGER	CNPFPN	IFAD	\$2.40
11	RWANDA	INGABO	IFAD	\$2.01
12	SAMOA	SFFI	FAO	\$2.0
13	SOMALIA	SFCS	WFP	\$2.5
14	TANZANIA	MVIWATA	AfDB	\$2.85
15	TOGO	CTOP	IFAD	\$2.43
			TOTAL	\$33.93

9. Additionally, the SC was asked to make decisions on 1) increase of the CU approval threshold for SE Administrative Fees from 5% to 9% for PO-led projects, and 2) financing of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Indirect Support Cost (ISC).
10. The SC reached a consensus to raise the percentage threshold for which the CU has authority to approve requests for administrative fees submitted by SEs. The new threshold will allow a maximum of 9% for PO-led projects.
11. The SC decided to postpone the decision on FAO Indirect Support Costs until the in-person SC meeting in September. In order to facilitate the decision making process during the meeting in

September, the SC requested that the FAO provide a stronger justification for charging an ISC on top of the admin fee for both PO-led and Technical Assistance (TA) projects, specify further the links between Admin and ISC fees to actual (\$) costs of different design, supervision, and implementation services, and describe the implications if the ISC were not approved by the SC. The CU was also asked to provide additional analysis and information about potential implications to help inform a decision.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE SEVENTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS

12. The TAC shared lessons learned and recommendations on the 7th CfP, including to 1) limit the number of applications per Call; 2) reach more countries that have not yet benefitted from GAFSP's support; 3) address high-priority themes and capacity development needs; 4) extend timeframe for PO preparation and TAC review process; 5) simplify core Call requirements, guidelines and templates, and consider opening funding for PO-led projects on a rolling basis; 6) take stock of recommendations of the previous Calls; 7) commission independent field reviews to complement the efforts of the CU in identifying and sharing lessons with stakeholders.
13. The presentation highlighted the need to integrate producer organization needs assessments and preparation of PO strategic financial management and operational plans as prerequisites for applying for funds under the PO-led track. To effectively address climate change, the TAC also recommended supporting the provision of climate change guidance tailored to PO-specific needs and opportunities to better inform investments in climate resilience. Climate vulnerability analysis and long-term resilience strategies included in national and regional plans should guide the preparation of PO investment plans in the future.
14. During the discussion, participants stressed the importance of learning from past PO-led Calls and emphasized the need for time to digest and reflect on the recommendations to make informed decisions moving forward. There was a call for conducting independent assessments by civil society and producer organizations to complement institutional evaluations and provide a more comprehensive perspective on the projects. The potential of supporting PO-led projects that can feed into the design of larger GAFSP projects under other GAFSP funding tracks was emphasized as an opportunity to scale up impact. Participants suggested considering flexibility in criteria for projects from countries facing specific limitations, such as women-led projects in regions with formal registration requirements. Recommendations were made for incorporating climate vulnerability analysis and sustainability assessments as part of project evaluations.

UPDATES FROM THE CU

15. The Deputy Program Manager of the GAFSP, Mr. Philip Van der Celen, provided SC members with a status update on key actions undertaken by the CU since the March 2023 SC meeting. These included an update on the September in-person SC meeting in Rome (Sept 19-20); proposals for the next SC meeting with field visit during the Spring of 2024; the Business Investment Financing Track; draft Conflict of Interest Policy; the Five-year Program evaluation of the GAFSP; and the revised M&E Plan. Key action items highlighted in the status update include:
 - The CU will send out a short survey to SC members with options for a Spring 2024 SC Meeting with field visits to be selected by SC members.
 - The CU will collect comments from different units at the level of the Trustee on the draft GAFSP Conflict of Interest policy with a view to present for review and approval a final version at the September SC meeting.
 - The CU will organize a 6th meeting of the BIFT Advisory Group to close outstanding questions related to key design features of the BIFT and BIFT pilot.
 - The CU will share with SC Members by August 8th the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) and budget for the five-year evaluation of the Program.

- CU will circulate the final revised M&E plan and the response matrix for SC review and approval.
16. GAFSP Co-Chairs concluded the meeting, thanked participants and the Coordination Unit for organizing a virtual SC meeting.

Annex 1

List of Meeting Participants (alphabetical order, by stakeholder group)

	Last Name	First Name	Country/Organization
Chairs			
1	Yu	Hong-Won	Director, Food Security at Global Affairs Canada, GCA, GAFSP Chair
2	Catto	James	Director, International Development Policy, US Treasury, GAFSP Co-Chair and GAFSP Private Sector Window Donor Committee Chair
Donors			
3	Lynn	Fiona	Australia
4	Watkins	Neil	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
5	Bahalim	Ammad	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
6	Fougere	Shannon	Canada
7	Brix	Jan	Germany
8	Aabo	Anders	Norway
9	Yanez Minondo	Blanca	Spain
10	Krebber	Iris	United Kingdom
11	Save	Radio	United Kingdom
12	Bhattacharjee	Karanina	United States
13	Cunningham	Suzanne	United States
14	D'Aversa	Mary	United States
Regional Representatives			
15	Keizire	Boaz	Africa
16	Tenkouano	Abdou	Africa
17	Dalyono	Fnu	Asia
18	Khuong	Ha	Asia
19	Pokharel	Champak	Asia
20	Huerzeler	Benedikt	ECA
21	Acosta	Carlos	LAC
22	Abdul Ghaffar	Jeehan	MENA
23	Kidane	Fisseha	Africa
Supervising Entities (SEs)			
24	Katagami	Michiko	ADB
25	Kimura	Shingo	ADB
26	Boahen	Philip	AfDB
27	Fregene	Martin	AfDB
28	Ochai	Sule	AfDB

29	Monroy	Santiago	IADB
30	Basu	Enika	IFAD
31	Aliyev	Elkhan	FAO
32	Labella	Patrizia	FAO
33	Spaziani	Irene	FAO
34	Veillerette	Benoist	FAO
35	Canli	Funda	WB
36	Simmons	Sarah	WB
37	Polidori	Giulia	WFP
38	Toe	Chris	WFP
Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)			
39	Guerra	Alberta	ActionAid USA
40	Hertzler	Doug	ActionAid USA
41	Penunia	Esther	AFA
42	Tseden-ish	Altantuya	AFA
43	Tsendsuren	Altangerel	AFA
44	Cissokho	Mamadou	ROPPA
45	Rostaing Akoha	Sessi	ROPPA
GAFSP Coordination Unit, WB			
46	Toure	Adama, El Hadj	GAFSP Program Manager
47	Alamzai	Amanullah	Coordination Unit
48	Calixto	Silvana	Coordination Unit
49	Chawani	Thokozani	Coordination Unit
50	Demissie	Teguest	Coordination Unit
51	Dizon	Felipe	Coordination Unit
52	Gates	Luke	Coordination Unit
53	Madhavan Kutty	Bala	Coordination Unit
54	Magarotto	Cecilia	Coordination Unit
55	Markozashvili	Darina	Coordination Unit
56	Mecagni	Laura	Coordination Unit
57	Mpamba	Aimee	Coordination Unit
58	Murphy-McGreevey	Clare	Coordination Unite
59	Sakhuja	Davinder	Coordination Unit
60	Salman	Diana	Coordination Unit
61	Sidana	Jigyasa	Coordination Unit
62	Van der Celen	Philip	Coordination Unit
63	Yang	Shijie	Coordination Unit
64	Yaya Lole	Jane	Coordination Unit

65	Younes	Ahmed Karim	Coordination Unit
GAFSP Private Sector Window Secretariat – IFC			
66	Shah	Niraj H.	GAFSP Head, Private Sector Window Secretariat
67	Berman	Daphna	IFC
68	Chang	Victoria Y.	IFC
69	Chaudhary	Bheeshm	IFC
70	Maiztegui	Josefina	IFC
GAFSP Trustee /Legal			
71	Pardo	Maria Lourdes	Legal
TAC			
72	Evers	Guy	Chair
73	Khan	Daud	Co-Chair
74	McLean	Diana	Co-Chair

Annex 2



AGENDA

GAFSP Steering Committee Meeting

Virtual Session 1

July 27, 2023

** 5.00am Seattle/ 8.00am Washington DC / 12.00pm Abidjan / 1.00pm London / 2.00pm Berlin, Rome / 3.00pm Nairobi / 5.45pm Kathmandu / 6.00pm Dhaka / 8.00pm Manila / 10.00pm Canberra

**The listed time is EDT (GMT -4)

Key Objectives of the Steering Committee (SC) Meeting:

1. Make decisions regarding the allocation of GAFSP funding towards Producer Organization (PO)-led project proposals submitted in the context of the GAFSP's 7th Call for Proposals.
2. Update the SC on the progress, outstanding questions, and next steps related to strategic GAFSP initiatives, including the revised intervention model and pilot project proposed for the Business Investment and Financing Track (BIFT), the proposed financing modality for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the proposed Conflict of Interest Policy, the five-year evaluation of the GAFSP, and revised M&E Plan.

AGENDA

	7:45-8:00	Steering Committee (SC) members connect and test audio and video connections For connection assistance please contact Silvana Calixto: +1 202-253-3050
Opening	8:00-8:05	GAFSP Video on 7th Call for Proposals
	8:05-8:25	Welcome and context, adoption of agenda Remarks by GAFSP Program Manager, CSO Representative, and Steering Committee Co-Chairs <u>Documentation:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Draft Agenda
Session 1	8:25-8:40	Update from the Trustee <u>Objective:</u> Provide an update on the financial status and funds available for allocation under the Grant-Based Financing Track.

		<p><u>Presentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Financial Status of the Fund (Trustee) <p><u>Discussion:</u> Funds available for allocation to PO-led project proposals from the Seventh Call for Proposals</p> <p><u>Documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GAFSP Trustee Financial Report
Session 2	8:40-9:10	<p>Overview of Seventh Call for Proposals for Grant Financing</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> Introduction of the Seventh Call: background, approach, and methods (TAC-PO composition, review process).</p> <p><u>Presentations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Call Background (Presentation by Cecilia Magarotto, CU) ○ PPT on Process: Approach and Methods (Guy Evers, TAC-PO Chair) <p><u>Discussion:</u> Q&A regarding Call Background and Process</p> <p><u>Documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Call Guidelines and Templates ○ TAC Recommendation Report, Sections 1.1, 1.2, 1.4 and TAC Process and Management Report, Section 1.
Session 3	9:10-10:00	<p>7th Call for Proposals: Results of TAC-PO Review</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> Presentation of the TAC review and its recommendations on proposals for financing as well as trends in submissions, findings on special aspects of the Call, and success rate by SE and region</p> <p><u>Presentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TAC-PO Recommendations for Funding - Guy Evers, TAC-PO Chair assisted by Daud Khan and Diana McLean, TAC-PO Deputy Chairs <p><u>Discussion:</u> Q&A regarding Results of TAC-PO Review</p> <p><u>Documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TAC-PO Recommendation Report, Sections 2 to 5, and Annex 1: Project Summaries ○ EOI and Stage 2 PO-led Project Proposals
	10:00-10:10	Break with PO-Led Project Profiles
Session 4	10:10-11.00	<p>Discussion of 7th Call for Proposals: Projects and Selection of Grant Awards</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> Decide on proposals to be financed and amounts to be awarded to each selected proposal as well as Administrative Fees for SEs.</p> <p><u>Decisions:</u> (i) Proposals to be financed; (ii) SE Administrative Fees; (iii) FAO Indirect Support Costs.</p> <p><u>Documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TAC-PO Recommendation Report ○ Decision Note on SE Administrative Fees for PO-led Projects ○ FAO Technical Note on Indirect Support Costs

Session 5	11:00-11:45	<p>Lessons Learned from Seventh Call for Proposals</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> Share lessons learned and recommendations from the TAC-PO review process. Representatives of the Supervising Entities will also share their reflections on the 7th Call for Proposals process</p> <p><u>Presentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lessons and recommendations from the TAC-PO (Guy Evers, TAC-PO Chair, assisted by Daud Khan and Diana McLean, TAC Deputy Chair) <p><u>Discussion:</u> SC to provide inputs and feedback in lessons, recommendations, and next steps on the TAC-PO process.</p> <p><u>Documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TAC-PO Process and Management Report, Sections 2, 3, and 4.
	11:45-11:55	Break with PO-led Project Profiles
Session 6	11.55-12:20	<p>Updates from the CU</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> Provide SC Members with a status update on key actions undertaken by the CU since the March SC Meeting</p> <p><u>Presentation:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview of September SC Meeting agenda 2. Proposals for next SC Meeting with field visit 3. Business Investment Financing Track (BIFT) 4. Draft Conflict of Interest Policy 5. Five-year evaluation of the GAFSP 6. Financing Modality for Civil Society Organizations 7. Revised M&E Plan <p><u>Discussions:</u> N/A</p> <p><u>Documentation:</u> GAFSP CU PPT</p>
Closing	12:20-12:30	Closing remarks by Steering Committee Co-Chairs