



2019 GAFSP Knowledge Forum: Summary Notes

May 13 – 15, 2019
WFP Headquarters, Rome

Knowledge Forum 2019
May 13-15, 2019
Summary note

The fourth GAFSP Knowledge Forum, a key learning event, was held at the World Food Programme (WFP) headquarters in Rome from 13 to 15th of May 2019. The event gathered over 65 participants involved in the design and implementation GAFSP-funded projects. For the first time, along with project task team leaders of GAFSP-funded projects from both Public and Private Sector Windows and representing the World Bank Group, regional multilateral development banks (MDBs) and Rome-based agencies (RBAs), the event was also attended by Government representatives from Project Implementation Units (PIUs), Civil Society Organizations (CSO) representatives of the GAFSP Steering Committee (Asian Farmers Association and Réseau des *Organisations Paysannes and de Producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest*, ROPPA), donor representatives and GAFSP Coordination Unit (CU) members.

The meeting was kicked off by WFP's Deputy Executive Director Amir Abdullah and Iris Krebber, Co-chair of the GAFSP Steering Committee and representative of DFID, who made opening and concluding remarks at the event.

The aim of the event was to provide a robust platform for learning from operational insights and experiences drawn from GAFSP's Public and Private Sector Window projects. 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, including the fragile conflict and violence (FCV) contexts. Participants also undertook a group role reversal exercise, which helped them to better appreciate the perspectives of different stakeholders addressing similar GAFSP-related challenges.

During the event, several GAFSP stakeholders also had the opportunity to intervene to share their testimonies and perspective.

One of the sessions was dedicated to the three Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) members of the GAFSP Steering Committee. ROPPA's president, Ibrahima Coulibaly, sensitized participants to the importance of involving farmer organizations and CSOs in GAFSP-supported projects both at the design and through the implementation stages. The Executive Secretary of the Asian Farmers Association shared observations from their visits to GAFSP-funded project sites in several Asian countries.

The GAFSP Coordination Unit (CU), along with counterparts from the Private Sector Window, delivered sessions covering the most recent Portfolio Review; approaches, guidelines and experienced-based learning from results-based Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), Impact Evaluation and Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES); Supervising Entity guidelines, and on GAFSP 2.0. The CU also shared information on the open GAFSP Special Call for Proposals - specifically on the eligibility criteria, proposal submission process and overall assessment criteria.

A Resource Marketplace was organized at the Forum that brought together existing and potential technical partners including World Bank's Geospatial Operations Support Team (GOST), WFP's Purchase for Progress (P4P) team, AgroCares, and Luke (Natural Resources Institute in Finland). The CU organized clinics on M&E, Impact Evaluation and Communication to provide additional information to the Forum participants. The CSO representatives also organized a clinic to further engage with and inform participants about the role of CSOs and Farmer Organizations in GAFSP.

Key takeaways:

- Participation by different stakeholders, namely government Project Implementation Units, CSOs, Supervising Entities and donors brought different perspectives and enriched discussions at the Knowledge Forum.

- The Forum continues to provide a unique space where operational task teams working in agriculture and food security across the MDBs and RBAs can candidly share lessons, challenges and accomplishments.
- Involvement of smallholder farmer partners, farmer organizations, and CSOs both at project design and implementation levels is important for project sustainability and accountability and should continue to be emphasized by GAFSP.
- Strong demand was articulated for capacity development training with increased emphasis on M&E and Impact Evaluation practices by the Supervising Entities and Project Implementation Units.
- Growing interest was demonstrated in GAFSP's early use of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), which is an experience-based metric of severity of food security that relies on people's direct responses, and which has been adopted by GAFSP as a program-wide indicator, in line with its adoption as an indicator for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2.
- Information shared on the financial instruments available in International Finance Corporation (IFC) / GAFSP Private Sector Window was helpful to the public sector actors, especially with respect to GAFSP 2.0 and more communication on this was requested.

Other lessons emerged during the discussion:

- Utilizing existing implementation structures to implement Projects improves synergies and maximizes the development impacts, avoiding duplication and the risk of exceeding the absorptive capacity of the institutions in charge of agriculture and food security investments.
- Where infrastructural facilities are significant in a project, detailed designs should be made a pre-requisite for grant approvals.
- Management entities are key in ensuring efficient management of project equipment or facilities.
- Risks can be managed successfully by partnering with different stakeholders for implementation of different types of activities.
- Unallocated technical assistance funds in projects are important to be able to face all the technical needs not unforeseen at the start of implementation.
- Important to liaise with the GAFSP Coordination Unit (CU) on project restructuring.
- Need for more investment in communication to have a clear communication strategy to enhance community acceptability of projects.
- South-South exchanges are a pivotal tool for the knowledge sharing.
- An improved access to quality inputs and extension services helps increase productivity.
- Combination of short- medium- and long-term measures are demonstrating effective ways to address food insecurity.
- 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.
- To increase youth employment, provide opportunities for youth in service sector including irrigation, agro-processing, agriculture technology, project incubation etc.
- Importance of mainstreaming nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

Agreed Next Steps:

- Share PowerPoint presentations and photos with the Forum participants [Done]
- Summarize KF2019 proceeding take-aways for CU follow up with SE focal points, in portfolio management, with SC members, and to revisit at the next KF [Done]
- Share capacity development package on M&E with implementing partners and SE counterparts in need of assistance to improve quality at entry, implementation and completion [Done]
- Organize meeting with CFS communications team to plan for CFS in October 2019 [Done]
- Set follow up discussion with Voices of the Hungry (VoH) team to review plans and budget for FIES technical support through FY20
- Share minutes of meeting in Bonn with participants and provide inputs to 12-month Roadmap [Done]

- Prepare a blog on KF2019



Knowledge Forum 2019

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Program

World Food Programme Headquarters, Auditorium

Via C. G. Viola 68 Parco dei Medici, Rome, Italy

DAY 1: Monday, May 13, 2019

8.00 am- 8.30 am	REGISTRATION
8.30 am – 9.15 am	SESSION 1: Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction of participants ○ Welcome remarks – Iris Krebber (DFID, UK), co-Chair GAFSP Steering Committee ○ Ice Breaker
9.15 am – 10.15 am	SESSION 2: Overview of GAFSP Strategic Outlook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Call for Proposals ○ Overview of GAFSP 2.0 ○ GAFSP Replenishment 2020 Q&A
10.15 am – 10.45 am	TEA/COFFEE
10.45 am – 11.45 am	SESSION 3: Findings of 2019 Public Sector Window Portfolio Review¹ Q&A
11.45 am – 1.00 pm	SESSION 4: GAFSP Private Sector Window Investment and Advisory Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction to IFC, GAFSP Private Sector Window, and Blended Financing ○ “Cargill Cocoa Cooperatives”, (Côte d’Ivoire), Mehnaz Haider, IFC ○ “Mountain Hazelnut Venture”, (Bhutan), Philipp Farenholtz, IFC Q&A
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	LUNCH
2.00 pm – 3.15 pm	SESSION 5: Linking Farmers to Markets: Innovative Approaches <i>[Brief presentations on GAFSP-funded projects will be made by participants to be followed by discussions]</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Increasing Access to Finance for Farmer Organizations” (Bangladesh), Cora Dankers and Imanun Nabi Khan, FAO ○ “Rikweda” (Afghanistan), Philipp Farenholtz, IFC ○ “Smallholder Commercialisation Programme” (Sierra Leone), Pete Kaindaneh, IFAD Q&A
3.15 pm –	TEA/COFFEE

¹ Session 3 is open only to KF2019 participants from the [GAFSP Supervising Entities, project implementation units, and civil society organizations](#)

3.35 pm	
3.35 pm – 5.30 pm	<p>SESSION 6: Public Private Partnership <i>[Brief presentations will be made by participants on GAFSP-funded projects that interact and have the potential of interacting with public sector and private sector]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Food Security and Agriculture Productivity Project” (Bhutan), Chris Jackson, WB ○ “Africa Improved Foods” (Rwanda), Niraj Shah and Raunak Kumar, IFC ○ “Smallholder Irrigation and Value Addition Project” (Malawi), Vinda Kisyombe, AfDB ○ “Sahel Irrigation Initiative Project”, Richard Colback, IFC ○ “Sustainable Agricultural Intensification and Food Security Project” (Rwanda), Jean Marie Vianney Kagenza, Rwanda Agriculture and Animal resources Development Board <p>Q&A</p>
5.30 pm	DAY 1 CONCLUSION
6.30 pm	Bus leaves Holiday Inn Hotel for the GAFSP Reception
7.00 pm – 9.30 pm	<p>GAFSP Reception Ristorante da Orazio Via di Porta Latina, 5 Rome</p> <p><i>All KF2019 participants are invited to the reception</i></p>



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DAY 2: Tuesday, May 14, 2019

8.30 am – 8.45 am	RECAP OF DAY 2 PROCEEDINGS
8.45 am – 10.45 am	<p>SESSION 7: Monitoring, Impact Evaluation and Learning <i>[CU and Private Sector Window Secretariat will make presentations to be followed by discussion]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GAFSP Monitoring Framework ○ Learning and Accountability: Evidenced-based Learning through Impact Evaluation ○ FIES <p>Q&A</p>
10.45 am – 11.15 am	TEA/COFFEE
11.15 am – 12.30 pm	<p>SESSION 8: Monitoring and Impact Evaluation – Learning from Good Practices <i>[This session will focus on M&E and Impact Evaluation good practices with specific examples from projects.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Technological Innovation for Agroforestry and Agriculture Program” (Haiti), Carmine Paolo Salvo, IDB ○ “Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization Program” (Liberia), Mark Eghan, AfDB ○ “Malawi Mangoes” (Malawi), Yanni Chen, IFC <p>Q&A</p>
12.30 pm – 1.45 pm	LUNCH
1.45 pm – 3.00 pm	<p>SESSION 9: Portfolio Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Refresher of Supervising Entity Guidelines: Project processing steps; project re-structuring; project reporting; and project closing <p>Q&A</p>
3.00 pm – 4.00 pm	<p>SESSION 10: GAFSP Partnerships²</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Roles of CSOs and Farmer Organizations in GAFSP – from project to Steering Committee levels” ○ Experience from CSO Project Visits to Nepal and Timor Leste - Esther Penunia, AFA
4.00 pm – 5.30 pm	<p>SESSION 11: Group Role Reversal Exercise³ <i>[Participants will break into small groups. They will be given a case study/operational challenge. Each participant will have a predetermined role in the group. Putting themselves in the shoes of other stakeholders and using a GAFSP lens, each group will collectively discuss, address, and present responses to the issue(s) at hand.]</i></p>
4.00 pm – 4.30 pm	TEA/COFFEE (during Session 11)
5.30 pm	DAY 2 CONCLUSION

^{2 & 3} [Sessions 10 and 11 are open only to KF2019 participants from the GAFSP Supervising Entities, project implementation units, and civil society organizations](#)

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DAY 3: Wednesday, May 15, 2019

8.30 am – 8.45 am	RECAP OF DAY 2 PROCEEDINGS
8.45 am – 10.00 am	<p>SESSION 12: Engagement with Farmer Organizations, Producer Organizations and CSOs <i>[Brief presentations will be made on GAFSP-funded projects' engagement with farmer organizations]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Strengthening rural women's livelihood for a sustainable economic development in the region of Tambacounda” - MMI project in Senegal ○ “Inclusion of Rural Youth in Poultry and Aqua-culture Value Chains” - MMI project in Mali ○ “PASA-Lou-Ma-Kaf” - Public Sector Window project, Senegal <p>Q&A</p>
10.00 am – 10.30 am	TEA/COFFEE
10.30 am- 12.30 pm	<p>SESSION 13: Resource Marketplace <i>[The Resource Marketplace is a platform to facilitate current and potential technical providers and CU representatives to engage with Forum participants. The technical providers will present themselves to participants with a further opportunity for dynamic discussion to explore intersections for collaboration in a 'marketplace' format. Participants will also have an opportunity to sign-up for short clinics offered by the CU representatives.]</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Geospatial Operations Support Team (GOST) 2. Purchase for Progress (P4P), WFP 3. CGIAR System Organization 4. AgroCares 5. Luke (Natural Resources Institute Finland) 6. CU Clinics (Communications; M&E; General) 7. CSO station
12.30 pm – 1.45 pm	LUNCH
1.45 pm – 3.00 pm	<p>SESSION 14: Geo-enabling Tools <i>[Brief presentations on GAFSP-funded projects will be made by participants to be followed by discussions]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Multisectoral Food Security and Nutrition Project” (Uganda), Diana Sekaggya-Bagarukayo, WB ○ “Climate Resilience Rice Commercialization Sector Development Program” (Cambodia), Chanthou Hem, ADB <p>Q&A</p>
3.00 pm – 3.20 pm	TEA/COFFEE

<p>3.20 pm - 4.50 pm</p>	<p>SESSION 15: A Conversation – Beyond Agriculture: Addressing Global Priorities <i>[An interactive panel discussion on ‘frontier’ and cross-cutting issues of relevance to agriculture and food security in the current portfolio]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aissa Toure, IFAD (Burundi) ○ Le Le Win, FAO (Myanmar) ○ Jean Marie Robert Chery, Government (Haiti) ○ Ibrahima Coulibaly, CSO (Mali) <p>Q&A</p>
<p>4.50 pm - 5.00 pm</p>	<p>Remarks – Chris Toe, Senior Advisor, WFP</p>
<p>5.00 pm - 5.30 pm</p>	<p>Key Take Away Lessons</p>
<p>5.30 pm</p>	<p>GAFSP KF2019 Closes</p>