

ROSA news

OPERATIONAL FOOD SECURITY NETWORK



Ricecrop. Photo: Christophe Mason

New look ROSA news

July 2015 sees the re-launch of the ROSA Newsletter as *ROSA News* in English and French. This re-launch marks 2015 as the European Year for Development and the continuing commitment of the EU to the themes of food and nutrition security, and sustainable agriculture. This issue Number 48 comprises an in-depth *zoom* article on policy coherence for development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, together with articles on the European Development Days and on Expo Milan 'Feeding the planet: energy for life' which is taking place until the end of October 2015. Additional items include information on past and current events, and summaries of new and interesting resources.

Rosa News is a product of the ROSA network. To receive this newsletter, you

should join the ROSA network, using the link at the bottom of this page. From July 2015, the ROSA network has become *the* online network on food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture and rural development, broadening its previous focus on food and nutrition security.

The format of the newsletter has been changed from previous versions to make it more e-reader friendly with interactive links. It is being produced by Sarah Cummings and Paolo Sarfatti of the Integrated Support Service-Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (ISS-FANSSA – email EuropeAid-FANSSA@ec.europa.eu). You are welcome post comments on the ROSA group on Capacity4Dev or to contact the ISS-FANSSA team by e-mail.

Happy reading!

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Policy coherence for development

IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Responses to global challenges, such as food and nutrition security, require that development policies and other policies create synergies and do not constrain each other. This approach is known as ‘policy coherence for development’, abbreviated to PCD. This zoom article features an interview with a senior UN policymaker, focusing on the status of PCD in negotiations surrounding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which will set the post-2015 development agenda and replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which set the development agenda during the 2005–2015 period. Page 4 provides an overview of the SDGs as currently under negotiation while page 7 outlines the EU’s current approach to PCD.

Although PCD can be seen as a ‘terribly boring put-you-to-sleep-in-a-second concept’¹, it is extremely important to ensure that the effects of the other EU internal and external policies do no harm: that they do not undermine development cooperation efforts or adversely affect developing countries. In a newspaper article, published in June 2015, PCD was seen as one of the 10 key areas in which the EU can contribute to tackling the structural causes of poverty by ‘building strong mechanisms to measure policy coherence for development.’² It has also been described as ‘new Gold Standard for effective international cooperation.’³

Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) in the post-2015 Development Agenda

Dr Diana Alarcón, currently Senior Economic Affairs Officer at the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development, has been involved in the intergovernmental process that is defining the post-2015 development agenda. UN DESA is providing simultaneous secretariat support to the intergovernmental process that will define the post-2015 agenda, with a conference planned in September 2015, as well as to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development Conference, planned for July 2015.

Dr Alarcón considers that the SDGs represent 'a universal agenda which will transform the way in which development is done.' An agenda for sustainable development is about policy coherence at all levels: global, regional and national. Sustainable development is now seen as having three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – and countries will have to make balanced progress on all three. In this way, policy coherence is at the basis of the new agenda. In the early 1980s and 1990s, development focused on economics, based on the understanding that growth would trickle down and that social change would follow economic growth. During the 1990s, the realisation grew that social development does not necessarily follow economic growth; there is no automatic translation of growth to social progress. In response,

the MDGs included explicit targets in areas that matter to people: health, education, gender equality, among others. In the post-2015 agenda, the concept of development has been extended to include environmental sustainability. Under the new agenda, there has to be policy coherence across economic, social and environmental aspects.

The current status regarding the SDGs is that UN Member States are deliberating on the zero draft of the outcome document to be agreed at the UN Summit in September. According to Dr Alarcón, the current draft is 'a good political document' which captures the consensus of the preceding negotiations for the formulation of the SDGs, retaining a clear vision for the future in an ambitious transformative agenda. In this document, the SDGs are the same as those proposed by the Open Working Group of the UN General Assembly which was tasked with preparing a proposal on the SDGs. The expectation is that the SDGs will be adopted, perhaps with a few minor changes to add clarity.

Targets on policy coherence for development

There are currently two targets that relate specifically to policy coherence, as part of 'systemic' issues in SDG 17, namely 17.13 'Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence' and 17.14 'Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.' Although these are the only two of the SDGs which explicitly include PCD, Dr Alarcón argues that policy



Genetic improvement of cattle. Photo: E. Mendivil.

coherence is at the basis of the SDGs: 'Unless you have a high degree of policy coherence, it is going to be difficult to make progress on this ambitious agenda.'

Food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture demonstrate the integral importance of policy coherence to the SDGs, as Dr Alarcón points out: 'If you look at a map, food security problems are concentrated in poor countries, rural areas and small cities, and among small-scale landholders. If you want to address the core of food security, you need to increase local agricultural production and diversify the diet of people in rural areas, small cities and in the marginal areas of large cities. Food security requires a whole range of interventions, including technological innovation to increase production and productivity of small landholders. Farmers need access to credit, technology and innovation, and to use of water and land on a sustainable basis. Infrastructure is also needed to support production. Farmers also need to receive insurance against risk when their harvest fails. Developed



Sustainable Development Goals

01	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
02	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
03	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
04	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
05	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
06	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
07	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
08	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
09	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10	Reduce inequality within and among countries
11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



Farmer winnowing rice, Phoukhouth. Photo: F. Tivet.

‘I’m very excited about the post 2015 development agenda. It has been criticised by some for having too many goals. This is true. But this new agenda provides the basis and opportunity to think seriously about the development challenges of the world today and to put in place consistent policies to address them.’ (Dr Diana Alarcón)

countries can play a role in facilitating technology transfer and decreasing trade barriers to improve farmers’ access to markets at reasonable prices. As you see, a whole list of things is needed to improve food security and make it consistent with sustainable agriculture. We need national and private sector interventions with support from the global economy. This is all about policy coherence. Consistent policies are needed across the board to improve the productivity of small-scale farmers and for sustainable agriculture. Without coordination, consistency and coherence, it will be difficult to achieve all these goals simultaneously.’ Given that food security and nutrition touch a large range of policy areas, Dr Alarcón argues that it is important to take the perspective of a policy chain rather than isolated interventions because it will be the interactions of different policy initiatives that will make a difference.

After the adoption of the SDGs in September, the UN Statistics Commission will propose monitoring targets by March 2016. Beyond the identification of good indicators to track progress, Dr Alarcón considers that the SDGs represent a policy approach that requires a consistent and integrated policy process; monitoring a policy process is very complex. In her opinion, political will and leadership are key elements of efforts to address policy coherence in the post 2015; indicators on their own will not be enough.

Future developments

There are so many challenges still remaining, according to Dr Alarcón. Once

the new development agenda is agreed in September 2015, the most difficult challenge will be implementation and there are two key issues here. First, how to translate the new global framework to national level and the implications of this for policy coherence. Second, the need to strengthen policy coherence at the global level. The global economic situation demonstrates the need for enhanced policy coherence and actions at the global level and the difficulties of achieving this. National governments have been engaged in a two year process to develop the SDGs. When these global commitments have been agreed in September 2015, these governments will still need to go back to national level to engineer transformation there: ‘Each UN member country will need to translate the global agenda into a national development agenda.’

Dr Alarcón concludes: ‘I’m very excited about the post 2015 development agenda. It has been criticised by some for having too many goals. This is true. But this new agenda provides the basis and opportunity to think seriously about the development challenges of the world today and to put in place consistent policies to address them. For example, under the MDGs, poverty has traditionally been defined as less than USD 1.25 a day. But if you ask a poor person what poverty means to him or her, they will never say “I’m living on less than one dollar day.” They will say, “I can’t go to hospital when I’m sick, I can’t send my children to school, the roads are too bad to get my crops to market, I don’t have enough to eat, my house is inadequate and can’t protect me from the weather.” Poverty has many more dimensions

ZOOM ARTICLE

‘The new agenda represents the opportunity [...] to really build consistent policies in response to the challenges that people face in life.’ (Dr Diana Alarcón)

than just income. The multiple dimensions of development include access to reasonable income, social security and natural resources. The new agenda represents the opportunity to revisit the old concepts of development, and to really build consistent policies in response to the challenges that people face in life, covering the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development at the same time. It represents a more nuanced, more consistent concept of development that requires consistent and coherent policies.’

Conclusions

As emerging in the international debate, the scope of the SDGs and the complexity of the global challenges will make PCD increasingly important. PCD will need to move beyond a ‘do no harm’ model to involve key stakeholders and to identify positive synergies between different economic, social and environmental objectives. PCD needs to become more dynamic, it cannot be based on a one-off ‘fixed-point-in-time’ assessment, and PCD efforts should be stressing more the need for ‘synergies between policies’, rather than only the principle of ‘do no harm’. However, acting in isolation cannot bring the desired results. According to the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), a think tank which has done considerable research on PCD, an effective PCD agenda for food security requires interventions at different levels, including action by developed countries and emerging economies, as well as action at global and national levels in developing countries.

Although PCD is being ‘mainstreamed’ into the SDGs, a number of challenges remain. According to the Organisation for Cooperation and Development (OECD), the terminology of PCD should be replaced by policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) and it voices concerns that PCSD will be side-lined in the absence of a clear and measurable targets.



Rice culture west of Semarang. Photo: Y. Derenne

Sources

[Ensuring the EU’s development and agricultural policies evolve together, January 2015 →](#)

[Policy coherence for development page, Europa website →](#)

[2013 Biennial EU Report on Policy Coherence for Development →](#)

[EU policy coherence for food security: aligning parallel agendas, ECDPM Discussion Paper, October 2013 →](#)

[Policy coherence for sustainable development in the SDG framework: shaping targets and monitoring progress →](#)

[10 ways the EU can play a leading role in development →](#)

[The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet: synthesis report of the Secretary-General →](#)

Policy coherence for development: the EU approach

Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) is a priority area for the European Commission through which the EU seeks to take account of development objectives in all of its policies that are likely to affect developing countries. The promotion of PCD aims to minimise contradictions and build synergies between different EU policies to benefit developing countries and increase the effectiveness of development cooperation. PCD was first integrated into EU fundamental law in 1992 (Maastricht Treaty) and further reinforced in the Lisbon Treaty (Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, TFEU, Art. 208) making the EU a forerunner on the international stage in this area.

This legal stance is supported by a political commitment in the 2005 European Consensus on Development, the inter-institutional agreement on development cooperation signed by the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council. A biennial EU PCD Report, published since 2007 and last published in 2013, covers cross-cutting issues and five global challenges. Food security is one of those challenges, together with trade and finance, climate change, migration and security.

The EU has made remarkable changes to its policies on agriculture and fisheries making them still more development friendly. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is becoming

increasingly development oriented. Following successive reforms, it is now delivering support to EU farmers and rural communities in a manner that does not distort markets or trade. In 2014, a wide-ranging reform of the Common Fisheries Policies was carried out with the aim of securing worldwide both fish stocks and fair income for future livelihood of fishing communities. From a trade perspective, Economic Partnership Agreements – free trade agreements – allow the EU's partner countries to protect sensitive agricultural products from liberalisation. The EU has also been a frontrunner in providing duty and quota free access to all goods from least developed countries, with the exception of arms and ammunition.

The Commission has continued to strengthen PCD procedures, instruments and mechanisms at all levels and across all services. These include a series of tools for promoting coherence of its policies and for assessing the potential impacts of future EU initiatives on developing countries at an early stage of preparation, such as the revision of the Impact Assessments guidelines. Furthermore, the new working methods of the Commission, including clusters of competency areas headed by Commission Vice-Presidents, favours cross-cutting policy making. The Commission has also taken steps for regular monitoring and reporting on PCD by EU Delegations in order to obtain feedback on the impacts of wider EU policies on partner countries.

Food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture at the European Development Days

Food security, nutrition and agriculture were on the top of the agenda at the European Development Days which took place in Brussels, Belgium, on 3-4 June 2015. The Development Days represents the flagship event of the European Year for Development (EYD) on the theme 'Our dignity, our world, our future.' European Development Days are Europe's leading forum on development and international cooperation, bringing together some 6,000 participants from over 140 countries to find practical solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems. According to Neven Mimica, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, the Development days are 'a chance for the EU to influence the crucial 2015 development agenda.'

Nutrition

On the first day, a special event on nutrition was hosted by Commissioner Mimica with the participation of Melinda Gates of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This event marked the unveiling of a major partnership between the Foundation and the EU with new funding to tackle global of undernutrition. Commissioner Mimica confirmed the EU's commitment to supporting partner countries to reduce the number of children who are stunted, a symptom of chronic undernourishment, by at least seven million by 2025. The EU is advancing towards delivering on this commitment and announced €23.5 million of funding for an innovative new initiative: the National Information Platforms on Nutrition (NIPN). The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the EU are joining forces to implement the NIPN in order to improve accountability and governance on nutrition, also involving finance from the UK Department for International Development (GBP 6.4 million). The NIPN will first be rolled out in Bangladesh, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Laos and Niger. More countries are expected to join this initiative in 2016. The NIPN is perceived as being an essential tool to support countries with a high level of stunting to analyse nutrition data and to design efficient national nutrition policies.

Melinda Gates noted that 2015 is the most important year for international development in a generation and that European leadership is particularly important over the next few months.

'We have made huge progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. But until every child is properly nourished we cannot reduce our efforts. That's why the EU has committed to provide €3.5 billion in actions towards improving nutrition by 2020.' (Commissioner Mimica)



A farmer in his rice fields, west of Semarang. Photo: Y. Derenne

Food security equals global security

To mark the high profile of food security and sustainable agriculture at the Development Days, the High level Panel 'Feeding the planet together' was organized by DG DEVCO and moderated by broadcaster Anya Sitaram. Panel members included a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Cote d'Ivoire, together with senior policymakers from the World Food Programme (WFP), the Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), France, and Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI). EU Commissioner for Agriculture & Rural Development, Phil Hogan, delivered a speech during the panel. There was consensus among the panellists that a world in which 800 million people are hungry could not be considered safe and that food security is at the basis of global security. Currently, 60 countries have identified food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture as key policy areas.

In this session, the panellists considered that food security is not just about increased production, arguing that a Green Revolution is not needed in Africa. Instead, a global revolution in food production is needed, based on smart and sustainable agriculture. In developing countries, agriculture should provide employment for the millions of young people who will be entering the labour force in the coming decades while protecting the environment.

[Further information here →](#)

The role of the private sector

In the parallel session, 'Value chains for value gains: multi-stakeholder partnerships to boost agricultural productivity', the audience heard how the EU is working with private sector in agricultural development but the approach is quite cautious because of the potential impact on thousands of lives. Panellists emphasised that the gap between the private sector and farmers needs to be bridged, particularly in terms of access to technology and finance. Finance is not available to small farmers and even to cooperatives for a wide variety of reasons. For example, farmers and cooperatives often do not have good systems of financial record keeping; farmers may be illiterate or numerically illiterate; and banks frequently do not understand the agricultural sector. The public sector can play a role in bridging the gap between farmers and formal financial institutions by brokering loans and by capacity building. For example, the ACP Secretariat is working with regional development banks to create facilities to assist the local banks in providing loans to small farmers and cooperatives.

[Further information here →](#)

New data and new ICTs for agricultural development

Two parallel sessions highlighted the importance of data and ICTs to agricultural development. The first, 'Revolutionising data use to feed the planet', was organized by the World Bank and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). Data is needed to support agricultural development because 'what cannot be measured, cannot be managed.' Improved data has the potential to increase productivity, promote trade and increase market access for farmers. A global revolution is going on, partly because data can now be shared and is machine-readable. But Africa is far behind other regions of the world in making data useable and in the capacity to use it.

[Further information here →](#)

The second session 'Mobile agriculture for development: enhancing agricultural productivity and farmers' welfare through ICTs' was organised by Orange to showcase an information service for farmers in Mali, also involving civil society and the government. Mobile solutions can contribute to more efficient use of resources, the enhancement of agricultural productivity, the modernisation of the value chain and the increase of farmers' income. Focusing on Africa, speakers drew on concrete examples of services for farmers developed through multisector partnerships.

[Further information here →](#)



Growing agriculture, growing jobs: The private sector on the spot. Photo: European Commission.



European Development Days: group discussion. Photo: European Commission



Feeding the planet: energy for life



The EU Pavilion at Expo Milano. Photo EU library.



Sylvia and Alex, characters from 'The Golden Ear'

Over 800 million people face hunger in less economically developed countries while high levels of obesity and non-communicable diseases are recorded in developed countries.

The World Expo 2015 is taking place in Milan, Italy, from 1 May to 31 October 2015 on the theme 'Feeding the Planet: Energy for Life.' Some 150 countries are participating, including 20 EU member states, and more than 20 million visitors are expected. The Expo comprises 1.1 million m² of exhibition area (more than 150 football fields) with 53 national pavilions and nine clusters based on common themes or food groups. Some 10 000 volunteers are taking part, speaking 31 languages.

How can we ensure safe, nutritious, sufficient and sustainable food for all? This is the theme of Expo 2015 and an important challenge facing the EU and the world. Over 800 million people face hunger in less economically developed countries while high levels of obesity and non-communicable diseases are recorded in developed countries. The EU, with its high food safety standards, its strong food industry, its ambitious research and innovation programme and its global efforts to achieve food and nutrition

security has a crucial contribution to make to overcome the related challenges. The EU aims at seizing the Expo opportunity to focus the international debate and cooperation on food issues – and to give EU policy efforts in tackling them a fresh boost.

At the Expo, the EU has a 1,500 square meter pavilion on three floors. The ground floor hosts a permanent exhibition and an area where interactive materials provide the public with information about EU activities. In the effects theatre, the public will see the animated film, 'The Golden Ear', the story features two characters, Alex, a farmer, who falls in love with a scientist, Sylvia, under unlikely circumstances. The story is about the link between human effort and science and research in overcoming food related challenges. In addition, EU Experience also features an interactive content centre that presents, in an educational and entertaining manner, the EU policies and actions linked to the pavilion's theme: 'Growing Europe's future together for a better world.'

In addition to the public exhibition, high level events related to development are being organised at Milan Expo. Over 150 scientific, public and stakeholder events are being organised by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the EU Member States in the EU Pavilion, the Joint Research Centre research site in Ispra (60 km away from Expo) and at Milan University. These include:

21 May	Food, Water and Energy, organised by the Italian Directorate General for Development Cooperation
11 June	Sustainable Development, the concept of sustainability in relation to agriculture and food systems, organised by the Italian Directorate General for Development Cooperation
16 June	Global Forum on Remittances, organised by IFAD
26 June	Sustainable solutions for Energy, Climate and Food Security
27 – 31 October	The Sahel and West Africa Week



Thies and Faktik region, Senegal. Photo M. Nissen da Costa



Pineapple production. Photo: EC library.

Global Land Forum

International Land Coalition
Dakar, 12-16 May 2015

The Global Land Forum 2015 on the theme 'Land Governance for inclusive development, justice and sustainability: time for action' brought together over 500 grassroots organisations, activists, local and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), researchers, multilateral organisations and government agencies from around the world. High-level plenary keynote presentations from different perspectives provided a context for a wide diversity of sessions. There was a strong focus on sharing best practices of people-centred land governance, and on identifying opportunities for engagement and collaboration. There were opportunities for participants to learn from, and contribute to, land governance successes and challenges in Senegal and Africa, facilitating dialogue to the highest political level on land reform in Senegal.

[More information on ROSA →](#)

Towards a research agenda for global food and nutrition security

EU Scientific Steering Committee for Expo Milan
8 May 2015

This high-level conference saw the official launch of a series of discussions by the EU Scientific Steering Committee for Expo for the six months of the Expo. It sets in motion a process to develop a set of widely consulted recommendations for decision makers on future priorities for research, development and innovation in the food and agricultural sector. The conference involved international actors from politics, the scientific community, industry, and civil society in a dynamic and forthright discussion on the challenges facing global food and nutrition security.

[More information on ROSA →](#)



Improving food systems for better lives

EC, BMZ and IFPRI

Brussels, 2 June 2015

This international conferences, organised by the EC, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany, and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) brought together stakeholders and experts to discuss the latest thinking on how to sustainably improve livelihoods and wellbeing by addressing food systems. Roughly 80 participants from civil society organizations, the private sector, government, the donor community, and academia attended the event and engaged in discussions on three critical themes: nutrition, resilience, and gender. Central to each of the thematic discussions was the issue of translating research into action. This issue was given particular prominence in the concluding multidisciplinary panel discussion on 'Moving from research to action' which drew on a wide range of expertise for a lively exchange of insights, recommendations and priorities for improving food systems with the goal of ending hunger and undernutrition in the coming decade. Representatives from the EC, BMZ and IFPRI opened the event with clear, consistent messages regarding the urgent need to converge diverse actors, sectors and stakeholders for the development and implementation of innovative solutions for improving food systems and enhancing food and nutrition security worldwide. High quality research to this end is critical for ending hunger and undernutrition by 2025 and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Equally important are the strategic efforts to close the gaps between research-based evidence, policies and programmes, and impact on the ground.

Upcoming events

30-31 July 2015

[The 2nd Africa Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Food Security Conference 2015 →](#)

25-27 September 2015

[United Nations Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda →](#)

12-15 October 2015

[Committee on Food Security 42nd Session: 'Making a difference in food security and nutrition' →](#)

NEW ONLINE RESOURCES

Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication

Published by the FAO in 2015, these SSF Guidelines are the first internationally agreed instrument dedicated entirely to the small-scale fisheries sector. They are the result of a bottom-up participatory development process during 2010–2013 that involved more than 4000 representatives of diverse stakeholders from more than 120 countries: governments, small-scale fishers, fish workers and their organizations, researchers, and development partners. The SSF Guidelines will guide dialogue, policy processes and actions at all levels and help the sector to realize its full contribution to food security and poverty eradication. The SSF Guidelines support responsible fisheries and sustainable social and economic development for the benefit of current and future generations, with an emphasis on small-scale fishers and fish workers and related activities and including vulnerable and marginalized people, promoting a human rights-based approach. The SSF Guidelines are also available in French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese.

[More information on ROSA →](#)



The state of food insecurity in the world 2015 – FAO

This report takes stock of progress made towards achieving the internationally established Millennium Development Goal 1 (MDG1) and World Food Summit hunger targets, and reflects on what needs to be done during the transition to the new post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. The report reviews progress made since 1990 for every country and region as well as for the world as a whole. Overall progress notwithstanding, much work remains to be done to eradicate hunger and achieve food security across all its dimensions. Key factors that have determined success to date towards food security and nutrition goals are identified: economic growth, agricultural productivity growth, markets (including international trade) and social protection. Protracted crises, due to conflict or natural disasters, have deleterious effects on progress in hunger reduction.

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Above: Pirogues Nouakchott beach Mauritania. Photo: EC library.
Left: Mauritania. Photo: F Lefèbvre



Indigenous food systems, agroecology and the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure: a meeting between indigenous peoples and FAO

In February 2015, the FAO organized a technical meeting between indigenous peoples' representatives and FAO staff. Meeting participants agreed to shape a joint work plan, based on suggestions on how FAO and indigenous peoples could collaborate in the short, medium and long term. This report includes the work plan, identifying concrete steps that can be followed in relation to the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and the SSF Guidelines, indigenous food systems and fisheries.

[More information on ROSA →](#)

Left: Hinewirangi Kohu Morgan gestures the formal Maori greeting from New Zealand to the attendees of the meeting. Photo: FAO.
Below: Boy from a rural community in Pakistan. Photo: O. Lehner.

The effects of political competition on rural land: evidence from Pakistan

Published in May 2015, this IFPRI paper analyses exogenous variation in the national popularity of Pakistan's political parties during the 2008 elections, showing that provincial assembly constituencies with greater competition between political parties had significantly higher land values and more active land rental markets four years later. Exploring potential causal mechanisms, it shows that political competition leads to more stable and business-friendly governance and institutions, better amenities, and greater provision of publicly provided goods.

[More information on ROSA →](#)





Child Eating Potato, Ecuador. Photo: EC Library.

What are Latin American countries doing to tackle the double burden of malnutrition effectively? – Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN), FAO

The FSN forum is hosting an online discussion on this subject to be held from 11 June-2 July. The double burden of malnutrition comprises the coexistence of undernutrition and obesity.

[Further information here →](#)



Shepherd with goats Kassala region Sudan. Photo: N Lazarewicz

Pastoral land rights discussed at the Global Land Forum in Dakar, Senegal

Posted on the website of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), this blog post from 28 May 2015 reviews sessions and discussions on pastoral land rights at the Forum. It considers that pastoral issues are not yet taken seriously and there is a need to continue to push such issues to top levels of government, donors and other actors' agendas. The value of pastoralism as a productive land use is yet to be fully appreciated, and attention to protecting it, including through secure land tenure systems, is lacking.

[Further information here →](#)

Endnotes

- 1 [The Guardian \(June 2015\) 10 ways the EU can play a leading role in development.](#)
- 2 [ibid](#)
- 3 Paul Engel (May 2015) [Policy coherence for sustainable development. Presentation.](#)



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