

Food & Business Knowledge Platform Annual Report of the Office 2018



Food & Business
Knowledge Platform



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Executive summary

This Annual Report marks the last year of the first phase of the Food & Business Knowledge Platform (F&BKP) which took place from 2013-2018. The F&BKP with its partners is committed to improving the Dutch contribution to Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) in emerging economies and developing countries. By facilitating the exchange of available knowledge, the co-creation of knowledge and as such by enhancing the use of knowledge, the Platform aims to contribute to integrated and scalable solutions that make food production, distribution and access more sustainable and inclusive.

Main results achieved in 2018

This year was marked with important achievements in all main activities: Strategic partnerships, Research & innovation, and Knowledge Portal. Some highlights are summarized below. Throughout this Annual Report, many examples can be found of these activities, outputs and outcomes.

Strategic partnerships

The F&BKP works in partnership with other organizations and networks to reach their common goals. With the support of the F&BKP, 22 projects were supported in 2018, 26 events organized, 2 webinars broadcasted and 41 reports, scoping papers and factsheets published. For the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the F&BKP supported among others the organization of the Food Security Exchange Week, a public multistakeholder dialogue on the IOB evaluation of Dutch food security policy, and the Dutch launch of the IFPRI Global Food Policy Report.

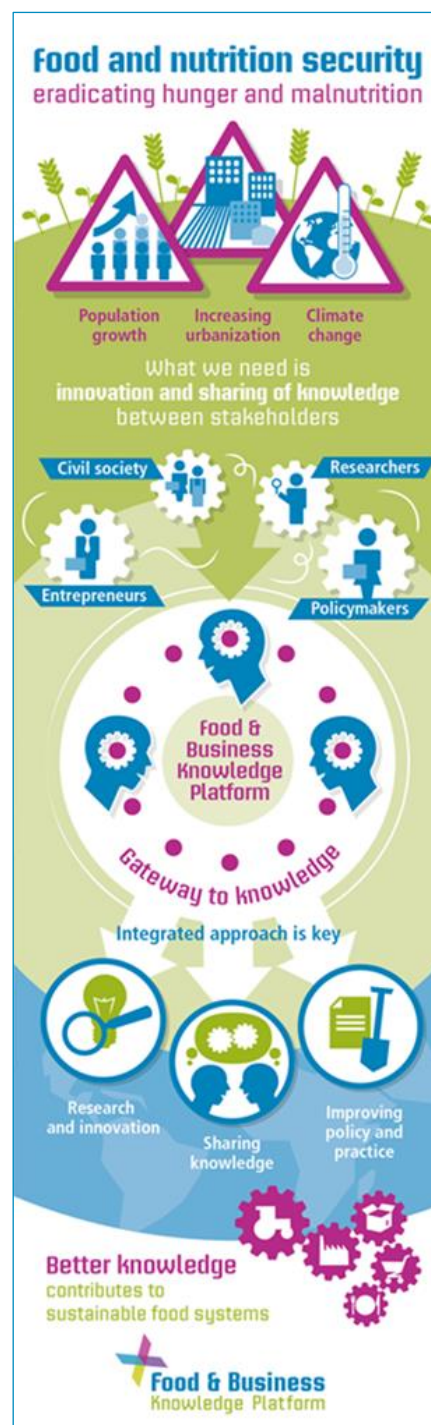
The thematic focus of the F&BKP knowledge agenda in 2018 was on: food security & stability, food systems, feeding cities, youth in agrofood systems, social entrepreneurship, land governance, and landscape approaches. For relative new themes such as food and stability, food systems and feeding cities, the F&BKP had a pro-active role to connect people and organizations, to stimulate exchange of experiences, identify key knowledge needs and explore specific topics. After investing on Youth in the past few years, a Community of Practice is now active. Networks on e.g. landscape approaches and social entrepreneurship were supported on their knowledge activities.

In addition, a range of activities took place on nutrition, integrated soil management, climate smart agriculture, inclusive business, inclusive finance, private sector development and green education. The reports of these activities can be found on the website, while a document published alongside the Annual Report showcases the outcomes of the Knowledge Management Fund projects 2013-2018.

The F&BKP continued to play a facilitative role in two strategic partnerships, in view of reaching more synergy at international level and strengthen the knowledge system: these partnerships focus on improving research programmes (CGIAR) and knowledge sharing (World Bank Group). Next to the Dutch involvement in running CGIAR research programmes, an additional joint call on Seed Systems Development was launched. In the context of the NL-CGIAR partnership also the Senior Expert Programme (SEP) and the call for a PPP- and research uptake-expert were launched, both to strengthen the partnership and make Dutch expertise available for the CGIAR.

The World Bank invests in the Dairy Revolution and Meat Production (DRMP) programme in Bangladesh and plans to support a regional project "Strengthening Higher Education for Agri-Food Transformation in Africa" (SHAFA). F&BKP in collaboration with the World Bank Group facilitated the possible engagement of the Dutch livestock sector and green education institutes in these programmes.

A third public-private knowledge partnership supported by the F&BKP is Young Expert Programmes, which enables young professionals to gain international experience.



Research & Innovation

In 2018, 45 Applied Research Fund (ARF) and 30 Global Challenges Programme (GCP) projects were running within the Food & Business Research programme. This focuses on reducing hunger by private and public interventions worldwide within the context of the wider Dutch knowledge agenda for FNS. ARF and GCP projects consist of 349 consortium partners, of whom 69 NGOs, 59 businesses, 22 government, 189 research actors, and 10 others. No new ARF and GCP calls were launched in 2018. The F&BKP contributed to the definition of the scope for a new NL-CGIAR research call on Seeds Systems Development, which was awarded to nine research projects in December of 2018.

The F&BKP Office continued to work in close collaboration with NWO-WOTRO to maximize research uptake and dissemination of the results. Several workshops helped fostering research uptake of the projects by Dutch Diamond and national stakeholders in the project countries: (1) An international ARF workshop in Addis Ababa with a public day on nutrition-sensitive value chains. (2) A kick-off workshop in Arusha with the GCP-4 research projects on scaling CSA. (3) A midterm workshop for GCP-2 projects in Nairobi with a public day to feed practices in the field of Inclusive Business with research findings.

The results and lessons learned of the 75 projects are disseminated among the FNS professional community via the F&BKP newsletter and Social media channels, in order to improve the use and potential impact of research projects' findings. Similarly, project web pages for all projects have been updated throughout the year with various knowledge items (videos, podcasts, research papers, policy briefs) developed by the consortia.

Knowledge Portal

The Knowledge Portal has been operational since March 2015 and has been developing into its current form over the past years. Through this Portal, the F&BKP provides its readers with selected references to knowledge and innovations in the field of FNS. At the end of 2018, 15 topics were actively being updated on a regular basis and an average of 24 publications were uploaded each month. During the year the transformation of the Portal towards a "Dutch FNS Knowledge Portal" for all FNS projects of Dutch partners has been explored. This Portal is expected to contribute to strengthening Dutch learning ability on FNS knowledge and expertise. This is in line with the objective for the second phase of the Platform, to support policy and policy implementation with knowledge.

Communication

Over the course of the year the number of website visits rose again, to nearly 100,000. Social media followers increased significantly as well. In total seven newsletters and one special edition newsletter were published to the 2,069 subscribers. Two new Theme pages were added to the website in line with the focus of the F&BKP towards its next phase: Food security and stability, and Food Systems Approach.

Next phase of the Platform

In 2018, the first phase (2013-2018) of the Food & Business Knowledge Platform was evaluated. The external evaluators were tasked with looking at the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the Platform and formulating recommendations for its future outlook and second phase. The Platform was found to have "effectively managed a very complicated agenda" with high efficiency. Its activities are examples of a successful "Dutch diamond approach", that evaluators recommended to be scaled up in its next phase while activities should be better aligned with other Dutch government initiatives and those of the sector as a whole.

From 2019 onwards the F&BKP will continue into a new four-year phase as the Knowledge Programme for Food Security. This programme aims to increase the impact of Dutch projects, programmes, policies, investments, and business on SDG2 by continuing to broker knowledge across professional divides. In this next phase, the activities of the F&BKP will be combined with the Embassy Support Programme and the Talent Pool, which places trainees at Ministries and Embassies. A four-year Plan of Action (2019-2022) was approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in November 2018 with several shifts in gravity compared to the earlier activities of the F&BKP.

1 Introduction

This Annual Report marks the last year of the first phase of the Food & Business Knowledge Platform (F&BKP) which took place from 2013-2018. From 2019 the F&BKP will continue in its next phase (2019-2022) as the Knowledge Programme for Food Security which is explained in more detail at the end of this chapter.



The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MinFA) launched the F&BKP in 2013 to improve the Dutch contribution to Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) in emerging economies and developing countries, address malnutrition and obesity and ensure inclusive and ecologically sustainable food systems. The F&BKP is an open and independent initiative in which representatives from (inter)national networks and organizations of business, science, civil society and policy work together. The Platform contributes to long-term and systematic changes for FNS by facilitating the exchange of available knowledge, the co-creation of knowledge and as such enhances the use of knowledge by connecting research, policy and practice.

The F&BKP contributes to an innovative approach to strengthen the FNS knowledge system, with three strategic goals in mind:

- Improve the relevance (focus and coherence) and efficient use of (new and existing) Dutch, local and international knowledge and research capacity.
- Strengthen the FNS related policies and programmes of various stakeholders in the Netherlands and abroad.
- Facilitate knowledge and research that suit Dutch and local entrepreneurs, traders and investors and increase investments and collaboration from the Dutch private sector in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs).

To achieve these goals, an efficient knowledge and research system is needed that fosters knowledge generation and sharing between main stakeholders and includes stronger and new partnerships, critical reflection, deepening and improving (inter- and transdisciplinary) knowledge and ultimately feeds practices and policies. The ultimate goal is evidence-informed policy and practice. The role of the private sector is significant within the Platform as farmers, processors, distributors and retailers are crucial players for food security.

1.1 The work of the F&BKP

The main focus of the Platform is on brokering thematic networks and strategic partnerships (Chapter 2), supporting the research consortia in their work to achieve research uptake (Chapter 3) and on disseminating knowledge (Chapter 4).

Strategic partnerships: improving policy and practice - The F&BKP Office knowledge brokers actively engage with different types of stakeholders to improve the impact of knowledge and research results on practice and policy. Knowledge activities of thematic networks are supported through sharing knowledge, co-creating knowledge, deepening existing knowledge and translating knowledge into policy and practice. For key themes several knowledge initiatives and studies are organized.

Research and innovation - The Platform supports research carried out in partnerships between Southern and Northern scientific and non-scientific stakeholders through the Food & Business Global Challenge Programme (GCP) and Applied Research Fund (ARF). The F&BKP Office assists in preparing the scope for the calls and actively supports research teams within these programmes to strengthen research uptake and achieve impact on practice and policy. In collaboration with NWO-WOTRO the results and (midterm) lessons learned at thematic and/or Call level are analyzed and eventually synthesized and communicated.

Sharing knowledge - The F&BKP shares relevant knowledge from different sectors and disciplines on specific topics through, among other things, the Knowledge Portal. Items such as reports, briefs, toolkits and articles are selected per topic and shared by the F&BKP Office knowledge brokers and the wider F&BKP network of partners and experts in the field of FNS.

The F&BKP Office strives to increase the synergy between its three pillars. The website including the Knowledge Portal are important tools to foster exchange: strategic partner networks and consortia of GCP and ARF research projects can share their knowledge products and other relevant publications on the Knowledge Portal. In addition, the F&BKP Office team acts as broker between and among relevant strategic partnership networks and other important knowledge stakeholders, paying attention to the links with the research teams.

Sustainable Development Goals

The work of the F&BKP supports the Dutch contribution to SDG2 “Zero hunger”, while generating some additional or integrated results towards SDG1 “No poverty”; SDG5 “Gender equality”; SDG8 “Decent work and economic growth”; SDG12 “Responsible consumption”; SDG13 “Climate action”; and SDG17 Partnerships for the Goals”.



1.2 Knowledge Brokering

The importance of “Knowledge Brokering” is increasingly acknowledged by international and national players from different sectors, including the agriculture and food domain. An independent brokering platform in a flexible institutional setting is a new partner in the Dutch Diamond setting, and unique in the wider field of global development.

Results 2013-2018

In 2018, [the first phase \(2013-2018\) of the Food & Business Knowledge Platform was evaluated](#). The external evaluators were tasked with looking at the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the Platform and formulate recommendations for its future outlook and second phase. In July the report [“Co-creating \(Dutch\) diamonds, gold \(standards\) and silver \(bullets\) in the food security and agricultural business maze”](#) was published. It concluded that the thematic choices and rapid adjustment of the Platform to changing policy environments was very adequate. Furthermore, the evaluators state that the intention to engage a wide variety of players clearly succeeded, while certainly enhancing the visibility of the “Dutch diamond” concept among a network that was deemed “impressive”. The Platform was found to have “effectively managed a very complicated agenda” with high efficiency. Its activities are examples of a successful “Dutch diamond approach”, that evaluators recommended to be scaled up in its next phase while activities should be aligned stronger with other Dutch government initiatives and those of the sectors as a whole.

In previous years the F&BKP has also been evaluated several times, referred to more in detail in previous Annual Reports. In February 2017, a report on a [learning review of the five Knowledge Platforms](#) of the MinFA was published: [“The Gold Standard. Exploring the added value of the Dutch knowledge platforms”](#). In 2016, a [stakeholder review](#) of the Platform was commissioned by the Steering Committee (SC) of the F&BKP. The report [“Stakeholder perceptions and future outlook of the Food & Business Knowledge Platform”](#) was received beginning 2017, and the SC reacted to the report of the review in a [management response](#).

Knowledge Broker of the Year

Since 2017, the F&BKP awards the annual Agrofood Broker of the Year Award. This is a recognition for a professional in the field of FNS who has undertaken significant brokering activities. Anyone can submit suggestions for a [nominee](#) by completing an online form.

In 2018, 916 people voted through an [online poll](#) at the F&BKP website. Out of 11 nominees, three final candidates were selected, who presented themselves in three [videos](#).. After two rounds, [Kwabena Asubonteng](#) (UvA) came forward as the winner . The award was presented by the F&BKP, during the seminar [“Future food systems for Ghanaian food security”](#) in Accra, Ghana. Apart from winning the award and being honoured for his work, the winner received a small financial contribution. Kwabena will set up a knowledge brokering activity in 2019 together with the F&BKP and will join the jury to elect the next Agrofood Broker of the Year 2019.

1.3 From F&BKP towards Knowledge Programme for Food Security

From 2019 onwards the F&BKP will continue into a new four-year phase as the Knowledge Programme for Food Security. This programme aims to increase the impact of Dutch projects, programmes, policies, investments, and business on SDG2 by continuing to broker knowledge across professional divides. It will facilitate the creation, exchange, and particularly the use of knowledge by Dutch actors and their LMIC partners. The programme will continue to be implemented by consortium partners Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, AgriProFocus and The Broker. It is expected to be integrated into an envisioned Netherlands Food Partnership, which is being established in the course of 2019.

In this next phase, the activities of the F&BKP will be combined with the Embassy Support Programme and the Talent Pool, which places trainees at Ministries and Embassies. A four-year Plan of Action (2019-2022) was approved by MinFA with several shifts in gravity compared to the earlier activities of the F&BKP. More emphasis will be placed on:

- “Know-how”, knowledge use and disclosure of existing knowledge;
- Collaboration with “on the ground” work of Dutch actors in LMICs;
- Increasing cooperation with the private sector;
- Collaboration with multilateral organizations to increase impact;
- Research IN development that more explicitly links research to implementation of development programmes and policy interventions;
- Integration with AgriProFocus, as roles and activities partly overlap.

2 Strategic partnerships: improving policy and practice



The F&BKP supports a forward-looking knowledge agenda to address the multi-dimensional challenges of FNS. To maximize our added value vis-à-vis the many stand-alone and short-term knowledge activities that are already taken on by other organizations, we focus on linking up and promoting collaboration between stakeholders on current issues through a demand-driven approach.

The F&BKP continuously explores what knowledge gaps and questions exist, and what activities are needed to strengthen the co-creation, exchange and use of knowledge for policy and practice. The knowledge brokers of the F&BKP Office team support Dutch thematic networks on their knowledge management. In most cases the activities of these networks are directly linked with and beneficial to their local partners in emerging economies and developing countries and at international level. The activities vary significantly depending on the type of network or partnership, their specific knowledge requirements and the way the F&BKP can add value to the network. The F&BKP also facilitates strategic partnerships of a more general character, in most cases with the objective to enhance the FNS related knowledge system.

In 2018 the F&BKP Office supported eight thematic networks and implemented specific projects to explore themes, to conduct scoping studies or learning events and support policy. In total, 22 projects were supported, 26 events organized (seminars, workshops, expert meetings, datathon, study tour), 2 webinars broadcasted and 41 publications (including reports and brochures, scoping/discussion papers, mappings, policy briefs, movies) were published with support of the F&BKP. The projects, outputs and outcomes of the Knowledge Management Fund are showcased in a [separate document](#) to this report. The outputs named above do not encompass the work related to the Food & Business Research projects (ARF and GCP), which are covered in Chapter 3.



2.1 Thematic networks

In 2018 the F&BKP took a focused approach where supported activities concentrated around a few key themes.

Food security and stability - For food security & stability two workshops were organized for the Community of Practice. A meeting on conflict sensitivity in Food and Nutrition Security programming in collaboration with The Broker, and a meeting on United Nations Security Council resolution 2417 on hunger and conflict, in collaboration with the Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law. Both meetings brought together small groups of experts from policy, practice and research to jointly exchange, discuss and identify innovations and a forward-looking knowledge agenda. Following this knowledge agenda a discussion paper including a mapping of currently used indicators on the nexus of food systems and stability, was produced by The Broker to support work on result frameworks at the MinFA. A selection of indicators from this paper was then used at the Food Security Exchange Week to stimulate discussion among policymakers on how the focus on stability in the new policy framework could be translated into measurable impact in the area of food security. The F&BKP, together with Wageningen CDI also joined a scoping mission of the MinFA to the Horn of Africa, organized by FAO, to explore how the learning component of a regional resilience programme could be linked to CoP learning activities in the next phase of the Platform.

Food Systems Approach - A Community of Practice on the Food Systems Approach took further form in 2018, with one meeting co-organized jointly with Wageningen Economic Research and MinAgri at the Wageningen University & Research SDG conference in August 2018. The meeting brought together about 50 interested stakeholders from research, policy and practice to discuss how a Food Systems Approach can be brought into practice based on the field experiences of four organizations. A blog was published afterwards, detailing the discussions and critical (knowledge) questions for further exchange. On the F&BKP website a major publication by Wageningen Economic Research on the Food Systems Approach, commissioned by MinAgri, was disseminated. The F&BKP also compiled various publications and outcomes of expert meetings on the Food Systems Approach in an overview article published at the end of the year. At European level, a public exchange was organized based on a WUR scoping study on the global implications of the European food system. F&BKP

led on disseminating its outcomes. Finally RUAF Foundation published a policy brief that reports on its F&BKP and CGIAR Water Land and Ecosystems Programme-supported study on the role of the private sector in building more sustainable and resilient city region food systems.

Innovation Network Feeding Cities - To foster learning and sharing between leading Agro-SME companies and to facilitate matching Dutch innovative solutions to a local demand, the F&BKP together with MVO Netherlands started shaping an Innovation Network Feeding Cities in 2017. In 2018, multiple events were organized within the broader framework of this Innovation Network Feeding Cities. In January, a workshop (57 participants) on how the Dutch agrofood sector could increase investments in emerging economies was organized at Rabobank in The Hague. Outcomes included a report with lessons learned from discussions around practical cases and recommendations for strengthening the enabling environment. Participants also provided suggestions for future activities of the Innovation Network. As a follow up a scoping paper on possible intervention strategies and approaches for Dutch agrofood businesses and partner organizations was developed. This paper provided input for a roundtable with leading experts on key trends, market entry points and suggestions to fine-tune the enabling environment. Key conclusions of this roundtable were captured in a podcast. In June, a workshop on the theme Feeding Cities was organized and facilitated by the F&BKP at the foodFIRST conference “Team up with African Entrepreneurs”.

Youth in agrofood systems - In collaboration with AgriProFocus, the F&BKP further shaped a Community of Practice around Youth in Agriculture. A second Community of Practice meet-up on “Youth in Agrofood systems” was organized in May 2018. This CoP offered a space to CoP participants to share recent work on youth in food systems, identify knowledge questions and ideas for joint action and to network. In September 2018, a third CoP meet-up was organized on the topic of “Youth, Employment and Migration: Understanding the relations between jobs, skilled youth and migration”. During the foodFIRST conference in June 2018, the F&BKP together with AgriProFocus and YEP organized a workshop on youth entrepreneurship in agricultural transition and a market place. The conference was attended by over 400 attendees ranging from agripreneurs and farmers’ organizations to policymakers, businesses, academy and civil societies, and students from Africa, the Netherlands and Europe.

SES4Food Network - The SES4Food Network (Social Entrepreneurship for Food Security Support) received support for a study implemented by Wageningen University & Research, UNITAR and SESInc. The study focused on the potential contribution of social entrepreneurship to Embassy programmes in the field of FNS and in the added value of the SES4Food programme for FNS goals. A small desk study of relevant FNS programmes, interviews, focus group discussions and an interactive workshop in three targeted Dutch partner countries Ethiopia, Uganda and Benin were conducted. Dutch Embassy and programme staff, support organizations, market actors (buyers), investors and entrepreneurs were involved.

Land governance - In 2018 a synthesis paper describing the outcomes of three multi-stakeholder learning platforms in Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda was published. This initiative was jointly undertaken by LANDac, Shared Value Foundation and CIFOR with support of F&BKP. The two-day Learning Platforms in the countries were attended by companies, local community members and development actors present in the area. The meetings were followed up with monitoring activities such as site visits, focus groups discussions and further platform meetings. Concrete outcomes were action plans for each of the companies that participated in the platforms.

Landscape approaches - Within the Netherlands there is a growing number of organizations practicing a variety of landscape approaches, yet without much alignment, exchange of knowledge and experiences or collaborative learning. In order to realize the potential of Dutch landscape knowledge, the NLandscape network was set up to generate valuable knowledge and further develop the collaboration between organizations actively implementing landscape approaches. F&BKP supported this active network and in particular workshops to exchange experience and lessons learned on: landscape governance; modelling landscape scenarios; water and landscapes; landscape approaches and migration; and food and nutrition sensitive landscapes. A report outlining key results of the learning platform realized with F&BKP support was published on the F&BKP website.

In addition to these seven thematic networks above, the F&BKP Office team continued to support knowledge activities of existing networks on the themes of nutrition security (with GAIN and NWGN) and integrated soil management (with Fertile Grounds Initiative). The support of these thematic networks by the F&BKP is less intensive than with abovementioned themes, but the knowledge brokers of the F&BKP Office advise on content and process, involvement of multi-stakeholders next to financial support.

Facilitating thematic networks 2018

Food & Stability

- 1) The Broker – Report and workshop on conflict sensitivity in Food and Nutrition Security programming.
- 2) F&BKP and KPSRL – Workshop on UNSC resolution 2417 on hunger and conflict in relation to the humanitarian-development nexus with a scoping paper produced by The Broker.
- 3) The Broker – Discussion paper on indicators for the nexus of food systems and stability.
- 4) The Broker – Practice note on adaptive programme management in complex and fragile settings.

Food Systems

Wageningen Economic Research, MinAgri, F&BKP – Workshop on a Food Systems Approach to Food and Nutrition Security: From the theory to the practice. Held at the WUR SDG conference.

Innovation Network Feeding Cities

- 1) MVO Netherlands & F&BKP – Workshop on increasing investments of the Dutch Agro-food sector in emerging economies.
- 2) F&BKP – Roundtable on the role of the Dutch Agrofood sector in feeding growing cities in emerging economies, informed by a scoping paper and disseminated via a report and podcast.

Land Governance

LANDac, F&BKP, CIFOR & Shared Value Foundation – Synthesis report describing outcomes of learning platforms for land-based investments in Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda.

Landscape Approaches

- 1) NLandscape – Workshop on building food and nutrition sensitive landscapes.
- 2) NLandscape – Final report that synthesizes the outcomes of the key learning from the five events organized on: finance, gender, food & nutrition security, governance and water.

Nutrition Security

GAIN & NWGN - Workshop on measuring nutrition effects of food security and agriculture programmes.

Social Entrepreneurship

UNITAR, SESInc. & WUR - Mapping on how to empower ecosystems around social entrepreneurs.

Youth in agrofood systems

- 1) YPARD, KIT & WCDI – Study on Youth in Agricultural Cooperatives: challenges and opportunities.
- 2) AgriProFocus & F&BKP - Workshop on youth in agribusiness and food systems.
- 3) F&BKP & The Broker – Two-pager synthesizing current knowledge on youth in agrofood systems.
- 4) AgriProFocus, F&BKP, YEP – Youth Caravan and Youth Market Place organized at foodFIRST conference.
- 5) AgriProFocus & F&BKP – Workshop on youth employment and education in agriculture and migration.

2.2 Strategic partnerships to enhance the FNS knowledge system

The F&BKP continued to play a facilitative role in two strategic partnerships that are meant to foster synergy between the Dutch and the international Food and Nutrition Security knowledge system: these partnerships focus on improving the collaboration and alignment with global agrofood research programs (CGIAR) and strengthening the strategic knowledge relations with the World Bank Group. The F&BKP acts as a facilitator for the establishment of Dutch relations with these international institutions and their networks. In both partnerships the F&BKP Office also acts as a secretariat. A third public-private knowledge partnership is the Young Expert Programmes (YEP), consisting of YEP Water and YEP Agrofood, which enables young professionals to gain international experience. F&BKP assists the YEP Agrofood part.

CGIAR-Netherlands Strategic Partnership - In 2015 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between MinFA and MinEA with the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR). The F&BKP supports the Ministries to achieve a more strategic collaboration with CGIAR and strengthen the synergy between the innovative work of CGIAR and Dutch knowledge providers. A stronger focus on thematic priorities of Dutch FNS policy was achieved and Dutch stakeholders (knowledge institutes, private sector and civil society) are participating at different levels in CRPs, Flagships and Project Clusters of Activities. In 2017, the Government of the Netherlands confirmed the financial commitment of the Netherlands to CGIAR's work in agricultural research of EUR 79.9 million.

Beside the linkage with the Young Expert Programmes, three other instruments to enhance the partnership were implemented. (1) A Senior Expert Programme (SEP) was initiated to enable senior researchers, affiliated with Dutch research institutions, to spend more time on research and research management in large CGIAR programmes and platforms. The call for candidates was launched in May 2018 by NWO-WOTRO. Seven proposals were awarded in September 2018. (2) The call for a PPP and Research Uptake expert was launched in September 2018 by NWO-WOTRO. This expert will promote the collaboration of researchers with private sector and the focus on enabling and scaling of research results. (3) The extra joint call for research proposals which generate insights that contribute to improving “seed” systems in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa was

launched in January 2018 (“Enabling and Scaling Genetic Improvement and Propagation Materials”). Nine projects received funding.

A planning and evaluation meeting with 35 participants and a Meet & Greet with additional Ministry invitees, took place on June 21, 2018 in The Hague. In 2019, the progress of the partnership will be evaluated.

World Bank Group – Netherlands Partnership “Food for All” - In 2015 another Memorandum of Understanding was signed between MinFA and MinEA and the World Bank Group (WBG). Aim of this partnership is to link knowledge and innovation from the public and private sectors in the Netherlands and leverage relevant Dutch expertise with the WBG on three thematic areas: Food safety and health; Inclusive and sustainable agricultural growth; and Ecologically sustainable agricultural systems.

In 2018, under the partnership, a datathon took place during which teams of IT/AI students/young professionals competed for smart data-driven solutions to help reduce food loss and waste or generate insights in to data. This activity was initiated by WBG-Ag and supported by Xomnia and the F&BKP, with appreciation for IFPRI (CGIAR-PIM).

The World Bank engaged in dialogue with the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and is developing a regional project named Strengthening Higher Education for Agri-Food Transformation in Africa (SHAEA). SHAEA is a proposed regional loan of the World Bank to six African countries for the structural enhancement of agricultural faculties in a set of regional anchor universities. F&BKP and Nuffic in intensive consultation with WBG facilitate the contribution of Dutch green education sector expertise (Borderless Network) into the SHAEA programme. F&BKP (financially) supported a partner meeting in Nairobi and commissioned to Nuffic an inventory which focused on relevant existing African-Dutch institutional relations in higher agricultural education and research in nine African countries:

The opportunity for a tripartite knowledge collaboration between the WBG, the Government of Bangladesh and the Netherlands was explored, focusing on the livestock sector. F&BKP activities included support of missions to Bangladesh to develop ideas for the Dutch contribution to the Dairy Revolution and Meat Production (DRMP) programme which will be financially supported by WBG. Thereafter a Study Tour for DRMP Delegation from Bangladesh to the Netherlands took place in October 2018. The F&BKP Office led the meetings of this Delegation with Ministries and key “Diamond” stakeholders in The Hague. Finally, F&BKP continued supporting the Food for All partnership through communications about the various initiatives and events, including announcements and reports of webinars (Food for All talks).

Young Expert Programme Agrofood - The YEP Agrofood started in 2015 and is a PPP between MinFA, Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) and F&BKP. The goal is to rejuvenate and sustainably strengthen professional expertise in the Dutch agrofood sector and in developing countries both in companies as well as knowledge institutes and NGOs. YEP Agrofood is thus a work and training programme for young Dutch and international professionals and contributes through its Young Experts to FNS objectives. The F&BKP Office is involved in the selection of candidates and supporting the young experts on knowledge questions and sharing their experience with a wider audience. In 2018, 107 Young Experts (54 Dutch and 53 local) started their international YEP career of which 40 in YEP Agrofood. These 18 Dutch and 22 local Agrofood Young Experts work in 30 organizations and in 18 different countries.

2.3 Joint work on the knowledge agenda

Specific knowledge questions

Not all activities are directly related to one of the networks or thematic areas of the Platform. Some activities that answer specific knowledge questions from individual stakeholders are also supported, under the condition that there is a strong connection with networks or sector organizations and the results of the activities are also of interest for others beyond the individual organization. See the Box below for thematic activities.

Support to specific projects in 2018

Climate Smart Agriculture

AgriProFocus – A network mapping on climate smart agriculture solutions currently being applied by horticulture producers in Kenya, Zambia and Tanzania. A report and two specific practical tools were presented and discussed during an expert session at the World Horti Centre.

Inclusive Business

1) Moyee Coffee, DADTCO, Agriterra, KIT – Learning trajectory on effective and inclusive agricultural extension in an agri-business context. Full report with concrete operational strategies for service improvements were presented in a workshop with many private sector actors.

2) FairFood & WCDI - Scoping study on blockchain applications in agrofood in LMICs resulted in a report outlining good practices, gaps and needs of bitcoin practicing agrofood actors.

Inclusive Finance

ICCO, Rabobank Foundation & AgriProFocus - Inventory of demand, needs, supply and best practices of critical capital for SMEs in African Agri-Food. The report concluded that very few investment funds meet the needs of the "missing" middle: agrofood SMEs too large for micro-finance but too small for mainstream banks and equity funds.

Private Sector Development

NABC and Wageningen Livestock Research – Study on poultry development in Eastern and Southern Africa that took a regional perspective to rephrase value chain support strategies across Africa.

Green Education

Applied science institutes, Borderless Network, HAS Den Bosch – Study on partnership modalities in which government – industry – knowledge institutes cooperate and in which green education actors are active. Outcomes were shared in several workshops and the learnings were used to shape a training trajectory on partnership building and implementation.

Support to Ministries

In 2018 MinFA and MinAgri were also supported in various ways:

- The F&BKP supported the organization of the **Food Security Exchange Week**, where policymakers from Ministries and Embassies working on Food and Nutrition Security as well as agricultural counsellors came together for joint reflection.
- A **public dialogue on the evaluation of Dutch food security policy** was organized jointly with the Policy and Operations Evaluation Department (IOB) of MinFA, bringing together policymakers, researchers, practitioners and private sector actors to discuss and formulate recommendations for the coming years of Dutch food security policy.
- Furthermore, the **launch of the IFPRI Global Food Policy Report** in The Hague was co-organized with MinFA.
- Finally, a **study to validate FNS indicators for result reporting** was supported, including a desk study, interviews, a field visit to interview Embassy staff and partners in Ethiopia and the production of methodological notes.

3 Food & Nutrition Research

In 2018 the F&BKP Office continued to work in close co-operation with NWO-WOTRO to maximize the added value of the Food & Business Research (F&BR) instruments, the Global Challenges Programme (GCP) and Applied Research Fund (ARF), and develop a call for proposals on Seed Systems Development in the frame of the NL-CGIAR Strategic Partnership. The 75 running ARF and GCP multi-stakeholder research projects and nine recently started seed systems projects focus on reducing hunger through NGO- or private sector-led interventions worldwide within the context of the wider Dutch knowledge agenda for FNS.



Defining scope and conditions of Research Calls

In the context of the NL-CGIAR Strategic Partnership the F&BKP organized a consultation meeting with multiple stakeholders from its network to define the scope of a new call on Seed Systems Development. Following this meeting the joint NL-CGIAR Seed Systems Call was launched by NWO-WOTRO in January 2018. The call seeks to generate insights in improving “seed” systems (including both plant and animal seed stock) in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Nine research projects were awarded for this call in December 2018.

Supporting ARF and GCP in Research Uptake

Kick-off meeting GCP-4 projects - In the fourth GCP call eight research projects were funded on scaling of Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) practices. The call was developed and implemented in collaboration with CCAFS and projects are aligned with ongoing CCAFS projects. In January the kick-off meeting for GCP-4 projects was organized by NWO-WOTRO, CCAFS and F&BKP in Arusha. During the sessions projects and organizations got acquainted, identified cross-linkages and developed joint pathways to research outcomes contributing to CSA scaling.

Kick-off meeting ARF-3 projects - In February, in Addis Ababa, the international kick-off workshop for ARF-3 projects was organized. Projects introduced themselves

to each other to find cross-linkages and exchanged on their project set-up. They were also informed about the NWO-WOTRO Impact Pathway

framework they are supposed to work with including Research Uptake, and undertook various practical exercises like developing a stakeholder mapping. A related public day on nutrition-sensitive value chains was organized with CGIAR and AgriProFocus for some 40 Ethiopian stakeholders from policy and practice to exchange with the ARF-projects.

“This was the best workshop, it solved all my problems.”

Founder of Ethiopian business venture on locally developed nutritious food products at ARF-3 event on nutrition sensitive value chains.

Midterm GCP-2 projects - Also in January a midterm workshop week for GCP-2 projects was organized in Nairobi. Projects exchanged and advised each other on their midterm results and in particular on Inclusive Business models. All projects had exchange with the F&BKP Office to discuss how the Platform could strengthen research outputs and outcomes. Back to back the F&BKP Office organized a public afternoon with Kenyan stakeholders from practice and policy. The aim was to feed practices in the field of Inclusive Business with research findings and give the GCP-2 researchers input for their second project phase. A report and video to share results with a wider audience were developed. Two-pagers on the midterm findings giving insights in Inclusive Business developments in their countries were composed by the projects and distributed through the December F&BKP Newsletter.



“The F&BKP helped us crystallize our ideas on how the impact of our project should be established. They helped us think about the routes through which our desired outcomes might be realized; which stakeholders, how to involve them”.

Project communication and linking via F&BKP

In 2018, 75 ARF and GCP projects were running. They consist of 349 consortium partners, of whom 69 NGOs, 59 businesses, 22 government, 189 research actors, and 10 others. The aim of sharing the results and lessons learned of these 75 projects via the F&BKP newsletter and Social media channels is to improve the impact of research projects by making the knowledge easily accessible and actively disseminating the knowledge outputs.

Project pages for all projects at the F&BKP website section "Research Projects" have been updated throughout the year with various knowledge items developed by the projects to improve their research uptake. These items vary from videos and podcasts to research papers and policy briefs, with a total of 53 links to external products for ARF projects and 38 for GCP projects. Furthermore, 59 related articles have been uploaded, which include 2-pagers of the projects and blogs on e.g. workshops and field visits. In 2018, all 15 ARF-1 projects were completed and of 14 projects the key results were posted on their Project page.

ARF-2 Technology innovations towards sustainability in tuna supply chains Indonesia

A traceability-based technology (TBT) platform was developed, facilitating effective information exchange between supply chain actors in Indonesia. The TBTs are used by the targeted fishermen, dockside enumerators, suppliers, and processors. As a result, fishing practices improved, supply chain efficiencies increased and the origin and quality of tuna was more reliable. Government at both provincial and national level is exploring options for policy changes for fisheries management. Additionally, USAID asked the consortium lead to become its implementing partner in a programme, to expand the project TBTs to more supply chains.

GCP-2 Sustainable integrated fish-vegetable production in Ethiopia

Various systems for an innovative food production method called aquaponics in which fish and vegetable farming are integrated and relating sustainable business models have been developed. In three Ethiopian regions these aquaponics systems are technically running and economically viable. Unemployed woman and youth gain sustainable income now and are planning to expand. Crops and fish are produced year-round, resulting in improved diets and income generation. Websites are developed to ensure knowledge dissemination. In Ethiopia the aquaculture sector is starting to grow. The government wants to create fish ponds to produce fish to combat overfishing in lakes. Last but not least, the project aquaponic services have been expanded to not less than 10 other countries by the private project partner.

Evaluation and future Food & Nutrition Research Programming

Evaluation of the Food & Business Knowledge Platform - For the evaluation of the F&BKP 2013-2018 published in July 2018, the external evaluators asked ARF and GCP researchers about their opinions on the relationship with the F&BKP. Project leaders said to much appreciate the brokering function of the Platform in particular, and the helpful attitude. It stimulated project leaders to actively think about communication and about sharing results on the WOTRO and Platform websites. The evaluators found that the opinions of the interviewed project leaders provided an "enlightening" and "valuable assessment of those with the longest relationship with the Platform."

"The conference showed us again that we as scientists should more often exchange with policy makers and other stakeholders and undertake joint activities to know better on what wavelength everyone is. Meetings you organize like this one and the (policy) reports of specific interest for our project you send me contribute to that."

Dutch researcher about Two Peas in a Pod conference, December 2017.

Future Food & Nutrition Research programming - In August NWO-WOTRO organized a meeting to discuss the results of the pilot study that developed a methodology to analyse the research outputs and outcomes and the contribution of the WOTRO approach on co-creation and research uptake. The pilot will serve as input for the 2019-2020 ARF/GCP outcome analysis/synthesis trajectory.

In 2019, a stocktaking and consultation trajectory will be organized to define the future F&NS Research Programme in the context of a Strategic Knowledge & Innovation Agenda for the FNS-policy of MinFA. Intermediate results of ARF and GCP and an evaluation of the NL-CGIAR partnership will be taken into account.

Results 2013 - 2018

Please find in the box the results of the Food & Nutrition Research from December 2013 until the end of 2018.

Results 2013-2018 Food & Nutrition Research

- Scope definition of in total 6 GCP & NL-CGIAR Calls.
- 3 International ARF kick-off workshops + public events.
- 3 ARF country workshops.
- 6 GCP kick off & midterm workshops + public events.
- 4 Research Uptake trainings for research projects.
- 1 Dutch policy-research conference.
- Visibility of 75 research projects through project pages, world map, ARF brochure, project factsheets, videos, news items, articles and newsletters;
- Individual connection of projects to F&BKP knowledge and network;
- Research Uptake Framework developed with NWO-WOTRO and research uptake tools manual offered to projects;
- High appreciation of researchers for F&BKP support to improve Research Uptake.

4 The Knowledge Portal

The Knowledge Portal has been operational since March 2015 and has been developing into its current form over the past years. Through the Knowledge Portal, the F&BKP provides its readers with selected references to knowledge and innovations in the field of FNS. Short summaries are provided with the key findings and recommendations of the publications. At the end of 2018, **15 topics** were actively being updated on a regular basis with relevant knowledge items such as reports, briefs, toolkits and articles. During the year, three topics were archived (“Soil management”, “Food wastage” and “Land governance”), since they had become



The added value is in the short summaries; that’s really useful, saves me time.”

less relevant and/or had low page-view numbers. One new topic was launched: “Food and stability”. At least **350 sources** are actively being monitored for relevant knowledge items, through a customized monitoring platform (Meltwater) as well as via other sources. Over the years, **1,467 items** have been published on the Portal in total. During 2018, an average of **24 new publications** have been uploaded per month.

In total, the Portal has received **58,043 page views** since the launch in March 2015. The number of visitors has been increasing over the years, with 20,599 page views in 2018 compared to 17,251 in 2017. The Portal topic with by far the most pageviews was “Food consumption patterns”, with “Youth and employment in food value chains” and “Fruit and Vegetables” following from a distance. Via each Newsletter, the most interesting Portal items of the preceding period are shared with the F&BKP network. Furthermore, Portal items are being shared via the Platform’s social media channels (via Facebook and 40 times via Twitter).

Via **e-mail alerts**, allowing users to subscribe to one or several topics of their interest, users receive an update once every two weeks with new Portal items added to their topics of interest. These e-mail alerts were launched in 2017 and the number of subscribers increased from 92 to **143 people** over the year 2018. Users can also send in contributions for the Knowledge Portal. In 2018, at least 29

contributions were accepted and uploaded on the Portal. Contributions were received by a number of organizations, such as CABI, World Bank Group, Wageningen Centre for Development Studies and the African Centre for Technology Studies.

“It is a great platform to increase the visibility of our work.”



Dutch FNS Knowledge Portal

In 2018, the transformation of the F&BKP Knowledge Portal towards a “Dutch FNS Knowledge Portal (DKP)” for all FNS projects of Dutch partners has been explored. This process is in collaboration with AgriProFocus, WCIDI, MinFA, MinAgri, MDF Training & Consultancy and the Talent Pool Trainees. The DKP should contribute to **strengthening Dutch learning ability on FNS knowledge & expertise**. This is in line with the objective for the second phase of the Platform, to support policy and policy implementation with knowledge.

During the year, the availability of the right data was explored. There are a number of platforms that share Dutch FNS results, based on IATI data. However, these only share basic information and do not yet serve as platforms to share knowledge products. Therefore, it was proposed to adjust the current Knowledge Portal to a portal that supports Dutch policy and practice more by aligning the Portal topics with the FNS policy of the MinFA and MinAgri. This will bring more focus on knowledge of MinFA financed FNS projects and knowledge items of Dutch Diamond stakeholders. This will be completed with cutting-edge international knowledge products that align with the priorities described above.

In 2019, an inventory study will start, interviewing Dutch Ministries, Embassies and their partners on their knowledge needs and information flows. Thereafter, the start of a shift from the current Knowledge Portal to a Dutch FNS Knowledge Portal will be made.

Results 2015-2018

Please find in the box the results of the Knowledge Portal from the launch in March 2015 until the end of 2018.

Results 2015-2018 Knowledge Portal	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58,043 pageviews in total • 143 e-mail alert subscribers • Positive user evaluation by online survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 350 sources monitored • 23 topics over the years • 1,467 Portal items uploaded

5 Overall Management

5.1 Communication

Beginning 2018, the Platform renewed the information on its website under “About” with updated texts on the activities, thematic focus, partners & beneficiaries, small grants fund and organizational structure. These new texts with more accessible and clear information were written by an external consultant in 2017.



Throughout 2018, the F&BKP continued to regularly communicate through the website, the online newsletter and Social media. On the website, **two new Theme pages** were published in line with the focus of the next phase: Food Security and Stability, and Food Systems Approach. On the GCP and ARF pages 91 links to externally published knowledge documents were added, including presentations, online articles, policy briefs, research papers and videos. Furthermore, 59 posts were published on the project pages as related articles, which include blogs specifically written for the website and 2-pagers with end results and midterm findings.

In total **seven regular newsletters** were published and **one special edition** on the progress of ARF-1 projects. The last newsletter of 2018 was sent to 2,069 food security professionals, which was less than targeted (2,500) but is still a significant subscribers base.

The Platform posted regularly on Social Media: at the end of 2018, @foodplatform had **1,678 followers on Twitter** (close to the target of 1,750) and **922 followers on Facebook**, which is significantly more than the target of 750. The F&BKP also uploaded several videos on its **YouTube channel**, and created playlists for the 1 December 2017 policy & research conference Two peas in a pod and the Agrofood Broker of the Year Awards 2017 and 2018. Furthermore, several videos of GCP and ARF projects were published as well.

In March 2018, the Platform broadcasted a **podcast** in the context of the Innovation Network Feeding Cities. The Podcast interviews were held after a roundtable discussion, both covered key challenges on the horizon and solutions for feeding the world and its growing cities by 2050.



Results 2013 - 2018

The F&BKP primarily focuses on the quality, relevance and diversity of its partners and does not aim as such for as many contacts and website visitors as possible. However, measurable numbers are indicators for success of the work and the reach of the Platform, which is why some key results are presented in the table below.

Topic	Indicator	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Website	Pageviews	39,179	76,795	71,314	91,898	99,982	379,168
Website	News articles	53	78	39	55	31	256
Website	Expert opinions	4	19	4	10	11	48
Website	Studies / knowledge activities	19	22	41	45	47	174
Website	FNS events in the Calendar	72	168	176	146	117	679
Website	Related articles GCP and ARF	0	1	11	22	59	93
Website	Knowledge items GCP and ARF	8	39	107	99	91	344
Newsletter	General + special editions	3	7	7	6 + 3	7 + 1	34
Newsletter	Newsletter subscribers	909	1,300	1,669	2,250	2,069	2,069
Twitter	Tweets (started in 2013-2014)	459	295	262	304	347	1,667
Twitter	Followers		500	904	1,250	1,678	1,678
Facebook	Posts (started in 2017)				202	284	486
Facebook	Followers				510	922	922

5.2 Operational Management

Governance of the F&BKP

The F&BKP Steering Committee¹ (SC) had three meetings in 2018. In May, the SC discussed the initial ideas of a Netherlands Food Partnership (NFP) which aims at mobilizing Dutch knowledge and skills for use in bilateral and multilateral programmes on food security and agricultural development to achieve SDG2. In the same meeting a concept note for the next phase of the F&BKP was discussed, since the work of the F&BKP, i.e. facilitating knowledge management in the “Dutch Diamond” and for stakeholders in the countries, is expected to be an important function of the envisioned NFP.

In October, the SC and the Food & Business Research Programme Commission of NWO-WOTRO had a joint meeting, among others on the lessons learned and impact pathways of the current programmes (ARF and GCP) and initial ideas on future research.

The highlights of the Plan of Action of the Knowledge Programme for Food Security were presented to the SC at the meeting in November. The ARF and GCP characteristics and the progress of the NFP were the other main topics on the agenda.

The “tripartite” meetings of NWO-WOTRO, MinFA and the Director of the F&BKP Office are in principle held monthly. The Director of the Office had regular contact with the Ministry and the chair of the SC. The directors of the consortium members (AgriProFocus, WCDI, The Broker) joined the SC meetings as the future of the Platform was on the agenda.

Staffing of F&BKP Office team

The F&BKP Office is the secretariat of the Platform. The team is staffed by employees from AgriProFocus, Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation of Wageningen UR (WCDI) and The Broker, some on part-time basis. This organizational model has proven to be of added value to the performance of the F&BKP Office team, since all team members make available the expertise, skills and network contacts of their organizations. A new junior joined the team on a trainee position working mainly on the Knowledge Portal. One team member left to work in Kenya on a Talent Pool Trainee position. Interaction with other employees of AgriProFocus and WCDI was intensified during the development of the four-year Plan of Action, which prompts a further integration of activities with AgriProFocus and e.g. the Embassy Support Programme.

The capacity of the F&BKP Office increased from 3.2 in 2013 to 4.8 in 2016 and approximately 5.3 fte in 2017/2018. The allocation of team capacity in 2018, in terms of time investment, was roughly as follows (figures 2017 between brackets): Strategic partnerships and brokering 40% (27), Food & Nutrition research 10% (15), Knowledge Portal 20% (25); and communication, secretarial support, monitoring & evaluation and management 30% (32). In 2018, substantial more time is invested in learning activities with network partners and less on support of the research teams (in 2017 a large conference was organized) and on the Knowledge Portal.

5.3 Financial report 2018

The Platform has a budget to cover the personnel costs and operational expenses for the F&BKP Office team. In addition, budget is available for ARF and GCP meetings, small events, advisory services and communication. The Platform separately manages the Knowledge Management Facility (KMF), which is a fund for knowledge activities of networks cooperating under the umbrella of the Platform, to address specific knowledge questions of stakeholders from the Dutch Diamond and for facilitating projects that improve the knowledge system. In summer 2018, the end date in the contract for F&BKP and KMF was extended from September 1 to December 31, 2018. The allocated budgets for F&BKP Office as well as KMF did not change but allowed for this extension.

The financial administration of the F&BKP Office is managed by AgriProFocus - on behalf of the other consortium partners, The Broker and WCDI – and subject to the external audit of AgriProFocus by the accountants. The F&BKP Office team is supported by a contract officer and a financial officer based at WCDI for the contract management and the financial administration of the KMF.

Food & Business Knowledge Platform Office

The annual available budget (according to the original proposal), the expenses in years 2013-2017, and the budget and realized cost in 2018 are presented in Annex 1². The overall 2018 budget for the F&BKP Office was €863,000

¹ The members of the SC in 2018: Adrie Pampa (Independent consultant; Chair), Melle Leenstra (secretary, MinFA), Hilke Jansen (Independent consultant), Peter Jens (Koppert), Toon Keijzers (HAS Den Bosch), Huub Löffler (Wageningen University & Research), Paul van de Logt (MinFA), Klaas Johan Osinga (LTO), Michaël Wilde (Eosta) and Caroline Wooning (MinAgri). Observers: Cora Govers (WOTRO), Frans Verberne (Director F&BKP Office), Ine Martens (F&BKP Office Manager; minutes).

² This Annex is only available for accountable organizations: F&BKP SC, MinFA and consortium partners.

(excluding 21% VAT). The figures of 2018 show that the total expenditure of €768,000 (excluding VAT) was € 95,000 (11%) below budget and €79,000 (11%) higher than in 2017.

The staff cost for team members was according budget, among others because of a stable composition of the team. The other expenses including overhead staff (€309,500) were (€95,000) 24% below budget. For exploring and preparing a “Dutch Knowledge Portal” a substantial amount (€60,000) was reserved. However, the transition of the Portal has been delayed because of the expected NFP and related extra time investments. Also extensive “learning loops” (e.g. pilot HortiVeg) were postponed while working on a Plan of Action in relation to the NFP, and consequently expenses for communication, travel, etcetera were lower. External support was slightly more than planned. A few mapping studies, articles, papers and the facilitation of the process to define a Plan of Action for the Knowledge Programme within the context of the NFP required little more finances than budgeted.

Knowledge Management Facility (KMF)

The objective of the KMF is to financially support the knowledge management (like scoping studies, analyses, external events) of the various stakeholders and thematic networks which show to be relevant in the knowledge management processes within the Platform. The facility should also finance short term analyses, relevant for FNS and private sector development policy goals, on request of the F&BKP SC, the MinFA, and Embassies in partner countries. When appropriate, the F&BKP Office advises on the objective and scope of the project, the timely involvement of the various stakeholders, businesses, civil society, research and government, and the overall outreach strategy including dissemination of the results.

De facto, the KMF provides resources for the various activities in pillar “Strategic Partnerships” as described in Chapter 2. Thirteen KMF-financed projects were granted in 2017 of which about seven were finalized in 2018. Eleven projects started in 2018 and were finalized in the same year. All new projects meet the criteria and contribute to the objectives of the KMF.

This Annual Report does not present the projects which were running in 2018. Because the first phase of the F&BKP ended per December 31, 2018 and the KMF will stop, it has been decided to include all 73 projects which received financial support from the KMF in 2013-2018 in one separate report. That report summarizes per project the context, activities, outputs and outcomes.

In the first three years, €1 million per year was available for KMF. The SC advised to increase the budget for knowledge brokering and a re-shift of budget between the F&BKP Office and the KMF was necessary. In the amendment to the contract for the period September 2016-September 2018, a total budget of €2,637,000 was allocated for KMF for the five-year period. Requests for funding from networks and organizations (partners of the F&BKP), Ministries and Dutch Embassies, and SC and F&BKP Office increased in the first three years. The amounts granted were: €131,000 (2014), €603,000 (2015), €950,000 (2016), €522,000 (2017) and €365,000 (2018). Over five years an annual average of €500,000 was granted.

Actual payments of the grants stay behind as implementation of projects and submission of invoices is often delayed. Realization of funds is €101,953 (2014), €246,347 (2015), €937,495 (2016), €459,907 (2017) and €744,524 (2018, including final payments in 2019). Some important projects did not materialize in the last few months and a number of projects did for various reasons not spend the total grant. In total €2,490,227 of the KMF-budget was spend and therefore €146,773 remained. The complete financial overview of projects, budgets and realization is submitted to the MinFA.

