

Annual Report 2019

Knowledge Programme for Food Security

May 2020

Abbreviations and acronyms

AMID	Advanced Master International Development
ARCH	Agricultural Research for global Challenges (SCAR Strategic Working Group)
ARF	Applied Research Fund (WOTRO fund)
CCAFS	CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CRP	CGIAR Research Programme
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DDE	Sustainable Economic Development Department (MinFA department - <i>Directie Duurzame Economische Ontwikkeling</i>)
DGIS	Directorate General for International Cooperation, NL (<i>Directoraat-Generaal Internationale Samenwerking</i>)
DKP	Dutch Knowledge Portal (of KP)
EC	European Commission
EKN	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
ESP	Embassy Support Programme
EU	European Union
F&BKP	Food & Business Knowledge Platform
F&BR	Food & Business Research (WOTRO programme)
FFA	Food For All (NL-WBG Strategic Partnership)
FNS	Food and Nutrition Security
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization (of the UN)
FS	Food Security
GCP	Global Challenges Programme (WOTRO fund)
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development (of the UN)
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IGG	Inclusive Green Growth (MinFA department)
IOB	Policy and Operations Evaluation Department (<i>Directie Internationaal Onderzoek en Beleidsevaluatie</i>)
KMF	Knowledge Management Facility
KP	Knowledge Programme
LEAP-Agri	Long term EU-Africa research and innovation partnership on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture
LMICs	Low and Middle Income Countries
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MENA	Middle East and North Africa region
MinAgri	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, NL (<i>Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit, LNV</i>)
MinEA	Ministry of Economic Affairs (<i>Ministerie van Economische Zaken, EZ</i>)
MinFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NL (<i>Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, BZ</i>)
MVO	Centre of Excellence for Dutch companies striving towards Corporate Social Responsibility - CSR (<i>Maatschappelijk Verantwoord Ondernemen Nederland</i>)
NAO	Dutch Potato Organisation (<i>Nederlandse Aardappel Organisatie</i>)
NEADAP	Netherlands East African Dairy Partnership
NFP	Netherlands Food Partnership
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NL	The Netherlands
NpM	Platform for Inclusive Finance
NWO	Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (<i>Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek</i>)
NWP	Netherlands Water Partnership
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OF-VZH	Food Security Support Facility (<i>Ondersteuningsfaciliteit Voedselzekerheid</i>)
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
RUFORUM	Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture
RVO	Netherlands Enterprise Agency (Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland)
SC	Steering Committee
SCAR	Standing Committee on Agricultural Research
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SME	Small & Medium Enterprises
WUR	Wageningen University and Research
WUR-WCDI	Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation

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1. Introduction

This Annual Report marks the first year of the Knowledge Programme for Food Security (KP). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MinFA) has approved the four-year Plan of Action (2019-2022) of the KP, which builds on the experience of the Food & Business Knowledge Platform (F&BKP) (2013-2018), the Embassy Support Programme run by Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WUR-WCDI) for about 10 years and the Talent Pool which places trainees at Ministries and Embassies. Far more than in the past all components are integrated into one new programme.

Main objective of the KP is to increase the impact of Dutch projects, programmes, policies, investments and business on Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2) by knowledge brokering across professional divides. The KP will facilitate the creation, exchange and use of knowledge, by collecting, connecting and combining knowledge for Dutch actors and their partners working in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) on Food System Transformation.

In relation to the F&BKP, the gravity of KP shifted in the following ways:

- More emphasis on “know-how”, knowledge use and disclosure of existing knowledge.
- More collaboration with “on the ground” work of Dutch actors in LMICs.
- Increase of the cooperation with the private sector.
- Collaboration with multi-lateral organizations to increase impact.
- Research IN development; more explicitly linking research to implementation of development programmes and policy interventions.
- Integration with AgriProFocus since roles and activities partly overlap.

As such, the new KP is the response to a changing context and inspired by five years’ experience of the F&BKP and its consortium partners.

1.1 KP and the transformation to NFP

In 2021 the KP and AgriProFocus are integrating into the Netherlands Food Partnership (NFP). The NFP’s mission is to boost transformative approaches for sustainable food systems and healthy diets. The NFP is committed to be the leading instrument that supports the necessary acceleration on SDG2. The NFP facilitates parties who endorse the mission, recognize the need to speed up to achieve SDG2, and are eager to act together. Main drivers of the NFP are connect, innovate and scale. Connecting is essential to mobilize relevant Dutch expertise and connect it to knowledge, experience and competences in the countries where the NFP is active. Innovating will stimulate partners to develop new, cutting-edge interventions that will make a difference. The NFP will offer space to experiment and learn. Scaling is needed to ensure that interventions have impact both by spreading best practices, and anchor them in the current systems and policies. The coalitions in the NFP are inspired to contribute to boost transition towards healthy, fair, climate-neutral and sustainable food systems.

On World Food Day 2019 in Ede, the mission and vision of the NFP were officially launched with a short movie. On the (temporary) NFP website, the quartermasters presented a document “This is NFP” and an explanatory Q&A. From October, the design of the NFP was supervised and facilitated at the strategic level by a Steering Committee. At the same time, the transition of the KP and AgriProFocus into the NFP was already in full swing. On a more operational level, they explored elements for the NFP, including the formulation of coalitions around knowledge trajectories such as dairy development, valuable vegetables, food security and stability, and circular agriculture; the next steps of the Knowledge Portal; and the start of the branding and communication strategy. This means that the KP and AgriProFocus together have been anticipating on the NFP at strategic and operational level, which required a substantial time-investment and a change of priorities.

For the KP, it has been decided to continue to use the F&BKP logo, identity, email addresses and communication channels in 2019 and 2020, until the NFP takes over. The KP is a combination of the F&BKP, the Embassy Support Programme and the Talent Pool and will only in 2019 be fully operational and already phase out in 2020, when the NFP will become more operational. Since this is such a short period, and the KP has no specific reputation, it does not make sense to develop a separate identity for the KP (like a logotype).

1.2 The work of KP

The focus of the KP in 2019 has been on seven workstreams of which the approach and results are presented in the Chapters 2-8:

Country and region-based learning loops (Chapter 2): Multi-stakeholder knowledge activities (“learning loops”) are set up in the context of the substantially stronger orientation of the KP on the use of knowledge in LMICs. These knowledge activities result in direct knowledge outputs for and a stronger learning capacity of the Dutch Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) stakeholders working in LMICs. Learning loops will have their focus in low- and middle-income countries and regions, and will have linkages to global networks and the Netherlands.

Knowledge trajectories with thematic networks and sector organization (Chapter 3): The KP builds on and prioritizes collaboration with existing and emerging thematic networks of FNS stakeholders, as their active engagement is expected to improve the relevance, feasibility, and sustainability of the FNS knowledge and innovations. These thematic networks connect stakeholders from business, civil society including farmer groups, academia and government. The KP helps brokering connections between stakeholders in emerging thematic networks.

Support to the Embassies and Ministries (Chapter 4): The KP delivers services to the Embassies and The Hague-based staff of the Ministries, using a demand-driven approach. Direct support is provided to both the Embassies and Ministries. The general aim is to enable the Ministries to get the best out of their FNS programmes and realize their ambitions regarding FNS.

Working with multi-lateral organizations (Chapter 5): The KP facilitates strategic partnerships of the Netherlands with international organizations by collecting, connecting and combining knowledge of Dutch stakeholders on specific themes and issues that are of relevance to the multi-lateral knowledge agenda. This will lead to synergy and achieving leverage with Dutch policy implementation and investments.

Making research work in practices and policies (Chapter 6): The KP supports the Food & Business Research projects (Applied Research Fund and Global Challenges Programme) by actively supporting research teams to strengthen research uptake and achieve impact on practice and policy. In collaboration with the Science for Global Development department of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO-WOTRO) the results and lessons learned are analysed, synthesized and communicated. Moreover, the KP facilitated a consultation process to further explore the need for, and design of, a future research programme.

Investing in the next generation (Chapter 7): The KP helps building the next generation of FNS professionals. Main clients are Ministries, Embassies, Embassy supported programmes and Green Education institutes. The KP stimulates the sharing and use of innovative practice by taking a two-pronged approach: (i) train young FNS professionals to integrate knowledge in their work; and (ii) feed education programmes with - state-of-the-art - practice.

Internet platforms and communication (Chapter 8): The KP shares relevant knowledge items from different sectors and disciplines on specific FNS topics through the Knowledge Portal. Adequate information about the activities of KP are published on the website and shared via Newsletters and Social media channels.

Sustainable Development Goals

The work of the KP 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”.



2. Country and region-based learning loops

2.1 Valuable Vegetables

The overall objective of “Valuable Vegetables” is to improve practice and policy in the horticulture sector through multi-stakeholder collaboration by sharing knowledge, learning from experiences, working collectively towards innovative solutions for persisting challenges and move to action, in view of impact on SDG2. In the year 2019, learning about Dutch funded horticulture programmes started with network partners in the Netherlands and in a selected group of African countries.

A concept note was developed and shared with among others Embassies of the Netherlands in the 13 countries considered most relevant for this process. In three of these countries, the AgriProFocus country offices started exploring the interest in the country’s horticulture network to participate in the horticultural learning loops and making an inventory of their key knowledge questions, investing time in networking, diplomacy and building commitment. This included a mapping of key horticulture sector stakeholders, and several stakeholder meetings (see for details AgriProFocus Annual Report).

In the Netherlands, a kick-off meeting took place with representatives of the horticulture sector. A synthesis study was commissioned to WUR-WCDI to provide an overview of the lessons learned in Dutch funded horticulture sector programmes. At the end of the year, this study was still ongoing.

At the end of the year the initiative is well-known by key stakeholders in all countries involved, including the Netherlands. Because the buy-in of key stakeholders was and still is a slow process, some activities have not been realised yet, but will be taken up in 2020.

Deliverables – Learning loops

- [Kick-off stakeholder meeting](#) in the Netherlands (24 representatives from Dutch Diamond, with leading experts from business and knowledge institutions, development organizations, Ministries and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)).
- Liaison activities with Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (MinAgri) regional focal points and MinFa Department Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) - in order to liaise with Embassies.
- ToR generated for synthesis study on horticulture sector; commissioned study to WUR-WCDI.
- Connection established with AgriProFocus country teams via AgriProFocus Netherlands; the KP provided funding for country-based activities facilitated by the AgriProFocus network.
- Participation in SNV/WUR-WCDI multi-programme meeting on horticulture in Kigali, focusing on systemic change in the horticulture sector.
- Face-to-face multi-stakeholder learning and exchange activities with and around key horticulture/vegetables programmes (Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, with AgriProFocus Country Networks).
- Identification of knowledge agenda on the interface of a sector perspective and a systems perspective.

3. Knowledge trajectories with thematic networks and sector organizations

3.1 Food security and stability

In 2019 activities of the knowledge trajectory on Food security and stability anticipated the transition towards the NFP. The KP became an external partner to the MinFA-IGG funded FNS REPRO programme that is implemented by a coalition led by FAO and including WUR-WCDI. The programme focuses on building food systems resilience in Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan, and includes the KP as a learning partner to help disseminate its outputs. Moreover, the KP supports the organization of strategic discussions in the Netherlands that can contribute to the programme's implementation, as well as possible cross-programme exchanges at regional level.

During the course of the year the Community of Practice (CoP) on "Food & Stability" was further developed through a stakeholder consultation, a CoP meeting on "transitions towards market-based agriculture in fragile settings" and a brainstorm with interested CoP members on future activities. A study on experiences with market-oriented agricultural and food security programming in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus was also supported to further develop and identify opportunities for learning of this CoP. A workshop with Mercy Corps on Market Systems Development in fragile settings was planned for the end of the year but moved to January 2020. Together with AgriProFocus colleagues the Liptako-Gourma area - located in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso - was identified to develop in-country activities under the NFP. In 2019 work was started to engage potential partners in this area to support in 2020 and beyond.

Deliverables – Food security and stability

- Stakeholder consultation report produced (internal report).
- CoP workshop: "[Supporting transitions towards-market-based agriculture in fragile settings](#)" (20 participants).
- CoP brainstorm: on opportunities and future activities for this network (8 participants) (internal report).
- Start of the study on experiences with market-oriented agricultural and food security programmes on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.
- Practice note: "[Adaptive programme management in fragile and complex settings](#)".

3.2 Food Systems Approach

Two CoP meetings on the Food Systems Approach were organized in which knowledge and experiences were shared to foster the practical use of available expertise and knowledge by the broader food and nutrition community. In June, policymakers, practitioners and researchers came together to discuss how food systems approaches are currently brought into practice on the basis of three cases. In December, a similar group discussed governance aspects of food systems. Both meetings were received with great interest and enthusiasm by participants, and as a result, participants increasingly own this CoP as a shared space in which stakeholders learn and exchange on food systems. The meetings helped university participants to further adapt their "food systems" analytical tools and led to the first follow-up actions in which academic participants collaborate with practitioners on this topic. The KP was also engaged in the process of testing and developing a food systems decision-support tool as a mechanism for country based FNS planning by Embassies; work that was continued in 2020. Finally, the KP published four external blogs on the F&BKP website theme page of [Food Systems Approach](#).

Deliverables – Food Systems Approach

- CoP workshop: [Food systems approaches: research meets practice](#) (21 participants).
- CoP workshop: [Food systems governance mechanisms](#). Co-organized with Raaks and WUR-WCDI (32 participants).
- Contribution to WUR-WCDI conference on M&E of food systems (including [report](#)) (80 participants)
- The topic [Food Systems Approach](#) was started on the Knowledge Portal to keep track of key food systems publications.
- A [briefing note](#) was produced for the Global Challenges Programme (GCP-3) meeting in Ghana.

3.3 Sustainable Dairy Sector

A knowledge trajectory on sustainable dairy sector development was initiated at the beginning of 2019. A coalition of NEADAP, AgriProFocus, 3R Kenya and the KP co-organized a joint knowledge sharing event in August, called "Dairy, the motor for healthy growth". Central question discussed during this regional event was: "How can we learn and build on our collective knowledge to promote the necessary changes for the dairy sector transformation in East Africa?" The event was planned the day before the 15th Africa Dairy Conference and Exhibition and was held five

years after the publication of the White Gold study on dairy and development in East Africa. The meeting brought together all dairy value chain actors working in East Africa. In the weeks building up to the event, the co-organizers held preparatory “Dairy dialogues” in four countries.

The next step was to discuss the lessons learned in the Netherlands in a follow-up meeting which also had the objective to build a kind of Dairy Platform for joint learning and initiatives. The discussions and conclusions of Nairobi gathered in a Dairy Working paper were used as preparation for the meeting. Contributors to the working paper represent all facets of the Dutch Diamond, working in the private sector, knowledge institutions, civil society organizations and government, and the paper is based on their extensive knowledge of and experience in dairy development in many African and Asian countries

At the event in Veenendaal the needs of, and challenges and opportunities for dairy development in emerging economies were discussed. The event was co-organized by AgriProFocus/KP and the Netherlands East African Dairy Partnership (NEADAP; a consortium of SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, Wageningen UR WUR, Bles Dairies Consultancy and Agriterra), and the LIQUID programme. Both workshops and working paper provide recommendations for inclusive business in LMICs. The knowledge trajectory will continue in 2020 with the development of a Dairy Position Paper and action agenda.

Deliverables – Sustainable Dairy Sector

- “Dairy dialogues” in Addis, Arusha, Kampala and Kigali, organized by AgriProFocus country offices.
- Workshop organized at AfDa in Nairobi “[Dairy, the motor for healthy growth](#)” (115 participants).
- Working paper on [Dairy Development in Emerging Economies](#).
- Event organized in Veenendaal on November 27, 2019: “[Dairy Development in emerging economies: A motor for sustainable and healthy growth?](#)”. (90 participants).

3.4 Circular Agriculture

A new theme that was explored by the KP in 2019 was Circular Agriculture. This rather new concept was promoted and further developed by the Dutch MinAgri, with a focus on how it could be implemented by the agrofood sector in the Netherlands. KP carried out a study focusing on the question what the concept particularly could mean for the agrofood sector in LMICs. It comprised of a literature review and a limited number of interviews and e-mail consultations. In order to identify a diverse set of cases that could help inform the understanding of how circular agriculture could work in practice, a network approach was used, collaborating with partners from the network of the KP, NWO-WOTRO, AgriProFocus, WUR-WCDI and others. The study was published as a discussion paper on World Food Day 2019, including a pitch during the plenary discussion, and through online media. Furthermore, the KP advised AgriProFocus on the contents of its public magazine - published on World Food Day 2019 as well - while it also provided input to the NWO-WOTRO commissioned synthesis paper on Circular Agriculture.

Deliverables – Circular Agriculture

- Discussion paper: “[Circular Agriculture in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#)”.
- Support for AgriProFocus publication “[Circular Food Systems](#)”.
- Support for WOTRO research synthesis paper “[Opportunities and barriers of Circular Agriculture](#)” (published in 2020).
- Afternoon session during the World Food Day Conference (325 participants in total on World Food Day).

3.5 Potato projects international analysis

In May 2019 a knowledge trajectory together with the Netherlands Potato Organisation (NAO) started on International Potato Sector Development Projects. A workplan for a study was drafted to obtain insights in the effectiveness and impact of projects that aim to strengthen the potato sector in LMICs. Based on these insights recommendations for sector strategies and development would be formulated. Part of the study was also to scope for the need for a Potato CoP or Platform to share lessons learned and focus on more integrated approaches. To support the study, a sounding board was established consisting of representatives of (seed) potato companies, the MinFA, the MinAgri, RVO, the NAO and research institutes. The first meeting with the sounding board showed that stakeholders considered the study and exploration of a CoP or Platform as relevant for the sector. The knowledge trajectory will continue in 2020.

Deliverables – Potato projects international analysis

- Knowledge trajectory on the effectiveness and impact of Potato Projects in LMICs initiated with NA: during a sounding board meeting on September 11 the workplan for a study was discussed.

3.6 Other knowledge trajectories

In addition to the knowledge trajectories above, the KP continued to support several ongoing knowledge activities.

First of all, on “Youth in agrofood systems” a CoP was organized in collaboration with Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and Wageningen University and Research (WUR), who presented a framework on the supply and demand factors impacting youth employment and entrepreneurship (see also the [blog by WUR-WCDI](#) on this framework and further enabling environment for youth in agripreneurship).

For the “Social Entrepreneurship Support for Food Security (SES4Food)” trajectory, the KP supported WUR, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and SESInc. on a report on the potential contribution of social entrepreneurship to Dutch Embassy programmes in the field of FNS and on the added value of the SES4Food programme for the Embassies’ FNS goals.

Lastly, for the knowledge trajectory on “Blockchain”, KP supported FairFood and WUR-WCDI on a scoping study on blockchain application in agrofood in LMICs, outlining good practices, gaps and needs of bitcoin practicing agrofood actors.

Deliverables – Other knowledge trajectories

Youth in agrofood

- CoP on [framework for supply and demand factors in mapping youth employment and entrepreneurship](#) (35 participants).

SES4Food

- Report “[Leveraging embassy food security programmes with social enterprise opportunities](#)”.

Blockchain

- Report “[A chain of possibilities: Scoping the potential of blockchain technology for agri-food production chains in low- and middle-income countries](#)”

4. Support to Embassies and Ministries

4.1 Support to Embassies

This year, there continued to be requests from Embassies for support. The shift in geographical focus from traditional partner countries to the three new regions (central to Minister Kaags BHOS policy) was visible in the type of requests that were made to the KP: from the MENA, Horn of Africa and Sahel. The total number of missions stayed behind (four instead of the planned eight, see table below for details), to Tunisia, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Egypt.

The type of missions in 2019 differed per country, but most missions aimed to help formulate new agricultural development or food security programmes at Embassy level. The mission to South Sudan was exceptional, as this was a continuation of a learning trajectory that started in 2018 with the Embassy in Juba, FAO, and other donors active on food security along the humanitarian/peace/security nexus. Therefore it was more about support to ongoing programming rather than formulation of new programmes.

The reason why less missions were implemented than planned, is that the design trajectory per mission has become longer compared to previous years, due to more people/departments involved in decision making. This sometimes resulting in plans for missions being aborted at a late stage. Another reason might have been that Embassies have not always easily found the way to the KP: due to staff changes at the Ministries and Embassies (new staff at Embassies not always introduced to support facilities), and a reduction of interaction moments with KP staff (see next paragraph).

Deliverables – Support to Embassies
<p>FAO FNS Conflict for the Embassy in Juba <i>Objective:</i> Support to ongoing programming (started in 2018) <i>Deliverables:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two workshops with EKN Juba, FAO, and other donors • Two reports (not public)
<p>Food Systems Lens Nigeria for MinFA-IGG, MinAgri, Agricultural Counsellor Ghana/Nigeria <i>Objective:</i> Support to new programming on food & nutrition security and agrofood <i>Deliverable:</i> Report Food System Analysis Nigeria</p>
<p>Agricultural Development opportunities Egypt for the Embassy in Cairo <i>Objective:</i> Preparation for the new water and agricultural programme <i>Deliverable:</i> Scoping study on a new water and agricultural programme (internal publication)</p>
<p>Agricultural Development opportunities Tunis for the Embassy in Tunis <i>Objective:</i> Preparation for new agricultural programme <i>Deliverable:</i> Formulation report on new agricultural programme, TRACE (internal report)</p>
<p>Q@E expert WFP School Feeding for the Embassy in Cotonou <i>Objective:</i> Provide expert review of proposal for the quality at entry at the Embassy in Cotonou <i>Deliverable:</i> Quality at Entry report for the Embassy (internal report)</p>
<p>Food System Analysis Sahel for Embassy in Ouagadougou, MinFA-IGG Cluster FNS <i>Objective:</i> Support to new programming on food security <i>Deliverable:</i> Report Food System Analysis Burkina Faso & Niger</p>

4.2 Support to Ministries

In 2019, several requests from the Ministry came out of the need for new programming in the new regions, in which Embassies did not have access to delegated funding or staff capacity. In other cases (such as the Food Systems Decision Support tool, and the Productivity and Income Assessment Framework for SDG2) support was requested for non-Embassy specific topics. It was hereby beneficial that the KP modality of direct support could easily be complemented with other KP modalities, such as knowledge trajectories, support to multi-lateral organizations, and making research work in practice and policies.

Please find below a detailed list with support trajectories.

Deliverables – Support to Ministries

Workshop WASH Nutrition for MinFA-IGG/DSH

Objective: Improving synergy and integration between thematic areas of WASH and nutrition

Deliverables:

- Support to organization of the workshop on January 14, 2019 (65 participants)
- Blog [“Is linking WASH and nutrition the new math?”](#)

Nigeria round table for MinFA-IGG/DAF/DIO/DDE and RVO

Objective: Find synergies between and with Dutch/Nigerian partners to identify the leverage points with the highest impact on the priority themes

Deliverables:

- Support to organization of the workshop on March 5, 2019 (54 participants)
- Reports available on request

Policy Dialogue Food and Nutrition Security for MinFA and MinAgri

Objective: Preparation for the new Dutch food & nutrition policy

Deliverables:

- Support to the consultative meeting, organized by AgriProFocus on March 19, 2019 (60+ participants)
- [Report on the AgriProFocus website](#)

Agricultural Innovation Seminar - Innovation Thinking for Food System Transformation for MinAgri

Objective: Explore how new agricultural innovation insights can be put to use for global food security

Deliverables:

- Lunch Seminar on April 17, 2019 (representatives of 13 organizations present) (April 17, 2019)
- Report [“Agricultural Innovation Seminar”](#)

International Federation for Organic Agriculture Movements meeting for MinFA

Objective: Explore how organic farming can contribute to SDG2: Zero Hunger

Deliverables:

- Support to interactive panel discussion on April 16, 2019 (27 participants)
- Blog [“The organic movement contributing to SDG2”](#)

Launch “IFPRI’s 2019 Global Food Policy Report & 2019 EAT-Lancet Report” for MinFA

Objective: Presentation of reports and interactive panel discussion

Deliverables:

- Meeting on “Rural revitalization and sustainable diets: Distilling one agenda from two major international reports on agriculture, food and nutrition” on June 4, 2019 (66 participants)
- Blog [“Rural revitalization and sustainable diets”](#)

Consultation Report for Strategic Knowledge and Innovation Agenda (SKIA) for MinFA/DGIS, MinFA/IGG-FNS

Objective: Preparation for the SKI-agenda to be developed (see more in Chapter 6)

Deliverable: [Consultation report for Strategic Knowledge and Innovation Agenda](#)

Learning Journey Sahel for MinFA-IGG

Objective: Expert input during learning journey in Benin

Deliverables: Report (internal report)

Productivity and Income Assessment Framework for SDG2 (finalized in 2020) for MinFA-IGG

Objective: Support to IGG Cluster FNS with a decision-making dashboard

Deliverable: Report (internal report)

Food systems decision-support tool for MinFA-IGG

Objective: Developing food systems decision-support tool as a mechanism for country based FNS planning by Embassies

Deliverables:

- [Three methodological guidance notes](#)
- Report Food System Analysis Ethiopia (internal report)

As the list of detailed support trajectories shows (see table above), there is a balance between requests from MinFA and MinAgri. The seminar on Agricultural Innovation was initiated by MinAgri, but was well-attended by MinFA staff, companies, and knowledge institutions. The support to the Learning Journey in the Sahel and the Productivity Framework were initiated by MinFA and had a more internal character. The KP also facilitated country-specific roundtable meetings with policy officers and other stakeholders, in order to sharpen and validate new country strategies or implementation plans, for example the Nigeria roundtable.

Whilst in previous years the KP had provided active support to cross-embassy/ministry learning activities, such as the Homedays for FNS Embassy staff and Learning Journeys on FNS hosted by Embassies, this was abandoned in 2019 for reasons of inability to use Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding for internal staff capacity building. The KP (the NFP in future) will need to find other mechanisms to engage with Embassy staff and help them take advantage of lessons learned and good practice in supporting food systems become more inclusive and sustainable.

5. Working with multi-lateral organizations

Strategic partnerships with international organizations are important for the position of the Netherlands having a knowledge-based economy. Linking Dutch knowledge and knowhow in the area of FNS with the work of multi-lateral organizations will lead to synergy and achieving leverage with Dutch policy implementation and investments. These strategic partnerships, like the ones accomplished in the past years with CGIAR, and the World Bank Group and the International Finance Corporation (WBG & IFC), is much appreciated by these organizations and has resulted in intensified collaboration and tangible outcomes. The KP continued to play a facilitative role in these two existing strategic partnerships by collecting, connecting and combining knowledge of Dutch stakeholders on specific themes and issues that are of relevance to the multi-lateral knowledge agenda (see below, Chapters 5.1 and 5.2).

One of the goals of the KP for 2019 was to explore the yet underutilized potential of other international SDG2 partners like the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund For Agricultural Development (IFAD), the European Union (EU) and the Asian and African Development Banks. Considering the broad scope of those organizations and the limited resources at the Dutch side, a focused, tailor-made and opportunity driven approach is required. The MinFA and MinAgri should be in the lead for reasons of ownership, commitment, and credibility. Due to full agendas no initiatives were taken in 2019. The MinFA initiated a resilience programme (REPRO) in the Horn of Africa to be implemented by FAO and WUR-WCDI. The KP was included as an external partner (see Chapter 3, Food security and stability).

KP has maintained a link with the European ARCH network (European Agricultural Research towards greater impact on global CHallenges), reflecting on how the Dutch FNS stakeholders' knowledge agenda could generate further impact at the European level. This did not yet result in concrete action, because ARCH as a network was going through a reflection phase and had to cancel a key activity due to health problems of a key consultant. LEAP-Agri is a long-term EU-Africa research and innovation partnership on FNS and sustainable agriculture (some funds were made available by the Applied Research Fund (ARF)). The KP will make information and results of LEAP-Agri projects with Dutch involvement accessible (see Chapter 6).

5.1 NL-CGIAR Strategic Partnership

The NL-CGIAR Strategic Partnership is implemented by a working group of MinFA, MinAgri and NWO-WOTRO, facilitated by the KP. The partnership has resulted in an enhanced involvement of Dutch organizations (knowledge institutes, NGOs, companies) in the CGIAR Research Programmes (CRPs), and in joint calls for research proposals on Upscaling Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Seed Systems Development (SSD). Additional instruments are in place to enhance the partnership: the Senior Expert Programme (SEP) for senior managers and researchers; a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) / enabling and scaling expert seconded to the CGIAR; and the Young Expert Programmes (YEP) for research professionals. A co-financing fund to catalyse NL-CGIAR research projects was planned but appeared not to be implementable. An evaluation of the progress of the partnership has been conducted mid-2019.

Senior Expert Programme (SEP)

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. It covers partial funding of the personnel costs of Senior Experts who are employed at a Dutch research organization and participate within a CRP or Platform with linkages to one or more of the four priority knowledge domains of the strategic partnership. The first call for candidates was launched in 2018 by NWO-WOTRO. In 2019 the second round of SEP was awarded and after some finetuning of the criteria a third and fourth round were organized. The call was closed in the beginning of 2020 and a total of 17 Senior Experts are now funded.

Enhancing PPPs and enabling and scaling

In 2018, a grant for "Improving the effectiveness of Public-Private Partnerships within the CGIAR" was awarded (by NWO-WOTRO) to Sarah Cummings from Wageningen University. This PPP-expert will aim to facilitate practice and learning across the CGIAR system and provide system-wide intellectual support to CRPs and Platforms on PPPs to strengthen their enabling and scaling of research results. In 2019 several initiatives were started including an emerging CoP on Capacity4Dev, a call for papers on the role of the private sector in agricultural development, and a meta-review of the role of the private sector in CGIAR partnerships.

Seed Systems Development Call

The partnership initiated a joint call for research proposals which generate insights that contribute to improving "seed" systems in Asia and Sub-Sahara Africa. Following the allocation of funding by NWO-WOTRO in December 2018 to 9 research consortia, these consortia started their work early 2019. The KP published the project information on the website to start facilitating broader actor engagement. A kick-off meeting with the research consortia was held May 2019 in Addis Ababa, in collaboration with WOTRO. The first part of this gathering was an internal meeting for project teams. The second part was a broader, public high-level multi-stakeholder workshop (back-to-back with a CGIAR System Council meeting) and co-organized by CGIAR, USAID, the Dutch MinFA, ISSD Ethiopia, WOTRO, the KP and AgriProFocus Ethiopia. This public meeting gathered the research consortia representatives including CRPs and African and Dutch researchers and practitioners, CGIAR system council representatives, and a range of

different Ethiopian seed experts and companies. The multi-actor and multi-disciplinary setting helped generating lots of insights and new ideas for collaboration, particularly on the gaps in getting improved seeds to the farmer, and how researchers and market actors could collaborate better to bridge this gap. The response to this high-level meeting was very positive, and the outcomes were widely shared via the various networks involved.

Evaluation of the NL-CGIAR Strategic Partnership

In 2015 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between MinFA and the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MinEA) with CGIAR. An evaluation was planned before mid-2019 to support decision making on funding in 2020-2021. Since CRPs were still running and the additional partnership modalities (SSD-call, SEP, PPP-expert) were implemented only recently, the evaluation could not focus on tangible outcomes. However, intermediate conclusions could be drawn on the added value of changing the relationship from being a donor to be a partner.

With support of consultants a self-evaluation was conducted supervised by an independent external consultant. The preliminary results were presented and discussed at a validation meeting with stakeholders representing CGIAR, Dutch knowledge institutions, MinFA, MinAgri and external experts. The final report was presented to and accepted by MinFA and MinAgri on July 16 in The Hague. The in general positive results of the evaluation and its recommendations have been used to decide on the support of the Netherlands to CGIAR in 2020 and 2021. Some of the main conclusions:

- From donor to engaged partner: the NL-CGIAR Strategic Partnership, started in 2016, is on the right track and showing its added value.
- High relevance and alignment: the partnership is providing high quality knowledge and research results directly relevant for Dutch policy goals.
- For the upcoming years the present partnership approach is seen as effective and suitable.
- The funding modalities for CGIAR and CRPs resulted in high quality outputs for relatively low transaction costs, although somewhat more information exchange on the outputs is thought to be needed to keep abreast of progress made.

A4NH/Food Systems for Healthier Diets

An international workshop was held in Ethiopia, which facilitated discussions on research methods and metrics used to understand the “Food Environment” as key aspect of food systems. For the CGIAR organizers (Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) and Food Systems for Healthier Diets and Bioversity), this workshop helped boosting dialogue on food environment aspects that need public and private action. The KP team and AgriProFocus Ethiopia provided advice and helped facilitating the workshop, connecting the international researchers to additional local diamond stakeholders.

Deliverables – NL-CGIAR Strategic Partnership

- Facilitation of Dutch NL-CGIAR working group (eight meetings supported with internal documentation and reports).
- Support to the implementation of partnership instruments by NWO-WOTRO and assessment of SEP-proposals and PPP-expert workplan. Several news items on reopening the calls and awarded Senior Experts:
 - [“Next round in funding Senior CGIAR experts”](#) (February 20, 2019)
 - [“Three awards under Senior Expert Programme of the NL-CGIAR Partnership”](#) (April 29, 2019)
 - [“Call of NL-CGIAR Senior Expert Programme reopened”](#) (August 26, 2019)
 - [“Five more Senior Experts funded in NL-CGIAR Programme”](#) (October 1, 2019)
 - [“Last two Senior Experts funded in the NL-CGIAR Programme”](#) (February 4, 2020).
- An [overview of the 15 Senior Expert assignments](#) can be found at the NWO-WOTRO website.
- Co-organization launch of [SSD-projects](#) (May 15 & 16) and public event (May 17) in Addis Ababa (90 participants). Notes of public event [“How to tackle the challenges for seed systems changes”](#).
- Support to the [midterm meeting](#) of the [Global Challenges Programme Call 4](#) on June 12. The next day CCAFS, NWO-WOTRO, the KP and AgriProFocus hosted a policy dialogue, see report [“Scaling climate-smart agriculture in East Africa: A role for all stakeholders taking into account contexts and needs”](#) (89 participants).
- Support to the A4NH workshop on “Food Environment” in Addis Ababa, November 5-7, 2019; see the report published in April 2020 [“Measuring the Food Environment”](#) (35 participants).
- Evaluation of NL Partnership (internal reports):
 - A validation meeting with stakeholders on May 27 in The Hague (37 participants)
 - Meeting with MinFA and MinAgri on July 16 in The Hague (18 participants)
 - Report entitled “On the right track & showing its added value”, used for further decision making
- Sharing of results of CRPs; including a Lunch & Learn meeting on October 28 “Outcomes of CGIAR research for policy and practice - Food systems innovations for impact” (34 participants).

5.2 WBG Food for All Partnership

At the start of 2019, the KP supported the communications about the Food For All (FFA) partnership, including the secondment of the MinFA staff to WBG Global Agricultural Practice, disseminating a few blogs and the outcomes of the FFA Talks. Early 2019, the KP team also continued investing in building the tripartite collaboration in the livestock sector between WBG (Livestock and Dairy Development Project (LDDP)), Bangladesh and the Netherlands. A proposal to establish a livestock knowledge platform in Bangladesh was developed by WUR-WCDI, for which the KP provided advice on embedding the collaboration in both the FFA partnership framework and the Netherlands network of expertise. The proposal was rejected by the Embassy in Dhaka unfortunately, which meant the preparations did not yet result in programmatic action.

In this same context, in November 2019 a study tour to the Netherlands was organized by WUR-WCDI for a high-level delegation of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh. The KP co-organized the connections to different stakeholders in the Dutch livestock sector. The tour reconfirmed the interest of both Dutch and Bangladeshi stakeholders to build collaboration in the field of livestock development, also in view of the NFP.

Deliverables – WBG Food for All Partnership

Publication on the F&BKP website of:

- Food for All Talk (webinar) "[The Nutritious Supply Chain: Optimizing Humanitarian Food Aid](#)"
- High profile session "[On the menu – Can food be the planet's medicine?](#)"

6. Making research work in practice and policies

In 2019 the KP continued to work in close co-operation with NWO-WOTRO to maximize the added value of the Food & Business Research (FBR) instruments, the Global Challenges Programme (GCP) and Applied Research Fund (ARF). The 75 [GCP](#) and [ARF](#) multi-stakeholder research projects focus on reducing hunger through NGO- or private sector-led interventions worldwide within the context of the wider Dutch knowledge agenda for FNS.

6.1 Research Uptake activities with projects

Global Challenges Programme

- **January 2019: GCP-3 midterm meeting in Ghana**

Eight project consortia of the GCP-3 (on Sustainable food systems) gathered in Accra, Ghana, for their midterm meeting. The meeting was organized by NWO-WOTRO and the KP. The aim of the meeting was to promote shared learning and exchange on rising key issues on global and regional food security and its impact on local food security. The international multi-stakeholder groups of GCP-3 presented their research projects' best practices, challenges, research findings, key activities conducted and results. External stakeholders participating shared their lessons learned and gave recommendations. The findings were also shared with a wider Ghanaian audience during the public seminar "Future food systems for Ghanaian food security", that was organized by the KP.

- **June 2019: GCP-4 midterm meeting in Ethiopia**

GCP-4 (on Scaling up Climate-Smart Agriculture) projects came together for their joint mid-term workshop in Ethiopia. The workshop brought together representatives from the eight GCP-4 project teams, CCAFS, NWO-WOTRO and the KP. The participants reflected on progress and research findings, including bottlenecks and challenges in their projects. In-depth discussions took place on the concept and application of scaling.

Additionally, a Public Dialogue was organized on "Scaling Climate-Smart Agriculture in East Africa", which was attended by external stakeholders representing the private sector, research, non-governmental organizations, government and international development partners in Ethiopia. Finally, some of the participants visited the Iteya Agricultural Office and Kulumsa Agricultural Research Center to learn about extension services, research and practice from rural agricultural centers in Ethiopia.

- **November 2019: GCP-1&2 end conference**

NWO-WOTRO and the KP organized a final conference for the GCP-1 and GCP-2 projects in The Hague. The conference gathered representatives of all 14 finalized GCP projects of Call 1 (on Food chain efficiency and Sustainable increase of quality food) and Call 2 (on Inclusive business and Regional trade). The objective was to communicate and discuss synthesized project research results, insights and lessons learned, aiming to inspire practices and policies in the field of Inclusive Agribusiness (IAB) and to scale promising solutions. Learnings were shared and discussed in round table sessions with private sector partners of the KP network and policymakers of MinFA, MinAgri, MinEA, and the MinFA Policy and Operations Evaluations Department (IOB).

Applied Research Fund

Two country workshops have been organized in 2019 for the ARF projects in Uganda and Benin.

- In June 2019, representatives of eight Ugandan ARF projects – from research, the private sector, NGOs and governmental agencies – gathered for a three-day country workshop in Kampala.
- In November 2019, a similar workshop was organized for representatives of the eleven Beninese ARF projects in Cotonou.

The workshops were organized by NWO-WOTRO and the KP, respectively in collaboration with AgriProFocus Uganda; and the Faculty of Agronomic Science of the University of Abomey-Calavi and AgriProFocus Benin. Since most of the ARF projects in both countries were finalized, it was time to take stock of the insights and outcomes, and jointly reflect, learn and work on further uptake of results. Both workshop set-ups followed the same structure with the main theme focusing on scaling innovations from food and agricultural research (ARF research) for strengthening FNS, and how this can be enabled in Ugandan and Beninese policy and practice. Exchanging knowledge, ideas and visions was facilitated through project pitches, a World Café, presentations, Open Space sessions, and a panel discussion. The three-day workshops started with a project day which was designed to share lessons learned among the projects and best practices for change and scaling. The public dialogue day's theme was "Strengthening Uganda/Benin Food and Nutrition Security in policy and practice – Scaling innovations from food and agricultural research", which was also attended by external local FNS stakeholders. Both workshops ended with a field trip to project research sites.

An ARF evaluation was conducted by Syspons. It finds that the programme was successful in fostering collaboration between Northern and Southern researchers and that it is possible to develop business models and value chains in inclusive ways. It underlines that ensuring ARF projects' institutional and technological sustainability via its capacity building approach is a strength of the programme. However, some ARF projects struggle with contributing to food security at an impact level in the partner countries since generated income is not always spent on food and local authorities mostly lack the capacities to adopt and sustain project activities. Support activities by NWO-WOTRO were appreciated by the projects and F&BKP was a useful feature, used to share results and expand networks.

Deliverables – GCP and ARF projects

- GCP-3 midterm meeting in Ghana, January 14-17, 2019 (30 participants of research projects, 40 external Ghanaian stakeholders)
 - Report "[Food System Perspective in research for Food and Nutrition Security](#)"
 - Video with [impression of the meeting](#)
- GCP-4 midterm meeting in Ethiopia, June 12-14, 2019 (55 participants of research projects, 34 external Ethiopian stakeholders)
 - Report "[Scaling up climate-smart agriculture](#)"
- GCP-1&2 end conference in The Hague, November 14, 2019 (92 participants)
 - News item "[Inclusive Agribusiness learning exchange](#)"
 - Video with [research results](#)
 - Video with [learning exchange](#)
- ARF country workshop Uganda, in Kampala, June 18-20, 2019 (38 participants of research projects, 34 external Ugandan stakeholders)
 - Report "[Strengthening Ugandan Food and Nutrition Security in policy and practice – Scaling innovations from food and agricultural research](#)"
 - Video with [impression of the meeting](#)
- ARF country workshop Benin, in Cotonou, November 20-22, 2019 (48 participants of research projects, 49 external Beninese stakeholders)
 - Report "[Scaling for Impact: ARF results for strengthening Benin Food & Nutrition Security in policy and practice](#)"
 - Video [with general impression](#)
- [ARF evaluation by Syspons](#), available on the NWO-WOTRO website.

6.2 Analysis and synthesis of GCP and ARF projects

In 2019 a synthesis study was initiated that reviewed the thematic results and outcome-level experiences of the 75 GCP and ARF research projects in tackling challenges in food security in LMICs. In total seven articles will be published in 2020: four thematic articles covering circular agriculture, indigenous foods, inclusive business and smallholders; and three outcome articles on the private sector, policymakers and small-scale farmers.

6.3 Future FNS Research Programme

From March to July 2019, the KP facilitated a consultative stocktaking process to feed a Strategic Knowledge and Innovation Agenda (SKIA) for SDG2 of the MinFA Department-General for International Cooperation (DGIS), and the IGG-FNS cluster. The consultation process included:

- 1) Input sessions with representatives from MinFA and MinAgri;
- 2) Interviews with selected experts from Dutch Embassies, research organizations, policy institutions, INGOs, and private sector partners (analysed and synthesized anonymously);
- 3) A desk study to summarize key information on recent and ongoing relevant research programmes funded by the Dutch government and by the EU;
- 4) Relevant literature as referred to in the course of the consultative stocktaking; and
- 5) Specific input from CGIAR, including the evaluation of the NL-CGIAR Strategic Partnership and NWO-WOTRO on evaluations and reports of running research programmes.

The inventory was translated in a report in which a multi-stakeholder request is dominant for a future knowledge agenda focusing on food systems transformation from a Research IN Development perspective.

6.4 Project communication and linking via F&BKP

In 2019, GCP-1 and GCP-2 projects were completed as well as a number of ARF projects, but many are still running. Projects consist of consortium partners, including NGOs, businesses, government, research actors, and others. The aim of sharing the results and lessons learned of these 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 to research papers and policy briefs, with a total of 54 knowledge items with external links (mentioned in the right column of the Project pages): 38 for ARF projects and 16 for GCP projects.

Furthermore, 52 related articles have been uploaded, including 2-pagers of the projects with end results and midterm findings, and blogs. Besides that, there are 10 more GCP-1 & 2 factsheets included in a news item concerning the GCP-1&2 end conference.

Deliverables – GCP and ARF projects

- Support to GCP/ARF synthesis study (initiated and managed by NWO-WOTRO). To be published in 2020, see [“Food & Business Research Synthesis Study”](#).
- Consultation report for the Strategic Knowledge and Innovation Agenda [“Synthesis of a consultative stocktaking process to inform the Dutch DGIS Strategic Knowledge and Innovation Agenda in relation to SDG2”](#).
- Project pages on website: 54 knowledge items with external links; 52 related articles (including 2-pagers).

7. Investing in the next generation

7.1 YEP Agrofood

The Young Expert Programme (YEP) Agrofood started in 2015 and is a PPP between MinFA, Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) and the KP (formerly F&BKP). The goal of YEP Agrofood 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 a work and training programme for young Dutch and international professionals and contributes through its Young Experts to FNS objectives. In 2019, 75 Young Experts kicked off their international YEP career of which 33 in YEP Agrofood. Furthermore, 27 Agrofood Young Experts started their second year.

7.2 Talent Pool Trainees

The Talent Pool offers young professionals the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the FNS policy and programme field, notably at Dutch Ministry and Embassy level. In 2018, the first batch of Talent Pool Trainees (TPTs) started. The second batch, starting at the beginning of 2019, placed two trainees at the Dutch Embassies of Ethiopia and Burundi, and two at MinFA and MinAgri. Halfway the year the TPT of MinAgri switched position to the KP. A fifth TPT was already placed at the Embassy in Benin and extended her contract for a year. The TPTs placed at the Embassies joined the training and coaching programme of YEP. The two TPTs placed at MinFA and MinAgri also participated in the Advanced Master in International Development (AMID) programme at the Radboud University, Nijmegen.

A selection and recruitment process for batch three was set up for five new placements at Embassies and Ministries in 2020. The overall assignment for the TPTs, which has been set up in 2018 by the TPTs, was handed over in the first quarter of 2019. A new assignment will be set up for batch three.

In general, the Embassies are satisfied with the implementation of the Talent Pool. The process has been improved which had a positive impact on the starting phase, and the participating Embassies are satisfied with how the TPTs function. However, the Embassies question the process of extending the contract of the TPT: they would like to be offered this opportunity without having to compete in a new batch. Within the Ministries, a point of attention remains the status of the TPTs, which sometimes remains unclear.

Deliverables – Next Generation

YEP Agrofood

- 33 young experts started in 2019 (17 Dutch, 16 local).
- 27 young experts started their second year in 2019 (12 Dutch, 15 local).

Talent Pool

- Recruitment, selection training and contracting of 2 TPTs at Dutch Embassies of Burundi and Ethiopia.
- Extension of 1 TPT at Dutch Embassy in Benin (2nd year).
- Recruitment, selection, training and contracting 2 TPTs at MinFA and MinAgri (the latter switched to KP).
- Contribution of TPTs at Embassies to Dutch Knowledge Portal inventory.

7.3 FNS Excellence Programme

End 2018, an FNS Excellence Programme for students has been designed in consultation with green education institutes. In 2019, the pilot was elaborated in detail. The FNS Excellence Programme aimed to include cutting-edge on-the-ground experiences of Dutch Embassies into Dutch higher education. The overall goal was to enhance the quality and relevance of educational programmes by providing practical cases and to invest in the next generation of FNS professionals. The Excellence Programme was carried out by the KP with involvement of MinFA and MinAgri.

Seven student teams worked for three months, from October 2019 until January 2020, on consultancy assignments. The students worked on real-life challenges faced by the Dutch Embassies in Burundi and Kenya in their FNS programmes. The focus of the assignment of Kenya was access to finance for smallholders, and for Burundi the students were asked to add a nutrition module to the PIP (*Plan Intégré du Paysan*) approach.

The programme kicked-off during World Food Day 2019. During the kick-off event, teams had the chance to get to know each other, receive more information about the consultancy assignments and meet the FNS policy officers of the Embassies. During the period the FNS Excellence Programme was running, several activities were planned to support the teams in their efforts to come up with a sustainable solution to the cases of the Embassies. First of all, masterclasses were organized, both general and case-specific, as well as a pitching training. Furthermore, an

afternoon was organized to get to know MinFA and MinAgri. Students got assigned a coach to assist them in the process of developing ideas into feasible solutions, and students got the chance to discuss their ideas with their client (Embassy of Kenya or Burundi). At a final event, beginning of 2020, teams pitched their solutions in front of a jury. The FNS Excellence Programme is considered a pilot and will be evaluated early 2020.

Deliverables – Next Generation

FNS Excellence Programme

- 32 participating students (divided over 7 teams).
- 4 participating education institutes (Wageningen University, Van Hall Larenstein, Aeres Dronen, Aeres Almere).
- 2 cases (Dutch Embassies of Kenya and Burundi).
- Organization of 6 masterclasses, 2 calls with Embassies (both Kenya and Burundi), 6 coaching sessions (real-life and remote), kick-off event, final event, pitching training and afternoon at MinFA.
- Development of [FNS Excellence Programme section at F&BKP website](#) (including news items of activities).

8. Internet Platforms and Communication

8.1 Knowledge Portal

The Knowledge Portal has been operational since March 2015 and developed into its current form over the past years. The Knowledge Portal aims to provide FNS stakeholders with selected references to knowledge and innovations in the field of FNS. Short summaries are provided including the key findings and recommendations of the publications. At the end of 2019, 16 topics were actively being updated on a regular basis with relevant, cutting-edge knowledge items. “Food Systems Approach” was launched as a new topic in June. A large number of sources was actively being monitored for relevant knowledge items, via information/knowledge bases of organizations and platforms such as FAO, IFPRI and the Rural Finance and Investment Learning Centre, and through Social media and search engines (like Google Scholar). In total, 1,683 items are published on the Knowledge Portal, of which 191 new items were shared in 2019.

The Portal received 98,287 page views since the launch in 2015. The number of visitors has increased from 20,599 in 2018 to 40,244 page views in 2019. By far the most viewed topic page was “Food consumption patterns” with over 3,000 views. “Food and stability” and “Youth and employment in food value chains” follow from a distance.

New Portal items are shared in a number of ways. First of all, for each F&BKP Newsletter, the most interesting items of the preceding period are selected and shared. Furthermore, some Portal items are shared via the F&BKP Social media channels (Twitter and Facebook). Moreover, users can subscribe to one or several Portal topics of their interest via email alerts. Once subscribed, users receive an update of new Portal items added to their selected topics every week. The email alerts were launched in 2017 and increased from 143 subscribers in 2018 to 180 in 2019. Contributions for the Portal were shared via the website or through Knowledge Brokers personally, of which 19 have been published on the Portal. Contributions were received from different organizations, including CCAFS (CGIAR), SNV and 3R Kenya.

Dutch FNS Knowledge Portal

In 2018, the exploration of the transformation of the current Knowledge Portal towards a “Dutch FNS Knowledge Portal (DKP)” set of. The DKP intends to build on the experience of the current Knowledge Portal to make the many interesting lessons from and results of Dutch-funded FNS programmes accessible for the design of new policy and programmes, green education, more in-depth research and input for various communication channels.

Therefore, in 2019 an inventory was set up to further explore the way forward of the Knowledge Portal, as well as for knowledge support for Dutch Embassies. MDF Training & Consultancy (MDF) was contracted to conduct this inventory in close collaboration with the KP Office. On distance and in-person interviews were held with 25 respondents of the MinAgri, MinFA, MinFA partners, Embassies, and their partners. The aim of the inventory was to explore the current knowledge bases stakeholders use, what stakeholders’ knowledge needs are, in what ways the DKP could be most useful and add value, etc. After the inventory, the results were analysed and discussed with MinFA-IGG, after which a report was drafted. Based on the report, further steps will be discussed in 2020 to explore if and in what form the (Dutch) Knowledge Portal should transform in relation to the NFP.

In 2018, the TPTs at the Embassies in Kenya, Rwanda and Benin examined experiences and opportunities to improve knowledge sharing at and between Embassies, and drafted a position paper on knowledge management in the beginning of 2019. The TPTs at the Embassies in Burundi and Ethiopia conducted in-depth inventories at their Embassy, in line with the inventory of MDF. Furthermore, a concept paper was drafted by MDF based on the first results of the inventory. This concept paper was shared and discussed with FNS experts of Dutch Embassies by the TPTs during a Regional Learning Journey in Ethiopia, which also served as input for the inventory.

Deliverables – Knowledge Portal

- 16 topics actively updated, including one new topic “Food Systems Approach”
- 1,683 items on Portal (total); 191 new items in 2019.
- 98,287 page views (total); 40,244 page views in 2019.
- 180 e-mail subscribers (total); 37 new subscribers in 2019.
- 19 portal contributions.
- Inventory and report: Dutch FNS Knowledge Portal and Embassy Knowledge Support inventory (MDF).

8.2 Communication

During 2019, the Platform renewed the general website information under “About” to be in line with the 2019-2022 phase in which the F&BKP continues as the KP. Furthermore, KP and AgriProFocus started with the first preparations of a communication strategy for the NFP. While the NFP was (and still is) taking shape, KP and AgriProFocus both proceeded to use their own channels to communicate about their activities anticipating the NFP.

During 2019, the KP continued its communication activities under the name “Food & Business Knowledge Platform” (because KP has no own identity and communication channels, and since it will merge into the NFP in the course of 2020) using the F&BKP website, online Newsletters, and Social media channels (Twitter & Facebook). Adequate information about the KP activities was regularly published to inform FNS professionals.

The F&BKP website was updated frequently with news items, events, publications, and input from the research projects. The research project pages clearly show that KP communication is based on the “Open Science” and “Open Access” principle mentioned in the Coalition Agreement, in which collaboration between researchers and societal stakeholders becomes possible. Research data, methods, publications, etcetera are accessible at an early stage for (re)use and as such enable knowledge sharing and implementation. Additionally, the nine Project pages of the Seed Systems Development call within the Netherlands-CGIAR research partnership were updated as well.

F&BKP Newsletters are designed to focus on what is new and upcoming; the number of issues is limited to the knowledge agenda. In total five regular Newsletters were published in 2019, the last one was sent to 2,200 FNS professionals.

Posts on Social media are intended to be highly informative and related to useful professional content. The Platform posted almost daily on Social media: at the end of 2019, @foodplatform had 2,070 followers on Twitter and 1,201 followers on Facebook. Some events, like the GCP-1&2 conference, were paid attention to through YouTube.

In May 2019, a [booklet](#) was published with all 73 projects which received Knowledge Management Facility (KMF) funding from 2013 till 2018, managed by the F&BKP Office. The booklet gives an overview of the projects, listed under several thematic areas and categories, presenting for each project the context, activities, outputs and if known the outcomes.

The Agrofood Broker of the Year Award is a recognition for a professional in the field of FNS who has undertaken significant brokering activities. On January 17, 2019, the winner of the 2018 Award, [Kwabena Asubonteng](#), was officially announced during a seminar in Accra, Ghana. He was awarded a sum of EUR 2,000 to set up a knowledge brokering activity with the F&BKP and he joined the jury for the 2019 Award.

The [nomination round](#) for the 2019 Award was opened only beginning 2020 and the jury selected three candidates. The [online voting poll](#) indicated [Frejus Thoto as the winner](#): with almost 70% of the 1,800 votes he was clearly the best Agrofood Broker of the Year 2019, which was announced in a small [YouTube movie](#).

Deliverables – Communication

- Published on the website: 30 news items, 6 expert opinions, and 41 knowledge activity items & studies.
- The website had an average of 12,400 pageviews per month, with a total of 148,794 pageviews in 2019.
- Publication of 5 Newsletters with 2,200 subscribers.
- Social media: 305 tweets with 2,070 followers on Twitter; 229 posts on Facebook with 1,201 followers.

8.3 Internet Platforms

For the official launch of the NFP on October 16, 2019, a temporary look & feel was developed, including a simple [website](#) and a launch [movie](#). A new profile and branding can only be defined and implemented when more clarity on the NFP is there, which will be in the course of 2020.

In the meantime, the KP and AgriProFocus continued to use their own communication tools. The two organizations have a different communication strategy and outreach, which makes them highly complementary, despite the overlap in content and users.

In the transition period, which started in the last quarter of 2019 and continues in 2020, the right connections between the communication tools of the two organizations were made, mostly by cross-references at the websites, in Newsletters and on Social media. The AgriProFocus platform was used to table discussions on topics that are core at the KP, thus enhancing dissemination and validation of work developed in for example learning loops. The other way around, questions and answers at the AgriProFocus online platform were fed with state-of-the-art knowledge from the F&BKP website and Knowledge Portal.

In view of the development of the NFP, a first joint communication plan was drafted, in which the specific communication functionalities and goals of both the KP and AgriProFocus are addressed and which proposes the first steps, including opportunities and challenges, towards an effectively integrated strategy.

The future communication framework will be determined by various decisions about which current functionalities will completely stop, transferred to another party, or converted into the new NFP website. Special attention needs to be given to the use and (dis)continuation of the interactive online AgriProFocus platform; possible attuning with the WOTRO website regarding the Research Projects; complementarity to other websites in the FNS field (like RVO and MinFA dashboards under development); and the requirements of a possible DKP.

9. Team capacity, management and governance

9.1 Staffing of KP Office team

The Office is the secretariat of the Platform. The team is staffed by employees from AgriProFocus, Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation of Wageningen UR (WUR-WCDI) and The Broker, some on part-time basis. This organizational model has proven to be of added value to the performance of the KP Office, since all team members make available the expertise, skills and network contacts of their organizations.

As from 2019 team members working with the Embassy Support Programme, Talent Pool and F&BKP formed the KP Office team, to capitalize on the acquired experience. During the year an AMID-trainee joined the team. It was also planned to strengthen the team with an extra position to enhance “linking research, policy and policy implementation”. This specific knowledge brokering professional with a sound academic background (e.g. a postdoc) would support the FNS Cluster and KP to enhance knowledge questions formulation and facilitation of tailor-made input from the KP network and academia. Since no candidate was available on the short term, it was decided to work with flexible input, e.g. a senior from WUR was contracted to support the development of the SKIA on FNS (see Chapter 6.3).

The capacity of the F&BKP Office increased gradually from 3.2 in 2013 to approximately 5.3 fte in 2017/2018. In 2019 KP capacity was 6.7 fte. The allocation of team capacity in 2019 changed due to the transition of F&BKP into KP. Time investment was roughly as follows (figures 2018 between brackets): Strategic partnerships and brokering (learning trajectories and multi-lateral organizations) 27% (40); Food & Nutrition research 21% (10), Knowledge Portal and website 11% (20); Embassy and Ministry support 3% (no separate data 2018); Next generation 9% (0); and communication, secretarial support, monitoring & evaluation and management 29% (32). In 2019, substantial more time is invested in Food & Nutrition research, including the start of the synthesis of ARF and GCP and the consultation for the SKIA. Less time was dedicated to the Knowledge Portal since the function of the Portal would change (see Chapter 8.2). The overall team invested substantial time in the development process of NFP, which requires a change in ambition, objectives, focus, approaches and skills of the KP team.

9.2 One team working in a network constellation

The KP secretariat worked as one team with a flexible layer of internal (consortium) employees and external experts. In case the team was short of capacity in terms of time, skills or expertise for “regular” KP activities, the team recruited colleagues from The Broker, WUR-WCDI or AgriProFocus who are able to stand in without introduction to the kind of work or intensive coaching. When specific knowledge, expertise or skills were needed externals were contracted (like before in ESP-missions and KMF funded projects).

Collaboration with staff of AgriProFocus was intensified. In several projects (like Valuable Vegetables, Dairy, Circular Agriculture) the teams consist of staff from KP and AgriProFocus. The stronger focus on countries/regions needs an improved knowledge broker infrastructure at LMIC level. For the knowledge activities of the KP in the countries, intensive collaboration with the AgriProFocus network facilitators and Country Networks in ten African and two Asian countries, was considered as essential. This was achieved in several learning trajectories and via support of several ARF and GCP meetings and the SSD-meeting in Addis Ababa. A collective and tailor-made training which would strengthen knowledge and skills of local knowledge brokers and as such the learning trajectories has not been implemented due to changing circumstances. In the context of the NFP, Country Networks were involved in discussions about the NFP vision, the role of coalition building and knowledge brokering. Among others, regional meetings and a meeting of the Country Network coordinators were organized by AgriProFocus together with the KP team.

9.3 Management; planning and reporting

In 2017-2018 there were project managers for ESP, Talent Pool and F&BKP. In 2019, the KP worked with one overall manager wholly dedicated to and with oversight of the complete programme, and who coordinated the team. Senior staff was still responsible for specific components of the KP, e.g. support of Embassies. The KP makes use of the support services provided by WUR-WCDI, AgriProFocus and The Broker. Employer responsibilities such as on HR, stay with the respective consortium partners.

The KP team is responsible for the management of the project portfolio funded by the facility (budget for events, studies, etcetera). WUR-WCDI conducts the contract management of these projects (like for KMF and ESP). Conditions in the grant agreements are based on long lasting experience of WUR-WCDI which is also responsible for the financial administration of these projects and of expenses of the secretariat for which administrative systems, control mechanisms, protocols, instruments, and templates are in place. Part of the activities and payments are administrated by AgriProFocus.

Since many activities of KP were already intertwined with activities of AgriProFocus and even jointly implemented, both organizations attuned their plans and reports. The MinFA required AgriProFocus and KP to submit a combined

Annual Plan for 2020, which was developed considering the development of the NFP. Annual Reports 2019 of KP and AgriProFocus will be separate as the planning was not fully integrated for this year.

Reporting will be according to the Result Framework in the Plan of Action 2019-2022, which was discussed with MinFA. Many outputs are presented in the “deliverable-tables” in the Annual Report. The results on the key indicators of the Result Framework are presented in Annex 1 which are the base for reporting in IATI. Reporting in IATI is part of the planning, monitoring and evaluation cycle and attuned to the reporting by AgriProFocus and WUR-WCDI. Due to anticipating the NFP, which should be in place at the end of 2020, the result framework will be less applicable in 2020.

9.4 Governance of the KP

The F&BKP Steering Committee (SC) oversees the strategy. The consortium partners employ the team members and are responsible for implementation of the KP. The SC¹ had three meetings in 2019. In April, the SC discussed the Annual Report 2018 and the updates of the KP and the WOTRO FBR activities. The AgriProFocus Board joined that meeting to discuss the development of the Netherlands Food Partnership including the synergy and ongoing integration of AgriProFocus and KP. In September, some SC members joined the meeting of the FBR Programme Committee in which Syspons presented the evaluation of ARF. On September 18th a meeting took place with the directors of the KP consortium partners (AgriProFocus, WUR-WCDI, The Broker). Next to updates of the KP and WOTRO, the contours of the NFP were presented and discussed. It was decided to dissolve the SC in anticipation of the new NFP governance structure. On December 3, several current and former members of the SC came together to look back at seven years of F&BKP which was initiated by the MinFA and supervised by this multi-stakeholder SC. The SC members were acknowledged for their generous contribution to an innovative knowledge programme which achieved many results, does not stand still, but is heading for its next phase.

The “tripartite” meetings of NWO-WOTRO, MinFA and the Director of the KP Office were in principle held monthly. The Director of the Office had regular contact with the Ministry and the chair of the SC.

1 The members of the SC in 2019: Adrie Pappa (Independent consultant; Chair), Melle Leenstra per 1 September succeeded by Wijnand van IJssel (secretary, MinFA), Hilke Jansen (Independent consultant), Peter Jens (Koppert), Toon Keijsers (HAS Den Bosch), Huub Löffler (Wageningen University & Research), Paul van de Logt (MinFA), Klaas Johan Osinga (LTO), Michaël Wilde (Eosta) and Floor Boselie (MinAgri). Observers: Cora Govers per 1 September succeeded by Corinne Lamain (NWO-WOTRO), Frans Verberne (Director F&BKP Office), Ine Martens (F&BKP Office Manager; minutes).

10. Financial Report 2019

WUR-WCDI manages the overall finances of KP and the financial administration of most contracts with partners and consultants contributing to the KP activities. The overall financial management of KP is therefore subject to the auditing protocols of WUR. The financial administration of the KP Office is managed by AgriProFocus - on behalf of the other consortium partners, The Broker and WUR-WCDI, and subject to the external audit of AgriProFocus by the accountants.

The KP started in 2019 with the annual budget as presented in the Plan of Action. This annual budget is €2.5 million/year of which €980,000 is allocated for staff costs of the team and €1,520,000 mainly for external costs (expenses secretariat, external experts and studies, events, etcetera). The overall expenses in 2019 were €1,739,698 (= €2,105,034 incl. VAT) which is €760,000 below budget (see Annex 2²). This is partly due to several partners and consultants submitting invoices (worth approximately €160,000) in 2020 for activities implemented in 2019. One of the causes of the underspending was the transition from F&BKP to KP with more focus on organizing learning trajectories preferably in country and less (financial) supporting activities of other stakeholders. However, the main cause was the transition towards the NFP. This transition instigated uncertainties about what activities would fit in the future NFP portfolio; furthermore, the NFP process required substantial time investment of the team, which put pressure on the core work.

Awaiting the development of the NFP, investments in extensive “learning loops” were substantial lower. The organization and support of various knowledge trajectories, most of them anticipating the NFP, continued and expenses were higher than budget. Embassies put forward less questions/proposals than expected and the activities with ministries and multi-lateral organizations were also fewer than foreseen. Costs for the Talent Pool were less because of trainees leaving earlier than the one-year contract. Total external cost for the main workstreams (5.2 – 5.7) was €566,000 (41%) below budget.

Costs for internet platforms and communication are also below budget because the expected transition of the Knowledge Portal has been postponed. The transition process with less core activities also implicated less expenses for international travel and lodging, and meeting facilities in the Netherlands. Total external Office cost (including internet platforms and communication) was €69,000 (49%) below budget.

Staff cost was €125,000 (13%) below budget due to not recruiting the foreseen senior “linking research and policy” position and the careful and rather restrained attitude towards developing learning trajectories and responding to initiatives and proposals from stakeholders of the Dutch Diamond.

10.1 Remaining budget 2020-2022

KP is ruled by the amending agreement from MinFA which redefined the budget of the OF-VZH agreement. Transition from the original contract for OF-VZH (starting September 1, 2017) to the situation with the amendment for the four-year period 2019-2022, implicated an overall budget of €11.2 million (= €13,552,000 incl. VAT) available for the period 2017-2022. The expenses of the OF-VZH in 2017-2018 were €710,741.30; the balance per December 31, 2018 was €489,258.70; this implied that the available budget for 2019-2022 is €10,489,258.70 (see also “Eindrapportage Ondersteuningsfaciliteit Voedselzekerheid 2017-2018” of WUR-WCDI). Considering the total expenses in 2019 (€1,739,697.65), the remaining budget for 2020-2022 is €8,749,561.05 (€10,586,969 incl. VAT).

In 2020 the transition of KP and AgriProFocus into the NFP and the development of the profile, services and actual activities of the NFP still continue. The consequence is inevitably delay of profound implementation of activities matching the NFP profile. The 2020 budget is therefore moderate; KP contributes €2.5 mln (the annual budget in the original Plan of Action) to the joint AgriProFocus/KP budget. The budget for 2020 will be evaluated and redefined mid 2020 when there is more clarity on the NFP and the required investments for further transition (portfolio, Human Resources, communication tools, etcetera). It is expected that the extra available budget due to underspending in 2019 and before will be needed to boost the activities in the period mid 2020 – 2022 to really make the NFP a success.

² This Annex is only available for accountable organizations: MinFA and consortium partners.

Annex 1 - Key indicators³ of the Results Framework 2019

Title	Indicator	Target group	Count
<i>Learning loop</i> (Chapter 2)	Number of activities organised for stakeholders		1
	Number of stakeholders involved in learning loops		24
	Number of knowledge products (including best practices / recommendations) with relevance for Dutch Diamond actors		1
<i>Knowledge trajectories</i> (Chapter 3)	Number of activities organised for stakeholders		9
	Number of stakeholders involved in knowledge trajectories		455
	Number of knowledge products (including best practices / recommendations) with relevance for Dutch Diamond actors		16
<i>Ministries & Embassies</i> (Chapter 4)	Number of support activities benefiting policy staff	Ministries	9
		Embassies	6
	Number of knowledge products (including best practices / recommendations)	Ministries	7
Embassies		7	
<i>Multi-lateral organizations</i> (Chapter 5)	Number of knowledge exchange activities with multilateral organizations		5
	Number of participants in exchange activities with multilateral organizations		214
	Number of joint knowledge products with multilateral institutions		3
<i>Research</i> (Chapter 6)	Number of research consortia ⁴	ARF	45
		GCP	30
	Number of partners in consortia ⁵	Research	174
		Civil society	78
		Business	67
		Governmental	22
	Number of new innovations tailor made for policy and practice ⁶	Research or proof of concept	11
		Piloting	5
		Available for use	5
Taken up by 'next users'		10	
Number of project members and external participants reached ⁷		420	
<i>Next generation</i> (Chapter 7)	Number of young professionals having gained experience as FNS knowledge brokers	Young Expert Programme (YEP)	60
		Talent Pool	5
		FNS Excellence Programme	32
<i>Internet platforms and communication</i> (Chapter 8)	Number of Knowledge Portal visits		40,244
	Number of new subscribers to e-mail alerts		37

³ The numbers in this table are rather arbitrary, since the involvement of KP in the various activities differs from being responsible for the overall organisation to supporting the activity (on content, network, financially).

⁴ The numbers represented under this indicator account for all research consortia active between 2014-2019.

⁵ The numbers represented under this indicator account for all research consortia active between 2014-2019.

⁶ These numbers represent the innovations of 19 ARF projects, and 10 GCP projects (of which some developed several new innovations).

⁷ Project members and external participants reached only via workshops and conferences facilitated by KP (so excluding events organized by project teams themselves).



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