

Financing the Future of Food:

A Case Study of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) and Lessons for Donors/CSOs

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Background - GAFSP

GAFSP was established in April 2010, following commitments from the G8 in 2009 and the G20 in Pittsburgh.

Funding: The fund, with a small secretariat at the World Bank, has received nearly \$1 billion in pledges from donors including the United States, Spain, Korea, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, Ireland, and Australia. Public Sector Window and Private Sector Window

Principles: The fund embodies many of the principles of aid effectiveness, including country ownership, a strong monitoring and evaluation element, and provisions to ensure transparency and civil society participation.

Process: Call for proposals; projects must emanate from CAADP-like country investment plan; review by TAC; approval by Steering Committee; Implementation with Supervising Entity.





Governance of the GAFSP (Public Sector Window)

One of the innovations of the GAFSP is its governance structure. It is governed by a Steering Committee with 12 voting members (6 donors, along with 6 developing country governments), as well as 11 non-voting but fully participating members.

Non-voting members: 3 CSOs (including ActionAid and a farmers' organization leader from Africa - ROPPA and Asia – Asian Farmers Association); 3 representatives from the UN system; and representatives from the IFIs which serve as the supervising entities for GAFSP projects.

Little difference in practice between voting and non-voting members: all discussions and decisions are taken with all members present.



Projects Funded by GAFSP Public Sector Window

By the end of 2011, GAFSP had provided more than \$500 million in grants to 12 countries.



- In **Liberia**, GAFSP funds (via AfDB) are targeted at low-income households in 4 countries with high potential for rice farming. The project will ensure that the majority of women and youth headed households are beneficiaries.



- In **Rwanda**, GAFSP (via World Bank) funds are being used to scale up interventions that reduce erosion on steep hillsides and help bolster productivity



- In **Togo**, the GAFSP project (via IFAD) supports farmers to organize themselves and to access inputs, extension and credit.

Civil society participation within GAFSP Public Sector Window

Vital to any conception of “partnership” on rural development is that farmers, especially women, their organizations, families, and communities are genuinely involved in shaping national plans, project design and implementation.

From the outset, the GAFSP has placed a strong emphasis on civil society participation. CSOs are partners with donors and other actors in the process:

- Civil society presents input from non-state actors in the country in SC discussions on project approval
- Post project approval, GAFSP Southern CSO SC reps travel to countries to connect in country CSOs/farmers with governments/supervising entities. Goal is to set up multi-stakeholder project oversight groups to enhance accountability



Civil society participation within GAFSP Public Sector Window

Some examples of GAFSP policies in support of participation, secured due to advocacy by CSOs and like minded governments/entities:

- Instructions are sent along with grant notices directing the countries to ensure meaningful stakeholder participation in the finalization of their proposals.
- The project financed by GAFSP through IFAD in Togo is a good model for how to involve farmers' organizations and civil society organizations in the drafting, finalization, and now implementation of the project.

At the request of the full GAFSP steering committee, **CSOs developed detailed benchmarks and guidelines for effective civil society participation at the country level to ensure even better results.** These innovative guidelines are included in the January 2012 call for proposals.



GAFSP Quality of Participation Guidelines

Key Elements and Indicators	Means of Verification
<p>1. Participation is inclusive/representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key actors are identified and representatives of each sector are allowed to self-select who will represent them in the participatory processes. - All interests/sectors connected with food security are invited to participate (e.g. women, smallholder producers, CSOs, private sector, public sector institutions, technical experts, donors, and others). - Particular attention has been paid to ensure the voice and participation of small scale producers. - Participation opportunities also include stakeholders from outside the capital. 	<p>Description in proposal and/or documents such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Description of selection criteria and details about how actors were selected to be included in the country proposal. - Lists of participants in key meetings. - Invitations and meeting announcements.
<p>2. Participation is well planned and more than a one-off activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is an agreed process for scheduling and organizing participation. The decision making process, roles and responsibilities of actors are clearly defined ahead of opportunities for participation; and announcements of opportunities for participation are communicated widely in advance to ensure broad participation. - Self-selected representatives of key stakeholders (including civil society groups, farmer organizations and private sector) participate in the institutional/inter-ministerial co-ordination arrangements with clearly identified roles in implementation. Representatives of key producers' organization and CSOs should be invited to be members of these committees from the outset and should designate their own representatives. - Consultations and opportunities for participation are provided regularly throughout development of the agriculture and food security strategy, the investment plan and the GASFP proposal. - There are specific plans and platforms to ensure participatory processes during implementation. 	<p>Description in proposal and/or documents such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Documents outlining agreed process endorsed by key actors, defining roles and stating who is responsible. - CAADP Post-Compact Review for African Countries, independent technical review report for non-African countries. - Evidence that the government is addressing the recommendations concerning stakeholder involvement from the CAADP Post-Compact review (for African countries) and from the independent technical reviews (for non-African countries [see Annex 2]) - Invitations and meeting announcement.
<p>3. Participation is meaningful and transparent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation opportunities employ methodologies to ensure equal voice of men and women, and of smallholder farmers. - Dissenting voices are accepted and recorded. - Minutes of meetings are recorded, provided to the participants and disseminated broadly. - Support is provided to enable broad participation of key stakeholders in consultation, implementation and for capacity building. 	<p>Description in proposal and/or documents such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TOR, methodology, and agenda endorsed by stakeholders. - (CAADP Post-Compact Review for African Countries). - Meeting reports and distribution lists. - Description and/or documentation outlining in-kind, financial or donor resources available to support consultation implementation and for capacity building.
<p>4. Participation impacts project design and implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is evidence of meaningful participation by key actors in the planning and implementation of the agriculture and food security strategy, the investment plan and the GASFP proposal. - There is evidence that the agriculture and food security strategy, the investment plan and the GASFP proposal are responsive to gender concerns. - There is evidence that input received from all actors involved in participatory processes was reflected in the investment plan and in the GASFP proposal. - There is ownership/broad political support for the agriculture and food security strategy, for the investment plan and for the GASFP proposal. 	<p>Description in proposal and/or documents such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Documentation from independent, self-selected civil society/stakeholders that provides an analysis and evaluation of the design and impact of the consultation process organized by the government.

Challenges

While GAFSP is an innovative model on many fronts, civil society continues to push for further reforms:

- While CSOs/farmer organizations are well represented at the Steering Committee, experience varies at country level and could be improved.
- The GAFSP could do more to incentivize “innovative” projects that actively target the poorest and most marginalized farmers, not just scale up existing projects
- GAFSP could more strongly support agroecological approaches and sustainable methods
- The GAFSP **Private Sector Window** is especially problematic:
 - Not subject to same governance model – no CSO role
 - Less transparency
 - Development indicators have been unclear or insufficient to assess development impact of investments



Recommendations for Improvements

While GAFSP is an innovative model on many fronts, civil society continues to push for further reforms:

Supply Side (GAFSP Fund)

- More effort by GAFSP CU and SEs to link SE reps/govts in country with CSOs and farmer orgs, and to incentivize and create space for farmer/CSO engagement in development and implementation
- Stronger incentives in next Call for Proposals / TAC guidelines to incentivize “innovative” projects that actively target the poorest and most marginalized farmers, and agroecology

Demand side (country plans and projects)

- CSOs/farmers should intensify engagement with CAADP/NAIP and GAFSP project processes in country as these are what GAFSP projects emanate from – to ensure proposals that emphasize agroecology/real needs of smallholders



Lessons for Other donors, CSOs

GAFSP innovations could strengthen World Bank ARD lending/other donor initiatives in ag sector:

- Supports country plans
- Quality of other bilateral/multilateral FS initiatives could be strengthened by including numerous stakeholders including civil society.
- GAFSP fund incentivizes CSO participation with Quality of Participation guidelines – which increases accountability.



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