



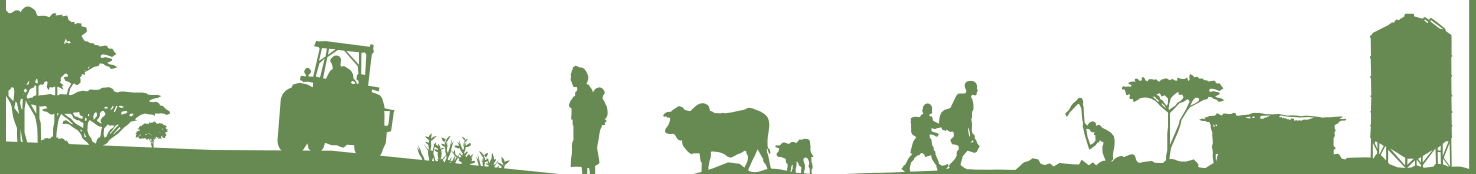
SIANI

Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative

siani.se

SIANI Annual Meeting 2017

Summary Report





Introduction

More than 60 interested participants gathered for the fourth Annual SIANI Network Meeting, which was hosted on the 19th of January 2017. This year's meeting looked "Towards Zero Hunger through Rural Transformation", and attracted a diverse group of participants. Civil society was represented by amongst others FIAN Sweden and the Stockholm Food Movement; from the private sector, NIRAS was one of the most prominent participants; governmental agencies such as Sida and ministries such as the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were present; and of course, academia was involved widely, with participants from several Swedish universities such as Kristianstad University, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, and Stockholm University.

This report gives a summary of the proceedings of the Annual Meeting. First, it revisits the keynote presentations, then the outputs of the round table discussions, and finally highlights two examples of the network activities of the last year.



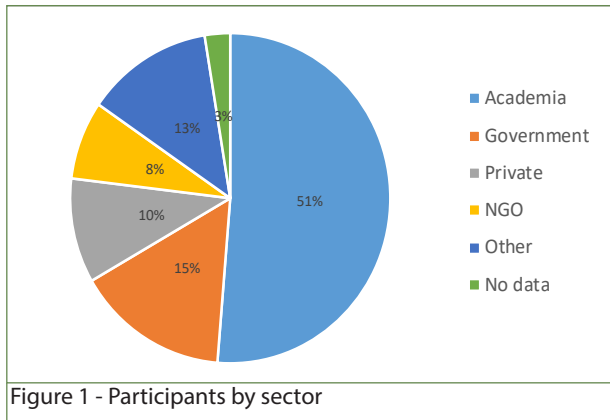


Figure 1 - Participants by sector

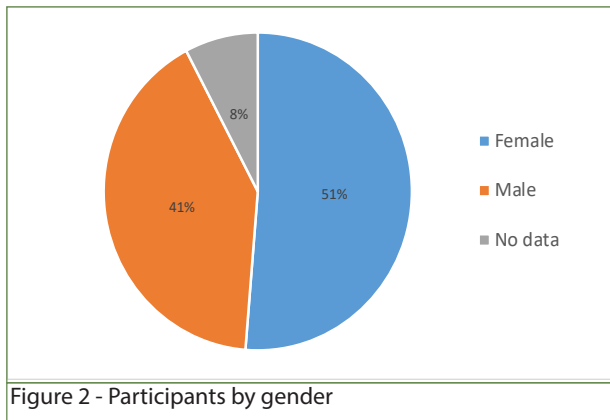


Figure 2 - Participants by gender

What is SIANI?

SIANI is a member-based network that supports and promotes Swedish expertise on sustainable food security and nutrition, in line with the Swedish Government's policy on global development.

Our membership is diverse and includes representatives from governments, civil society, the private sector and academia. Our network offers an open and interactive platform for exchange on global issues around food security, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

SIANI has extensive experience in creating productive dialogue through seminars, expert groups and other strategic initiatives. Our mission is to 'Promote a multisector dialogue with participation from academia, the private sector, Swedish authorities and civil society surrounding SDG 2'. Our shared vision is 'End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture'.

SIANI – then, now, and in the future

As of the end of 2016, SIANI moved into its third phase of operation. The annual meeting used this recent transition to sum up the last years' progress and achievements of the network and to lay out the ways it will move forward.

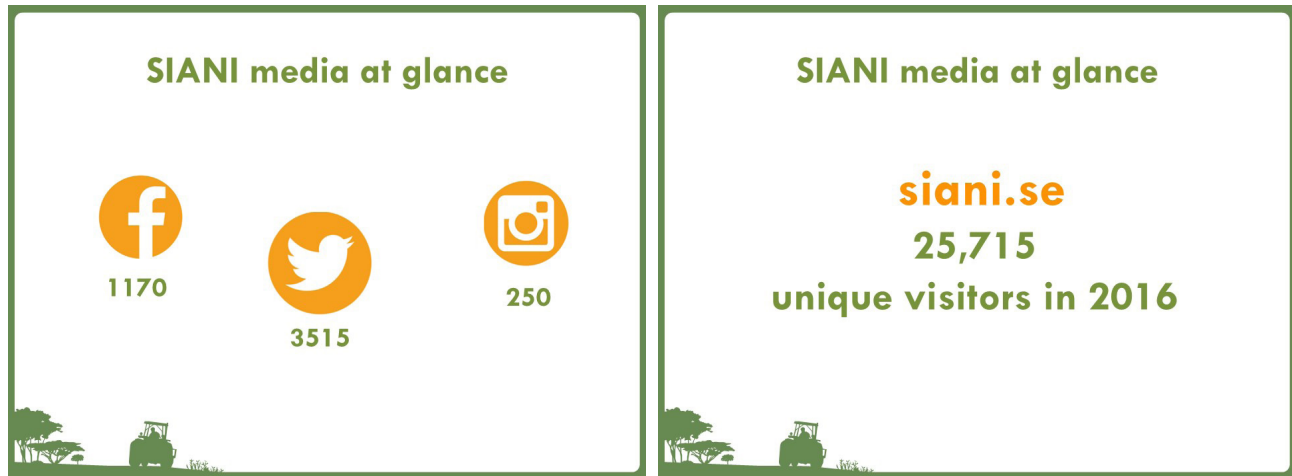
In an initial panel discussion moderated by Focali's Maria Göthberg, three keynote speakers discussed their vision for SIANI's work: Johan Kuylenstierna, Executive Director at SEI, Karin Oskarsson, Programme Manager at the Unit for Global Economy and Environment at Sida, and Ola Möller, Senior Policy Specialist Agriculture at Sida.

The panellists agreed that SIANI has, over the past years made an important contribution to lifting the topics of agriculture and food security, both in the global context and in the context of Swedish development cooperation. Kuylenstierna emphasised that this is an important role as there has to be work on food security even beyond 2030. One key feature of this success was the focus on evidence-based outcomes, according to Oskarsson and Kuylenstierna. For the future development of the network, Möller wished SIANI to continue highlighting the role of young people in agriculture, Oskarsson emphasised the importance of establishing connections with food industries, and Kuylenstierna lifted the importance of working on measuring direct impact of the networks activities.



SIANI communications

Many of the work tasks of the SIANI secretariat are focusing on communications. To give an update of the secretariat's communication work, Ekaterina Bessonova, communications officer at SIANI, held an inspirational speech, in which she outlined where the network is now at the beginning of its third phase.

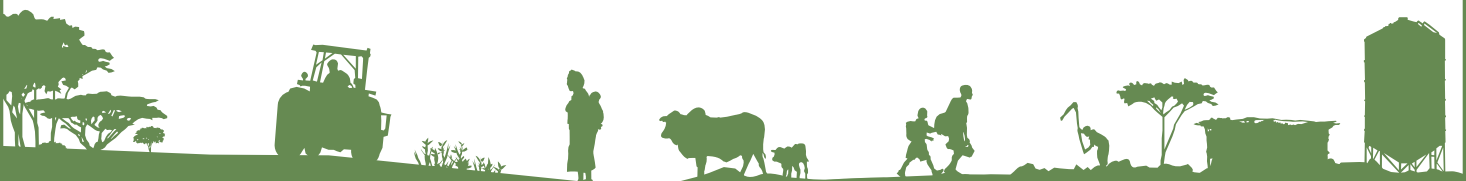


With 1700 network members, 3500 followers on Twitter, almost 1200 Facebook fans, 250 followers on Instagram, and 26 000 unique website visitors from almost every country in the world, the network has gained a global reach.

Bessonova used three success stories to exemplify that this reach also has translated into impact during the previous phase:

- Antimicrobial resistance, AMR – Sweden is a global leader in this field and the Swedish model showed that it is possible to have a high livestock productivity with a low usage of antimicrobials. In close collaboration with the Swedish government, SIANI supported a policy brief and online campaign on the topic to create awareness and foster discussion around AMR in livestock.
- Agroforestry network – What started with a workshop on agroforestry in Gothenburg, has now grown into a multi-sector network hosted by Vi Agroforestry.
- Global food waste reduction initiative – A SIANI expert group contributed to the first ever standard to track and capture food waste and losses for businesses and actors along the value chain in a comparable manner.

These success stories show that much can be reached with little, which is a strength of SIANI, according to Bessonova.



Reporting back from an expert group

Next, Stephen Vundi Mungula, a junior professional in the Expert Group on “Commercializing the Agricultural Sector in Kenya” gave a short presentation of the group’s work.

The objective of the group was to map the current status of the agricultural sector and opportunities for improvements of the sectors commercialization. A first attempt with adult professionals did not yield much engagement, but the second approach, focusing on youth in a junior expert mentoring group in collaboration with NIRAS, was much more successful. The expert group looked at different commodities and produced outputs suggesting possible value chain improvements for each commodity. The expert group’s findings recommend e.g. that cassava profitability could be enhanced if the production was mechanised; dairy production could become more efficient if farmers organize into cooperatives; and maize production is futile to commercialise at subsistence level. These evidence-based findings generated through the work of the expert group are a vital step for creating better policies and informed decision-making, Mungula argued.

This Expert Group showcases the transformative capacity of SIANI in low-income countries.

SIANI 3 and the 2030 Agenda: Plans for 2017

Under the theme “Agriculture Matters”, SIANI 3 will focus on three expected outcomes: Enable multi-sector dialogues; make knowledge on food security and nutrition accessible; and facilitate inclusive action. Matthew Fielding, Communications Manager at SIANI, explained that with these three outcomes, SIANI can play a major role in putting the Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change into practice.

There are some changes for how the secretariat will work in the upcoming phase: Whereas there are still going to be publications, a goal of SIANI is to explore different ways of communicating evidence-based information that move away from the classic policy brief. Also, the work topics have been reframed into the following six different areas:

- Agricultural Production & Trade
- Climate Change, Resilience, Peace & Conflict
- Landscape Management
- Nutrition & Health
- Equity & Gender
- Rural Transformation

For the coming months, Fielding outlined the key events that SIANI will be involved in: SIANI will participate and link up to the FAO Committee on Global Food Security meeting focusing on Forest and Food Security in October 2017. Furthermore, the secretariat will work on the topic of sustainable tourism aligned with the UN International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. Also, the secretariat will be involved in a conference hosted by the Rights & Resources Institute, RRI, in Stockholm in October 2017. Other important events for SIANI in 2017 include the Global Landscapes Forum in November, the World Water Week in August, Almedalen during July, and many smaller events throughout the year.



Top ideas voted as *important* by members and ranked by score (ideas with minimum 4 votes)

- Support local communities & organisations.
- Connect with farmers through local universities.
- Translate policy discussions into action. Maybe with concrete projects / pilot projects or by facilitating project writing.
- Highlight farm economics.
- Continue being a neutral actor with which other actors feel safe and open to discuss and have a dialogue.
- SIANI's role is that of a "detective". What really works? Which parameters are needed for this work? Build on transparency & fairness.
- Influence Swedish policy and promote agricultural improvement as the best way to fight poverty; at the same time disseminate information to the general public about climate change & hunger. Link better to indigenous knowledge and local communities
- Act as a bridge between evidence-based research and practitioners & policy experts by sharing research results and identifying what works.
- Arrange/facilitate interdisciplinary dialogues/work.
- Highlight the theme of decent work in agriculture (incl. fisheries & forestry) through e.g. an expert group.

Top ideas voted as *innovative* by members and ranked by score (ideas with minimum 4 votes)

- Explore new media channels, e.g. a SIANI radio.
- Support training centres & connect Swedish actors to onsite projects.
- Explore the topic of changing consumption patterns i.e. what we eat & how we can minimize waste, both in high- and low-income countries. Also, consider the aspect of introducing new foods for nutrition.
- Have pop-up events/seminars at innovative places like Sergels torg, Arlanda, ICA in Rosengård.
- Advocate farmers as both food producers & biosphere stewards. Figure out ways to measure & reward ecosystem restoration.
- Develop "Good Practices" in creating partnerships.
- Connect rural dwellers with internet & energy to enable digitalization.





The spectrum of different suggestions was very broad and ideas differ widely; some are actionable measures whereas others highlight more of a strategic orientation. Also, there are differences in terms of how the ideas address the topic of rural transformation. Some suggestions link very directly to the topic whereas other target rural life or food security in general. Especially in the list of most important ideas, many points cover work that SIANI is already doing, and are rather a reminder that work on these topics is considered very valuable (e.g. being a neutral actor; being a bridge). In terms of most innovative ideas, suggestions on thematic focus areas (such as consumption patterns; digitalization; 'biosphere stewardship') and communication channels (e.g. SIANI radio; pop-up events) stick out. Both, themes and communication channels can serve as a good inspiration for the further development of SIANI's work.



Mission Statements from SIANI members

At the end of the round table dialogue each group collectively outlined their “Mission Statement”, i.e. what they saw SIANI ought to focus on in the coming year based on the groups’ discussions (see the table below).

Group Number	Mission Statement
1	Promote hard (infrastructure, inputs) & soft (education, action research, working conditions) measures for increased profits, status & health in rural communities.
2	Rural transformation through knowledge generation, exchange, and value chain development.
3	Being a neutral actor and an honest broker in pursuing inclusive and sustainable rural transformation.
4	Expand the target audience to include all agri-producers.
5	Inclusive and sustainable rural transformation.
6	To influence and facilitate inclusive, fair and transparent policies through evidence-based knowledge for rural transformation.
7	SIANI should act as a broker to stimulate active, inclusive dialogue in order to drive solutions.
8	Enable local communities to connect to the knowledge necessary for their own transformation, including utilizing market mechanisms.



Based on the mission statements SIANI's role as described by the members consists of mainly two tasks. First, there is a focus on 'knowledge', suggesting that SIANI should help to make knowledge available, be a knowledge broker, enable others to gain knowledge, generate knowledge or disseminate evidence-based knowledge. Second, the role of SIANI ought to be based on inclusiveness (inclusive dialogues; including all agri-producers; and including rural people). These two messages emerge from the statements and should be considered as an expectation of SIANI-members to how the network should work and develop

Perspectives from network activities

The 2030 Agenda & the University Curricula

As in previous member meetings, agronomy students from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) presented a project which they had managed for SIANI.

This project looked at the extent to which the 2030 Agenda is implemented into agronomy education at SLU. Their research highlighted that most students feel that important goals of the 2030 Agenda such as Zero Hunger and Climate Action, are covered. However, not all students shared that impression and commented that the agronomy curricula does not explicitly mention the 2030 Agenda.

The presentations also sparked discussion in the audience to how SLU can improve on implementing the SDGs into their agronomy curricula.



APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Sector
Mats	Åberg	Sida	Governmental
Sunil	Abeyasekera	SLU	Academia
Kevin	Adams	SEI/University of Colorado	- Meeting facilitator -
Karolin	Andersson	SIANI	- Meeting facilitator -
Patrick	Andersson	Patent- och registreringsverket	Governmental
Tola Gemechu	Ango	Stockholm University	Academia
Miron	Arljung	Stockholm University	Academia
Adam	Arnesson	Farmer	Private sector
Ekaterina	Bessonova	SIANI	- Meeting facilitator -
Thorsten	Celander	Swedish Forest Agency	Governmental
Margarita	Cuadra	SLU	Academia
Linus	Dagerskog	SEI/SRC	Academia
Maria	Eklund	SLU agronomy student	Academia
Sara	Elfstrand	SwedBio at SRC	Academia
Jacqueline	Ernerot	Sida Helpdesk for Environment & Climate Change	Governmental
Johannes	Ernstberger	SIANI	- Meeting facilitator -
Matthew	Fielding	SIANI	- Meeting facilitator -
Madeleine	Fogde	SIANI	- Meeting facilitator -
Melinda	Fones Sundell	SIANI / SEI	- Meeting facilitator -
Göte	Frid	Swedish Board of Agriculture	Governmental
David	Gevert	SLU agronomy student	Academia
Maria	Göthberg	GMV and Focali	- Meeting facilitator -
Anders	Grudd	APtv	- Meeting facilitator -
Malin	Gustavsson	GMV Focali	- Meeting facilitator -
Elin	Hållidin	SLU agronomy student	Academia
Antje	Heyer	Föreningen HEM /(GIZ)	Civil society
Joakim	Holmdahl	Jordbruksverket	Governmental
Karin	Höök	NIRAS	Private sector
Rebecca	Hymnelius	SLU agronomy student	Academia
Linn	Järnberg	SRC	Academia
Christina	Johansson	NIRAS Indvelop	Private sector
Clarisse	Kehler Siebert	SEI	Academia
Ngolia	Kimanzu	Salvation Army	Civil society
Johan	Kuylenstierna	Ex.Dir. SEI	Academia
Jean O.	Lacoursière	Kristianstad University	Academia
Maria	Larsson	Liv Journalistik	Private sector
Elisabeth	Lindahl Rajala	SLU	Academia

Björn	Lundgren	AFF and SIFI	Academia
Ulf	Magnusson	SLU	Academia
Anders	Malmer	SLU Global	Academia
Kristina	Mastroianni	NIRAS	Private sector
Marija	Milivojevic	Näringsdepartementet	Governmental
Ola	Möller	Sida	Governmental
Maja	Möller	SLU agronomy student	Academia
Cecilia	Nordin Van Gansberghe	Regeringskansliet	Governmental
Pär	Oscarsson	African Opportunities	Academia
Dionisia	Palmstedt	Universidad Autonoma de Honduras	Academia
Malin	Planting	SLU Global	Academia
Marije	Raedts	FIAN	Civil society
Tobias	Robinson	Ecoloop AB	Private sector
Lotta	Samuelson	Programme Manager	Academia
Arifin	Sandhi	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Academia
Björn	Schulte-Herbrüggen	Salvation Army	Civil society
Mariajose	Silva Vargas	SEI	Academia
Andrea	Stover	Stockholm Food Movement	Civil society
Ninel	Sukovich	SIANI	Academia
Anneli	Sundin	SIANI	- Meeting facilitator -
Patricia	Tella	SEI	- Meeting facilitator -
Patricia	Villarubia	SRC	- Meeting facilitator -
Lena B.-M.	Vought	Kristianstad University	Academia
Stephen	Vundi Mungula	SIANI Expert Group in Kenya	Academia

APPENDIX 2 – LIST OF ALL IDEAS WITH AT LEAST ONE VOTE

Importance score	Description of idea
7	Support local communities & organisations.
5	Connect with farmers through local universities.
5	Translate policy discussions into action. Maybe with concrete projects / pilot projects or by facilitating project writing.
5	Highlight farm economics.
4	Continue being a neutral actor with which other actors feel safe and open to discuss and have a dialogue.
4	SIANI's role is that of a "detective". What really works? Which parameters are needed for this work? Build on transparency & fairness.
4	Influence Swedish policy and promote agricultural improvement as the best way to fight poverty; at the same time disseminate information to the general public about climate change & hunger.
4	Act as a bridge between evidence-based research and practitioners & policy experts by sharing research results and identifying what works.
4	Arrange/facilitate interdisciplinary dialogues/work.

Innovation score	Description of idea
12	Explore new media channels, e.g. a SIANI radio.
5	Support training centres & connect Swedish actors to onsite projects.
5	Explore the topic of changing consumption patterns i.e. what we eat & how we can minimize waste, both in high- and low-income countries. Also, consider the aspect of introducing new foods for nutrition.
5	Have pop-up events/seminars at innovative places like Sergels torg, Arlanda, ICA in Rosengård.
4	Connect rural dwellers with internet and energy to allow for a digitalisation.
4	Advocate farmers as both food producers & biosphere stewards. Figure out ways to measure & reward ecosystem restoration.
4	Develop "Good Practices" in creating partnerships.
3	Involve young farmers by spreading the idea of farming as biosphere stewardship.
3	Rural transformation requires productive use of power in rural areas i.e. going beyond home solar systems and solar community grid to >700kW levels.

4	Highlight the theme of decent work in agriculture (incl. fisheries & forestry) through e.g. an expert group.
4	Support local communities & organisations.
3	Involve young farmers by spreading the idea of farming as biosphere stewardship.
3	Formulate the alternatives to the current status of rural life.
3	Approach rural transformation by facilitating knowledge generation and exchange through multi-actor collaborations thus linking policy, practice, science, business, and civil society.
3	Work inclusively. That means, don't split up people into different groups such as "women", "youth", "vulnerable groups". Instead, have statistics on individual level.
3	Don't let one dimension take over sustainability but consider social, economic, and environmental dimensions.
3	Involve the private sector & civil society more, thus actors that are difficult to bring in.
3	Explore the topic of infrastructure. There is a great knowledge in this area in Sweden. Farmers need infrastructure to increase their market access.
2	Support training centres & connect Swedish actors in onsite projects.
2	Explore the topic of changing consumption patterns i.e. what we eat & how we can minimize waste, both in high- and low-income countries. Also, consider the aspect of introducing new foods for nutrition.

3	Understand value chains better, from the production via the added value to the final customer. Explore where the potential for farmers can be found.
3	Promote market based mechanisms to incentivise private sector engagement & farmer organisations e.g. through an innovations fund together with the private sector.
3	Explore the theme of sustainable agriculture as a way to recycle nutrients & minimize water resource use.
3	Contribute to partners' websites.
3	Try to engage with more students, especially SLU students and provide the international contacts. There is a huge interest in rural development, but SLU focuses too much on Swedish agriculture. SIANI has an important role to offer a greater perspective
3	Maintain & develop the good quality of the website and other communications facilities in order to promote exchange of knowledge and dialogue.
2	Support local communities & organisations.
2	Continue being a neutral actor with which other actors feel safe and open to discuss and have a dialogue.
2	SIANI's role is that of a "detective". What really works? Which parameters are needed for this work? Build on transparency & fairness.
2	Formulate the alternatives to the current status of rural life.
2	Approach rural transformation by facilitating knowledge generation and exchange through multi-actor collaborations thus linking policy, practice, science, business, and civil society.

2	Rural transformation requires productive use of power in rural areas i.e. going beyond home solar systems and solar community grid to >700kW levels.
2	Understand value chains better, from the production via the added value to the final customer. Explore where the potential for farmers can be found?
2	Provide resources of practical value to rural communities and agricultural sector actors, e.g.; on marketization, on inputs, plant genetic resources, techniques, conservation agriculture, or innovations.
2	Promote high education & research and focus on multidisciplinary teams for interventions in communities for rural development.
2	Explore the topic of health & nutrition. Examples are: Monitoring community health, nutrition education, and food anthropology i.e. indigenous varieties & traditions.
2	Operate as a "think tank" to stimulate discussions and share knowledge on rural transformation. Focus on finding policies & activities needed to ensure sustainable transformation.
2	Raise the image of farmers.
2	Keep long-term development in mind i.e. think about what will give us food security in 10-20 years.
2	Explore aspects related to drivers of rural transformations across scales.
2	Continue to develop youth engagement.
2	Develop an accessible knowledge database.

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2	Operate as a "think tank" to stimulate discussions and share knowledge on rural transformation. Focus on finding policies & activities needed to ensure sustainable transformation.
2	Support school feeding programs.
2	Link up to tree & forest organizations to explore the role of forests in rural transformation & for food security.
2	Rural transformation should not include everybody, otherwise it will lose its meaning and purpose.
2	Promote long-term benefits of practising sustainable agricultural activities.
2	Think "rural transformation" not "agriculture" so as to keep the mind open.
2	Analyse SIANI members by sector.
2	Influence policy in low-income countries to incentivise agriculture and rural diversification to slow down the urban migration.

2	Expand platforms & networks with existing channels.
2	Bridge between stakeholders.
2	Involve private sector, development organisations, research and policy.
2	Consider the interplay between rural Transformation and urban transformation.
2	Focus on the 2030 Goals with clear priorities.
1	Start a SIANI Radio station as an example of spreading ideas. Is Twitter the right media?
1	Promote farmers as both food producers & biosphere stewards because rural livelihoods require additional income streams. Figure out ways to measure & reward such ecosystem restoration.
1	Promote market based mechanisms to incentivise private sector engagement & farmer organisations e.g. through an innovations fund together with the private sector.
1	Support school feeding programs.
1	Link up to tree & forest organizations to explore the role of forests in rural transformation & for food security.
1	Rural transformation should not include everybody, otherwise it will lose its meaning and purpose.
1	Survey "remainders" and "leavers" on why they stay or abandon their life or work in rural areas. Explore the role of internet, power, and heat access.

2	Encourage cross-sectorial brainstorming. Agricultural problems & challenges are part of someone else's solution e.g. the sanitation & energy sectors. Use success stories as a starting point.
2	Example; farmers can offer their farm as a platform, to connect with other young farmers.
2	Help link farmers to investors or markets.
2	Highlight the topic of access to modern seed varieties in terms of legal aspects etc.
2	Continue to develop SIANI youth. It's important to engage youth in agriculture.
2	Actively stimulate new ideas & approaches.
1	Influence Swedish policy and promote agricultural improvement as the best way to fight poverty; at the same time disseminate information to the general public about climate change & hunger.
1	Work inclusively. Don't split up people into different groups such as "women", "youth", "vulnerable groups". Instead, have statistics on individual level.
1	Raise the image of farmers.
1	Keep long-term development in mind i.e. think about what will give us food security in 10-20 years.
1	Explore aspects related to drivers of rural transformations across scales.
1	Continue to develop youth engagement.

1	Push for cross-sectoral thinking in "education" as a tool for youth inclusion!
1	Engage more students in working with sustainable development at SLU, perhaps with a SIANI workshop.
1	Highlight the importance of access to renewable, green, and affordable energy in rural transformation for smallholder farmers.
1	Explore possibilities of closing the loop for nutrients in organic waste by e.g. processing food waste to insects to poultry & fish.
1	Highlight the topics of healthy schools that combine health, production, nutrition, and school gardens, and can function as an entry point into communities and establish habits.
1	Support innovative ideas and provide incentives for experimentation & the dissemination of results.
1	Build rural capacity or at least capacity in developing countries, e.g. through young fellowships programs.
1	Preserve and teach "old" knowledge on farming, social issues, and health care to reconnect with older generations.
1	Explore the human rights-based approach to food and nutrition, to the right to land, to women's rights and to the rights of smallholder farmers.
1	Continue being an honest facilitator between cooperating stakeholders in sharing experiences and ideas, to promote a sustainable inclusive rural transformation at various levels.
1	Strengthen horizontal youth involvement nationally and internationally.

1	Survey "remainders" and "leavers" on why they stay or abandon their life or work in rural areas. Explore the role of internet, power, and heat access.
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1	Build rural capacity or at least capacity in developing countries, e.g. through young fellowships programs.
1	Preserve and teach "old" knowledge on farming, social issues, and health care to reconnect with older generations.
1	Support transformative support projects which lead to rural transformation like e.g. sisal biogas or cocoa waste as a productive and time-saving use of power.
1	Use the international network as advocacy towards governments, the EU and UN.

1	Continue providing spaces for dialogue on the subject among different actors.
1	Implement the 2030 Agenda into educational curricula to make students aware of sustainable development.
1	Document "success stories".
1	The Swedish Board of Agriculture could contribute by providing experience and knowledge from rural development in Sweden and on how a government body can work with the development of agriculture.
1	Allow for diverse development narratives by facilitating inclusive processes to describe & negotiate different views across sectors & actors.
1	Identify synergy opportunities linking actors within the network working on similar issues.
1	Explore the topic of sustainable sanitation as a strategy to develop rural areas' nutrient recycling.

1	Tap into the knowledge of KTH & Stockholm University to develop prototypes or enable product hand-outs.
1	Act as a "LinkedIn" Forum for members' project proposals etc.
1	Promote links between people in rural and urban areas in developing countries.
1	Organize a field trip to a farm.

APPENDIX 3 RESULTS FROM EVALUATION FORMS

