SIANI
Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative

siani.se

SIANI Annual Meeting 2016
Summary Report

Introduction

The SIANI secretariat organised the third SIANI Annual meeting on the 19th of January. More than 60 members came together, representing different sectors, such as Tetra Laval Food for Development Office and Tyréns AB from the private sector, Gothenburg University and Stockholm Resilience centre from academia, Vi Skogen and Global Action Plan International from civil society and Sida and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Government agencies. This report summarises the event, by first highlighting the presentations by the keynote and the Expert Groups, secondly by describing the outputs from the Round Table Dialogue session with our members.

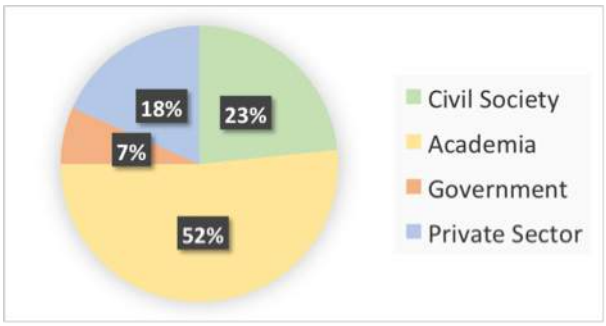


Figure 1 - Sectors of the participants

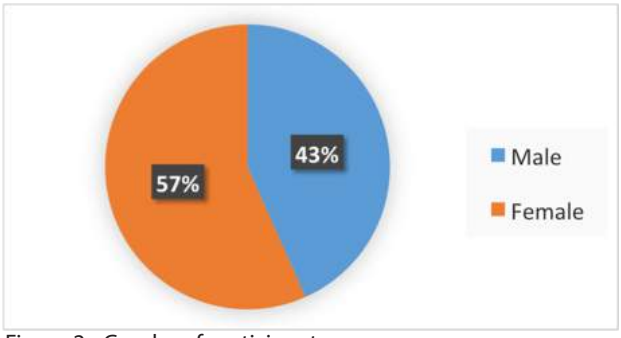


Figure 2 - Gender of participants

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 dialogue and collaboration on sustainable food security, with a focus on low-income countries'.

Our shared vision is 'Sustainable food security and nutrition for all'.

Tracking the progress of SDG 2

The newly adopted SDGs set the framing of this year's meeting, with particular focus on the SDG 2: *End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture,* due to its close links to SIANI's vision and mission. One of the keynote speakers, Alexandra Silfverstolpe, founder of Data Act Lab, presented the Ending Rural Hunger Project, an interactive online tool developed in cooperation with the Brookings Institute which helps to collect, sort and visualize data about food and nutrition security of the world's rural population. Based on three dimensions, *needs, policies* and *available resources*, the tool makes it possible to track the progress for achieving SDG 2 and also provides policy directions for effective ways to achieve this goal. One of the key messages was that altering the food security situation requires better targeting of aid. Silfverstolpe emphasised the importance of investing in infrastructure and careful consideration of agricultural subsidies. The Ending Rural Hunger Project report recommends that developed countries should redirect finance from agricultural subsidies to aid.

Insights from SIANI Expert Groups

Three of SIANIs expert groups provided a look into their work in the format of Pecha Kucha presentations during the meeting.

African Biochar

Cecilia Sundberg, associate professor at KTH presented her research in Kenya with smallholder farmers and their use of biochar. Biochar is organic matter transformed into carbon that can be used to improve soil fertility and enable cleaner and more fuel-efficient ways to cook. It can create opportunities to communicate and exchange knowledge across sectors like agriculture, energy and waste, which make effective communication a vital challenge.
Read more on the expert group webpage

Food Waste Prevention for Global Food Chains

Karin Östergren from SP Technical Food Institute reminded the audience of the amount of food that is being wasted annually at a global scale. Food waste is a great inefficiency in terms of natural, human and financial resources. Achieving zero hunger requires decisive action on food waste reduction. She also demonstrated how wastage takes places at different stages of the value chain and in different regions. Food waste is not a new issue; however, there is not enough knowledge about how cross-disciplinary studies on a global scale can connect high and low income countries through a multi-stakeholder approach. Read more on the expert group webpage

Water, Sanitation, Food Security and Nutrition

Dr. Helfrid Schulte Herbrüggen from KTH demonstrated the links between water scarcity, agriculture and sanitation and how this water scarcity often has impacts economically and socially. There is a need for a conceptual framework to understand these linkages in order to maximize efficiency of resource flows and minimize pollution. The work of this Expert Group will aim to explore the transfer of nutrients and contaminants between water, sanitation and food (WSF) systems, and identify best practices and policy options for holistic management.
Read more on the expert group webpage

SIANI Youth

Agronomy students from SLU presented their work on the new SIANI Youth initiative. It aims to provide a platform for communication for young people interested in food security and sustainable agriculture. Involving more youth into the SIANI Network was recommended in the Annual Meeting in 2015, mainly because of the problematic situation globally to engage younger generations in agricultural matters where farming needs to become more profitable and more attractive now and in the future. Part of the new initiative is to better utilise social media to connect and reach out to youth. SIANI will do so by using a more accessible communication language better suited for younger audiences.
Read more about SIANI Youth here

Round Table Dialogue – How can SIANI support members to engage with the SDGs?

At the start of the interactive session participants were asked to reflect about the Sustainable Development Goals and were asked to think of the nouns that come to their mind when they think about the SDGs. These nouns were then inserted to a wordcloud, which is presented below. The wordcloud was used as a tool to stimulate shared thinking about the SDGs.

After that the participants were split into 7 groups, each assigned a task to present a number of suggestions for what they would like SIANI to focus on for the coming year. The workshop was organized in the form of a Round Table Dialogue. Linking to the overarching theme of the meeting, the members were asked to reflect **on the ways SIANI could support them in engaging and working on the SDGs.**

Each group member was tasked to write down his or her thoughts and suggestions on multiple notes. After that the participants presented their ideas to each other and then voted on all the ideas mentioned within their group, based on the criteria of **a) most important** and **b) most innovative**. The results of the voting were the basis for the mission group statements that each group had to come up with at the final stage of the workshop. The voting results have been processed by the secretariat and the ideas rated highest are presented on the next page as well as in the Infographic at the end of the report.

Top ideas voted as important by members (ideas with minimum 5 votes)

- Establish a working group on monitoring & indicators of SDG2
- Establish a working group that can support SDGs with agroforestry and agroecology expertise
- Allow for knowledge exchange across-sectors, and enable networking and information exchange on sustainable consumption
- Provide opportunities for interested members to coach or mentor low-income countries' young students/ researchers in nutrition and food science research.
- Focus more on food security and conflict including environmental degradation caused by conflict
- More focus on child nutrition (e.g. school feed programmes)
- Link food security to migration issues
- Link better to indigenous knowledge and local communities

Top ideas voted as *innovative* by members (ideas with minimum 5 votes)

- Establish a working group on monitoring & indicators of SDG2
- Provide opportunities for interested members to coach or mentor low-income countries' young students/ researchers in nutrition and food science research.
- Focus more on food security and conflict including environmental degradation caused by conflict
- More focus on child nutrition (e.g. school feed programmes)
- Link food security to migration issues
- Link better to indigenous knowledge and local communities
- Online (interactive) workshop seminars on "hot topics". Should be "on demand", i.e. requested by members on dedicated questions.

As the lists demonstrate it is a very broad spectrum of ideas linked to SDG2, from very specific ideas, e.g. the school feed programmes to more general suggestions such as linking food security to migration. Some ideas were popular and seen as both innovative and important, hence they appear in both lists. Some ideas are new and exciting; while others are already present in the discussions in the Secretariat on what SIANI should progress in over the course of 2016. These results will be used to develop the 2016 workplan.

The results are presented and thematically categorised in appendix 2. To visualise repeated words from these top ideas, again we inserted them into a word cloud, see above.

Mission Statements from SIANI members

At the end of the round table dialogue each group collectively outlined "Mission Statements", 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	SIANI becomes an agent of change for advocacy and better food and nutrition security, reduced agricultural subsidies, better agricultural research and transformation of educational curriculums on all levels.
2	SIANI should focus more on: social and economic drivers for food security and social impacts of degraded landscapes, with a local focus.
3	To communicate and provide a platform technology and knowledge transfer to address the SDGs.
4	Improve and strengthen the internal communication of the network while broadening the external communication.
5	Strengthen the SIANI network through its members' expertise, knowledge and affiliations. Utilise the power and resources of the members!
6	SIANI as a matchmaker facilitating connections between different sectors including the most vulnerable (e.g. youth, women, indigenous people, small holder farmers) and most influential (e.g. Private sector, corporations).
7	The role of SIANI is as a facilitator for disseminating information, knowledge and to build and strengthen partnerships from different sectors to support and discuss the implementation process of SDGs. Focus on agroecology, forestry and monitoring indicators.

There was a strong focus on network development in the discussions, as the table indicates. SIANI should continue and improve its role as a facilitator, connect further with its members and create more partnerships. It was also highlighted that SIANI could do better with integrating social aspects in the work on food security, and to include more vulnerable groups, such as indigenous populations and women.

The Way Forward

Ola Möller, *Senior Policy Specialist Agriculture* at Sida, highlighted in his presentation that the SIANI network has done well in bringing different actors and sectors together and has been successful in that since it's inception. This is essential for making agriculture more prominent in global policy. Agriculture links to many of the SDGs, but this is not fully embraced by the international community working on the Agenda 2030, hence the sector has had a low priority. That we need to break silos and enhance links and partnerships across sectors reoccurred many times in the discussions throughout the day.

In her closing remarks, SIANI Director, Madeleine Fogde thanked the members for their contribution to the network. SIANI is now well recognised in Sweden in the context of agriculture and development work. Fogde pointed out that "2015 was a challenging year in many ways, not least with the migration crisis. However, the world did take a major step forward with the climate agreement signed, and agriculture is, fortunately, embedded in the agreement. The SIANI secretariat is looking forward to 2016, which both brings opportunities around youth topics with SIANI's Youth initiative, but also on pulses, since it is the International Year of Pulses."

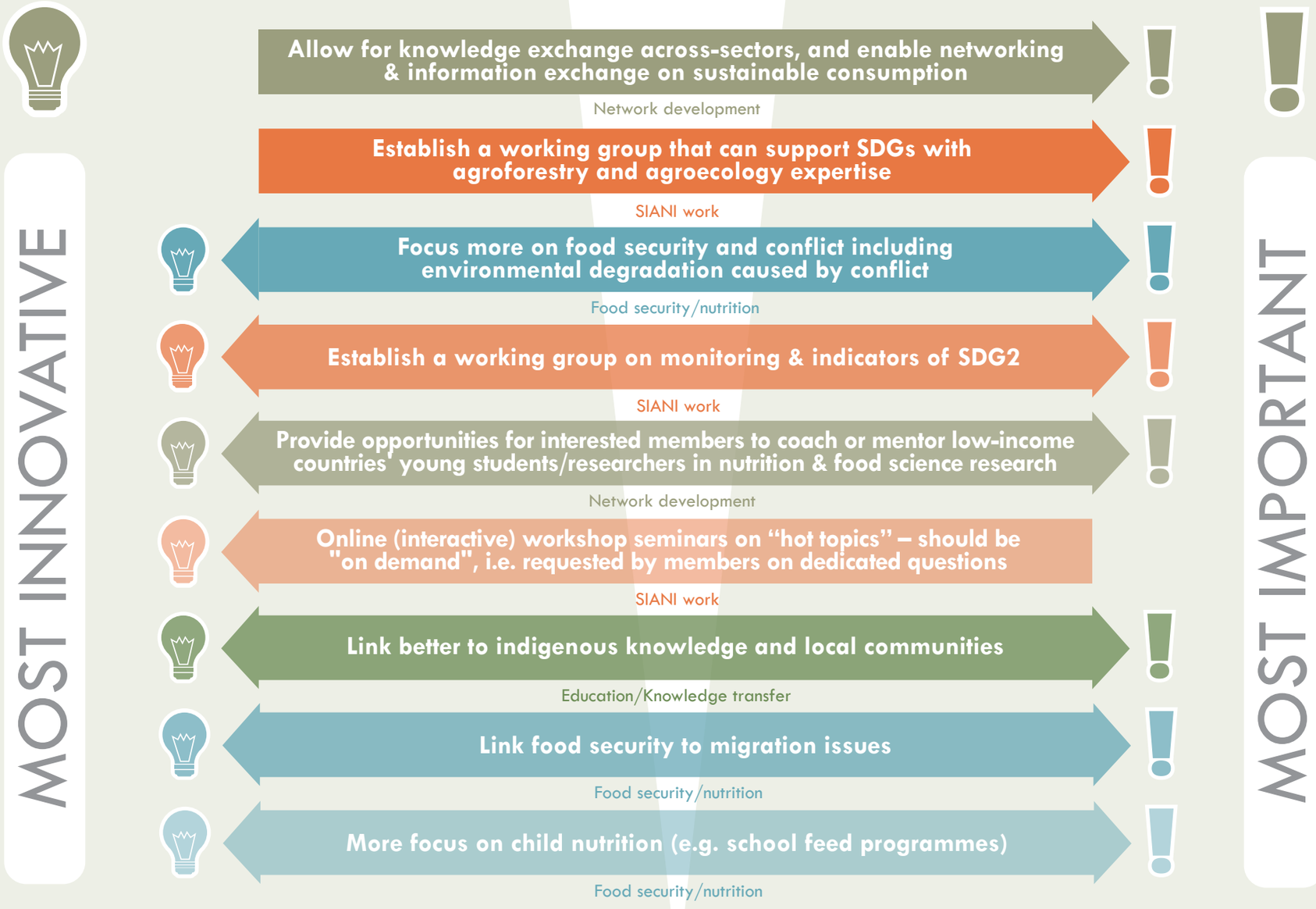
How you can get involved

Please drop SIANI an email or call us if you have any comments or further ideas that weren't brought up in this summary report. We thank all our members for a great phase 2 of SIANI and thank all the participants of the Annual Meeting 2015 for excellent contributions!

www.siani.se

Round Table Dialogue:

How can SIANI support members to engage with the SDGs?



The ideas most voted for in response to the question:

"How can SIANI support members to engage with the SDGs?"

collected during the Round Table Dialogue of the SIANI Annual Meeting, 19 January 2016.

Appendix 1 – List of participants

Colour codes:

Civil Society
Academia
Government Agencies
Private Sector
Group Moderator

Surname	**Name**	**Organisation**
Aden	Abditalah Osman	SOYWEM
Arljung	Miron	SIANI
Bessonova	*Ekaterina*	*SIANI*
Beyene	Atakilte	Nordic Africa Institute
Björklund	Gunilla	GeWa Consulting
Bovin	Axel	Antropologistudent UU
Broman	Mattias	Afrikaenheten, UD
Brundin	Henrik	Vi skogen
Båge	Lennart	SLU
Crimella	Daniele	Stockholm Resilience Centre
Cuadra	*Margarita*	*SLU*
Danielson	Theodor	SLU, SIANI Youth
Ddiba	Daniel	KTH
Dekker	Teun	SLU Global
Eriksson	Katarina	Tetra Laval Food for Development Office
Eriksson	Hans	Mirabel Development Consulting
Eriksson	Marcus	iPac Nordic AB
Ernerot	Jacqueline	Sida´s Helpdesk for Environment & Climate Change

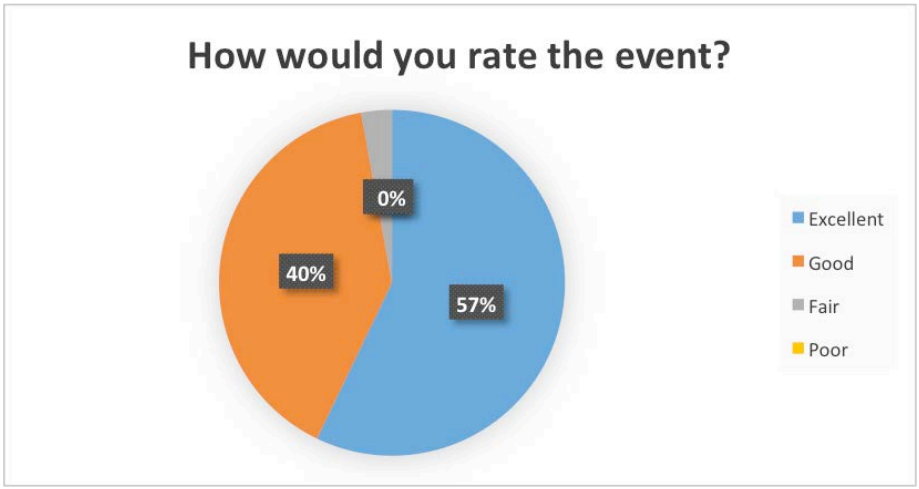
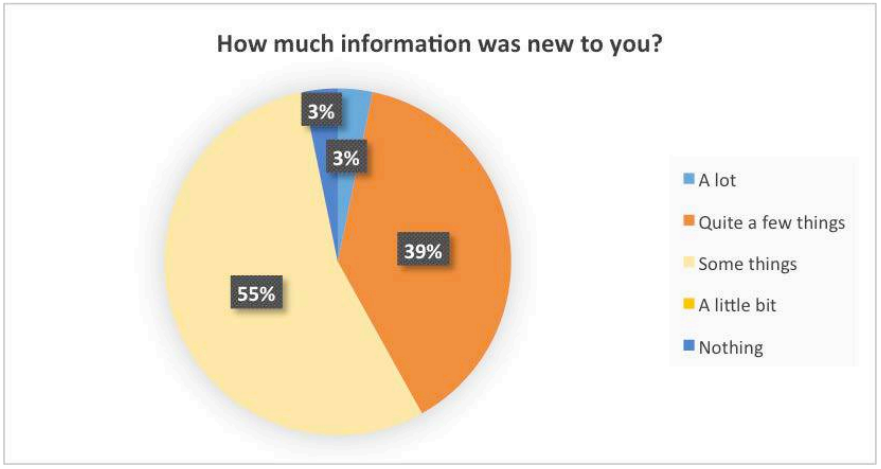
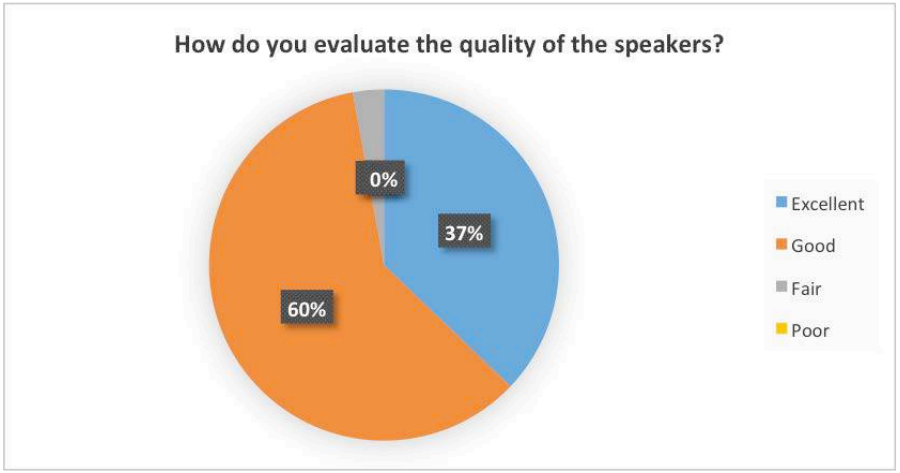
Fielding	Matthew	SIANI
Fogde	Madeleine	SIANI
Fones Sundell	*Melinda*	*SIANI*
Frid	Göte	Jordbruksverket
Gustafsson	Ebba	Plantagon
Göthberg	*Maria*	*Focali*
Höök	Karin	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
Järnberg	Linn	Stockholm Resilience Centre
Kimanzu	Ngolia	Frälsningsarmén
Krantz	Lasse	LARRI, University of Gotheburg
Krogseng	Kyla	SLU
Lannerstad	Mats	ILRI
Lundgren	Lill	BL Consulting HB
Lundgren	Björn	BL Consulting HB
Malmer	Pernilla	SwedBio at Stockholm Resilience Centre
Malmer	Anders	SLU
Mane	Fatou	Takkou Liggey
Matapo	Albert	SLU
McCormack	Caitlin	SLU
Mehlmann	Marilyn	Global Action Plan (GAP) International
Mickels	Mathilda	SLU
Mäkelä	Vivika	Stockholm Resilience Centre
Möller	Ola	Sida
Oscarsson	Pär	African Opportunities
Persson Andrianasitera	Nathalie	International Foundation for Science
Raedts	Marje	Global Action Plan International

Ran	*Ylva*	*SEI*
Robinson	Tobias	Tyréns AB
Rosswall	Thomas	KSLA
Sandelius	Sofie	SLU
Schulte-Herbrüggen	Helfrid	KTH
Schulte-Herbrüggen	Björn	Stockholm Resilience Centre
Silfverstolpe	Alexandra	Data Act Lab
Slätmo	Elin	SLU
Sundberg	Cecilia	SLU and KTH
Sundin	*Anneli*	*SIANI*
Tenku	Noumbissi	Eco Relief
Vandamme	Lena	Stockholm Resilience Centre
Vilchis Tella	*Patricia*	*SEI*
Villarubia	*Patty*	*SIANI*
Ölund	*Maria*	*Focali, SIANI, LARRI*
Östergren	Karin	SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden

Appendix 2 – List of all ideas with minimum one vote

Number of votes	Idea (MOST IMPORTANT)	Theme	Number of votes	Idea (MOST INNOVATIVE)	Theme
15	Establish a working group on monitoring & indicators of SDG2	SIANI work	15	Establish a working group on monitoring & indicators of SDG2	SIANI work
7	Allow for knowledge exchange across-sectors, and enable networking and information exchange on sustainable consumption	Network development	6	Focus more on food security and conflict including environmental degradation caused by conflict	Food security/nutrition
7	Establish a working group that can support SDGs with agroforestry and agroecology expertise	SIANI work	6	Provide opportunities for interested members to coach or mentor low-income countries' young students/researchers in nutrition and food science research.	Network development
6	Focus more on food security and conflict including environmental degradation caused by conflict	Food security/nutrition	5	Online (interactive) workshop seminars on “hot topics”. Should be "on demand", i.e. requested by members on dedicated questions.	SIANI work
6	Provide opportunities for interested members to coach or mentor low-income countries' young students/researchers in nutrition and food science research.	Network development	5	Link better to indigenous knowledge and local communities	Education/Knowledge transfer
5	Link better to indigenous knowledge and local communities	Education/Knowledge transfer	5	Link food security to migration issues	Food security/nutrition

5	Link food security to migration issues	Food security/nutrition	5	More focus on child nutrition (e.g. school feed programmes)	Food security/nutrition
5	More focus on child nutrition (e.g. school feed programmes)	Food security/nutrition	4	ICT implementation to promote knowledge + technology in general	Education/Knowledge transfer
4	Gender	Gender	4	Theme: re-orienting basic schooling to focus on food resilience	Education/Knowledge transfer
4	Theme: re-orienting basic schooling to focus on food resilience	Education/Knowledge transfer	4	Advocate to reduce subsidies to agriculture	SIANI work
4	Advocate to reduce subsidies to agriculture	SIANI work	4	Provide network to include the private sector	Network development
4	Provide network to include the private sector	Network development	4	Engage government offices in the work of SIANI	Network development
4	Engage government offices in the work of SIANI	Network development	4	Rural jobs-income generation	Rural development
4	Rural jobs-income generation	Rural development	3	Collaborate more with organizations, universities abroad & in the south	Network development
3	Linking smallholders to formal value chain	Value chains	3	If institutions members could host developing countries scientists, for a short stay (resources to the … in collaboration)	Network development
3	Ways to reduce food losses	Food waste	3	Focus on decent work and agricultural production	Rural development
3	Forestry	(Agro)Forestry/Agroecology	3	Connect SDG2 to Swedish food security strategy	SDGs
3	Focus on decent work and agricultural production	Rural development	3	Social security-cash transfer	Rural development
3	Connect SDG2 to Swedish food security strategy	SDGs	3	Continue to expand communications online	Network development
3	Social security-cash transfer	Rural development	3	Role of agricultural production and consumption on deforestation	(Agro)Forestry/Agroecology
3	Continue to expand communications online	Network development	2	Gender	Gender
3	Role of agricultural production and	(Agro)Forestry/Agr	2	Renewable energy + promote solar	Energy

	consumption on deforestation	oecology		energy	
2	Gender	Gender	2	Provide networking opportunities both in Sweden and globally	Network development
2	Renewable energy + promote solar energy	Energy	2	Responsible investments along the whole value chain	Value chains
2	Provide networking opportunities both in Sweden and globally	Network development	2	Create "shortcuts" to people working on issues that are not related explicit to my own	Network development
2	Responsible investments along the whole value chain	Value chains	1	Consider how to influence eating habits	SIANI work
2	Create "shortcuts" to people working on issues that are not related explicit to my own	Network development	1	Anthropologist to get the locals view on development	Rural development
1	Improve policy linkages	SIANI work	1	Link between SIANI and local organisations	Network development
1	Education-training at all levels, make it more relevant	Education/Knowledge transfer	1	Promote micro finance in rural development	Rural development
1	Climate change adaptation & mitigation	Climate change	1	Gender and nutrition	Gender
1	Integrate people interested in agriculture	Network development	1	Energy as SDG-links food & energy are important	SDGs
1	Create shortcuts for accessibility within the network	Network development	1	Implement new policies national and internationally where needed	SIANI work
1	Support to nutrition and food security research through different resources	Food security/nutrition	1	Translate SDG in practical terms for layman use making SDGs tangible	SDGs
			1	Follow development of indicators, briefs, articles etc.	SIANI work
			1	Follow and monitor Swedish development cooperation and how it connects to SDG	SDGs
			1	Improve process to gather feedback for evaluation planning	SIANI work
			1	SDGs land resource tenure	SDGs
			1	More publications	SIANI work

Appendix 3 Results from evaluation forms