

Invitation to seminar: Cash transfers, resilience and agriculture development

Date: 11th of September 2012, 10-15.30

Location: Norra Latin, Stockholm

Moderator : Erika Bjerström

Speakers: Marie Gaarder, *Norad*, Kate Donald, Adviser to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Annalisa Conte, *WFP*, Uhuru Dempers, *Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Republic of Namibia*, Lars Johansson, *Sida*, Soloman Asfaw, *FAO*.

Sida, Svenska Kyrkan, FAO Norden and SIANI invite you to seminar where the role of cash transfers in the context of social protection in stimulating local production and increasing resilience's of rural communities will be scrutinized.

Cash transfers, in the context of social protection programs are emerging in many developing countries as a leading initiative in tackling poverty and vulnerability. During the last decade, middle income countries such as Brazil, Mexico and the Republic of South Africa have rapidly expanded their cash transfer schemes. The rapid and successful introduction of these programs indicates that cash transfers can contribute to increased resilience and pro-poor growth by serving as an effective risk management tool, empowering poor households to lift themselves out of poverty. There is currently a huge demand for the introduction and provision of basic social protection schemes in the Least Developed Countries-LDCs.

There is ample evidence that social protection schemes are an effective tool for combating poverty and inequality, as well as accelerating progress towards achieving several of the MDGs. Several studies indicate that social protection schemes have multiplier impacts by creating demand for locally produced food, goods and services. Beneficiaries have been shown to use transfers to buy food and other goods and services that to a large extent are provided by local producers. Some are able to save money and invest in seed and livestock. Studies from South Africa suggest that poor families receiving cash transfers in rural areas are significantly more likely to continue farming activities. Cash transfers can be an important development mechanism to improve household resilience in terms of maintaining agricultural production in the face of an overall downward economic trend. More knowledge is still required to understand the direct links between social cash transfers, economic growth and rural production - particularly in the context of low-income countries

During the last few years, social protection has emerged as an important issue on the international development agenda. In 2009, OECD DAC issued a policy statement on employment and social protection. The UN Organisations, including the World Bank agreed to promote a minimum package for social protection, the Social Protection Floor Initiative. In April 2012 the World Bank presented its Social Protection and Labor Strategy, stating that "supporting social protection and labor in client countries is central to the World Bank's mission of poverty reduction through sustainable, inclusive growth".

Cash transfers, resilience and agriculture development Programme

10.00-10.15 Introduction and welcome – Kerstin Jonsson Cisse, *Sida*

Morning Theme: Cash transfers, poverty reduction, resilience and agriculture development

10.15-10.35 Overview of the development of social cash programs – Marie Gaarder, *Norad*, tbc

10.35-10.55 Basic income grant pilot project in Namibia - Uhuru Dempers, *Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Republic of Namibia*

10.55-11.10 Fika

11.10-11.30 Cash transfers and the impact on agriculture development in Africa - Solomon Asfaw, *FAO*,

11.30 -11.50 Cash transfers for poverty reduction: a human rights perspective Kate Donald, *Adviser to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights*

11.50- 12.30 Panel discussion: Uhuru Dempers, Marie Gardner, Solomon Asfaw, and Kate Donald

12.30 -13.30 Lunch

Afternoon Theme: The role of ODA in the development of social cash transfer systems

13.30-13.50 Social security VUP Rwanda - Lars Johansson, *Sida*

13.50-14.10 Social protection and food security – Annalisa Conte, *World Food Program*

14.10-14.30 The social protection and labour strategy - Laura Rawlings the Head of Strategy and Results in Social Protection and Labor at the *World Bank*

14.30- 15.30 Panel discussion: Lars Johansson, Annalisa Conte, Salomon Asfaw, Christian Holm (tbc), and Laura Rawlings.

Registration:

Register for the seminar via this link: www.siani.se/event/cash-transfers

Last day for registration is the 5th September

This seminar will be available to watch online on the following link:

<http://www.siani.se/CT-webcast>

If you have questions regarding the seminar, please contact:

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Welcome!