



Visit the new AgriFin Platform

## Event Roundup



### The Re-launching of the AgriFin Platform Followed by the Panel Discussion “Digital Agriculture Platforms and Financial Services”

The **new AgriFin platform** was launched on Friday, December 13. “The objective of the platform will remain the same”, Diego Arias, Lead Agriculture Economist and co-chair of the Agriculture Finance Community of Practice of the World Bank, explained. “It will promote knowledge sharing and networking of agriculture finance practitioners but add a focus on agriculture finance policies, engaging policymakers and other stakeholders”. The activities of the AgriFin will initially concentrate on the

consolidation of the new website to facilitate multidisciplinary discussions and collaborations, as well as on the delivery of webinars and events relevant to its members.

In the beginning of the panel discussion, “Digital Agriculture Platforms and Financial Services”, which was facilitated by Juan Buchenau, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, Rachel Sberro, Financial Sector Specialist, highlighted the key observations from the leading digital agriculture platforms. The three panelists, Dan Zook, Executive Director of the **ISF Advisors**, Nicholas Leshner, Vice President of the **Strategic Impact Advisors**, and Emilio Hernandez, Senior Financial Sector Specialist of **CGAP** shared their views on the platforms and discussed various aspects of the fast-moving developments in the nexus between finance and the platforms. While there was a consensus that the platforms can widen the access to financial services for smallholder farmers in developing countries, the panelists also pointed out risks and implications for financial institutions, farmers and policymakers.

| See the [video](#) of the event and the [presentation](#).



### Rural and Agriculture Finance Programs (RAFP) in English and French

The **Boulder Institute of Microfinance** and the CABFIN partners (IFAD, FAO, World Bank, GIZ and UNCDF) have been organizing the **Rural and Agriculture Finance Program (RAFP)** in multiple languages every year.

The 5th Edition of the RAFP in English took place on July 22 – August 2, 2019 in Turin, Italy with the support of the RABOBANK Foundation. About forty participants from around the world representing MFIs, rural banks, Central Banks, Ministries of Finance and Agriculture, donor agencies, investors, and development agencies completed the training program comprised of eight electives and nine master classes. The next edition of RAFP will be organized in summer 2020.

The first French version of the RAFP was delivered successfully by **ADA Luxembourg** and the CABFIN Partners in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from October 7 to 18. There were 41 participants from 14 African countries. They represented microfinance institutions, banks, ministries of agriculture and finance, and NGOs.

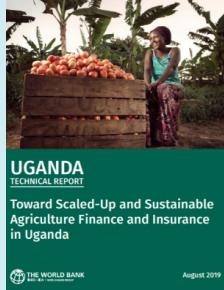
### Challenge Fund for Innovation on Agricultural Risk Management in Southern Africa

Three innovative projects designed to help countries in Southern Africa protect against the risk of agricultural disasters have won a **Challenge Fund** led by the **Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)**; the



[Platform for Agricultural Risk Management](#); the [Centre for Disaster Protection](#); and the World Bank's Agriculture Observatory, Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Program and its London Hub. The three winning ideas propose agriculture and food security risk financing tools to help inform and support public sector policy and program decision-making in the region, with the aim of better allocating public resources to reduce economic losses, poverty and food insecurity.

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### Dissemination Workshop - Agriculture Insurance and Finance in Uganda

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of Uganda, with support of the World Bank, organized a dissemination workshop on August 29-30 on the recent [policy](#) and [technical publications](#) on agriculture insurance and finance in Uganda. The publications assessed the Uganda Agriculture Insurance Scheme (UAIS) and broader issues in agriculture finance and suggested practical recommendations to strengthen access to financial services including insurance in the agriculture sector. The workshop was attended by policymakers, development partners, and stakeholders in public and private sectors. The attendees recognized the critical importance of this subject and agreed that swift actions would be required to implement the recommendations.

## Knowledge Features

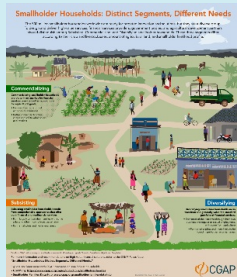


### One size does not fit all. Cooperative Banking and Income Inequality

By Raoul Minetti (Michigan State University), Pierluigi Murro (LUISS University) and Valentina Peruzzi (LUISS University)

The re-regulation wave following the global financial crisis is putting pressure on local community and cooperative banks. In this paper, the authors show that cooperative banking can play a pivotal role in reducing income inequalities in local communities. By analyzing Italian local (provincial) credit markets over the 2001-2011 period, the authors find that cooperative banks mitigate income inequality more than their commercial counterparts. This effect remains significant when the authors account for the pervasiveness of relationship lending in the provinces, suggesting that it is the specific nature and orientation of cooperative banks, rather than their lending technologies, that improve income distribution. The impact of cooperative banking on inequality appears to be mainly channeled by reduced migratory flows and lower business turnover.

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### Smallholder Households: Distinct Segments, Different Needs

[CGAP infographic](#) and [publication](#) by Jamie Anderson, Ramesh Karuppusamy, Paul Enrico Neumann, Howard Miller, and Ram Tamara.

The 500 million smallholder households worldwide are ready for targeted innovation and solutions, but they are a diverse group. To design and deliver high-value services, financial services providers, government bodies, and agricultural development partners should distinguish among Subsisting, Commercializing, and Diversifying smallholder households. These three segments differ according to their crop and livestock sales, amount of agricultural land, and smallholder livelihood profile.

### The ABCs of Data Analytics for Digital Financial Service Providers

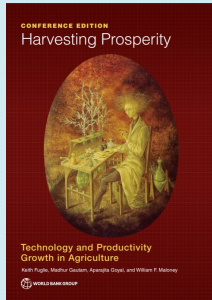
CGAP publications by Maria Fernandez Vidal, Fernando Barbon, Peter Bull, and Dean Caire.

The massive amount of data generated by digital financial services (DFS) customers in emerging markets can open up a world of possibilities for DFS providers, but only for those that know how to use data effectively and



responsibly. In three new technical guides, CGAP offers step-by-step guidance on how to use data analytics techniques to segment customers, reach larger numbers of customers in rural areas, and develop more reliable credit scores even in markets that lack credit bureaus.

Links to the publications  
[Credit Scoring in Financial Inclusion](#)  
[Using Satellite Data in Financial Inclusion](#)  
[Data Driven Segmentation in Financial Inclusion](#)



## Harvesting Prosperity: Technology and Productivity Growth in Agriculture

New Publication by Keith Fuglie, Madhur Gautam, Aparajita Goyal, and William F. Maloney

This book documents frontier knowledge on the drivers of agriculture productivity to derive pragmatic policy advice for governments and development partners on reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity. The analysis describes global trends and long-term sources of total factor productivity growth, along with broad trends in partial factor productivity for land and labor, revisiting the question of scale economies in farming. Technology is central to growth in agricultural productivity, yet across many parts of the developing world, readily available technology is never taken up. | [Read more.](#)

## What Caught our Eye

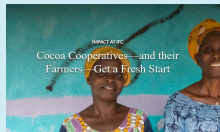


### Perpetual Debt in the Silicon Savannah

An article on the Boston Review by Kevin P. Donovan and Emma Park

Across conversations in Kenya's pubs and WhatsApp groups, debt is on everyone's mind. The speed and ease of access to credit through new mobile apps delivers cash to millions of Kenyans in need, but many struggle to repay. Despite their small size, the loans come with a big cost—sometimes as much as 100 percent annualized. As one Nairobiian told us, these apps "give you

money gently, and then they come for your neck." | [Read more.](#)



### IFC Stories of Impact: Cocoa Cooperatives—and their Farmers—Get a Fresh Start

By his own admission, Kouassi Yao Hervey's cocoa cooperative in Côte d'Ivoire used to be in total disarray. The division of labor was unclear, the cooperative's finances were opaque at best, and "everyone stepped on each other's toes," he recalls. That all started to change in 2016, when Hervey enrolled in the Cargill Coop Academy, an educational program for cocoa cooperative managers that attendees describe as a cross between a mini-MBA and an organizational boot camp. What followed—a transformation he likens to a "rebirth"—has allowed his cooperative's bean production to grow by more than 130 percent in just two years. "The Coop Academy compelled us to build a structure, which not only changed our lives, but also the lives of the farmers," says Hervey, who is chairman of his cooperative's Board of Directors. | [Read more.](#)

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