



Smallholder and
Agri-SME Finance and
Investment Network

SAFIN

ANNUAL PLENARY
MEETING 2023

30-31 OCTOBER | ROME, ITALY

**FROM SHARED
KNOWLEDGE TO
COLLECTIVE ACTION**

Objectives

- 1) To forge new and strengthen existing relationships among SAFIN members.
- 2) To reflect on the evolution of SAFIN and take stock of collective achievements to advance the smallholder and agri-SME finance agenda.
- 3) To deliberate and define the future direction of the network.
- 4) To identify and facilitate action-oriented initiatives informed by peer knowledge sharing and support.

Proposed program

Day 1: 30 October 2023

9:30 am	WELCOME COFFEE AND REGISTRATION
10:00 am	OPENING REMARKS The meeting will be officially opened by a representative of SAFIN's Secretariat, and the Chair of the SAFIN Steering Committee. Together, they will set the stage for a day of joint reflection. Lead <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prasun Kumar Das, Secretary General at the Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA) and Chair, SAFIN Steering Committee• Nadia Martinez, Senior Coordinator, SAFIN Secretariat
10:15 am	ICE BREAKER ACTIVITY: AROUND THE NETWORK IN 60 MINUTES This interactive session will encourage SAFIN members to learn more about each other by sharing their personal fun facts, interests and upcoming professional activities of interest to our members.

11:15 am	<p>STOCKTAKING: SAFIN 2.0 AND THE LEARNING AGENDA</p> <p>As the mid-way point of SAFIN 2.0 (2021-2025), this year's meeting offers a great opportunity for SAFIN members to reflect on the goals and activities of the network since 2021, particularly since it adopted a learning agenda of three main themes. During the session, participants will engage in a candid discussion on the value added by the SAFIN Network and its activities to date. This will inform the work and approach that the Secretariat and wider membership should focus on over the coming year.</p> <p>Lead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thouraya Triki, Director, Sustainable Production, Markets and Institutions Division, IFAD • Hernan Manson, Head Inclusive Agribusiness Systems, International Trade Centre • Liz Wilson, Deputy CEO, Small Foundation
12:15 pm	<p>STATE OF PLAY: TOWARDS A SEISMIC SHIFT IN THE AGRI-FINANCE ECOSYSTEM</p> <p>Advancing inclusive finance sustainably means tackling complex challenges and addressing systemic practices and structural norms. This session will help SAFIN members consider the state of the sector and work together to identify the key developments and innovations that are likely to drive future system-level changes, as well as the major challenges that can be anticipated.</p> <p>Lead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romy Calderón, Chief Economist, Asociación Latinoamericana de Instituciones Financieras para el Desarrollo, ALIDE - TBC • Nicholas Colloff, Executive Director, Argidius Foundation • Sanne Steemers, President Rest of Africa, AFEX
1:15 pm	<p>LUNCH AND NETWORKING BREAK</p>
2:45 pm	<p>MEMBER PITCH SESSION</p> <p>During this session, two SAFIN members will present short pitches about an initiative they are designing, launching or implementing for which they would like additional resources, inputs, or partners.</p> <p>Format: 5-minute pitches with one slide + feedback session</p>
3: 00pm	<p>CLIMATE FINANCE FOR AGRICULTURE</p> <p>During this session, SAFIN members will ideate potential solutions for scaling finance for climate adaptation targeting agri-SMEs and the role of performance</p>

	<p>and impact measurement. Specifically, we will explore the tools and expertise required to enact quality assessment, how these are funded and by whom. We will also discuss how this information can best be used, both to develop incentives mechanisms for recipients, and to leverage additional sources of funding for the sector.</p> <p>Lead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amanda Fernandez, Executive Director/Chief of Party of CATALYZE, Palladium • Hans Muzoora, Agriculture Finance Advisor, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) • Lany Rebagay, Policy Advocacy Officer, Asia Farmers Association for Sustainable Development (AFA)
4:00 pm	WELLNESS AND NETWORKING BREAK
4:30 pm	<p>MEMBER PITCH SESSION</p> <p>During this session, two SAFIN members will present short pitches about an initiative they are designing, launching or implementing for which they would like additional resources, inputs, or partners.</p> <p>Format: 5-minute pitches with one slide + feedback session</p>
4:45 pm	<p>2023: A YEAR IN REVIEW</p> <p>During 2023, SAFIN leveraged the momentum gained from new joint research initiatives, communication activities and engagement in global forums. The network also experienced a change in leadership of both its Chair and Senior Coordinator in Q2. This session will take stock of the network's work this year and Invite feedback from the membership.</p> <p>Lead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAFIN Secretariat
5:00 pm	<p>WRAP UP AND CLOSING REMARKS (15 min.)</p> <p>A member of the SAFIN Steering Committee will close the discussions with a summary of the key lessons from learning sessions on Day 1.</p> <p>Lead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Mude, Lead Agri-SME Development and Financing, African Development Bank (AfDB) - TBC
6:00 pm	NETWORKING COCKTAIL

Day 2: 31 October 2023

8:30 am	WELCOME COFFEE
9:00 am	<p>OPENING REMARKS</p> <p>Set the stage for Day 2 discussion with a brief recap of Day 1 highlights.</p> <p>Lead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hernan Manson, Head Inclusive Agribusiness Systems, International Trade Centre
9:15 am	<p>PARALLEL SESSION: AGRISME FINANCE IN MULTIPLE CRISES: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA</p> <p>At the start of the war in Ukraine, SAFIN came together to better understand its impact on agri-SMEs and their investors. Recognizing that this was only the latest of a series of crises to rack the sector, we collaborated with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to perform a deeper study into their impact for both parties. This session will serve to present some of the key findings of the resulting report. It will also be an opportunity to discuss collaborative action to be taken by network members to address these findings and build resiliency to future shocks.</p> <p>Leads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atisha Kumar, Economist, Investment Centre, FAO Mumbi Maina, Agribusiness Deal Room Lead, AGRA Hayden Aldredge, Manager, ISF Advisors
9:15 am	<p>PARALLEL SESSION: IDEA MINING: PEER-DESIGNED NETWORK VENTURES</p> <p>Building on the SAFIN Investment Prospectus and Design Clinics, this session will serve to introduce the “Peer Design Venture” (PDV) framework. The PDV offers a step-by-step process to operationalize findings and recommendations originating from SAFIN’s knowledge agenda. Following a brief presentation of the framework, members will actively participate in design-clinic to explore potential PDV prospects.</p> <p>Lead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frank Rubio, Senior Investment Officer, IFAD
10:30 am	WELLNESS AND NETWORKING BREAK

11:00 am	<p>MEMBER PITCH SESSIONS</p> <p>During this session, three SAFIN members will present short pitches about an initiative they are designing, launching or implementing for which they would like additional resources, inputs, or partners.</p> <p>Format: 5-minute pitches with one slide + feedback session</p>
11:30 am	<p>NETWORK PRIORITIES FOR 2024/25</p> <p>Building on the reflections from the previous day on the state of agri-finance systems, SAFIN's thematic focus and the introduction of its Peer Design Ventures (PDVs) framework, this session will bring together a group of network leaders from the SAFIN membership to share thoughts and recommendations on the main themes and activities that the SAFIN community should be focusing on over the coming year.</p> <p>Lead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patricia Richter, Senior Technical Officer, Social Finance Programme, International Labour Organization (ILO)
12:30 pm	<p>MEMBER PITCH SESSIONS</p> <p>During this session, two SAFIN members will present short pitches about an initiative they are designing, launching or implementing for which they would like additional resources, inputs, or partners.</p> <p>Format: 5-minute pitches with one slide + feedback session</p>
12:45 pm	<p>WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS</p> <p>The Chair of the SAFIN Steering Committee and Secretariat will close the plenary meeting with a recap of the main discussions throughout the event and advise on next steps for the network.</p> <p>Lead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prasun Kumar Das, Secretary General at the Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA) and Chair, SAFIN Steering Committee Nadia Martinez, Senior Coordinator, SAFIN Secretariat
1:00 pm	LUNCH AND NETWORKING BREAK
2:30 pm	STEERING COMMITTEE RETREAT