

# *Future Prospects for Satellite Environmental Information in support of Development Aid Activities*

*European Consultation Workshop: ESA/ESRIN, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018*

## **Background & Context**

Many significant developments and changes are taking place in Satellite Earth Observation (EO) that are bringing this technology from scientific use, to a level where it can be used as an operational source of environmental information in a wide range of (non-specialist) domains. Here, a key step-forward is the EU Copernicus programme, with the Sentinel satellites now being launched and bringing long-term continuity of data to 2030 and beyond ([www.copernicus.eu](http://www.copernicus.eu)). In addition, political, public and scientific interest is growing in the use of EO to make better environmental decision-making in addressing the grand societal challenges that the world is increasingly facing (<https://www.earthobservations.org/index.php>).

Over the last decade, a number of initiatives have taken place to demonstrate the capabilities and use of EO in the field of development aid with varied stakeholders. Some recent examples include :

- the International Partnership Program (IPP) of the UK Space Agency (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/international-partnership-programme>)
- the Geodata for Agriculture & Water program of the Netherlands Space Office (<https://g4aw.spaceoffice.nl/>)
- and the Earth Observation for Sustainable Development (EO4SD) Program of ESA (<http://eo4sd.esa.int/>).

Through this initial work, the benefits that EO can bring to development aid domain are beginning to emerge (eg. increased efficiencies in existing operations, improved policy definition & planning of future activities, better transparency, responsibility and accountability through the use of open data).

## **A Longer-term Perspective**

These first experiences have raised awareness and interest in the development aid sector to explore further EO in a longer-term and in a more strategic approach. In this context, an initial workshop was held in ESA/ESRIN in January 2018 to explore **current status and experiences** with several EU national aid agencies and ministries (for further details on the participants and outcome, see <http://eo4sd.esa.int/>).

Building on this first event, it is now planned to hold a more extensive consultation with the EU development aid sector from across Europe, together with representatives from the national space agencies/government departments, the OECD and DG-DEVCO. This landmark consultation will take place **11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018** at ESA's centre for Earth Observation, ESRIN located in Frascati, Rome, (Italy) and will focus more on the **future actions & planning** required to grow the use of EO in the development aid sector.

# Final Agenda

## **Day 1 : Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

- 14:00 – 14:10 : Welcome to ESRIN
- 14:10 – 14:20 : Background & Context : Overview of experiences with International Financing Institutions projects/programs and the 2030 SD Agenda (ESA)
- 14:20 – 14:30 : Scope & Objectives of this Meeting (ESA)
- 14:30 – 15:30 : EO & Development Aid : Future perspectives from International stakeholders (*World Bank, Asian Development Bank, IFAD, OECD*)

### *Coffee/Tea Break*

- 16:00 – 17:15 : EO & Development Aid : Future perspectives from European stakeholders (*e.g. France, Germany, UK, Netherlands, Norway, DG-DEVCO*) *focus on future key priorities and plans.*
- 17:15 – 17:30 : Introduction to Day 2 (ESA)
- 17:30 – 18:30 : Visit to the  $\Phi$  Experience (*2 groups, each visit 30 mins.*)
- 18:00 – 19:30 : Networking Cocktail (*19:30, Bus to Frascati*)

## **Day 2 : Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September**

- 09:00 – 10:00 : ‘Space in support of International Development Aid – Space4IDA’ : outline Ideas for future activities to expand the use of satellite information in Development Aid (ESA)
- 10:00 – 11:00 : Open discussion continued on issues, challenges, opportunities, based on experiences to date; topics include : *focus on how to achieve long-term, sustainable use of satellite-based environmental information in Development Aid working practices & financing (ALL)*

### *Coffee/Tea Break*

- 11:30 – 12:30 : Open discussion on issues, challenges, opportunities, based on experiences to date; topics include : *focus on how to effectively carry out Knowledge & Skills transfer and Capacity-building in the use and production of satellite-based environmental information Aid Agencies & Client States (ALL).*
- 12:30 – 12:40 : Concluding Remarks & Next Steps (ESA)

### *End of Workshop*