

**The Knowledge and Learning eZine is a quarterly circulation to ILCUF staff and partners providing summary updates and news on ILCUF, as well as relevant research and developments from the sectors of microfinance and development. The eZine forms part of ILCUF's learning strategy, facilitating knowledge transfer and encouraging organisational learning.**

### **The 2016 Brookings Financial & Digital Inclusion Project Report**

The 2016 Brookings Financial and Digital Inclusion Project evaluates access to and usage of affordable financial services across 26 geographically, politically, and economically diverse countries, including ILCUF partner country Ethiopia. The 2016 report assesses these countries' financial inclusion ecosystems through a scoring system based on four dimensions of financial inclusion: country commitment, mobile capacity, regulatory environment, and adoption of selected traditional and digital financial services. Please click [here](#) to read the report.

### **Connecting the Credit Union World through the WOCCU App**

Credit union professionals around the world will be able to connect with each other for free via their mobile devices. Credit union professionals can create a profile; as well as connect their Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn pages. They then earn points by sharing articles, pictures, and comments. Additionally, they can follow their peers and send messages to each other directly through the through the WOCCU app. Find out more [here](#).



### **Guide to the Use of Digital Financial Services in Agriculture**

USAID's Guide to the Use of Digital Finance in Agriculture aims to provide a quick and easy-to-use tool to understand how digital financial services can help address some of the

challenges that smallholder farmers are experiencing today - mainly, lack of access to financial services and convenient payment systems. The guide identifies specific challenges in value chains that can be addressed by improved payments or financial services, and identifies corresponding solutions to these specific challenges, with the aim of improving the ability of value chains to increase farmer incomes. Please click [here](#) to read the guide.

### **ILCUF Staff Attend WOCCU Conference in Belfast**

ILCUF General Manager Alan Moore and Communications and Fundraising Officer James Gallagher attended the WOCCU Conference in July. This event provided ILCUF with a unique opportunity to convene with over 1,500 credit union leaders and institutional donors from 55 countries. The Conference allowed ILCUF staff to share experiences and discuss key opportunities and challenges facing the international credit union sector, including youth and product development, technology and

cybercrime. Furthermore, it allowed ILCUF to raise the profile of the Foundation by meeting numerous Irish credit union leaders.

### **Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Financial Inclusion**

While the SDGs do not explicitly target financial inclusion, greater access to financial services is a key enabler for many of them. By reviewing the research on the link between financial inclusion and development, this paper shows where and how financial services and ILCUF's work can help achieve the SDGs. Please click [here](#) to read the report.



**If you have suggestions for the next Knowledge & Learning eZine, to be issued in November 2016, please contact Gilly at [gosullivan@creditunion.ie](mailto:gosullivan@creditunion.ie)**