

DPRN PHASE II

PROGRESS REPORT 2008

CONTENTS

ACRONYMS-----	4
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN -----	5
I INTRODUCTION -----	6
II CONTEXT-----	6
II.1 Institutional setting -----	6
II.2 Policy environment -----	7
II.3 Problem analysis -----	8
III CONTENT -----	8
III.1 Activities -----	8
a. DPRN–instigated process-----	8
b. Facilitated processes -----	9
c. Global–Connections.nl web portal -----	16
d. Search4dev -----	17
e. Participation in the Worldconnectors initiative -----	17
f. Support for The Broker-----	18
g. Action to save Vice Versa -----	19
III.2 Results-----	19
III.3 Objectives -----	20
III.4 Feasibility and sustainability -----	20
III.5 Relevance-----	21
IV ORGANISATION -----	21
IV.1 Organisational characteristics -----	21
IV.2 Finances -----	21
IV.3 Administration and monitoring-----	22
Appendix 1 – DPRN target groups -----	23
Appendix 2 – Overview of facilitated processes and implementing organisations -----	24
Appendix 3 – Agenda of DPRN meetings 2008 -----	29
Appendix 4 – Participants in the DPRN meetings and their distribution over the various professional categories (2008) -----	30
Appendix 5 – Expenditure in the period 1 January 2008 – 31 December 2008 -----	31

ACRONYMS

AMIDST	Amsterdam Institute for Metropolitan and International Development Studies of the University of Amsterdam
ASC	African Studies Centre / Afrika-Studiecentrum (Leiden)
BDS	Business Development Services
CERES	Research School for Resource Studies for Development
CIDIN	Centre for International Development Issues Nijmegen
DC/IC	Development cooperation / International cooperation
DCO/OC	DGIS' Cultural Cooperation, Education and Research Department
DGIS	Directorate General for International Cooperation
DPRN	Development Policy Review Network
GM soy	Genetically modified soy
IDP	Foundation for International Development Publications (publisher of The Broker)
ICCO	Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation
ISS	Institute of Social Studies (The Hague)
KIT	Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen / Royal Tropical Institute (Amsterdam)
KNAW	Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences
MFI	Micro Financing Institutions
WOTRO	Foundation for the Advancement of Tropical Research (The Hague)

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The year 2008 marked the start of DPRN's second cycle (2008–2010). Upon the successful completion of the first cycle it was time for something different. DPRN continued convening development experts from practice, policy, the corporate sector and academia. However, rather than inviting scientific institutions to organise regional expert meetings – as we did from 2005–2007 – we made a call for proposals open to all organisations in DPRN's target groups. Some 30 proposals were submitted as joint efforts, with at least two organisations from different sectors participating in each proposal. DPRN also stressed the need for policymakers to participate more actively in these processes in order to stimulate policy review and informed debate. Eventually six proposals were selected based on their relevance to policy and practice and the active participation of DPRN target groups in the implementation of the plans. The DPRN Task Force chose to initiate a process touching on a vital development theme: the architecture of Dutch development and international cooperation.

The DPRN is very satisfied with the initial results. More than ever before, DPRN processes have become joint efforts of staff of MFOs/NGOs and scientists, with active involvement on the part of policymakers and entrepreneurs. The role of the corporate sector is particularly clear in the GM soy and Microfinance debates and is also expected to be significant in the process on Value chain governance. Participation by private sector representatives in DPRN meetings rose from almost 0% in the first phase to 18% in meetings organised in 2008. DPRN support for the 'Understanding development better' conference aimed to stimulate reflection on theories, models and approaches. The gender mainstreaming process is expected to have a strong policy impact. While DPRN struggled to find an effective format to debate the strategic and structural issues of Dutch development/international cooperation, the Task Force is grateful for the support for its endeavours from Minister Koenders and his senior staff. This commitment will surely enhance and increase the participation by policymakers in the upcoming process and intensive debate.

The DPRN mission to stimulate synergy between experts from the different sectors was boosted by our interactive web portal which attracted some 2,500 unique visitors in 2008. Together they consulted a Global-Connections web page – with information about ongoing DPRN processes – 23,000 times. The initiative to develop an online library (repository) for publications of development organisations, Search4Dev, was enthusiastically received throughout the sector. As a result, the DPRN Task Force feels that it is on track as regards the implementation of its strategic plan for the period 2008–2010. We hope for an even larger outreach in 2009 when the 'architecture debate' starts in earnest.

Dr Jan Donner
Chairman of the DPRN Task Force

I INTRODUCTION

The Cultural Cooperation, Education and Research Department (DCO/OC) of the Directorate General for International Cooperation (DGIS) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs granted a subsidy to the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN; see www.DPRN.nl) through WOTRO Science for Development (Subsidy No. W 02.22.010.00 valid from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2010). DPRN was set up as a network and platform for development experts by the Research School for Resource Studies for Development (CERES) in 2003 with its mission being to stimulate the informed debate and discussion of issues related to the formulation and implementation of development policies, in particular those related to Dutch policies and aid organisations. The DPRN promotes information exchange and dialogue between scientists, policymakers and development practitioners in the Netherlands and Belgium. It does so by creating opportunities for different kinds of experts in development and international cooperation to meet and discuss and by increasing their visibility. In doing so, DPRN eventually hopes to enhance cooperation and achieve greater synergy between the activities carried out in the various sectors.

The subsidy granted by WOTRO Science for Development/DGIS–DCO/OC allowed DPRN to carry out the following activities in 2008:

- Prepare a debate on the organisation and architecture of Dutch Development Cooperation / International Cooperation (DC/IC);
- Facilitate five processes on various themes, including Understanding Development Better, Microfinancing and Business Development Services, Genetically Modified (GM) Soy, Value Chain Governance and Gender Mainstreaming;
- Participate in the Worldconnectors initiative;
- Support The Broker;
- Increase the interactivity of the web portal for development expertise in the Netherlands (<http://www.global-connections.nl>);
- Set up an online library for digital publications from Dutch development organisations (<http://www.Search4Dev.nl>).

This document reports on the activities and results achieved in 2008. More detailed information on the context, content and organisation can be found in the Strategic Plan 2008–2010 which is available on the DPRN website (under Publications).

II CONTEXT

II.1 Institutional setting

DPRN was initiated and in its first phase hosted by the Netherlands Research School for Resource Studies for Development (CERES), but it is not an official part of that organisation. The following arrangements were in place in 2008:

- CERES functioned as a ‘gateway’ to a significant section of the Dutch development-oriented research community, through its members and associated organisations and research schools. In addition, CERES actively supported DPRN through participation in the DPRN Task Force.

- The Amsterdam research institute for Metropolitan and International Development Studies (AMIDSt), as part of CERES, is the contract partner for WOTRO as host to the DPRN Coordination Unit. In 2008, the DPRN Coordination Unit consisted of (a) the DPRN coordinator, Dr Mirjam A.F. Ros-Tonen (0.4 fte), (b) programme assistant Ms Kim de Vries (0.6 fte from September onwards), (c) webmaster of the DPRN website and provider of ICT support for the Global-Connections, Mr Joska Landré (0.5 fte and 0,8 fte during the period October-December), (d) DPRN representative in the Worldconnectors Support Team, Mr Koen Kusters, (0.2 fte), and (e) AMIDSt Secretaries Ms Puikang Chan (January and February) and Ms Marianne van Heelsbergen (from 1 March onwards), who provided administrative support (0.2 fte). Furthermore, the AMIDSt Project Bureau was responsible for financial management, together with the coordinator. The staff were jointly responsible for monitoring the DPRN processes, as well as their follow-up, and for providing administrative support and ICT services.
- The DPRN Task Force, based on a broad representation of scientific, policy and development organisations, consisted in 2008 of:
 - Dr Jan Donner, President Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) (Chairman);
 - Dr Paul Hoebink, Professor at the Centre for International Development Studies (CIDIN) (Convener);
 - Prof. Dr Ton Dietz, AMIDSt Director;
 - Ms Lolita van Toledo, Policy advisor CERES;
 - Dr Paul Engel, Director of the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM);
 - Ms Dienneke de Groot, Research and Evaluation Coordinator at the Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO);
 - Mr Martin de Graaf, Consultant, BMB Mott MacDonald (January-August) and Mr Pieter van Stijvenberg (from September onwards), BMB Mott MacDonald Director;
 - Mr Eric Korsten, Senior Strategist at the Netherlands Development Organisation SNV;
 - Mr Jan Gruiters, Director IKV Pax Christi Nederland;
 - Dr Bram van Ojik (January-March) and Prof. Dr Rob Visser (from April onwards), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (observers);
 - Dr Henk Molenaar, NWO/WOTRO Director (observer).

The Task Force, which is responsible for the administrative organisation and internal control of DPRN met nine times during the period under review: in January, March, April, May, July, September (twice), November and December 2008. Its main activities included proposal assessment (April and December rounds), monitoring progress of the awarded processes and the other DPRN activities, and initiating preparation activities for the process 'The organisation of Dutch development and international cooperation', for which DPRN is going to organise a meeting in 2009.

II.2 Policy environment

The institutional framework for 'learning about development and international relations' in the Netherlands consists of a large number and variety of institutions, with thousands of professionals attached. The target groups include the policy sector, academia and the 'practice' in the broadest sense of the word (including the corporate sector) as specified in Appendix 1.

II.3 Problem analysis

As outlined in the Strategic Plan 2008–2010, during its first phase DPRN had created a mechanism through which development experts from different sectors could meet on a regular basis. It was acknowledged, however, that unique events were insufficient to bring about structural cooperation. In its current phase (2008–2010), DPRN therefore intends to move beyond ‘meeting each other’ by setting the stage for exploring common ground and opportunities for multi-sector agenda setting and cooperation. The activities are to focus more on reflecting policies and particular attention is to be paid to involving specific target groups (e.g. business sector, policymakers, and scientists from medical, technical and applied sciences).

III CONTENT

III.1 Activities

a. DPRN-instigated process

Early in 2008, DPRN started a two-year process entitled ‘The organisation and architecture of Dutch development and international cooperation (DC/IC)’. The process includes a debate on how to surpass the fragmented structure of Dutch DC/IC. A view shared by the DPRN Task Force is that Dutch DC/IC could be more effective if based on a clear and comprehensive strategy, infrastructure and policy instruments, which are thought to be currently deficient. The process should lead to ‘a programme of requirements’ as regards the long-term goals, objectives and way of organising Dutch DC/IC, which will inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about possible policy formulations and implementation strategies.

The process was initiated by the chairman of the DPRN Task Force who wrote an internal note¹ that outlined the fragmented structure of Dutch DC. In the note, the chairman argues that the Netherlands’ government invests a lot of time, interest, money, policy and energy in DC, but that the impact of these efforts is rather limited. The sector’s diversity, lack of coordination, weak policies, a suboptimal government apparatus, and limited continuity in political, policy and managerial terms eventually resulted in fragmentation.

The internal note generated a debate within the DPRN Task Force that further elaborated on the basic idea that was expressed in the paper: DC/IC is currently ineffective because of a fragmented structure and could be more effective if based on a clear and comprehensive strategy (*structure follows strategy*). Four fundamental questions were raised:

1. Why is the Netherlands involved in development/international cooperation, what is understood by ‘development’ and what is the intended result? (policy vision);
2. How can we achieve this? (strategy);
3. What infrastructure (multilateral, bilateral and civilateral) is needed to achieve the goals and what requirements have to be in place? (structure);
4. What is needed to effectuate the change from the existing to the desired infrastructure?

¹ Entitled: ‘Organisatie en structuur van de Nederlandse Ontwikkelingssamenwerking’.

These questions formed the start of a series of interviews with DPRN Task Force members and a few external key players in October and November 2008. The interviews provided rich material for an issue paper² that was written at the end of 2008 and which forms the leading document for the next stage of the process.

The issue paper argues that in order to come to constructive conclusions about the future architecture of Dutch DC/IC, several themes need to be addressed in the debate. These include embedding development cooperation in the international context (hence DC/IC), the objectives and strategies of DC/IC (including issues of specialisation, harmonisation and ownership), the role of multilateral, bilateral, and civilateral organisations, and the role of knowledge and science and the corporate sector.

Whereas the first year was dedicated to gathering opinions and fine-tuning thoughts 'internally', the process will continue 'externally' in the second year. Four 'concurrent' discussion groups, each formed in accordance with the DPRN formula (four times four participants from the policy, practice, academic and private sectors) are going to be formed with a view to formulating 12 statements each on the concerns described in the issue paper. During this discussion phase, information will be placed on the website (<http://structurefollowsstrategy.dprn.nl>) that has been created for the process. The findings of each group will provide input for a public meeting to be held on 12 May 2009. The statements, as well as the outcome of the discussions at the meeting, will result in the final output: a 'Programme of requirements of the organisation of Dutch DC/IC', which is to inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

b. Facilitated processes

In order to achieve informed debate, policy review, common agenda setting and inter-sectoral cooperation, DPRN meetings in the second phase (2008–2010) are to be embedded in a process that is targeted at bringing together the various sectors and at identifying opportunities for cooperation (see DPRN Strategic Plan 2008–2010 for more details). In the second phase (2008–2010), DPRN will facilitate 5–6 processes per year.³ These processes should correlate with the DPRN mission and objectives and therefore be aimed at stimulating a continuous exchange of information and experiences amongst researchers, policymakers, staff of development organisations, and business people. The involvement of relevant partners from different sectors in the preparation and implementation of the proposed activities is a prerequisite. The process should furthermore be relevant for policy and practice. Reviewing existing (thematic or regional) policies and the active involvement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are therefore essential elements of the process. The proposed activities and outputs have to be suitable for (i) initiating an in-depth debate about various insights between the different sectors; (ii) discussing common agenda setting; and (iii) identifying opportunities for synergetic cooperation. Finally, the processes should be outcome-oriented, with a view to offering perspectives for follow-up and continued networking and cooperation.

² Entitled: 'De toekomst van de Nederlandse ontwikkelingssamenwerking'

Online at: <http://process.gcdev.nl/drupal/sites/process.gcdev.nl/files/pub/library/de-toekomst-van-de-nederlandse-ontwikkelingssamenwerking.pdf>

³ The envisaged number of processes was five per year, but this could be increased by two in 2009 and one in 2010 thanks to an additional subsidy granted early in 2009 that allowed DPRN to spend money left over from the first phase.

The yearly call for proposals is open to *all* organisations that belong to the DPRN target groups, provided that the proposal is submitted by at least two parties representing different sectors. The proposals may relate to a one-year or multi-annual process. In order to ensure flexibility and topicality, a maximum of 60 percent of the available resources is reserved for one-year processes. Preferably, the processes include: (a) the preparation and prior dissemination of position papers about the theme to be addressed using relevant sources; (b) the facilitation of online information exchange before and after a meeting, and/or the joint writing of position papers or research proposals; (c) drawing up of a list of ‘must-read’ literature (including policy documents) relating to the region and/or theme to be addressed in order to facilitate an informed debate, and; (d) providing overviews of relevant policy documents, processes, development interventions and ongoing research related to the theme or region that is the subject of the meeting on the basis of which lacunas and complementarities in expertise, hence opportunities for collaboration, are identified.

Following the call for proposals early in 2008, DPRN received 29 applications⁴. The DPRN Task Force awarded the following five processes⁵ that started as of June 2008:

1) Learning to understand development better

This one-year process, organised by the Management for Development Foundation (MDF), Vice Versa and the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), was set up with a view to getting the issue of development theories and models back onto the Dutch debate agenda, as it was felt that discussions regarding the fundamental drivers of development had been fading into the background since the 1970s. The underlying thought was that the present aid architecture might lack the much-needed solid theoretical framework with regard to development theories, models and approaches. In order to enhance aid effectiveness of development interventions instigated by Dutch organisations there is need for enhanced insights into the complexity of development processes and mechanisms.

In order to discuss these matters, a conference was organised on 27–29 August 2008, which brought together 96 players in the field of development cooperation (see Appendix 4 for a distribution of the participants over the various sectors). Registration and information was managed via the process website (www.e-mdf.nl/seminars) that was launched a month before the conference and for which about 100 users registered. During the conference, which included speeches, workshops, an excursion, and exchange of personal impressions, the first day was dedicated to discussing development theories. Practical hindrances to development were addressed on the second day, and the third day was set aside for participants to reflect on the conditions under which aid could enhance development.

The website facilitated exchange possibilities before (with a log-in) and after (without a log-in) the conference, in order to make sure that the conference would not be a stand-alone event. To that end, the position papers and statements (‘challengers’) of the invited speakers were placed on the website after the conference. Furthermore, Communities of Practice had been set up in

⁴ Two of which had to be withdrawn because they did not meet the basic application criteria.

⁵ More information about the agencies organising the processes can be found in Appendix 2. The processes that were awarded in the second application round (December 2008), start as of January 2009 and will therefore be discussed in the DPRN progress report 2009.

advance of the conference with a view to creating a forum for exchange of opinions on the topics to be discussed.

The conference met the objective of stimulating informed debate and discussion among the various sectors, although it must be said that the private sector (represented only by consultants) and the policy sector were underrepresented. The main result of the conference was that the issue of development theories was put back on the debate agenda and that awareness was raised about the idea that effective development assistance is not genuinely possible without an understanding of the development process.

During the conference, participants had the tendency to talk about 'development cooperation' instead of 'development', as a result of which the facilitators of the plenary sessions and workshops sometimes had to push the debate back to the core issues (development). It had to be made clear that development assistance should be understood as something that is intended to address the bottlenecks of development processes in the most effective way. Furthermore, discussions did not easily focus on development processes and the factors that would initiate, stimulate or slow down these processes, as participants and speakers would often emphasise the normative aspects of the effects of development processes. Perhaps this means that there is a need to upgrade the level of intellectual debate and conceptual thinking in the sector.

An important conclusion was that there is no single comprehensive theoretical model for development. Rather, there are different theoretical insights originating from different academic stances, which are largely complementary to each other but also contradictory on some issues. Even though some have the hope that complexity theory can provide the overarching theoretical framework through which we are able to analyse development more accurately, others are sceptical about it, mainly because complexity theory is still in its infancy.

As far as the outputs and outcomes are concerned, the idea was that the discussion would proceed on the online forum after the conference. Even though a lot of people downloaded reports from the website immediately after the conference, the number of participants in the online-forum was restricted to two. However, the process has raised awareness and the organisers will continue the debate on development theories in close cooperation with the Directorate General for International Cooperation in a new process to be started in 2009.

2) Stimulating business development: another side of microfinance?

During this one-year process, organised by Triodos Facet and Hogeschool InHolland, three consecutive and interlinked seminars address the role that Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) can play in improving the access of entrepreneurs to non-financial services. MFIs have achieved tremendous results, unprecedented in development cooperation, and have improved the lives of many poor people. However, for small enterprises to grow and flourish they need entrepreneurial competencies and access to markets. The question is therefore raised as to whether MFIs, with their extensive outreach, can play an even more important role by being vehicles for integrated business development and act as facilitators of sustainable economic development.

The first seminar, which took place on 5 November 2008 and was attended by 62 people, was explorative by nature and discussed 'Microfinance and Business Development Services (BDS) in developing countries'. The programme consisted of an interview with a sector specialist from

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, small table group discussions based on the 'World Café method', an expert panel discussion, and a keynote speech by an international expert. Prior to the seminar, a website (<http://microfinance.global-connections.nl/>) was made available through the Global-Connections web portal. Before the seminar, a substantial number of background articles were placed on the website to put participants on a par with the current line of academic thinking in the field. Furthermore, the website provided an opportunity to continue the discussion via the interactive World Café.

As expected, the first seminar has not led to clear-cut unambiguous answers. Instead, differing views were expressed. Importantly, the interview with the sector specialist clarified the position of the ministry, namely that allowing poor people access to finance will eventually reduce poverty, but sustainable economic growth requires access to knowledge and skills too. In the round table discussions, participants shared thoughts on how to define the clients of MFIs, the needs of entrepreneurs and the role that MFIs play in providing BDS. As far as the latter is concerned, even though a lot of participants thought that the two activities should be separated, various linking possibilities were mentioned. The panel discussion and the keynote speech voiced more opinions on whether MFIs should provide BDS. While some institutions had to stick to their core competence, others made a case for linking micro financing and business development services. An important aspect was that BDS should be demand-driven, managed in a sustainable manner, and diversified beyond management training.

Even though the topic was broad in outlook, the seminar was positively evaluated by the participants especially because of the interactive setting of the World Café, the participation of people representing different sectors and the quick posting of seminar materials on the seminar website. Concerning the target groups that are usually more difficult to reach, it is interesting to note that the private sector was very well represented. The level of participation in the web-based discussion is still low and hopefully this will increase as the process continues. During this first seminar, participants were given the opportunity to network, and were briefed on the latest developments in linking financial and non-financial services. During the second and third seminar, the relations between the various sectors are to be developed in more detail.

3) Risks and benefits for sustainability and livelihoods of genetically modified soy in Latin America

This one-year process, initiated and co-financed by Solidarid and WWF-NL and implemented by AidEnvironment and Plant Research International of Wageningen International University and Research Centre (WUR), intends to facilitate a new start to policy discussions with regard to genetically modified (GM) soy by developing a common knowledge basis that responds to key stakeholder concerns. GM soy production has expanded fast during the past decade, triggered by the world's increasing demand for vegetable proteins and more recently bio-fuels. The controversy surrounding GM soy has led to radical position taking and little constructive dialogue between proponents and opponents of GM soy. This process, in which the opposing groups are to meet, is expected to result in a series of practical and feasible recommendations that can be used either within voluntary standard processes or by policymakers working at national or international level.

A Steering Committee was installed for this process, consisting of representatives of the four DPRN target groups from the Netherlands as well as from the South. This Steering Committee held three teleconferences to discuss the setup and progress of the process.

A public conference was organised on 9 December 2008 to discuss progress of a research project, carried out by Plant Research International in cooperation with the University of Buenos Aires and the Brazilian parastatal company for agronomic research, EMBRAPA.⁶ The research project aims to clarify and validate stakeholders' claims regarding the risks and opportunities of GM soy. The controversial nature of the debate was clear from the outset, as some organisations used this conference as an opportunity to campaign against the production of GM soy. According to them, GM soy could never be produced in a sustainable way and this conference would merely be an act of 'greenwashing' so as to legitimate the production of GM soy. Rather, the conference was meant for dialogue and even though some opposing participating organisations jointly distanced themselves from the research and the conference and declared that they did not want to be recognised as official stakeholders in the GM soy debate, they still took part in the discussions.

The GM soy debate focuses on the agronomic comparison between GM and regular soy in terms of yields, weeds, herbicide use, soil degradation and pest control, biodiversity, etc. Speeches and a plenary discussion were followed by two working sessions. One session was concerned with the way poverty impacts of GM soy were dealt with in the research, and a focused discussion resulted in several research questions that were posed by the four sectors present. In the other session, the environmental impacts of GM soy were discussed and this led to a heated debate during which various visions of sustainability were expressed. Those who saw sustainability as a process thought that farmers could improve their environmental performance for which certain measures could be defined. For others who saw sustainability as the ultimate goal, GM soy would not be acceptable by definition.

The conference, which was attended by about 60 people, was an important step forward in the sense that opposing parties were brought together and were prepared to listen to each other's arguments. Insofar as a consensus could be reached, the participants came to the conclusion that the scope of the research should be widened, at least to the level of including socio-economic impacts of GM soy production, implying that subjects such as food safety and ethics should also be included in the future. Furthermore, the observation was made that technologies are not neutral and have built-in social-technical codes and that the word 'sustainable' should be avoided in relation to GM soy. It would be more appropriate to discuss directly the relevant socio-economic and environmental impacts.

As a result of the conference, the research and the scope of discussion are to be adjusted for the following stage of the process. The speakers' papers and conference outcomes are available on the website (<http://gmsoydebate.global-connections.nl/>) that was created at the Global-Connections web portal and are going to be sent to the 79 people who registered for this process at the GM soy website. Even though a large number of people (1,237) visited the website, no discussions ensued on the online-forum. The observations made during the conference are going to be taken into account in the research. A second teleconference of the

⁶ A teleconference between the Latin American research institutes and the process organisers in early December provided further input for the conference.

GM Soy Debate Steering Committee is going to take place before the research results will be published in 2009.

4) Value chain governance and endogenous growth: how can NGOs, firms and government achieve social inclusion and poverty reduction?

This two-year process, organised by the Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Wageningen University and Research Center (WUR) and supported by several other organisations, aims to systematise knowledge about the effectiveness and efficiency of value chain governance and endogenous growth, and contribute to the development of intervention theories and its evaluation. Value chains receive a lot of attention from various economic actors and for several reasons. The private sector, CSOs and co-financing agencies, and the government are respectively interested in value chain governance in order to safeguard the supply and quality of key inputs, stress social responsibility issues, or to fill the gap between general macro policy and interventions at micro level. The question has arisen as to how these various actors can enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of their interventions by exchanging their policies and experiences and come to greater mutual fine tuning and alignment.

The process consists of five events scheduled over a period of two years and which are preceded by an Orientation Meeting. The events in question are a Researcher's Write Workshop, three 'bilateral' dialogues between researchers and the actors from business, civil society and government, and a concluding multi-actor synthesising conference.

On 25 November 2008 the Orientation Meeting took place in the form of a dinner meeting during which the organisers introduced the process. Discussions with 45 participants set the directions for the next phases of the process. The introduction was followed by a presentation about the current state of value chain interventions based on an internet search of some 100 cases. This presentation showed, among other things, that most interventions were concerned getting the basics right of value chain operational aspects (quality systems, technologies, organisation, etc.) and that much less attention has been given so far to the broader issues of value chain governance and support systems that would facilitate small producer inclusion and more endogenous development. In a way this shows that the project can potentially fill a gap. The final presentation discussed an inventory of the research on value chains carried out in the Netherlands. The most interesting aspect of the latter is that senior researchers come from a wide range of disciplines and tend to be more eclectic drawing on various theoretical fields, while junior researchers tend to be more mono-theoretical.

An important conclusion of the meeting and a central starting point for the process is that connecting different actors and their distinct analytical frameworks and intervention theories may be one of the stepping stones towards achieving coherency in the field of VC governance and endogenous growth. The meeting stressed that it is important that these exchanges do not exclude actors from the South. The process is going to continue in the guise of the Researcher's Write Workshop to be organised in the first half of 2009. The website (<http://value-chains.global-connections.nl/>) already contains a large number of published and unpublished materials (with restricted access for reasons of copyright) and is also going to be further for information updates and online-discussions.

5) Gender mainstreaming trajectory

This three-year process, organised by the Centre for International Development Issues Nijmegen (CIDIN), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hivos and Oxfam-Novib, aims to reflect critically on experiences with, and insights into, gender mainstreaming. It seeks to bring together policymakers, practitioners, researchers, consultants and women's activists in dialogue in order to create new synergies. Over the years, most governments and actors in development cooperation have emphasised gender mainstreaming at the expense of support for specific policy, programmes and resources for women's empowerment. Gender policies, and in particular gender mainstreaming, have been vulnerable to 'evaporation' when translated into actual implementation. The organisers therefore feel there is a need for an overall comprehensive and systematic analysis – with multiple stakeholders – on the possible causes and solutions for this limited success.

The process covers three stages in three years. The first stage (2008) is devoted to 'Taking Stock', whereby a review is made of what has been done on gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the Ministry for Development Cooperation, Dutch NGOs and universities so far. It seeks to learn what policies and strategies are being pursued, and what can be learnt from evaluations that have taken place so far. An additional aim is to sketch the international context of gender mainstreaming by taking a close look at the recent review process of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. These issues are going to be elaborated in several papers.

Following a call for papers in late 2008, five out of nine paper proposals were selected. The papers emphasise different dimensions of institutional practices. While some papers cover issues related to thinking about interpretations of gender, empowerment and gender mainstreaming, others focus more on mapping practices, policies and strategies of different actors. Abstracts of the papers are placed on the website (<http://www.ontrackwithgender.nl/>) that was created on the Global-Connections web portal.

The next step in the process is the actual writing of the papers. They are going to be prepared in a participatory process which allows for the exchange of experiences and insights among gender experts in Dutch organisations and agencies in order to stimulate exchanges and dialogue and to create a mechanism for input and feedback. At the start of the writing process (January 2009), the authors are going to convene meetings with experts on the possible content and key questions and topics to be analysed in the paper. Three months later, a follow-up meeting between the authors and the experts is going to be organised to discuss the first drafts of the paper. During the writing process, authors and their advisors in the reading committees can exchange materials and versions of the papers through intranet facilities on the process website.

At the end of the first year (May 2009) one expert and one public meeting are going to be organised, for which preparations are currently being made. The papers are meant to serve as a guideline for the discussions. After these meetings, specific thematic policy fields will be subject to further scrutiny in stage two, with the objective being to strengthen analysis, deepen insight, and strengthen policy formulation and strategies for implementation. A 'Reversed Dialogue' with Southern institutes and experts on women's empowerment, gender equality and gender mainstreaming will be a key focus during the second year. Decisions on the exact policy domains on which the process is going to concentrate will be taken at the end of the first year

on the basis of the 'Taking Stock' exercise. At the end of the third stage, titled 'Back to the Future', the idea is to relate the insights on the policy domains to the 'taking stock' insights in order to further design strategies for future collaboration.

c. Global-Connections.nl web portal

In order to facilitate and support access to expertise and the exchange of information between policymakers, development practitioners and researchers, DPRN has, in close cooperation with the African Studies Centre (ASC), developed a web portal with a search facility to find development expertise in the Netherlands. In 2008 the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) (through its Library and Information Services) also joined the development of the web portal by taking care of its redevelopment into a more user-friendly and interactive Content Management System (CMS). A CMS facilitates the addition of content (news items, articles, etc.) by people without detailed ICT knowledge, makes it possible to monitor statistics (the number of visitors and how they used the web portal) and offers more opportunities for installing network-supporting modalities. When the transformation to the CMS was completed, KIT provided training for the ICT managers at DPRN and the ASC in the system's features.

Rather than expanding the number of experts in the database, ICT activities in 2008 focused primarily on addressing the issues put forward by the evaluation committee in 2007. This means that DPRN put a lot of effort into creating the conditions required to manage the web portal actively, into developing interactive modalities supportive to the network, and into improving technical management. The increase in the number of experts in the database and the links with their publications will again receive attention when the harmonisation between the newly developed CMS and the existing Application Programming Interface (API) with the database has been completed and the registration and search modules have been made more user-friendly.

Specific activities that have been carried out during the period under review with respect to the web portal include:

- Regular meetings with the ASC and KIT to discuss progress with regard to the web portal and the harmonisation of the front end (the website, managed as a CMS) and the back end (the API, managed in Leiden by the ASC). Established priorities and activities realised included (1) delivering and publishing technical documents on the API, (2) protecting the web service with SSL, as a result of which the IP restriction policy could be cancelled and the web portal could be made accessible to a larger number of users, (3) improving database protection, (4) making the web service accessible to external programmers in order to reduce dependency on the programmer at ASC, (5) improving the user-friendliness of the search interface.
- Website development for ongoing DPRN processes (with the exception of the conference website 'Understanding Development Better', which was developed and maintained by MDF). In addition to providing general information about the theme addressed and activities undertaken, particular attention was paid to the development of networking facilities such as online discussion forums, wiki-environments for joint paper writing, mailing lists, newsletters, blogs and digital libraries.
- Content management training for the organisations that arrange DPRN processes with a view to providing sufficient insight into the CMS for organisations to be able to maintain the websites themselves.

- The continued development by the ASC of the SOAP architecture⁷ which forms the basis of the Global-Connections publications database and which allows the harvesting of publication metadata from online repositories.
- The continued development by the ASC of the web services available at Connecting-Africa, which serves as a model for the web portals for the other regions (Connecting-Asia, Connecting-Oceania, Connecting-Europe, Connecting-Latin America).
- Regular meetings with KIT about Search4Dev, the repository for non-academic publications (policy documents, consultancy reports, etc.) which can be linked to Global-Connections.nl (see next section).

d. Search4Dev

Search4Dev is an online library for digital documents from Dutch organisations involved in international cooperation (<http://www.search4dev.nl/>). The website offers quick and easy access to these documents. Search4Dev was set up in 2008 by KIT Information & Library Services in collaboration with the Digital Production Centre of the University of Amsterdam. Search4Dev is accessible worldwide via the internet. This makes the publications of Dutch development organisations easy to find, for both a national and international audience. By using international standards and protocols, the publications can also easily be retrieved by search engines and other information services, such as Global-Connections. At this moment, nine organisations provide access to their publications on Search4Dev. These include Alternative View, the Bernard van Leer Foundation, the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan-Veterinary Programmes, ICCO, the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD), KIT, PSO-Capacity Building in Developing Countries, SNV-Netherlands Development Organisation, and Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO). The publications of five other organisations, namely DPRN, Euroconsult/BMB Mott MacDonald, SOMO - Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations, Oikos Foundation and the Knowledge Centre Religion and Development (KCRD) are currently being added to Search4Dev. Other organisations are actively being invited to submit their digital publications for inclusion.

e. Participation in the Worldconnectors initiative

DPRN is participating in the Worldconnectors initiative, which was set up in 2006 together with the National Commission for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO) and the Society for International Development (SID) (see <http://www.worldconnectors.nl>). The aim of Worldconnectors is to increase attention for international cooperation in the Dutch business, policy and science sectors, to engage in cross-sectoral dialogue about the big issues facing the global community today, and to propose alternative views and strategies. Members meet at least four times a year to discuss themes and develop a vision for further steps. The DPRN is taking part both in the Worldconnectors Project Group and the Worldconnectors Steering Group.

In 2008 the Worldconnectors organised the following activities:

- In February the Round Table of Worldconnectors (RTW) organised a kick-off meeting, which, amongst other things, was used to discuss progress made so far.⁸ In March the first thematic

⁷ SOAP means Simple Object Access Protocol and is a protocol to access and exchange data across internet. An easy-to-understand explication about this protocol can be found at http://searchwebservicestechtarget.com/searchWebServices/downloads/what_is_soap.swf.

RTW of 2008 was organised about ‘Sustainable Development and Climate Change’. The statement that was presented in May draws attention to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as to new types of initiatives that are instigated in reaction to climate change. Activities related to this theme were followed up in October when a Worldconnectors delegation had a constructive meeting with staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about this theme and the RTW, the Inter Press Service International Association (IPS) and Oxfam Novib, organised an event based on this theme. In November, the RTW, HIER climate campaign and the ‘Akkoord van Schokland’, organised a conference on the effects of climate change and adaptation for developing countries.

- The second RTW was about ‘Connection of Civilizations’ and took place in June. It brought to discussion the negative aspects of the discourse on the clash of civilizations. The statement, which was presented in September, deals with challenges and good practices in connecting people in Dutch society of differing cultures and religions. The Worldconnectors believe that emphasising connection of identities on local, national and transnational levels is a way forward towards harmonising diversity with unity. Hence the Worldconnectors aim to encourage creating space to ensure this connection in order to create a sense of belonging for all who have links with Dutch society. In response to an article by Frits Bolkestein on this theme, some young Worldconnectors published an article in De Volkskrant.
- In September SID and the RTW organised a ‘senate conference’ at the First Chamber about ‘New Scarcities and Power Shifts’, in response to the recent spike in food and oil prices. A draft statement about ‘Bioenergy and food security in developing countries’ was presented later that month. The Worldconnectors call for innovative, scientific and realistic approaches towards the production and use of bioenergy, while at the same time stressing the commitment to recognise food needs and the quality thereof.
- A think tank consisting of staff of the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) and a delegation of the Worldconnectors organised a meeting in November about migration from Eastern Europe.
- In December the RTW organised a meeting with members of the Earth Charter Initiative, in which Worldconnectors members also participated. The Earth Charter Initiative is a diverse, global network of people, organisations and institutions that participate in promoting and implementing the Earth Charter’s values and principles for a sustainable future. These principles form an important guideline for the activities of the Worldconnectors.
- Lastly, a RTW was organised about New scarcities in December that further elaborated on the biofuel discussion that was initiated in September.

f. Support for The Broker

DPRN is taking part in the Foundation for International Development Publications (IDP), publisher of The Broker, and in its Editorial Committee. The Broker is a bi-monthly magazine which aims to contribute to evidence-based policymaking by encouraging exchanges between knowledge producers and development professionals (see <http://www.thebrokeronline.eu>). Major topics addressed in 2008 included the evaluation of the Dutch Africa policy, complexity thinking, the role of the EU in international development thinking, fragile states, the Civic Driven Change initiative, and natural resources and violent conflicts.

⁸ This event was also used to launch the book ‘Van Natuurlandschap tot Risicomaatschappij’, edited by Ton Dietz, Frank den Hertog and Herman van der Wusten.

g. Action to save Vice Versa

Recognising the importance of *Vice Versa* for the field of development cooperation, DPRN continued action when it perceived that its continued existence was threatened. An email was sent out via the DPRN mailing list and its content was placed on the DPRN website asking people to convert their free subscription into a paid one. This resulted in hundreds of new subscriptions to the journal, strengthening its basis sufficiently for MDF to take over its publication.

III.2 Results

The expected results for 2008, as mentioned in the Strategic Plan 2008–2010, were the following:

1. Organisation of one (1) and facilitating five (5) meetings/processes per year that aim to bring together development experts from different sectors on policy-relevant themes (whether regionally focused or not).

Results: The DPRN Task Force and Coordination Unit started preparations for the debate on the organisation and architecture of Dutch DC/IC by writing an internal memorandum and an issue paper based on interviews with DPRN Task Force members and a few external key players. Two calls for proposals were organised in April and December respectively. This resulted in the selection of five processes that started in 2008 and which are to be facilitated by DPRN, although they are to be arranged by organisations that are part of DPRN network. At the end of the year, five other processes were selected which are to be initiated in 2009.

2. Keeping the Global-Connections web portal up-to-date and promoting its active use, thereby expanding its functionality by (i) creating links with university repositories to link up with the experts' publications; (ii) creating a repository for non-academic publications such as policy documents, strategic documents of development organisations, publicly accessible consultancy reports and journalistic productions; and (iii) creating direct links with similar portals and databases in the Netherlands (NOD) and abroad (EADI, databases of international organisations).

Results: The network-supporting functionalities of the web portal were increased considerably and its active use was promoted by making the web portal functional to the DPRN processes and by adding RSS feeds. Interaction with the DPRN target groups was further promoted by integrating a newsletter in the Global-Connections web portal which is linked to the database of development experts and people who registered for the various process websites. The repository for non-academic publications was also created.

3. Facilitating d-groups.

Results: For several reasons, it was decided not to join the d-groups initiative. Firstly, it turned out to be possible to create similar online communities and networking facilities at the Global-Connections web portal. Secondly, the added value of being part of an initiative with global exposure was considered to be limited considering the fact that DPRN's target groups are restricted to the Netherlands and Flanders.

4. Drawing up and publishing annual updates of inventories of regional and MDG expertise.

Results: Following the choice to focus ICT activities primarily on optimal harmonisation between the CMS and API (with the datastore), enhanced interactivity of the web portal, and improved user-friendliness of registration and search modules, no efforts were

- undertaken in 2008 to increase the number of experts in the database. This matter is going to be taken up again in 2009.
5. Publishing policy briefs and other outputs of the DPRN meetings and processes.
Results: Except for the papers of the 'Understanding Development Better' Conference and the report of the first Microfinance seminar, no outputs were made available in 2008, because the one-year processes will end and report only by June 2009.
 6. Linking up with initiatives with similar objectives like The Worldconnectors and The Broker.
Results: Various DPRN Task Force members actively participated in Worldconnectors meetings. In addition, Prof. Dr Ton Dietz was a member of the Worldconnectors Steering Group. Mr Koen Kusters represented DPRN in the Worldconnectors support team and actively contributed to the Worldconnectors' statement on sustainable development and climate change
 7. Identifying and linking up with similar initiatives in Europe.
Results: In 2008 no steps were taken to link up with similar initiatives in Europe.
 8. Preparing organisational arrangements for the continuation of (parts of the) the DPRN formula after 2010.
Results: In 2008 no steps were taken with regard to following up the DPRN formula after 2010.

III.3 Objectives

As stated in the Strategic Plan 2008–2010, DPRN is committed to stimulating informed debate and a discussion of issues related to the formulation and implementation of development policies, in particular those related to Dutch policies and aid organisations.

These objectives have largely been met given that the call for proposals alone already generated cooperative arrangements between the various sectors to come forward with a proposal for a process to be organised under a DPRN banner. Furthermore, the various processes have proven to be effective mechanisms for dialogue. The new DPRN formula appears to be effective in facilitating the channelling of research-based knowledge in the national debate on development, as already became clear in the UDB Conference and the GM soy, Microfinance and Gender mainstreaming debates. The expectation is that this will lead to a more effective alignment of development policy and research agendas and the joint formulation of recommendations for research, policy and practice based on the aggregated experience of the three sectors. The development of the Global-Connections.nl web portal and the various expertise inventories help enhance this role.

III.4 Feasibility and sustainability

The facilitation and organisation of processes and the web portal is feasible, as proven by the activities realised to date. Monitored by the DPRN Task Force, the DPRN coordination unit, hosted by the Amsterdam research institute for Metropolitan and International Development Studies (AMIDSt) as part of CERES, is responsible for careful preparation and reporting and cooperates closely with ASC and KIT in the development of the Global Connections web portal. In the coming two years, preparations will be made for new institutional arrangements to continue the DPRN formula after 2010.

III.5 Relevance

DPRN is fulfilling a need. This has been made obvious by the fact that 29 proposals for DPRN processes were submitted after the first call in April and 24 proposals were submitted in the second round (December 2008). Around 3,000 people visited the DPRN website in 2008, and 2,486 went to the process websites on Global-Connections. Together they were responsible for 23,194 hits. More than 250 different people have participated in one or more of the DPRN meetings and the DPRN and Global-Connections websites fulfil an important outreach function. Increased information exchanges between researchers, policymakers, practitioners and other experts are expected to result in more coherence and synergy between research, policies and development practice. The potential benefits are considerable. Although the activities take place in the Netherlands, they may be beneficial to the regions and countries concerned through the participation of researchers and students from these countries (who are working or studying in the Netherlands) and invited speakers and participants from the South. In order to ensure that the DPRN processes are particularly relevant for policy, all processes are being monitored on active involvement of specialists working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

IV ORGANISATION

IV.1 Organisational characteristics

DPRN is a network of researchers, policymakers, practitioners and entrepreneurs which does not, as such, have a legal status. DPRN is affiliated with (but not part of) the Netherlands Research School for Resource Studies for Development (CERES), which acts as a gateway to the scientific community and related research schools and organisations. AMIDSt, an institute within the University of Amsterdam and part of CERES, is responsible for coordinating the processes and the supportive websites at the Global Connections web portal. The ASC and KIT cooperate in the development of the Global-Connections.nl web portal and the promotion of electronic publishing and dissemination. Under the supervision and with the support of the DPRN coordination unit, several organisations take care of the agenda, logistics and reporting of the selected processes (Appendix 2). A Task Force made up of various representatives from scientific, policy and development organisations monitors the administrative organisation and internal control of DPRN (see page 5 for the composition of DPRN Task Force). WOTRO Science for Development channels the DGIS/DCO/OC funds for DPRN and monitors the implementation of the Strategic Plan and Plans of Operation.

IV.2 Finances

During the period under review, WOTRO Science for Development awarded a grant of EUR 1,699,038, of which EUR € 561,684 was allocated as the budget for 2008 (January-December 2008). Of this amount EUR 447,521 was actually spent.⁹ See Appendix 5 for further details.

⁹ Preliminary estimate; figures are still to be confirmed by AMIDSt Project Bureau.

IV.3 Administration and monitoring

The Task Force is responsible for administrative organisation and internal control. AMIDSt, a department in the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences of the University of Amsterdam and a member of the CERES Research School, monitors the performance of DPRN, with Dr Mirjam A.F. Ros-Tonen being responsible for the coordination and Ms Kim de Vries for programme assistance. Administrative support has been provided by the AMIDSt secretariat (Ms Puikang Chan until February and Ms Marianne Heelsbergen from March onwards), while Mr Koen Kusters acted as DPRN representative in the Worldconnectors Support Team. Mr Joska Landré worked as a student-assistant providing ICT support.

Amsterdam, 11 March 2009,

Dr Jan Donner
Chair DPRN Task Force

Appendix 1 – DPRN target groups

- The various departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague;
- Dutch embassies and consulates abroad, with a varying capacity for development assistance and explicit ‘development orientation’ in 41 partner countries;
- Offices dealing with International affairs in other Ministries;
- Some support activities for international relations of the Dutch parliament and political parties;
- SNV and its offices abroad;
- International education institutions in the Netherlands (including their alumni);
- Six major co-financing agencies, their central offices and offices or contacts abroad;
- Many smaller non-governmental organisations with major or partial activities in developing countries, in particular the 58 MFS organisations and 50 organisations with continuing TMF funding. In addition to development organisations in the narrow sense, these include environmental groups, human rights groups, fair trade groups, international labour solidarity groups, religious support groups, cultural exchange groups, etc. Most of them are organised in Partos (91 members) and PSO (46 organisations);
- Organisations subsidised by the NCDO;
- Consultancy companies fully or partly devoted to implementation and advice concerning ‘development’ and their network organisations (MDF, ETC International, BMB Mott MacDonald (formerly Arcadis), etc.);
- ‘Think-tank’ departments of central offices of companies (partly) working beyond the EU: banks, insurance companies, production companies, trading companies;
- Organisations of development practitioners (e.g. Partos, Nedworc);
- Foreign embassies based in the Netherlands and/or in Brussels;
- Migrant/Diaspora organisations based in the Netherlands;
- Research and graduate schools and their members, including training and teaching groups in Dutch universities and Higher Education and individual research, teaching and ‘think-tank’ institutions;
- NUFFIC and WOTRO/NWO;
- Study groups [‘Werkgemeenschappen’] of scientists, wherever they still exist, which have a regional orientation (e.g. for Africa and Latin America);
- Advisory bodies in between science and policy, like the WRR (Wetenschappelijke Raad voor het Regeringsbeleid / Scientific Council for Government Policy);
- SANPAD and their South African researchers;
- (Science) Journalists of specialised and popular journals (e.g. The Broker, Internationale Samenwerking, Vice Versa, Onze Wereld, Internationale Spectator) and newspapers.

Appendix 2 – Overview of facilitated processes and implementing organisations

1. Learning to understand development better

One-year process aimed at increasing aid effectiveness through enhancing a solid understanding of the complexity of development processes among civil society organisations and other actors involved in development cooperation. This included the setting up of a Community of Practice (CoP), position paper writing, summaries of policies, relevant books and research findings to be posted on the CoP web portal, a three-day seminar and an internet-based discussion platform.

Organising agencies:

MDF Training & Consultancy (coordination)

Mr H. (Hans) Rijnveld
P.O. Box 430
6710 BK Ede
The Netherlands
E-mail: hr@mdf.nl
Telephone: +31 (0)318 – 650060

Institute of Social Studies (ISS)

Dr W. (Wil) Hout
P.O. Box 29776
2502 LT The Hague
The Netherlands
E-mail: hout@iss.nl
Telephone: +31 (0)70 – 4260460

Vice Versa

Ms E. (Evelijne) Bruning
Velperbuitensingel 8
6821 CT Arnhem
The Netherlands
E-mail: redactie@viceversaonline.nl
Telephone: +31 (0)26 – 370 3177

2. Stimulating business development: another side of microfinance?

A one-year process including three seminars and ongoing online discussions aimed at investigating the link between microfinance and business development. More specifically the discussions are to focus on the role of microfinance institutions (MFIs) in providing non-financial services to their clients (small entrepreneurs).

Organising agencies:

Triodos Facet (coordination)

Mr A. (Alberic) Pater

P.O. Box 55
3700 AB Zeist
The Netherlands
E-mail: a.pater@triodosfacet.nl
Telephone: +31 (0)30 - 6933766

Hogeschool INHolland
Mr K. (Klaas) Molenaar
P.O. Box 558
2003 RN Haarlem
The Netherlands
E-mail: k.molenaar@triodosfacet.nl
Telephone: +31 (0)23 - 541 24 12

3. Risks and benefits for sustainability and livelihoods of genetically modified soy in Latin America.

A one-year process aimed at a constructive, informed and science-based debate on the benefits and risks of genetically modified soy in Latin America. The process includes research with stakeholder involvement (through a steering committee and a conference), scientific and popular reports, and an interactive website with relevant scientific material.

Organising agencies:

AidEnvironment (organising agent for Solidaridad)
Mr S. (Sven) Sielhorst
Donker Curtiusstraat 7-523
1051 JL Amsterdam
The Netherlands
E-mail: sven.sielhorst@solidaridad.nl (as from 1 January 2009)
Telephone: +31 (0)20 - 5818250

Solidaridad
Mr J.M. (Jan Maarten) Dros
't Goylaan 15
3525 AA Utrecht
The Netherlands
E-mail: JanMaarten.Dros@solidaridad.nl
Telephone: +31 (0)30 - 2720313

Plant Research International WUR
Dr P.S. (Prem) Bindraban,
P.O. Box 16
6700 AA Wageningen
The Netherlands
E-mail: prem.bindraban@wur.nl
Telephone: +31 (0)317 - 480881

4. Value chain governance and endogenous growth: how can NGOs, firms and government achieve social inclusion and poverty reduction?

Two-year process that aims to improve the development and poverty reduction outcome of policy measures and development interventions in value chain governance. The process includes an academic and position paper write shop, the setting up of a digital library, a policy review of the intervention theories used by firms, NGOs and governments, and the translation of these into intervention strategies through online discussion and an agenda-setting conference.

Organising agencies:

Institute of Social Studies (ISS) (coordination)

Prof. Dr A.H.J (Bert) Helmsing
P.O. Box 29776
2502 LT The Hague
The Netherlands
E-mail: hemsing@iss.nl
Telephone: +31 (0)70 – 4260460

Wageningen University and Research Center (WUR)

Dr S.R. (Sietze) Vellema
Hollandseweg 1
6706 KN Wageningen
The Netherlands
E-mail: Sietze.vellema@wur.nl
Telephone: +31 (0)317 – 484754

Woord en Daad

Mr J. (Jan) Lock
P.O. Box 560
4200 AN Gorinchem
The Netherlands
E-mail: wd@woordendaad.nl
Telephone: +31 (0)183 – 611800

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) / Directorate Industry & Commerce

Dr R.A. (Roeland) Bosch
P.O. Box 20401
2500 EK The Hague
The Netherlands
E-mail: r.a.bosch@minlnv.nl
Telephone: +31 (0)70 – 3785244

Hivos

Dr A.P. (Allert) van der Ham
P.O. Box 85565
2508 CG The Hague
The Netherlands
E-mail: a.vd.ham@hivos.nl
Telephone: +31 (0)70 - 3765500

ICCO-Kerk in Actie

MS W. (Willemijn) Lammers
P.O. Box 8190
3503 RD Utrecht
The Netherlands
E-mail: Willemijn.Lammers@ICCOenKerkinActie.nl
Telephone: +31 (0)30 - 6927811

Concept Fruit bv

Mr D. (Dave) Boselie
P.O. Box 94494
1090 GL Amsterdam
The Netherlands
E-mail: Dave.boselie@agrofair.nl
Telephone: +31 (0)70 - 7110205

5. Gender mainstreaming trajectory

Three-year process on gender mainstreaming that aims to improve policy and practice towards gender equality. The process includes two thematic meetings based on five electronically discussed position papers, field exchanges with leading gender research institutes and NGO partners in the South, and gender mainstreaming institutional assessment and the use of gender programming and policy laboratory tools.

Implementing agencies:

CIDIN / Radboud University Nijmegen (coordination)

Ms Dr A.H.J.M. (Anouka) van Eerdewijk
P.O. Box 9104
6500 HE Nijmegen
The Netherlands
E-mail: a.vaneerdewijk@maw.ru.nl
Telephone: +31 (0)24-3612750

Ministry of Foreign Affairs /

Department of Social and Institutional Development /Emancipation (DSI/ER)

Mr R. (Robert) Dijksterhuis
P.O. Box 20061

2500 EB The Hague
The Netherlands
E-mail: rg.dijksterhuis@minbuza.nl
Telephone: +31 (0)70-3485723

Hivos

Mr Dr A.P. (Allert) van der Ham
P.O. Box 85565
2508 CG The Hague
The Netherlands
E-mail: a.vd.ham@hivos.nl
Telephone: +31 (0)70 - 3765500

Oxfam-Novib

Ms K. (Karimi) Farah
Mauritskade 9
P.O. Box 30919
2500 GX The Hague
The Netherlands
E-mail: Farah.Karimi@oxfamnovib.nl
Telephone: +31 (0)70 - 3421621

Appendix 3 – Agenda of DPRN meetings 2008

Date	Event	Venue	Organisers
27–29 August	Conference Learning to understand development better	Hotel de Bosrand, Ede	MDF, ISS, Vice Versa
5 November	Seminar MFIs and BDS in developing countries	Geldmuseum, Utrecht	Triodos Facet, Hogeschool INHolland
25 November	Dinner Meeting Value Chain Governance and endogenous growth	Institute of Social Studies	ISS, WUR, Woord en Daad, LNV, Hivos, ICCO–Kerk in Actie, Concept Fruit bv
9 December	Stakeholder conference on GM Soy and Sustainability	Aristo, Amsterdam	Solidaridad, Plant Research International WUR

Appendix 4 – Participants in the DPRN meetings and their distribution over the various professional categories (2008)

Meeting	Scientists / researchers		Policymakers		Practitioners		Private sector		Unknown		Total
	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.
Conference Learning to understand development better	38	40%	10	10%	38	40%	5	5%	5	5%	96
Seminar MFIs and BDS in developing countries	13	21%	4	6%	29	47%	15	24%	1	2%	62
Dinner Meeting Value Chain Governance and endogenous growth	20	44%	5	11%	12	27%	8	18%	0	0%	45
Stakeholder conference on GM Soy and Sustainability	16	26%	3	5%	23	37%	20	32%	0	0%	62
TOTAL	87	33%	22	8%	102	39%	48	18%	6	2%	265

Appendix 5 – Expenditure in the period 1 January 2008 – 31 December 2008

Budget items	Budget	Expenditure
Overall coordination costs		
<i>Personnel</i>		
Overall coordination (0.4 fte., scale 12)	€ 52,600	€ 45,439
Coord. 'Worldconnectors' initiative (based on 0.2 fte, scale 10–12)	€ 22,105	€ 15,030
ICT and d-groups support (based on 0.5 fte, max. scale 10.7/11.0)	€ 50,144	€ 35,164
Student-assistant inventory updates (0.4 fte)	€ 8,200	--
Administrative support (based on 0.2 fte, scale 9)	€ 18,835	€ 14,492
<i>Other coordination costs</i>		
Travelling costs coordinators & Task Force members	€ 1,000	€ 684
Meeting costs Task Force (rental meeting room, coffee)	€ 1,300	€ 2,673
Accountant costs	--	--
Evaluation costs	--	--
<i>Subtotal overall coordination costs</i>	€ 154,184	€ 113,482
<i>Organisation costs of DPRN meetings and processes</i>		
DPRN meetings and accompanying processes, 6 per year (average)	€ 50,000	
– DPRN architecture process		€ 14,189
– MDF Understanding Development Better		€ 40,000
– Triodos Facet Microfinance		€ 49,100
– Solidaridad GM soy		€ 49,341
– ISS Value chain		€ 50,000
– CIDIN Gender mainstreaming		€ 50,000
<i>Subtotal organisation costs for 6 DPRN meetings and processes</i>	€ 300,000	€ 252,630
<i>Internet and dissemination of information</i>		
Global Connections web portal maintenance	€ 30,000	€ 37,468
Maintenance of the DPRN website	€ 500	--
Rental domain names	€ 1,000	€ 45
Partnership in d-groups	€ 18,500*	--
Creation and maintenance of a repository for non-academic publications	€ 42,500	€ 42,500
Dissemination of information (printed matter)	€ 10,000	€ 1,396
Incidental external services (ICT advice, language correction)	€ 5,000	--
<i>Subtotal internet and dissemination of information</i>	€107,500	€ 81,409
Total	€ 561,684	€ 447,521

* It was decided not to participate in d-groups but to invest in similar networking facilities on Global-Connections instead, and hence to add this budget to Global-Connections web portal maintenance.

General: CERES-office, Utrecht University, Faculty of Social Sciences
E-mail: info@dprn.nl; Website: <http://www.dprn.nl>; www.global-connections.nl; www.Search4Dev.nl

Coordinating unit: Development Policy Review Network (DPRN)
Nieuwe Prinsengracht 130, 1018 VZ Amsterdam
Tel: (+31) 20 525 4179 / 4062, Fax (+31) 20 525 406 4051, E-mail: info@dprn.nl