

FINAL  
NARRATIVE  
REPORT

## Colophon

This document reports on the activities, results and outcomes of Phase II (2008–2011) of the Development Policy Review Network ([www.DPRN.nl](http://www.DPRN.nl)), financed with a grant from WOTRO Science for development (Subsidy No. W 02.22.010.00 valid from 1 January 2008 to 1 March 2011). This grant was made possible by a subsidy from the Ministry of Affairs/Cultural Cooperation, Education and Research Department (DCO/OC), which transferred the DPRN dossier to the newly formed Effectiveness and Coherence Department (DEC) in October 2009. With a view to stimulating informed debate and discussion of issues related to the formulation and implementation of (Dutch) development policies, DPRN creates opportunities to promote an open exchange and dialogue between scientists, policymakers, development practitioners and the business sector in the Netherlands. For more information see [www.DPRN.nl](http://www.DPRN.nl), [www.global-connections.nl](http://www.global-connections.nl) and [www.Search4Dev.nl](http://www.Search4Dev.nl).

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## Acronyms

ASC	Afrika–Studiecentrum / African Studies Centre (Leiden)
BDS	Business Development Services
CERES	Research School for Resource Studies for Development
CIDIN	Centre for International Development Issues Nijmegen
CMS	Content Management System
DDE	DGIS’ Sustainable Economic Development Department
DGIS	Directorate General for International Cooperation
DPRN	Development Policy Review Network
EU	European Union
GM soy	Genetically modified soy
ICCO	Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDP	Foundation for International Development Publications (publisher of The Broker)
ILC	International Land Coalition
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
LNV	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
MDF	Management for Development Training & Consultancy
MFI	Micro Financing Institutions
MFS	Dutch Co–financing System
MVO	Maatschappelijk Verantwoord Ondernemen / Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
NFTG	Nutrient Flow Task Group
NGO	Non–governmental organisation
NWO	Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
NWP	Netherlands Water Partnership
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co–operation and Development
PROVO	Programme for the organisation of Dutch DC/IC
SOMO	Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations
UDB	Understanding Development Better
VROM	Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment
WOTRO	Foundation for the Advancement of Tropical Research (The Hague)
WUR	Wageningen University and Research Centre
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WRR	Scientific Council for Government Policy

## Message from the chairman

The activities of the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) have come to an end. While this is a sad moment for some, it is also a moment to cherish, all the more so because the DPRN Task Force feels that DPRN has accomplished what it set out to do and that relatively little extra can be achieved by prolonging the existence of the network. DPRN is not ending with a sense of failure, or due to a lack of funds or motivation on the part of its fervent supporters. This is also what was acknowledged during our closing event 'Linking to Learn & Learn from Linking' on 1 February 2011. With more than 100 participants we collectively drew lessons on eight years of DPRN experiences, and people felt the need to carry on the DPRN thought.

There is some modest sense of satisfaction when DPRN looks back at where we came from and where we stand now. DPRN set out to build bridges between four communities active in the field of international and development cooperation – policymakers, practitioners, academia and the business community. It was also intended to build bridges between those communities in both the Netherlands and Flanders. There is now an increased awareness and sensitivity towards the interdependence of these communities. In several ways, DPRN managed to bring together professionals from different backgrounds, to link their expertise and to enhance their collaboration. DPRN has shown that changes are possible.

DPRN has remained a virtual organisation throughout its existence. With limited resources, it has had to depend on volunteers for most of its core activities. The human resources that DPRN was able to count on most were Mirjam Ros and Kim de Vries, with ICT support being provided by Thijs Turèl and later Joska Landré. DPRN owes much of its success to their motivation, dedication, inspiration and tirelessness. The DPRN Task Force was able to provide the required leadership thanks to a small band of reliable volunteers and supporters.

What is to become of the DPRN heritage? That heritage consists of our web portal [www.global-connections.nl](http://www.global-connections.nl) which is going to remain operational for some time to guarantee continued public access to interesting and relevant results. Another element of DPRN's heritage is the website [www.search4dev.nl](http://www.search4dev.nl), which we hope, subject to financial feasibility, will be preserved and maintained by the Royal Tropical Institute in the years ahead. DPRN's heritage also consists of innovative processes, procedures, good practices and many lessons learned. For a great part we described these in the booklet 'Linking to Learn & Learning from Linking' that was presented during our closing event. On an institutional basis, we hope and trust that this heritage can and will be preserved by NWO-WOTRO. However, that is not all. Many people have participated in DPRN activities over the last eight years and many have enjoyed those activities and we hope will remember them fondly. Policy documents that were produced as a result of DPRN's efforts will not be easily forgotten, nor will the friendship and professionalism. We hope that ceasing our activities does not mean the DPRN legacy will be quickly erased from the memory of our many stakeholders. That would be our most relevant achievement!

Dr Jan Donner  
Chair of the DPRN Task Force



## Introduction

In order to realise its mission, *i.e.* generate informed debate, policy review, common agenda setting and inter-sectoral cooperation, DPRN organised one process instigated by the DPRN Task Force (the ‘Structure follows strategy’ process) and supported processes organised by consortia of organisations belonging to different DPRN constituencies (policymakers, practitioners, scientists, and people from the private sector). DPRN deliberately speaks of ‘processes’ in order to make sure that meetings and events are embedded in a process that is targeted at bringing together the various sectors and at identifying opportunities for cooperation (see DPRN Vision Plan 2008–2010 for more details). In the second phase (2008–2011), DPRN planned to facilitate at least five processes per year. These processes were intended to 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 was a prerequisite. The process was also supposed to be relevant to 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 had 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 were supposed to be outcome-oriented, with a view to offering perspectives for follow-up and continued networking and cooperation. A specific point of attention in the selection of proposals to be carried out in 2010 was the involvement of Flemish partners. Box 1 summarises the assessment criteria of the last call of proposals (2009).

### **Box 1. Assessment criteria for DPRN process proposals in the call of December 2009**

The following assessment criteria were used to assess the proposals:

1. Relevance for international cooperation.
2. Innovativeness of the theme.
3. Stimulates *informed* debate (interaction science & other sectors).
4. Stimulates inter-sectoral cooperation & synergy.
5. Involvement of relevant partners in the *formulation* of the proposal.
6. Involvement of relevant partners in the *implementation* of the process.
7. Inclusion of relevant activities.
8. The perspective for follow-up.
9. Soundness of budget.
10. Overall quality.
11. Involvement of Flemish partners

The yearly call for proposals was open to *all* organisations that belong to the DPRN target groups, provided that the proposal was submitted by at least two parties representing different sectors. The proposals could relate to a one-year or multi-annual process. Preferably, the processes should include: (a) the preparation and prior dissemination of position papers on 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) the 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) the provision of 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.

In addition to the organisation of processes, DPRN managed and/or provided support to one website and two web portals that were supportive to its objectives (DPRN, Global-Connections and Search4Dev). DPRN also provided support to the Worldconnectors and The Broker, and worked on the dissemination of information.

This final report provides an overview of all these activities realised in DPRN Phase II, outlining the themes addressed, organisations involved, and the results, output and outcomes (follow-up).



# Structure follows strategy

## *Structure follows strategy: The organisation of Dutch development and international cooperation*

### The need for more effective Dutch development cooperation

The Dutch government invests a lot of time, money and energy in development cooperation. However, the effectiveness of these efforts is hindered by a lack of coordination, weak policies, a suboptimal government apparatus, and limited continuity in political, policy and managerial terms. In 2008, the DPRN Task Force initiated a three year process to discuss alternatives to the fragmented structure of Dutch development cooperation. The idea behind this debate is that development cooperation would be more effective when based on a clear and comprehensive strategy, hence the title '*structure follows strategy*'.

The Netherlands is an international frontrunner in the field of development cooperation and widely praised for its role as a donor, both in quantitative and qualitative terms. However, there is still a widespread sentiment – both within and outside the sector – that the organisation of development cooperation should be improved in order to raise its effectiveness. The activities of the numerous Dutch civil society organisations take place all around the globe and are hardly coordinated. Moreover, in diplomatic terms, the Netherlands is less visible than other countries, including small ones like Norway.

In Dutch politics, each new Minister of Development Cooperation introduces his or her own approach and priorities and this results in a lack of continuity. Moreover, during the last few decades these political leaders have paid relatively scant attention to the organisation of

#### Process organisation

The 'Structure follows strategy' process was organised by DPRN.



#### Structure follows strategy

Effective development cooperation requires an effective infrastructure. However, in order to create such an infrastructure, the Netherlands would first need to define its objectives and strategy. The following questions therefore guided the process:

1. Why is the Netherlands involved in development 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 conditions have to be in place? (structure);
4. What is needed to effectuate the change from the existing to the desired infrastructure?

development aid. Until now, the Netherlands has not had a professional organisation to govern and coordinate development cooperation, as exist in many neighbouring countries (e.g. DFID in the United Kingdom, GTZ in Germany and Danida in Denmark).

## Contours of a new direction

The DPRN Task Force followed a specific approach to answer the above questions. The first year focused on raising the sense of urgency with an [issue paper](#) which set out the major themes for the debate. The second year was aimed at public consultation through working group discussions and a public meeting. This resulted in a '[Programme of requirements of the organisation of Dutch international and development cooperation](#)' (PROVO) to inform the Dutch development sector about possible strategies and ways of organising the infrastructure deemed necessary for a more effective international development cooperation.

### International cooperation

The PROVO first of all underlines the need to shift from development cooperation to international cooperation. This shift means that classic poverty alleviation is no longer the only driver for development cooperation. Action is also required to deal with the many new problems that the globalised world is facing and which affect both the North and the South, such as environmental problems, climate change, migration and security.

### Dutch support

The PROVO document emphasises the need for a **more strategic positioning of the Netherlands** by focussing on specific Dutch areas of expertise and by grounding policy more in Dutch society. Related to this, there is a tension between the international dimension of the architecture for international cooperation (i.e. multilateral organisations) and the organisation and use of instruments and capacities available for that purpose in the Netherlands. If the Netherlands chooses to engage primarily in aid structures at international level, this implies that development cooperation is brought 'further from home', with less support for Dutch organisations and policies that are not specifically linked to the expertise that is available in the Netherlands.



*There is a lot of public debate about the effectiveness of development cooperation in the Netherlands (Source: <http://www.kit.nl/>).*

### New values

Another main point is that **the business and knowledge sectors** – and their respective values of focussing on returns on investments and investing in learning capacity – would need to be integrated more into the field of international co-operation. Participation of the knowledge and business sectors should, however, not lead to new proliferation and an excess of organisations.

The PROVO document argues therefore in favour of operational management with a hybrid public–private character.

### Clearing house

There are serious doubts about whether effective international cooperation can be achieved through the bilateral and multilateral channels as they are now organised. In this respect the PROVO document proposes setting up an **independent, non–political and market–oriented project office or clearing house**. This institute would match the supply and demand of development cooperation on an international scale – itself being independent of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### The future knowledge agenda

The Dutch Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR) report ‘Less pretension, more ambition’ at the start of 2010 inspired the public debate on development cooperation. Because the WRR makes specific recommendations about the knowledge infrastructure for development (*e.g.*



greater investments, coordination and Southern participation), DPRN decided to choose this particular niche in the discussion for the process in 2010. DPRN published an issue paper based on interviews with 17 professors in international development studies.

#### To what extent should the scientific knowledge agenda be policy-oriented?

Most interviewees are in favour of a more strategic and clearly focussed knowledge agenda for development, but they attach value to scientific autonomy in setting research priorities. They warned against an excessive focus on policy-oriented research. Scientists tend to consider a policy agenda which focuses largely on a few Millennium Development Goals, too small a basis for a research agenda.

#### Research to support economic growth?

Whereas most interviewees sympathised with the view expressed in the WRR report that research should support development

as a process of accelerated growth guided by a stable and responsive state, they also made some critical remarks. Several respondents stressed the need for interdisciplinary research into the relationships between economic growth and environmental sustainability, redistribution and institutional processes, state responsiveness and stability, and bottom–up social development. The general view is that there is a need for a less normative outlook, i.e. a perspective that does not necessarily take the Western development model as a starting point. Furthermore, some

## Dilemmas

The PROVO document sketches the contours of a new direction, and it uncovers the dilemmas associated with reorganising Dutch development cooperation.

1. Is 'poverty alleviation' or is 'sustainable development' the primary goal of Dutch international cooperation? Choosing for poverty alleviation implies the risk of compartmentalisation and a lack of coherence, because development co-operation would be less related to other international policy domains. On the other hand, focussing on sustainable development implies the risk of too little attention being paid to poverty alleviation.
2. Can we take 'enlightened self-interest' as a starting point for international cooperation policy? When Dutch international cooperation policy becomes more business-like, and primarily based on the Dutch 'areas of expertise', parameters such as turnover, profit and loss will become more important. Such a new collective approach means, however, that the Netherlands has to make more rigid choices concerning the areas of support. As a result, the Netherlands will be unable to help solve issues that fall outside of these focus areas.
3. Does a focus on demand not hamper innovation at times? Should demand-driven cooperation be the point of departure for Dutch policy, or should supply and demand jointly determine the agenda? Although each society has to take responsibility itself for development processes, international cooperation also means dialogue and debate.
4. There is a tension between the Dutch and international dimension of international cooperation. Will the Netherlands choose for support from the Dutch population or for a visible position in the international (political) architecture? While the former implies that policy is based on Dutch areas of expertise and predominant support of Dutch organisations, the latter implies that priority will be given to support of multilateral organisations, with which the Dutch public may have less affinity.

respondents argued that research is specifically needed on the interlinkages of scales. They consider such a look into the relations between developments at global, regional and local levels as being crucial to an understanding of the development processes.

### The need to define strategic questions

In the eyes of the professors interviewed, Dutch knowledge in various areas of expertise (*e.g.* agriculture and food production, water, law & justice, health & infectious diseases, civil society, and the 3D approach) could certainly contribute to more specialised development policies, but they stressed that defining major strategic questions should precede this choice of thematic areas. This might result in different thematic and geographic focus areas than those advocated by the WRR.

### The research infrastructure

According to most of the respondents, the Dutch infrastructure for knowledge related to global development should be characterised by coordination in the form of strategic funding of networks by NWO-WOTRO and an aligned knowledge agenda at the various ministries involved in international cooperation. Investing in regional networks in the South and long-term partnerships with Southern research institutes are also important, although there may be a tension between capacity development and academic excellence. Lastly, transdisciplinary initiatives should be

strengthened to increase knowledge of context-specific innovations, with more attention for the ways scientific research can best be communicated to other actors.

## Follow up

The discussion about the future knowledge agenda and infrastructure for international cooperation will be continued in cooperation with NWO-WOTRO and the MDG-Profes platform. These organisations are going to organise a conference in the second half of 2011, on how to draw up a strategic knowledge and research agenda for global sustainable development.

### Process organisation and output

The major component of the 'Structure follows strategy' process was an intensive round of public consultation in four parallel working groups, which each included participants from policy, practice, academia and the business communities. The respective chairpersons of these groups were Maarten Brouwer, René Grotenhuis, Peter Nijkamp and Herman Mulder as representatives of the four DPRN constituencies. The four working groups prepared propositions on the organisation of Dutch IC/DC, which were discussed in a public meeting in June 2009. Another public meeting was held at the 2010 CERES Summer School, where the future knowledge agenda was discussed.

The process resulted in the following publications:

- *Issue paper:* [Towards a future knowledge agenda and infrastructure for development](#) '.
- *Synthesis public consultation:* [Programme for the Organisation of Development Cooperation \(PROVO\)](#)'.
- *Meeting report:* [De Nederlandse OS-IS na 2010 – Verslag van het debat 15 juni 2009](#)'.
- *Meeting report:* [De Nederlandse OS-IS na 2010 – 47 stellingen](#)'.
- *Issue paper:* [De toekomst van de Nederlandse ontwikkelingssamenwerking](#)'.

All publications are available on the website: <http://structurefollowsstrategy.dprn.nl>





*Value chain governance and endogenous growth: how can NGOs, firms and governments achieve social inclusion and poverty reduction?*

**The value chain approach**

International trade is increasingly being undertaken through organised global value chains in which quality competition plays a central role. Quality competition is achieved by complex standards and the introduction of new technologies. Value chain governance refers to the manner in which the various actors operating in these chains (firms, governments and NGOs) coordinate their actions and strategies and shape, implement and enforce standards.

The Institute of Social Studies (ISS) and Wageningen University (WUR) coordinated a DPRN process to investigate what happens when global value chains touch ground in particular development contexts. They also explored the conditions that make global value chains more inclusive to vulnerable groups, such as small producers and workers in the South.

In the realm of development policy and practice, global value chains are considered key entry points for initiatives aimed at poverty alleviation, entrepreneurship and decent labour conditions. In scientific research, the value chain concept primarily serves as an exploratory device that allows us to get to grips with the complexities of economic development. As such, it focuses on the networks and arrangements that bridge the entire chain of actors directly and indirectly involved in the production of a particular commodity or service.

**Process organisation**

The 'Value chain governance and endogenous growth' process was carried out within the framework of the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) by:

- The Institute of Social Studies (ISS)
- Wageningen University and Research Centre (WUR)
- Woord en Daad
- ICCO
- Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
- Concept Fruit BV
- Hivos



While there is a growing recognition in policy and practice that governance of value chains plays a crucial role in so-called endogenous economic growth (economic growth that is generated from within a business system as a direct result of internal processes), there is as yet little understanding of the relationships between value chain governance and development interventions. Few – if any – actors have a full understanding of the entire chain and its dynamics. Often they know only their immediate linkages in complex multi-local networks.



*Source: Wikimedia.org*

Efforts to promote the integration of smallholder farmers, workers and small and medium enterprises into value chains may be insufficient for achieving development goals. That is because much depends on the precise articulation with historically grown networks and institutions within a certain area. The discussion about the link between value chains and endogenous economic growth is therefore crucial. It can inform interventions aimed at connecting locally embedded networks and public organisations to the logics of vertically

coordinated value chains. For a full understanding, actors other than firms and producers, such as chain promoters and regulators, should be included in the analysis of the governance and economics of value chains.

Donor governments tend to focus their economic development policies on private sector development whereby they usually target either macro-business environment issues or micro-level enterprise conditions (through business development services and finance). However, the sustainability of business development services depends on demand and supply conditions that are specific to different sectors and chains. Therefore, joint public and private strategies and interventions at the meso-level of value chain development are needed. This will connect the macro and micro issues and enhance overall effectiveness of the strategies and interventions.

### Contours of a shared knowledge agenda

The so-called ‘bilateral dialogues’ between researchers and other stakeholders that were part of this DPRN process, enabled the combination of a transdisciplinary analytical approach with the experiences and insights derived from policy and practice. This made it possible to reveal the diversity of mechanisms that make value chains work for development. The research contributions to the dialogues were not intended to be analyses of an empirical dataset in order to draw theory-informed conclusions. Instead, researchers deliberately engaged in an interdisciplinary debate based on theoretical variety in order to reveal what may be concealed if a single-theory approach is taken.

These discussions showed that the combination of different conceptual frameworks helps to unpack the composite nature of value chains and to unravel the interaction between value chains and development contexts. This is a stepping stone for future iterative processes, which may be more productive when participants do not adopt a single definition of what a value chain is, how a value chain performs or how a value chain is supposed to work for development. The dialogues identified four domains that can serve as the focus for such an iterative learning and research process.

First of all, the terms of inclusion in the value chain and the conditions for development depend on how the process of touching down value chains is embedded in a specific territorially and state-bounded business system. Hence, to understand the development impacts of value chain-based interventions it seems essential to take account of the variation in context and matters outside business management.

Secondly, besides the 'touching down' process, the process of inclusion and exclusion in itself affects potential development impacts of value chain-based interventions. The ways in which workers are included in the value chain form an uncharted terrain that requires more attention. Associative or collective action among small producers is often a pre-condition for their participation in particular chains. In this way they can compensate for diseconomies of scale in production, transactions and logistics. Further conceptualisation of the institutional dimensions of inclusion processes is a task for interdisciplinary research teams.

Thirdly, the inclusion of, for example, large

### Accommodating multiple perspectives?

As a tangible output of this DPRN process, Routledge is going to publish a book on chain governance edited by the process organisers Bert Helmsing (ISS) and Sietze Vellema (WUR). In the synthesis chapter of the book they argue that the development impacts of inclusion of small producers, local firms and workers in global value chains depend on two conditions: (i) the degree of alignment of value chain logics with the capacities of actors and institutions embedded in territorial business systems; and (ii) the terms of participation.

The researchers acknowledge the importance of searching for an analytical common ground which combines insights from multiple disciplines such as economics, geography and management studies. Only on the basis of such an interdisciplinary approach is it possible to develop integrative frameworks to analyse inclusive and endogenous development of value chains and to understand the terms of participation in the process of inclusion. To achieve such understanding we need to uncover the often hidden mechanisms that configure the terms of participation and modes of governance in a value chain. Examples include the practices of intermediary recruiters of temporary workers, or the negotiations on standard setting at levels out of reach of associated producers. Moreover, inclusion in a value chain is an evolving process, not a static outcome. The dynamics of inclusion are related to forms of coordination and association within the boundaries of specific value chains. Likewise, the forms of cooperation or rule setting within a certain area, or the capacity of governmental organisations to regulate the chain, or to define the terms of contractual arrangements, affect the nature of the process of inclusion.

The authors conclude that the global value chain approach is not without limitations. They stress the importance of including in the analysis the perspectives of both chain actors and non-chain actors, in particular the state and organised forms of concerted action and association. The effectiveness and viability of development-oriented intervention strategies and partnerships, anchored in value chain dynamics, will benefit from an ability to accommodate multiple perspectives.



numbers of smallholder farmers, workers or processing enterprises, shifts attention to leveraging processes. This challenges project-based interventions working with identifiable target groups in bounded communities. It poses the questions of where and at what level intervention can achieve scale and what kinds of intervention strategies are capable of managing the interdependencies and combinations of actors. It takes a change in mind-set to make intended outcomes dependent on actions orchestrated or coordinated with others. Finding levers for up-scaling therefore requires a teaming up with others and experimenting with intervention strategies that go beyond the span of control of individual actors.

The final domain identified in the dialogues relates to standard setting and upgrading. Mainstream thinking on value chains and small producers largely concentrates on the question of upgrading as a way to improve income and employment or poverty reduction. Upgrading local producers means improving their capabilities for participating in particular value chains, and this underlines the need for an intervention focus within the boundaries of these value chains. This improvement can take many forms, for example in the products they generate or in the related functions they perform. The discussion above suggests that this may be too narrow an entry point and points to other complementary processes shaping development impacts of value chain-based interventions.

## Follow-up

The knowledge agenda generated during the dialogues, informs research and discussion between universities, firms and NGOs within the Partnerships Resource Center (PRC) initiated at Erasmus University. Ongoing ex-changes between the Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam and Wageningen University with HIVOS, Woord and Daad, ICCO and other development organisations provide a foundation for joint research programmes currently developed by the ISS. The insights generated are also part of ongoing dialogues with knowledge networks in the South, for example during a recent workshop in Nairobi where practitioners from the private non-governmental and public sector in East Africa assembled to elaborate on the issue of up-scaling sustainability initiatives in value chains.

### Process output

The 'Value chain governance and endogenous growth' process included a writeshop, several meetings to discuss the set up and outcomes of the research with other stakeholders, and the publication of 13 research papers (to be published as a book in May 2011). This resulted in the following publications:

- 'Value chain governance dinner meeting report'.
- Book outline: An overview of the chapters in '[Value chains, Inclusion and Endogenous Development: Contrasting Theories and Realities](#)' (Routledge, 2011).
- Synthesis: 'Governance, Inclusion and Embedding: Raising the Issues' (editorial chapter of the book).
- Knowledge agenda: 'Value chains governance and inclusive endogenous development. Towards a knowledge agenda'.
- DPRN progress report (first phase of the process).
- DPRN process report.

All publications are available on the website:

<http://value-chains.global-connections.nl>



## 🌐 Gender mainstreaming

Almost fifteen years ago, governments committed themselves to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995). This was to be realised through gender mainstreaming, which was then defined as a two-track strategy encompassing, on the one hand, the integration of gender equality as a cross-cutting issue into all development policies and programmes and budgetary decisions and, on the other hand, the support for stand-alone women's empowerment and gender equality programmes and policies. Over the years, most governments and actors in development cooperation, with Dutch organisations taking a pioneering role, have developed and implemented gender mainstreaming policies. Gender policies, and in particular gender mainstreaming, have been vulnerable to 'evaporation' when they are to be translated into actual implementation. However there has been no overall comprehensive and systematic analysis – with multiple stakeholders – on the possible causes and solutions for this limited success.

This *On Track with Gender* Trajectory wanted to take gender mainstreaming to a next level. It sought to bring policymakers, practitioners, researchers, consultants and women's activists together in dialogue in order to create new synergies between these different actors that work on women's empowerment, gender and development issues. It also sought to create space for the experiences and voices of Southern experts and organisations that have considerable experience and expertise in effective integrated strategic and practical women's empowerment and gender equality programmes. The objective of the Trajectory was to reflect critically on experiences with and

### Process organisation

The 'On track with gender' process was carried out within the framework of the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) by:

- The Centre for International Development in Nijmegen (CIDIN)
- Hivos
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Oxfam Novib
- ICCO
- Royal Tropical Institute (KIT)
- Cordaid



Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken



Royal Tropical Institute

insights into gender mainstreaming. Rather than contributing to the ‘death of gender mainstreaming’ by constantly repeating what does not work, we aimed to build on available experiences and knowledge in order to rethink and transform the current understanding and practice of gender mainstreaming. While acknowledging what has been achieved, we sought to raise the level of gender analysis as well as the formulation and implementation of gender (mainstreaming) policies. Dialogues and exchanges between practitioners, policymakers, academics and activists were indispensable elements of this initiative.

### Key insights

The collected case studies, synthesis papers and two closing events can be summarised in five key insights. They showed, first, that opportunities for gender mainstreaming lie in strengthening linkages between the stand-alone and mainstreaming track. Original ideas of gender mainstreaming pointed to the dual approach: a stand-alone track in which specific measures target women’s empowerment and gender equality, and a gender mainstreaming track that integrates gender equality as the cross-cutting issue into all policies, programmes and budgetary decisions. There are opportunities for strengthening the empowerment impact of gender mainstreaming by strengthening the complementarity of the two tracks.

Second, the experience of collecting case studies and writing synthesis reports on those cases, as was done for microfinance, value chains, and violence against women, provided a powerful

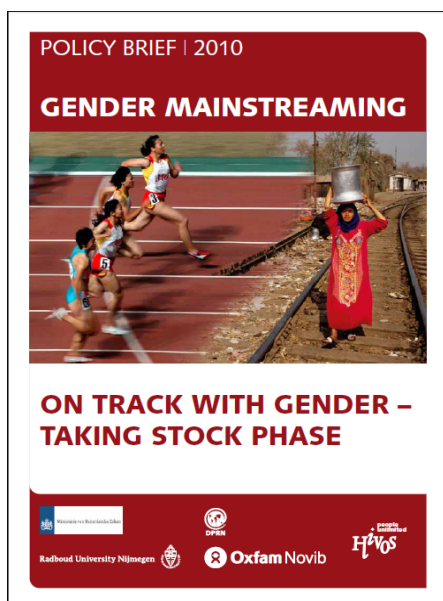
### Process activities

- *The ‘Aid architecture’ sub-process*  
Follow-up to the paper written in the first stage of OTwG on gender mainstreaming in the new aid architecture, to complement it with insights into how challenges to, and opportunities for, GM materialise on the ground (Tanzania).
- *The ‘Violence against women’ sub-process*  
Collection of 5 cases to evaluate and reflect on strategies to end violence against women, and put them in the perspective of gender mainstreaming strategies.
- *The ‘Microfinance’ sub-process*  
Case studies and synthesis thereof of to show how to view gender relations in value chain analysis and micro finance interventions. Also aimed to identify gender mainstreaming intervention strategies alongside the provision of (micro-finance) services that have the potential to contribute to women’s (economic) empowerment.
- *The ‘Back to the organisations’ sub-process*  
In the first half of 2010, the insights from the Taking Stock phase were shared with staff of Dutch development organisations (Hivos, Oxfam Novib) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. All the sessions focused on stimulating reflection on elements of new gender mainstreaming policies. In addition to these sessions with specific organisations the outcomes were used as input for various open meetings and workshops of Dutch development agencies (PSO Gender Workshop and Genderjustice.nu).
- ***Closing events on 21–22 February 2011***  
The different sub-processes of the OTwG trajectory came together in two closing events in February 2011. The events brought together gender and non-gender experts from NGOs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as consultants and academic researchers. The key questions were: Both days aimed to create synergy between different positions and inputs. The synthesis papers were used as input for the discussion.

practice for actually mainstreaming gender in these policy fields. As a consequence, the ‘On track with gender’ trajectory not only examined gender mainstreaming, but actually practised it.

Third, such a linking between a stand-alone and gender mainstreaming track will enable a further dialogue between business case arguments of effectiveness and efficiency and rights-based arguments for gender mainstreaming. Successful implementation of gender mainstreaming requires a combination of business case arguments and social justice arguments. It was found that the potential tensions between these discourses can provide a fertile ground for the validation of gender concepts. This validation and (re)definition of gender concepts allows for the contextualisation both to geographical contexts and policy areas. There is no ‘one size fits all’ approach to the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment. Validation also opens up much-needed room for assessing how interventions translate or fail to translate into empowerment result

s.



## Process output

### Policy briefs

OTwG published two Policy Briefs, one for each phase. The Taking Stock Policy Brief became available in April 2010. Four hundred hard copies were distributed among the participating organisations (the process’ organisers, and also KIT, ICCO and Cordaid). The policy brief is also available on the website.<sup>1</sup>

The second Policy Brief is currently being finalised. The outline is as follows: (1) one page introduction on OTwG, (2) one page on key insights into each sub-process and (3) two pages on overall insights and conclusions.

### Published articles/chapters

Davids, Tine & Anouka van Eerdewijk (2010). On Track with Gender: Revitalizing the Agenda for Gender Mainstreaming. In: Paul Hoebink (ed.), *The Netherlands Yearbook on International Cooperation 2009–2010* (pp. 103–118). Assen: Van Gorcum.

Eerdewijk, A. van (2010). GM2.0. *Tijdschrift voor Genderstudies*, 13(1), 76–84.

Mans, Linda (2009). You shouldn’t be too radical. Mapping gender and development studies in Dutch academia. *LOVA Tijdschrift*, 30(2), pp. 56–60.

Eerdewijk, A. van, A. Evers & L. Smits (2009). Een stap in de verkeerde richting: MDG3 en empowerment van vrouwen. *Tijdschrift voor Genderstudies*, 12(4), p. 30–44.

(Continues)

Fourth, notions of ownership and alignment can provide powerful points of departure as they address who should be involved in such validation processes. The second phase reaffirmed the importance identified in the ‘Taking stock’ phase of mobilising structures (such as women’s rights organisations and gender expertise) and building ‘creative tensions’ within and around organisations in order to stimulate and pressure them to change and transform. For such creative tensions, ‘triangles’ are

needed between (1) gender experts within and outside organisations, (2) women movements and feminist organisations, and (3) women in decision-making positions and procedures.

Fifth, in the neoliberal and depoliticising context in which development cooperation currently takes shape, there is a need for safe spaces where gender activists, experts and academics enter into dialogue and reflect in order to realise in-depth analysis and learning as well as further strategizing. In addition to that, change agents also need to engage in dialogue with 'mainstream' actors. In the context of international development, 'triangles' also have to bridge North-South divides. Building multiple 'triangles' – that is not only dialogues but trialogues as well – creates innovation and energy through feedback loops that come into being between different types of actors and different institutions and organisations. Such an exchange is especially valuable when translated to specific policy areas and geographical contexts. These outcomes of the Moving forward phase were summarised in a policy brief that was widely distributed.<sup>1</sup>

### Follow-up

Follow-up will take the form of follow-up to the case studies and synthesis papers, which will be discussed further in the respective organisations. Moreover, the Steering Group will continue to meet until at least the end of 2011 for further reflection on gender mainstreaming policies in the different organisations, and will explore to what extent and in what ways the learning agendas of the NGOs in MFS-2 and of DGIS can be connected for future knowledge building and learning. Initiatives have been taken for further cooperation, e.g. between the Hivos knowledge programme and CIDIN, and for participation by some of the organisations in the PSO

#### Process output (Continued)

Presentations at meetings and conferences (spin-off; not organised as part of the OTwG process itself)

*'Connections and transformations: next steps in mainstreaming gender in Dutch development cooperation'* (Anouka van Eerdewijk & Tine Davids). Paper presented at the '2nd Equal is not enough conference', Antwerp, 1-2 December 2010.

*'Gender mainstreaming: the way forward'* (Anouka van Eerdewijk). Presentation at Event Genderjustice.nu, WO-MEN Dutch Gender Platform, Utrecht, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010.

*'Gender mainstreaming in een notendop'* (Anouka van Eerdewijk). Presentation at workshop 'Aan de slag met gender: van "goede wil" naar actie', PSO Capaciteitsopbouw in ontwikkelingslanden, The Hague, 7 December 2009.

*'Gender mainstreaming: Driving on Square Wheels?'* (Tine Davids & Francien van Driel). Paper presented at the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference, 10 September 2009, Potsdam (Germany).

*'The practice of gender mainstreaming in Dutch development cooperation'* (Anouka van Eerdewijk). Paper presented at the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference, 10 September 2009, Potsdam (Germany).

(Continues)

<sup>1</sup> Available at:

[http://www.ontrackwithgender.nl/sites/ontrackwithgender.nl/files/file/Policy%20Brief%201%20\(2010\)%20TAKING\\_STOCK\\_Gender\\_Mainstreaming-2.pdf](http://www.ontrackwithgender.nl/sites/ontrackwithgender.nl/files/file/Policy%20Brief%201%20(2010)%20TAKING_STOCK_Gender_Mainstreaming-2.pdf).

Thematic Learning Trajectory on Gender. In addition, some of the organisers are already participating in the ‘Kenniskring’ (knowledge platform) on rights and opportunities for women and girls that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has set up.

Finally, follow-up will take place through further publication of the outcomes of ‘On track with gender’ in e.g. the Netherlands Yearbook on International Cooperation, as well as several journal articles and an edited volume.

*Process output (Continued)*

**Special Issue and edited volume (in progress)**

The papers of the Taking Stock phase have been supplemented by four other papers, and this collection has been submitted to an A-journal for publication as a Special Issue. A preliminary offer has also been made by an A-publisher to publish the collection as an edited volume. The contributions which have already been prepared are listed below. In addition, the author of the Moving Forward synthesis papers will be invited to contribute to the edited volume.

*Anouka van Eerdewijk & Tine Davids* (Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands)  
‘Escaping the Mythical Beast: Gender Mainstreaming Revisited’

*Conny Roggeband* (FLACSO Ecuador & VU Amsterdam)  
‘No instant success ... : Assessing gender mainstreaming evaluations’

*Anouka van Eerdewijk* (Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands)  
‘The Micropolitics of Evaporation: the Practice of Gender Mainstreaming in Dutch Development NGOs’

*Nathalie Holvoet & Liesbeth Inberg* (University of Antwerp, Belgium)  
‘The Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action through a gender lens: an international perspective and the case of the Dutch Development Cooperation’

*José C.M. van Santen* (Leiden University, The Netherlands)  
“‘Educating a girl, means educating a whole nation’: Gender mainstreaming, development and Islamic resurgence in North Cameroon’

*Maitrayee Mukhopadhyay* (KIT, Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam)  
‘Mainstreaming gender or reconstituting the mainstream? Gender knowledge in development’

*Jane Parpart* (University of the West Indies, St. Augustine)  
‘Exploring the Transformative Potential of Gender Mainstreaming: Limits and Possibilities’

*Tine Davids, Francien van Driel, Franny Parren* (Radboud University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands)  
‘Unpacking Gender Mainstreaming: a slow revolution?’





## *Stimulating business development: Another side of microfinance?*

### Microfinance institutions and business development services

Microfinance institutions (MFIs) have achieved considerable success as regards empowering people through the provision of credit. However, for poor people to become successful entrepreneurs, they not only need access to credit, but also certain entrepreneurial competencies.

Research and experience indicate that providing business development services (BDS) can enhance entrepreneurial performance considerably. Nevertheless, entrepreneurs' access to these services – ranging from advice on innovation and business ideas to financial literacy training – is still limited.

While microfinance institutions provided business development services during the late 1970s and early 1980s, from the late 1980s onwards they scaled back their activities by focusing on credit provision only. This change was motivated by a perceived lack of demand among MFIs for such services from their borrowers, which in turn was prompted by the often poor quality of the services. At the same time there was a general push for MFIs to become 'sustainable' and BDS were seen as adding to the operating costs. In the new millennium, MFIs again started looking beyond finance. This renewed interest in linking services is driven both by a concern that 'credit is not enough' to generate bottom-up poverty reduction and by a new approach to BDS. Business services must be demand-driven, managed in a sustainable manner and diversified beyond management training. For success, linkages must provide benefits to the three key actors involved: enterprises, BDS providers and microfinance institutions.

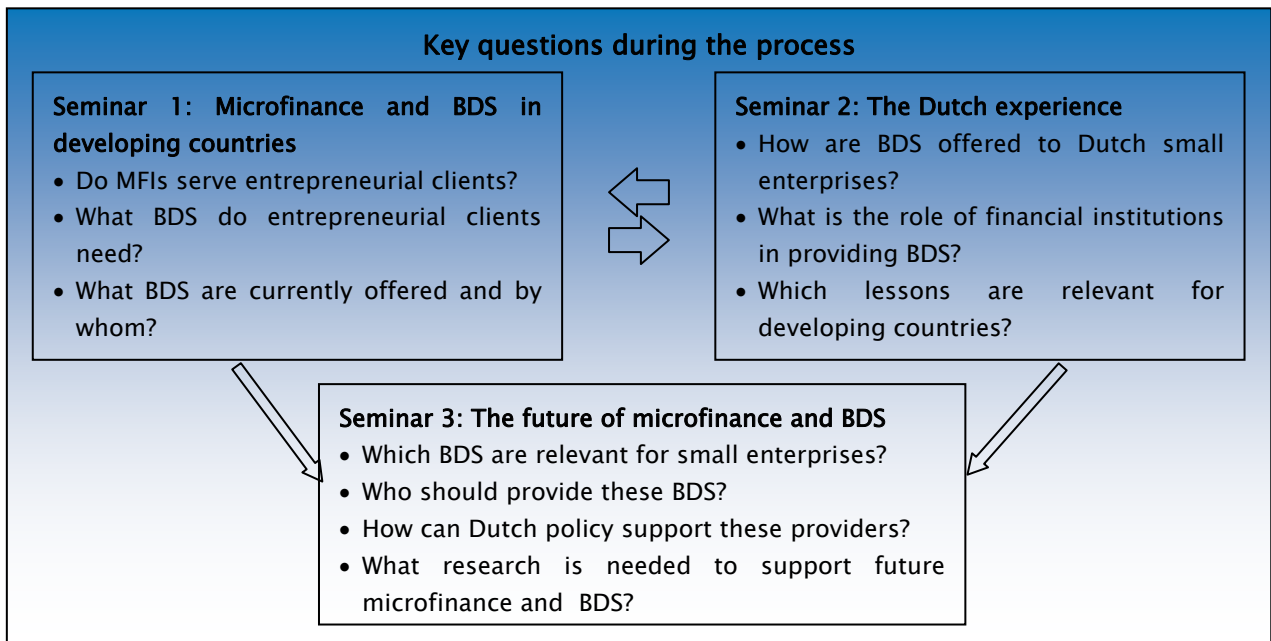
#### Process organisation

The '[Stimulating business development: another side of microfinance?](#)' process was carried out within the framework of the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) by:

- Triodos Facet
- Hogeschool InHolland



*World Café during microfinance seminar.*



### 🌐 What role for microfinance institutions?

In 2008, Triodos Facet and InHolland University of Applied Sciences initiated a one-year process to explore the role that microfinance institutions can play in improving the access of entrepreneurs to non-financial services.

They organised three consecutive and interlinked seminars. The first seminar focused on the state of affairs with regard to microfinance and BDS in developing countries. The second seminar addressed the situation in the Netherlands, based on the idea that microfinance pro other’s experiences. For this meeting, Klaas Molenaar (Inholland) wrote an issue paper. The results from both meetings formed the building blocks for the development of concrete policy recommendations and avenues for further academic research during the third and final seminar. In all seminars, the process organisers employed the World Café method to stimulate interactive discussion. This meant that participants discussed key questions in small groups, visualising the answers on blank paper in real time.

### 🌐 Tempered expectations, needs and bottlenecks

The main insights of this DPRN process are summarised in a synthesis report that shows, among other things, that the potential role of microfinance institutions to deliver non-financial services should not be overestimated. The five main conclusions of the synthesis report are:

#### *1. Let’s be realistic about microfinance*

Microfinance institutions (MFIs) offer financial services to a wide variety of clients, with their own particular needs. Not all microfinance clients will develop into successful businesses. In most developing countries the majority of micro-enterprises do not move beyond the survival mode and only a small group of MFI clients (estimated to be about 5 –10%) have the potential to develop their business into a small or medium-sized enterprise.



Bottlenecks relating to BDS providers	Interventions
BDS providers are limited in number.	Train existing entrepreneurs to deliver BDS: entrepreneurs train entrepreneurs.
BDS providers often lack quality and do not always understand client needs.	Set quality standards and create industry organisations.
BDS may not be cost effective; clients may not be willing to pay.	Set up a system in which entrepreneurs pay BDS through vouchers.
Bottlenecks relating to MFIs	Interventions
MFIs do not have capacity to deliver services other than financial services.	Create a referring model in which loan officers link high potential clients to BDS providers.
MFIs can be blamed if BDS leads to business failure; need to avoid conflicts of interest.	Create an institution that assists MFIs with delivering non-financial services.
MFIs are constrained by rules and regulations.	Provide additional funding to MFIs engaged in non-financial services.
MFIs have difficulties selecting the high potential clients who might need BDS.	Support MFIs with obtaining a client-focus and help them measure and manage non-financial performance.

### *II. Linking microfinance institutions to non-financial services*

MFIs could provide an interesting distribution channel for non-financial services. Nevertheless, MFIs should not deliver all these services themselves. Attempts to link MFIs to non-financial services should take the following into account:

- Financial institutions generally do not have the capacity to provide non-financial services.
- MFIs should focus on the services for which they are held morally responsible (e.g. financial literacy).
- The preferred approach is for financial institutions to establish cooperation networks with BDS providers and refer clients to such service providers when deemed necessary.
- The design of non-financial services should be based on client needs, rather than donor log frames.
- The costs of providing non-financial services should not be included in the costs of financial services.

### *III. Different types of BDS for different types of clients*

The following three broad categories of BDS can be identified, each with their own relevance for a particular type of enterprise:

- Client development services: raising awareness among clients of their basic business or personal (financial) situations with the general aim being to prevent harmful situations (e.g. over-indebtedness, unhealthy environments). Clients are in survival mode and may not be willing to pay for these services.
- Entrepreneurship development services: helping individuals to start their own business and raising awareness of entrepreneurship as a career choice, plus basic business skills

training. Clients are aspiring to set up a business as a positive choice, not so much out of necessity.

- Business development services: supporting existing small businesses to improve their operations, with the services ranging from business advice to technical skills training and linking entrepreneurs to markets.

#### *IV. Build capacity for MFIs and BDS providers*

Linking financial and non-financial services to enhance the growth of the small enterprise sector requires interventions at the level of both MFI and BDS providers. The table below describes the bottlenecks that these institutions may face and possible interventions.

#### *V. Conduct applied research on microfinance and BDS*

There are many basic questions that still need to be answered. Some research avenues for the future are:

- The impact of BDS on the performance (success rate) of small businesses.
- The identification of the most successful type of BDS (e.g. basic skills trainings targeting large numbers versus more sophisticated tailor-made business advice).
- The systematisation of best practices in mixing BDS and microfinance.
- The design of a BDS client pre-selection tool with proven selection variables.
- The identification of which type of MFI clients really need BDS.
- The cost-effectiveness of BDS.
- The cost-effective implementation of BDS provision in fragile environments.

#### Follow-up

After finalisation of the process, the discussion continued within the Netherlands Platform for Microfinance. The Netherlands Platform for Microfinance ([www.microfinance.nl](http://www.microfinance.nl)) consists of 15 Dutch organisations that work together to improve the effectiveness of their microfinance activities. The platform organised a debate about the social and environmental aspects of microfinance, in which the linkages between the provision

#### **Microfinance in the Netherlands: Do we learn from the South?**

This was the question raised by Mr Klaas Molenaar – General Director of Triodos Facet and Professor in Microfinance and Small Enterprise Development at the University of Applied Sciences Inholland, the Netherlands.



Mr Molenaar is convinced that the Dutch microfinance practitioners can and should learn from past experiences elsewhere. However, doing so seems to be more difficult than expected. For instance, while in developing countries there is a logical interrelationship between awareness, policy, institutional development and product/service development such is not the case in Europe and the Netherlands. Mr Molenaar states, in the Netherlands policymakers and practitioners are not fully aware of the real problem they try to tackle. To improve microfinance in the Netherlands drawing upon past experience and adapting that to our conditions is much needed. More can be read in the issue paper that was written by Mr. Molenaar for this seminar.

of financial and non-financial services were discussed. The research questions formulated during the process have also been taken up by the research group on Microfinance & Small Enterprise Development of Inholland University of Applied Sciences.

#### Process output

The 'Stimulating business development: Another side of microfinance?' process included three interlinked seminars, an online discussion forum, the preparation of an issue paper, and the collection of background literature in an online library.

This resulted in the following publications:

- Synthesis report: 'Stimulating business development: another role for microfinance?'
- Report on seminar 1: 'MFIs and BDS in developing countries'.
- Issue paper: 'Microfinance in the Netherlands: Do we learn from each other?'
- Report on seminar 2: 'Microfinance in the Netherlands, what can we learn from the South?'
- Report of seminar 3: 'The future of microfinance and business development services in developing countries'.
- Online library with academic articles and policy papers on microfinance and the linkages with business development services.

All publications are available on the website: <http://microfinance.global-connections.nl>



# GM Soy Debate

*How to manage risks and benefits of genetic modification in processes intended to improve the performance and practices*

## ⊕ Opposing insights impede debate

A polarised debate has evolved around genetically modified (GM) soy production. Triggered by increasing world demand for vegetable proteins and biofuels, soy production has been expanding rapidly during the past decade, especially in North and South America. A large and increasing part of this production is genetically modified.

Genetic modification is highly controversial. Opponents emphasise the unknown long-term environmental and health risks of GM crops. They also claim that GM soy boosts further expansion and other negative impacts of soy and that farmers are increasingly dependent on a handful of companies when it comes to obtaining seeds and crop protection. Proponents of GM crops argue that GM technology poses no threat to human or environmental wellbeing. Instead, they contend that it



### Process organisation

The GM Soy Debate was carried out within the framework of the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) by:

- Aidenvironment
- Plant Research International (PRI) – Wageningen University and Research Centre (WUR)

They were advised by an independent Steering Committee, consisting of professionals from the North and South.

Additional funding for the project came from Solidaridad, WWF Netherlands and the Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment.



reduces the need for pesticides and increases yields. Due to their often radical positions, there has been little constructive dialogue between proponents and opponents of GM soy.

## ⊕ Unbiased knowledge and constructive dialogue

In 2008, Plant Research International (PRI) at Wageningen University and Research Centre

(WUR) and AidEnvironment initiated the GM Soy Debate in response to the highly polarised debate on the pros and cons of GM soy production.

The first objective of the process was to perform research and then create a common and unbiased knowledge base as a response to key stakeholder concerns. This knowledge base provided a basis for constructive stakeholder dialogue about the possible impacts of GM soy and the promotion of responsible decision-making. Finally, the process delivered consensus-based recommendations on how to manage the risks and benefits of GM soy.

### 🌱 Research outcomes: neither peril nor panacea

Together with the University of Buenos Aires and EMBRAPA, the Brazilian parastatal company for agronomic research, PRI conducted an extensive literature study on the agro-ecological impacts, risks and opportunities of GM soy production in Argentina and Brazil. The research was intended to clarify and validate stakeholders' claims regarding the agro-ecological risks and opportunities of GM soy in Argentina and Brazil.

The report contains useful recommendations on preventing some of the identified agro-ecological risks of GM soy, such as the development of herbicide-resistant weeds, herbicide drift affecting biodiversity, and mingling of GM soy with GM free soy in neighbouring plots.

Importantly, the researchers found no evidence that GM soy produces yields that are structurally different from those of conventional soy. What is more, GM

### Twelve claims regarding GM soy

Research carried out during the process shows that:

1. Differences in yield between GM soy and conventional soy are usually small. There is no evidence that GM soy produces yields that are structurally different from those of conventional soy.
2. GM soy does lead to a strong change in the spectrum of herbicide use. The environmental impacts of the herbicides used on GM soy are probably comparable to or higher than those of the herbicides used on conventional soy.
3. The introduction of GM soy probably contributed to the development of herbicide resistant weeds.
4. There is no evidence that GM soy causes problems in the control of volunteer crops.
5. GM soy encouraged the adoption of zero tillage, although it was already in wide use before the introduction of GM soy.
6. Evidence of the role of GM soy in facilitating mono-cropping is inconclusive.
7. GM soy probably has a different impact on biodiversity in and around fields than conventional soy.
8. The cultivation of GM soy does not pose a threat to nearby farms that want to cultivate GM-free soy. Appropriate measures should be taken to minimise out-crossing and herbicide drift, and to avoid mixing of seeds during field operations and in post-harvest activities.
9. It is highly unlikely that GM traits in soy spread and persist outside agricultural fields.
10. GM soy may encourage the expansion of soy into particular natural areas during the initial years after their conversion into farmland.
11. There is no evidence that GM soy has affected the genetic diversity of soy in Latin America.
12. GM soy probably facilitated an increase in the scale of farming, but the availability of GM soy was not a decisive factor in this process.



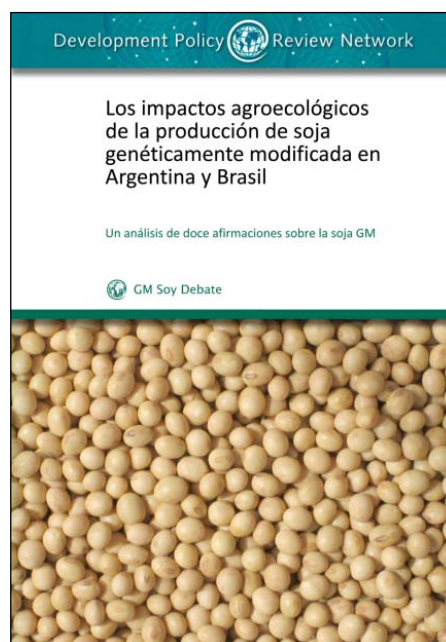
soy does not seem to result in lower levels of pesticide use either. Based on the literature review, the GM Soy Debate issued a publication accessible to a larger audience addressing twelve claims related to GM soy. The report is available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

## 🌱 Stakeholder dialogue

The GM Soy Debate organised an international Stakeholder Conference on 9 December 2008. The preliminary results of the PRI study were shared with stakeholders, which provided an excellent basis for discussion. One important recommendation of the conference was to widen the scope of research to include the socioeconomic impacts of GM soy production (e.g. related to food safety and ethics).

The conference, attended by 74 people, reflected the controversial nature of the debate from the start. Some organisations used the meeting as an opportunity to campaign against GM soy production. Even though many of these opponents formally distanced themselves from the debate, they later decided to participate in the discussion. This represented an important step forward in the dialogue about GM soy.

Contacts between the organisers of the GM Soy Debate and the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Fisheries (LNV) intensified during the process. The ministries became interested in the development of socioeconomic criteria for admitting GM crops into the EU and invited the process organisers to share lessons at an EU conference on the issue.



*The public report in Spanish.*

## 🌱 Recommendations



*The stakeholder conference of the GM soy debate was used as an opportunity to campaign against GM soy, for example by A SEED Europe (Source: <http://www.aseed.net>).*

The discussion on sustainable soy production is related first and foremost to the scale or type of cultivation practices (i.e. mono cropping, large-scale cultivation, tillage practices) and the expansion of soy production into areas which are environmentally sensitive or rich in biodiversity. Whether or not the soy is genetically modified hardly plays a role as regards these aspects of soy cultivation.

The environmental effects of the GM construct itself also appear to be irrelevant to the debate on the ecological impact of GM soy. The co-existence of GM and conventional soy production can be

achieved in the field if appropriate measures are taken to avoid admixture, cross pollination and herbicide drift. It is therefore recommended that the GM soy discussion focuses on the use of herbicides and the environmental impact of these herbicides in the long term, specifically in relation to the build-up of herbicide resistance in weeds associated with current GM soy varieties and varieties to be released in the near future with comparable features.

Herbicide application rate and the environmental impact of these herbicides in a major production region in Argentina were found to be higher in GM soy than in conventional soy. These findings warrant further research into, and debate on, the environmental effects of herbicide applications in GM soy in the long term. A range of options can be introduced to limit accumulating environmental impact from herbicide applications such as:

- Decision support and extension services (operating independently of any involved actor in the chain) could inform farmers about best management practices.
- Governments can install rules and regulations to which the use and application of herbicides, and other agro-chemicals for that matter, should comply.
- A mix of crop varieties with tolerance to herbicides other than glyphosate could be integrated into the production system to diversify the use of herbicides as a strategy to slow down build-up of weed resistance.
- Rotating soy with other crops offers opportunities to diversify the weed management strategy and slow down the build-up of herbicide resistance.

### Follow-up

The process outcomes were presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Soybean Research Conference in Beijing, China, in August 2009. They also played a role in discussions of the Round Table of Responsible Soy (RTRS), which is an initiative of producers, industry, retail, financial institutions and civil society organisations to develop voluntary standards to mainstream responsible soy production and reduce the adverse impacts of soy production.

The process organisers have been looking into the possibilities for more research on the socioeconomic impacts and institutional aspects of GM (soy) cultivation and PRI has obtained government funding for a second phase of research.

### Process output

The 'GM soy debate' included research with stakeholder involvement (through steering committee advice and a stakeholder conference) and the publication of popular reports based on the study.

This resulted in the following publications:

- Research report: 'Agro-ecological impacts of genetically modified soy production in Argentina and Brazil'.
- Public reports: 'Agro-ecological impacts of genetically modified soy production in Argentina and Brazil: An analysis of twelve GM soy claims'. Available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.
- Statement by the chair of the GM soy Debate Steering Committee.
- DPRN process report.
- [GM Soy Debate Brochure](#).

All publications are available on the website: <http://gmsoydebate.global-connections.nl>

# Understanding development better

*Do we truly understand the how aid relates to development?*

## 🌐 Different perspectives

Over the last 60 years, many different development paradigms have been adhered to. Approaches, modalities and instruments were challenged accordingly, and altered or adjusted very frequently. It is, however, still questionable whether we truly understand the relationship between aid and development.

Former Dutch Minister for Development Co-operation Jan Pronk summarised the evolution of development aid approaches over the last 60 years as follows: 'Technical assistance of the early years was followed by community development support in the 1950s, aid to fill trade and investment gaps in the 1960s, aid to provide for basic human needs in the 1970s, assistance to structural adjustment and debt relief in the 1980s, humanitarian assistance in combination with support for rehabilitation of countries after the civil wars of the 1990s and at the turn of the century, aid for human development and aid to prevent violent conflicts and foster democratic governance' (Jan Pronk, 2004, Catalysing Development?).

Despite the wide-ranging experience with all these different approaches towards development aid there is still a lot of uncertainty and confusion about the relationship between aid and development. There are doubts as to whether increasing aid levels are effective, or whether an emphasis on other approaches, such as trade & aid and a more equitable international economic order, are needed to catalyse development. Under what conditions can aid promote development and when does it stifle development? And do we even understand what 'development' really is?

## 🌐 Understanding development better

In 2008, MDF training & consultancy, Vice Versa, and the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) organised a broad discussion designed to get development theories and models back onto the Dutch debate agenda. The aim was to revive the debate on the fundamental drivers of development in order to come to a better understanding of development and the ways aid

### Process organisation

The 'Understanding Development Better' conference was organised within the framework of the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) by:

- MDF training & consultancy
- Vice Versa/Lokaal Mondiaal
- Institute of Social Studies (ISS)





may catalyse it. The main event within this process was a three-day conference organised on 27–29 August 2008 in Ede, the Netherlands.

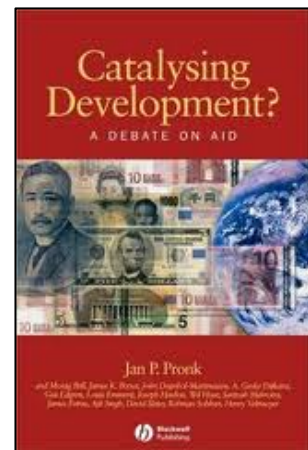
### 🕒 Aid as a catalyst of development

During the conference, speakers approached and analysed the relationships between aid and development from different theoretical and practical angles. Fifteen papers were written as input for the discussion. The meeting brought together 96 development experts, including senior staff from funding agencies, government and semi-government organisations and researchers and development practitioners.

### 🕒 Complementary development theories

On the first day participants discussed position papers that outlined different academic disciplinary perspectives on development, varying from macro-economics to anthropology. The various papers emphasised different forces in development processes. At the same time, however, it became clear that most papers challenged the dominant neo-liberal vision on development, due to its lack of attention to politics and power. The discussions revealed that, even though there is no single comprehensive theoretical model for development, most theoretical insights are still largely complementary. At the end of the day, the discussion zoomed in on complexity theory. While some think this theory can provide the overarching theoretical framework for analysing development more accurately, others are sceptical, arguing that complexity theory is still in its infancy.

*Former Minister Jan Pronk played an important role during the UDB conference. In his book 'Catalysing development?' (2004) he states that aid is not the prime mover of development, but rather a catalyst.*



### 🕒 Practical hindrances

The position papers discussed during the second day dealt with practical hindrances to development, such as bureaucracy, corruption, conflicts and failing states. Participants emphasised the context-specific nature of development and its hindrances, and stressed that context should be an essential element in any analysis of development processes. Experts also argued that theories are needed to provide a starting point for the formulation of development-related policies and practices. Experiences of practitioners should be collected and analysed to provide the information that is needed to falsify or verify existing development theories.

## Papers on development theories and practical hindrances to development

A total of fifteen position papers were written as input to the conference. The first series of nine papers discussed development theories from different academic disciplinary perspectives. The second series dealt with practical hindrances to development. During the conference small workgroups were held in which the authors presented their papers and discussed them with other participants.

### Development theories

- The anthropological perspective – *‘When ‘development’ enters the village’* by Sjoerd Zanen (MDF training & consultancy).
- The macro-economic perspective – *‘Economic growth: A necessary, yet neglected condition for development’* by Geske Dijkstra (Erasmus University Rotterdam).
- The empirical perspective – *‘Free to choose?’* by Antonie de Kemp (Policy and Operations Evaluation Department, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs).
- The entrepreneurial perspective – *‘Small and Medium enterprises and Business Development Services: are we missing something?’* by Klaas Molenaar (Triodos Facet).
- The geographical perspective – *‘Can Africa learn from the Asian miracle? Yes it can!’* by Lia van Wesenbeeck (Centre for World Food Studies, VU University Amsterdam).
- The politicological perspective – *‘Politics and development: the governance debate’* by Wil Hout (Institute of Social Studies).
- The sociological perspective – *‘Development, capitalism and class. Some notes about understanding development’* by Jos Mooij (Institute of Social Studies).
- The technological perspective – *‘The dynamics of innovation: Development from a technology and society perspective’* by Wim Ravesteijn (Delft University of Technology).

### Practical hindrances

- Bureacracy and corruption – *‘Corruptiebestrijding: mag het een tikkeltje effectiever?’* by Martin Koper (Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs).
- Capacity development – *‘The Localisation of Cap-acity Development Efforts’* by Jan Ubels & Kees Zevenbergen (Netherlands Development Organisation SNV).
- Conflicts & failing states – *‘Conflicts & Failing states’* by Helen Hintjens (Institute of Social Studies).
- Entrepreneurship & Business environment – *‘Small and Medium enterprises and Business Development Services: are we missing something?’* by Klaas Molenaar (Triodos Facet).
- Globalisation, value chains and development organisations – *‘Global standards, small producers’* by Peter Knorringa (Institute of Social Studies).
- Migration – *‘Migration and development: What development, and for whom?’* by Joris Schapendonk (Radboud University Nijmegen), Lothar Smith (Radboud University Nijmegen) and Annelies Zoomers (Utrecht University).
- International financial relations – *‘Economic Partnership Agreements: Help or hindrance?’* by Stephen Browne (International Trade Centre, Geneva), and *‘Access to finance and private sector development’* by Stan Stavenuiter (FMO Finance for development).



Hotel 'De Bosrand', venue for the UDB conference.



Participants in the UDB conference

### ☉ Do not confuse aid with development

Synthesising the discussions on the third day, participants reflected on the conditions under which aid could enhance development. They warned that development aid should not be confused with development. Instead, development aid should be understood as something that is intended to address the bottlenecks for development in the most effective way. As such, aid should work as a catalyst of development.

### ☉ Different policy perspectives

After the conference, the process organisers wrote a paper assessing how several Dutch ministers of development cooperation have interpreted development and the ways aid can spur it. The paper is entitled *'Een wereld van verschil – Een zaak van iedereen. Ontwikkelingssamenwerkingsbeleid van Pronk tot Koenders'* [A World of difference – A matter concerning all. Development policy from Pronk till Koenders].

The paper compares and reflects on the policies of Minister Pronk, Herfkens, van Ardenne and Koenders. It clearly shows that the differences in perspective, experience and political colour of the various ministers significantly shifted the focus of Dutch development policies over the last decades. There are some common elements that recur in each



policy term, such as a neo-liberal perspective and attention for poverty alleviation, but each minister tended to approach them from a different angle. The authors conclude that, since the time of Minister Pronk, little attention has been paid to the analysis of development processes and policy formulation on the basis of empirical research. There is no robust theory which underlies development policies.

### 🕒 Follow-up: Towards a policy theory

The three organising institutions, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, followed up on the conference in 2009 with another DPRN process entitled 'Singing a new policy tune'. This process aimed at improving the quality of policy-making in international development cooperation in the Netherlands by revitalising the discussion on underlying policy theories.

#### Process output

The 'Understanding development better' process included a three-day conference, for which policies were reviewed, papers were written and an online forum was created.

This resulted in the following publications:

- Fifteen position papers written by conference participants.
- Policy review paper: 'Een wereld van verschil – Een zaak van iedereen. Ontwikkelingssamenwerkingsbeleid van Pronk tot Koenders'.
- DPRN process report.

All publications are available on the website: <http://udb.global-connections.nl>

## *Phosphorus depletion: the invisible crisis*

### Phosphorus shortage as a threat

Global reserves of phosphorus are running out and, since plants need phosphate to grow, this poses an enormous challenge for global food production in the foreseeable future. A shortage of phosphate could ultimately result in large-scale famine and social-political turmoil. Surprisingly, phosphorus depletion did not seem to be on the political agenda some time ago. In order to increase awareness of these problems, the Netherlands Water Partnership, WASTE and Plant Research International initiated a one year DPRN process in 2009 to place the issue on the Dutch and European political agendas.

A key question is whether it will be possible to feed a growing global population in the future. Often it is simply assumed that resources necessary for increased food production will be just as available as they are today. This might not be the case for phosphorus (P) which is a macronutrient indispensable for plant growth,



### Process organisation

The 'Phosphorus depletion: the invisible crisis' process was carried out within the framework of the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) by:

- The Netherlands Water Partnership
- WASTE
- Plant Research International – Wageningen University and Research Centre (WUR)

The three process organisers are members of the Nutrient Flow Task Group (NFTG). The NFTG is a growing and open network of organisations which aims to draw attention to the depletion of phosphorus and other nutrients and the global impact thereof.



and also irreplaceable.

In the pre-industrialised era, when there was a much smaller global population, crop production relied on natural phosphorus supplies in the soil, with or without additional supplies from organic manure. Human excreta were also used as input. Increased food production was necessary to feed the growing global population. This became possible from around 1850 onwards, based on the input



of artificial fertilisers, which boosted agriculture tremendously. However, since phosphorus is an important component of artificial fertilisers, this also accelerated phosphorus use.

Currently we are in a situation in which global food supply has become dependent on continual inputs of phosphate fertiliser to maintain soil fertility. However, phosphate deposits are finite. The problem of phosphorus depletion is further complicated by the fact that, similarly to fossil fuels, the control of phosphorus resources is in the hands of a limited number of countries. Most of the known reserves are in Morocco, the US and China and the latter recently imposed an export tariff on phosphate.

## Sustainable use of phosphorus

Bert Smit and other PRI researchers wrote a report that addresses global phosphorus resources and trends. This report provided the scientific basis for the other process activities. The authors estimate that, considering the expected increase in food and energy consumption of the growing world population, today's economically exploitable phosphorus resources will be depleted within 75 years. They mention several possibilities for a more sustainable use of phosphorus:

- Measures to prevent erosion are crucial because large losses occur due to soil erosion and runoff. Phosphorus eventually ends up in the ocean's sediments where it cannot be recovered using current technology.
- Manure should be used more efficiently. Livestock concentration (i.e. the number of animals) should be in balance with the surrounding area of arable land. In this way the excess of animal manure will not lead to an accumulation of phosphorus in the soil.
- Technology should be developed to recycle the phosphorus in waste like human excreta, crop residues, slaughter waste and other organic rest streams. In order to improve the recycling rate, current regulations at national and EU levels may need to be revised.
- Current fertiliser recommendation schemes need to be critically reviewed, and possibilities for increasing the efficiency of phosphorus fertilisation strategies within agriculture should be explored.
- Breeding technologies that make plants more efficient in mobilising phosphorus in the soil should be stimulated.



*Recycling human excreta, especially urine, will save large amounts of phosphorus (Source: <http://inhabitat.com>).*

The authors stress the need to re-use and recycle phosphorus. This requires joint efforts involving various disciplines and expertise. Importantly, coordinated global governance related to the remaining phosphorus resources demands increased awareness of the

problem, not only at the level of international organisations and governments, but also at the level of 'the man in the street'.

## 🌐 Sustainable phosphorus use in the Netherlands

According to a report by Plant Research International, there are several ways in which phosphorus can be used more sustainably in the Netherlands.

- Livestock should be in balance with the surrounding area of arable land. The most drastic measure would be to reduce the number of P-excreting animals in the country in the long run. However, such a policy would have serious economic consequences.
- Current fertiliser recommendation schemes should be subjected to critical judgment. The potential trade-off between phosphorus use and yields or crop quality should be quantified for various situations in order to achieve a lower phosphorus fertility level.
- Possibilities for increasing the efficiency of phosphorus fertilisation strategies within agriculture should be explored. Precision farming offers possibilities for using fertiliser P more efficiently (e.g. placement of fertiliser). Plant breeding based on plant properties which mobilise phosphorus in the soil more efficiently should also be stimulated.
- Critical evaluation of P-additions to animal food.
- Besides a more efficient use of manure, initiatives should be oriented around improving recycling of P in waste streams like household and slaughter waste. After incineration of these waste streams the P-rich ashes are not recycled, despite the technology for doing so now being available. In order to improve the recycling rate, current regulations at national and EU level will have to be critically reviewed. Government recycling incentives may also be helpful.



*Livestock should be in balance with the surrounding area of arable land (Source: Wikipedia).*

### Documentary

A ten minute movie (in Dutch), entitled 'Element P – fosfaat schaarste: Is schaarste te voorkomen' was made as part of this process. The documentary and accompanying booklet outline the current problems regarding phosphorus depletion, as well as the opportunities from a private sector perspective. The movie can be found on You Tube.



- Globally, an increasing crop area is available for biofuels and bioenergy. This may stimulate the demand for P fertiliser as well as increase losses through erosion. The principle behind these crops is the prevention of global warming. Whether this is achieved in a sustainable manner will also depend on the degree of recycling of the P-containing residues (back to the land where the crops were grown). If the Netherlands imports these types of energy-containing materials from other countries, it should return at least the nutrient-containing residues (especially P) to the production site.

### Phosphorus shortage: an opportunity

As long as there is no substitute for phosphorus, solutions to the problem of phosphorus scarcity include improving the efficiency of nutrient management in agriculture, and the recovery of nutrients from waste (water) or manure/human excretions. This means that phosphorus shortage creates opportunities related to the increasing demand for technological innovation in (waste) water technology and recycle industries. Moreover the recovery and trade of nutrients will turn sanitation into a financial sustainable business. See also: [www.phosphaterecovery.com](http://www.phosphaterecovery.com).

### Follow-up

The process was successful in generating new alliances and plans for activities related to phosphorous depletion.

The Nutrient Flow Task Group (NFTG) has been transformed into a Dutch Nutrient Platform (NP). This platform is continuing NFTG's work in close cooperation with key partners like the Global Partnership

### Process output

The 'Phosphorus depletion: the invisible crisis' process included the publication of articles, case studies, a documentary, and a plan for the set-up of a future 'Nutrient Platform'. Two seminars were held (in The Hague and Brussels) to raise political awareness, and the issue was presented at several international conferences (e.g. the World Water Forum in Istanbul, the World Water Week in Stockholm, and the International Conference on Nutrient Recovery from Wastewater Streams in Vancouver).

This resulted in the following publications:

- Research report: 'Phosphorus in agriculture: global resources, trends and development'.
- Case study: 'Phosphorus: an essential but finite resource. Case study for the Netherlands'.
- Policy note and accompanying letter to the Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Security (LNV) based on the research report.
- Seminar notes: On the mini-seminars in The Hague and Brussels.
- Draft plan for setting up a Nutrient Bureau.
- Fact sheet.
- Article in The Broker: 'Peak phosphorus. The next inconvenient truth'.
- DPRN process report.
- Documentary: 'Element P – fosfaat schaarste: Is schaarste te voorkomen'.
- Online library with background documents.

All publications are available on the website: <http://phosphorus.global-connections.nl>



on Nutrient Management (an initiative of the Dutch and US Governments and UNEP following the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference on Sustainable Development in May 2010) and the Global Phosphorus Research Initiative, with whom alliances were established during the DPRN process. The Nutrient Platform brings together private companies, NGOs and knowledge institutions with the aim being to create the conditions necessary for sustainable nutrient use. The platform's strategic plan describes the vision and mission of the platform, its purpose and strategy, its learning approach, proposed activities, the organisational structure and funding requirements.

The European Directorate-General for the Environment commissioned PRI-WUR and the Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI) to perform a desk study of the sustainable use of Phosphorus in 2010. The study focuses on the present and future supply and demand of phosphate in the world, the environmental effects of phosphate use (biodiversity, radioactivity, energy, heavy metals), solutions and institutional requirements.

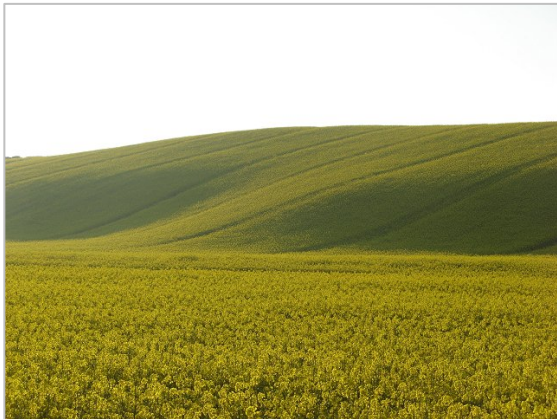


*Fuelling knowledge on the social and ecological impacts of agrofuel production*

🌐 **Agrofuels: curse or cure?**

The environmental and social effects of increased production of agrofuels – liquid fuels produced from agricultural products – are widely debated. Proponents consider agrofuels to be the answer to both rising oil prices and the negative climatic consequences of fossil fuels, but they are opposed by those who warn about the threats that agrofuels pose to food security, biodiversity and poverty reduction.

Although biofuels can be produced from various types of biomass using different techniques, at the moment virtually all commercially produced biofuels are *agrofuels*, i.e. produced from crops grown on agricultural lands.



*Large subsidies for oil seed rape has led to many acres being planted (Source: Wikimedia.org).*

Since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, production of agrofuels from food crops such as sugar cane, corn, wheat, sugar beet and oil palm has increased

**Process organisation**

The 'Fuelling knowledge on the social and ecological impacts of agrofuel production' process was carried out within the framework of the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) by the Agrofuels Platform, which is a joint initiative of:

- Both ENDS Foundation
- IUCN Netherlands Committee/[Natureandpoverty.net](http://Natureandpoverty.net)
- Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research/Governance and Inclusive Development group
- Mekon Ecology
- Alterra
- Law and Governance Group of Wageningen University
- ETC International
- Cordaid
- Leiden University
- Centre for International Cooperation of the VU University, Amsterdam



enormously, largely driven by policies and subsidies to stimulate biofuel use. Many national governments, hoping to become less dependent on the import of expensive fossil fuels, developed policies that directly or indirectly provide incentives to companies and banks to invest in biofuel production and processing plants.

Some economists believe that the increased production of agrofuels marks the beginning of an agricultural renaissance, with farmers earning higher incomes thanks to increased demand for agricultural crops for energy production. Expectations are high as regards the prospects of using 'marginal' land for energy crops. Other observers believe that the adoption of policies to stimulate biofuel production has kick-started a new scramble for land that will push aside food production, food producers and ecosystems. They expect that private investors will prefer to invest in energy farming on fertile lands – rather than so-called marginal lands – in order to reach break-even points as soon as possible.

Discussions concerning the pros and cons of agrofuel production have long remained limited to a simplistic debate in which they were presented either as a cure or a curse. Recently, there has been a growing consensus that increasing demand for agrofuels is leading to increased pressure on the land, with potential negative consequences for people and the environment. However, the extent to which these effects can and should be controlled through quality standards is a topic of ongoing debate.

Any discussion of agrofuels is bound to be charged because it brings together a range of political and business interests in areas as diverse as energy security, the oil industry, agricultural policy, the food industry, poverty and development, climate change, biodiversity

### The Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and blending targets

The Renewable Energy Directive (RED) of the European Union promotes the blending of biofuels with fossil fuels in the transport sector. The primary aim of the directive is to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to combat climate change. According to the RED, the overall target for renewable energy (which includes biomass, biogas, wind, solar, hydro and geothermal energy) across the European Union is 20% in 2020, and the directive presents binding targets for each member state. Within this national target, each member state is obliged to realise at least 10% renewable energy in the transportation sector. As the 10% target for renewable energy in the transport sector is likely to be met primarily through the use of biofuels, we tend to speak of a 10% 'European blending target'.

Obligatory blending targets may be in place at the level of individual member states. The Netherlands is one of the few European countries with legally defined blending targets for the transport sector already in place (*Besluit biobrandstoffen voor het wegverkeer 2007*). On 10 October 2008, due to unresolved uncertainties about sustainability and growing criticism of negative impacts of first generation biofuels, the the biofuels targets for 2009 and 2010 was reduced from 5.75% to 4%.

The RED sets binding sustainability criteria for biofuels. Market parties themselves will have to prove, through independent audits, that their biofuels meet the criteria. Only if the binding sustainability criteria are met will the biofuel count towards the renewable energy target.



and the automobile industry. These discussions are only meaningful when they are based on unbiased information and a proper understanding of the actual effects of agrofuel production.

## 🌱 The Agrofuels Platform: Stimulating dialogue

Within the framework of DPRN, a group of Dutch NGOs and research institutes established the Agrofuels Platform to promote a discussion on the social and ecological effects of agrofuel production and the resulting policy dilemma's.

The platform aimed to: (i) provide an overview of the available scientific knowledge; (ii) analyse the perspectives (and associated assumptions and underlying motives) of various stakeholders; and (iii) bring policymakers, NGOs and researchers together to debate the effects of agrofuel production and the appropriate policy responses. Some of the main activities by the Agrofuels Platform are mentioned below.



## 🌱 Biofuels WIKI

The Agrofuels Platform made use of a WIKI to share relevant documents with a broader audience – both experts and the general public. The website is coordinated by [Natureandpoverty.net](http://Natureandpoverty.net), which is the knowledge network of [IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands](http://IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands). It provides access to hundreds of documents on biofuels in general and agrofuels in particular. The documents cover a wide range of topics, from the environmental and social effects of production to criteria setting and policies. There is also a section on policy recommendations made by NGOs. The website is open to anyone interested in the topic.

## 🌱 Discussion paper

The Agrofuels Platform wrote a discussion paper providing an overview of the current knowledge regarding social and environmental effects of agrofuel production. In addition the paper provides an overview of the positions of various relevant stakeholders. Policymakers at various ministries in the Netherlands were interviewed in order to obtain information concerning the assumptions on which they base their policies. The paper formed the input for a multi-stakeholder meeting in The Hague on 18 February 2010.

## 🌱 Seminars

The platform organised two seminars. Firstly, there was a workshop at the CERES Summer School on 3 July 2009, where researchers presented case study material, discussed approaches and methodologies, and addressed the role of knowledge in policymaking processes. A total of 32 participants attended the workshop, including researchers, practitioners and representatives of the private sector.



## *Pros and cons of agrofuel production*

### **Arguments in favour of agrofuels:**

- Agrofuels are an alternative for the insecure and exhaustible supply of fossil fuel.
- Agrofuel production can reduce the dependency of developing countries on expensive import of fossil fuels, and improve their trade balance.
- The feedstock used to make agrofuels is renewable – fresh supplies can be produced as needed. In theory, therefore, there is an unlimited and secure supply.
- Certain forms of agrofuels have a positive GHG balance compared to fossil fuels and their use will therefore help to mitigate climate change.
- The production of agrofuels is not restricted to specific countries that can control supply and determine price.
- The production of agrofuels implies economic opportunities for (investments in) the agricultural sector in developed and developing countries, by generating employment and increasing rural incomes.
- Agrofuels can be easily blended with fossil fuel and then be used in existing car and lorry engines (in contrast to electricity or hydrogen for which other cars and engines are needed).
- Agrofuels offer opportunities for a much-needed local energy provision given that 1.6 billion people currently have no access to electricity and 2.4 billion people have no access to modern fuels for cooking and heating.

### **Arguments against agrofuels:**

- The GHG emission reduction potential of agrofuels strongly depends on whether or not natural vegetation is converted to agricultural land. Conversion of natural areas could lead to a negative balance.
- The production of feedstock for agrofuel competes with food production, both directly (when food crops are used to produce fuels) and indirectly (when land suitable for food production is used to cultivate non-food crops for biofuel production).
- The production of agrofuel feedstock affects food prices, with serious consequences for both poor city dwellers and small-scale farmers, who are often net food consumers.
- The production of agrofuel feedstock can lead to rising land prices and income in-equality.
- The production of agrofuel feedstock poses a threat to biodiversity by creating economic incentives to clear forests and using wetlands and peat lands to grow the required feedstock.
- The production and processing of agrofuel feedstock causes competition for scarce water resources.
- There is a risk that people will be displaced from their land to make way for plantations or other large-scale agricultural schemes.

Secondly, the platform organised a discussion between scientists, practitioners and policymakers in The Hague on 18 February 2010. The meeting was attended by some top-level scientists and policymakers from the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and people from the Corbey Commission and Agentschap NL (Ministry of Economic Affairs). Among other things the discussions revealed the uncertainties in scientific models, the gaps between different schools of knowledge and the incoherence between ministries. More information on the outcomes of the seminar can be found in the discussion paper.

### 🌍 The unintended effects of biofuel policies

The discussion paper entitled *Burning questions* shows that there is a growing consensus among scientists that policy measures to stimulate biofuel production lead to significant agricultural expansion, with negative effects on biodiversity and food prices.

The authors of the discussion paper reviewed a wide range of academic publications on the pros and cons of agrofuel production, and interviewed several stakeholders in the Netherlands. The study concluded that:

- In theory, the use of agrofuels can lead to a reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions if they substitute fossil fuels, provided no natural vegetation is converted;
- In practice, blending targets and growing demand for transport fuels are likely to result in additional expansion of agricultural land, with negative effects on communities' access to lands, biodiversity and food prices.



*Environmental organisations such as Greenpeace warn that biofuel production leads to deforestation (Source: <http://www.greenpeace.org>).*



## Types of biofuels

A differentiation is needed between first, second and third generation biofuels. The distinction between them is usually made based on three characteristics: the technology used, the use of the edible or non-edible part of the feedstock and the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction potential. Here we adhere to the definitions published by IUCN NL (2008).



**First generation biofuels** are transport fuels produced using conventional technology from feedstock like wheat, corn, sugar, palm oil and sunflower oil, i.e. agricultural products which are also used as food and feed. Countries use different crops. The EU prefers rapeseed, wheat and sugar beet; the USA use mainly corn and soybeans; Brazil's biofuel consumption is largely based on sugar cane and in Southeast Asia it is palm oil. At the moment only first generation biofuels are commercially viable.



**Second generation biofuels** are produced using more advanced conversion technologies that allow the use of non-edible materials derived from plants (mostly ligno-cellulosic parts, like stalks and straw, but also woodchips). Their CO<sub>2</sub> performance tends to be better than that of first generation biofuels because all the source material, and potentially also organic waste material, is used. One concern related to second generation biofuel is decreasing soil fertility after removal of all organic matter from the land, which may affect water regulation and nutrient content negatively. Technological breakthroughs and considerable investments in infrastructure are required to make second generation biofuel production commercially viable. Estimates suggest that the technology will be commercially available in about a decade.



**Third generation biofuels** generally refer to the production of ethanol from plants that were modified for easier processing (e.g. poplar with lower lignin content), and the production of biodiesel from algae. These techniques are expected to have a better CO<sub>2</sub> performance than first and second generation biofuels.

**The term agrofuels** refers to biofuels for which agricultural lands have been used. The Agrofuels Platform decided to focus its work on agrofuels because, at the moment, virtually all commercially produced biofuels are produced from crops grown on agricultural lands. The term agrofuels includes so-called first-generation biofuels made from oil palm and sugarcane, as well as second generation biofuels made from Jatropha, when grown on agricultural lands.



*In 2008, Minister Cramer (VROM) opened the first gas station where ethanol blended gas is sold (Source: Wikipedia.org).*

In line with these findings, an increasing number of NGOs and researchers emphasise the risks of implementing blending targets, as they may stimulate unsustainable agrofuel production. However, policymakers in the Netherlands tend to favour such policy instruments, arguing that they provide the opportunity to implement strict sustainability criteria, with potential positive effects on the sustainability of agriculture as a whole.

While most parties acknowledge the potential negative effects of agrofuel production, the responses that NGOs and governments propose differ greatly. NGOs are generally worried and assume that expansion implies 'business-as-usual'. Most of them, implicitly or explicitly, refer to the precautionary principle. Governments tend, however, to emphasise the potential positive effects

on economic growth, employment and rural development in producing countries. They stress the opportunities and seem to be willing to take the associated risks.

### Science meets policy

At a multi-stakeholder meeting in The Hague, several scientists, practitioners and policymakers gathered in February 2010 to discuss the effects of agrofuel production and the related policy options. Regarding the appropriateness of existing policy instruments, the meeting revealed the contrast between the perspectives of NGOs and scientists and those of policymakers. Having said that, there were also points on which there was a consensus.

Opinions about the appropriateness of blending targets to stimulate biofuel use varied greatly. The proponents argued that legally defined blending targets offer a unique and unprecedented legal opportunity to implement obligatory sustainability criteria for agrofuels. This, in turn, can have positive effects on wider agricultural production. They therefore hope that (elements of) the biofuel regulation will spill over to the wider agricultural sector. Moreover, proponents of the blending targets note that the regulations can be adjusted to create extra incentives for second-generation biofuels. Those who oppose blending targets argued that they are



a poor policy tool, as the sustainability criteria are weak and the risks associated with agricultural expansion are considerable. Some participants argued in favour of abolishing the blending targets all together: 'Why would you want to increase the demand for agricultural products artificially if you know that the use of agrofuels will not contribute to significant GHG emission reductions, and will inevitably lead to extra agricultural expansion, possibly at the expense of *Jatropha* production (Source: Wikipedia.org).



*Palm oil production in West Kalimantan, Indonesia (Source: ran.org).*

biodiversity, food security and smallholder agriculture?' They argued that it is better to invest in the productivity and sustainability of the agricultural sector as a whole, and in various initiatives that are already in place to pursue sustainability of trade chains.

Notwithstanding these different viewpoints, all participants agreed that it is necessary to adjust the current regulations at the European level. The Netherlands should play an active role in improving the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) criteria and guidelines, as they are

currently inadequate. The RED sustainability criteria need to include: (i) indirect land-use changes (ILUC), (ii) N<sub>2</sub>O emissions, and (iii) social criteria. In addition, incentives for second/third-generation biofuels should be developed further.

#### Process output

The 'Fuelling knowledge on the social and ecological impacts of agrofuel production' process included the publication of a discussion paper, setting up an online knowledge community, and a closing multi-stakeholder meeting.

This resulted in the following publications:

- Discussion paper: 'Burning questions - Certainties and uncertainties concerning agrofuels'.
- DPRN process report.
- Online library: as a member of the Agrofuels Platform, NatureandPoverty.net (initiated by IUCN-NL) created a Wiki, with hundreds of documents on agrofuels.

All publications are available on the website: [www.agrofuelsplatform.nl](http://www.agrofuelsplatform.nl)

#### Follow-up

This DPRN process resulted in several follow-up activities, including a three-year project aimed at improving the sustainability of oil palm production in West Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Based on the discussions held during this DPRN process, several members of the Agrofuels Platform wrote a project proposal to experiment with participatory planning in the context of oil palm expansion in West Kalimantan, Indonesia. This proposal was awarded by

the Global Sustainable Biomass Fund. The project is coordinated by Both Ends, and aims to mitigate or prevent negative effects of palm oil for fuel production through a more participatory and transparent spatial planning. The project partners, including several

Indonesian NGOs, will actively facilitate a multi-stakeholder process in Sanggau district, West Kalimantan, to reach a mode of land-use planning which incorporates community maps (i.e. detailed maps of local land uses, made by communities, using mobile phones with GPS technology) in the formal land-use planning process at the district level. The project partners will document the lessons and disseminate these for wider use in Indonesia and elsewhere.

In addition, the results of the multi-stakeholder meeting in The Hague were used as input for the discussions on the conditions for a green Dutch bio-based economy at a large international event entitled 'The Great Escape' that IUCN-NL organised in April 2010. The aim was to provide clarity amongst policymakers on the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems to achieve economic development goals.



# Commercial Pressures on Land

Rethinking Policies and Practice for development

*How to enable secure and equitable access to land for the poor who are facing increased commercial demand for their land?*

## 🌐 Commercial pressure on land

Due to a growing world population, changing consumption patterns and the development of new markets for agricultural products, the commercial value of land has been increasing. Moreover, carbon-trading mechanisms are placing a commercial value on standing forests and rangelands that were previously considered marginal to commercial production. These trends negatively affect small-scale farmers all over the world.

Fair land policies are needed to enable secure and equitable access to for the poor, who are increasingly prone to losing their land. Dispossession is particularly likely to occur in situations in which people's land tenure rights are weak and unrecognised. Smallholders typically do not have the necessary



*Increasing commercial pressures on land are provoking fundamental changes in the relationships between people and land (Source: <http://www.Commercialpressuresonland.org>).*

## Process organisation

The 'Commercial pressures on land: Rethinking policies and practice for development' process was carried out within the framework of the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) by:

- Oxfam Novib
- International Land Coalition (ILC)
- Centre for Development Studies–University of Groningen



capital, expertise and connection to markets to take advantage of the opportunities posed by increasing demands for agricultural products. Being unable to capitalise on their land assets, they may have few viable alternatives but to sell land to commercial investors at a price which is below its potential value in today's global marketplace.

## 🌐 A coordinated response

With a view to generating the information needed to influence policies that tackle the mounting pressure on land, the Centre for Development Studies (University of Groningen), Oxfam Novib, and the International Land Coalition initiated a one-year DPRN process in February 2009. The process aimed to bring various partners together to let them rethink current policies and practice and look for opportunities

for the poor under increasing commercial land pressure.

To that end, an expert seminar was organised on 8 July 2009 in Utrecht, with almost a hundred representatives of civil society, intergovernmental organisations, research institutes, governments and the private sector from all over the world. The seminar was articulated around three panels that combined a southern stakeholder perspective, corporate and multi-stakeholder initiatives, and the international community perspective.

What became clear from the seminar is that commercial land pressures ask for a coordinated response from NGOs, governments and international organisations.

In a paper prepared for the seminar, the ILC presents several elements of such a coordinated response by the development community. The response should consist of:

- Continued research and monitoring of social and environmental impacts of land-based investments to enable an evidence-based response.
- A code of conduct for investors and host governments.
- Guidelines and tools for good decision making by investors, governments and local communities.
- Improving, documenting and promoting alternative models of agricultural investment that do not involve transfers of land ownership.
- Assisting in securing the land rights of the poor.
- Building the capacity for collective action and negotiation of local land users.

## Myths

A paper published by the International Land Coalition entitled 'Increasing commercial pressure on land: Building a coordinated response' addresses several myths that are commonly associated with 'land grabbing'. Below is a selection.

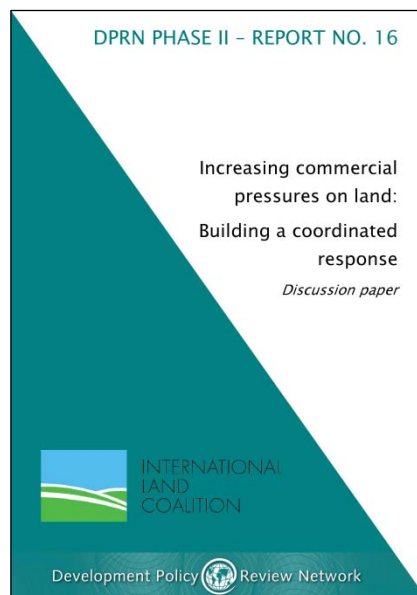
- *Abundant 'unused' land is available for agricultural investment.* Virtually no large-scale land allocations can take place without displacing or affecting local populations.
- *Investors are involved in 'land grabbing'.* The term 'land grabbing' is misleading in characterising the wide variety of ways in which investors are acquiring land. Many of those investors do not explicitly violate land policies or laws.
- *Transnational investment in land is a new phenomenon.* Although the current phenomenon has particular characteristics, large-scale transnational investment in land is not new.
- *Agricultural land is the main focus of investment interest.* The 'rush for the world's farmland' is one component of a wider convergence of investment-related opportunities relating to land and natural resources that is attracting interest in agricultural, forest, mineral-rich, and tourism-related lands.
- *Foreign investors are the primary 'land grabbers'.* Land acquisitions by domestic investors appear to be a significant contributor to the alienation of land from local land users, while domestic partners are also often integral to 'foreign investment'.
- *Transnational investment in land was driven by the food price crisis and will decline with the financial crisis.* Long-term predictions of trends in demand for food, fuel, fibre and environmental services indicate that commercial pressures on land will continue to increase in the long term.



## 🌐 Community-private partnerships

The seminar also made clear that we should not forget that increasing pressure on land also creates opportunities. One such opportunity is the formation of community-private partnerships. Such partnerships provide a potentially valuable approach to reducing poverty and stimulating rural development.

Higher world market prices for agricultural products can translate into higher farm gate prices, increased flows of capital and greater government and donor interest in supporting and facilitating agricultural production. Realising this potential will depend on more secure land rights for the poor, market access and capital to invest. The development of community-private partnerships may help poor farmers to benefit from increased pressure on land. Such partnerships can take various forms in which private sector organisations do not require ownership of land, but seek to secure a reliable supply and quality of agricultural products.



### Partnership modalities

To analyse the effects of community-private partnerships, it is first of all necessary to differentiate between the different forms they can take:

- *Joint ventures* are agreements between the private investor and the community in which the community holds an equity stake and the proceeds are shared according to the value of each party's input. Land which belongs to the community is valued and forms part of their stake. In joint venture partnerships the roles and ambitions of both parties are usually negotiated and agreed upon. Most importantly, they are based on trust, transparency, equity and mutual benefits.
- *Contracts* are formal agreements under which the private company provides individual growers with loan advances for technical expertise and/or inputs in return for land and/or labour, subject to the condition that the community or individual farmers sell the matured product to the private company. Unlike joint venture partnerships, contracts often lack joint decision making by both parties.
- *Leases* are signed agreements with the community that allow investors to use communal land in return for a lease fee. Depending on the agreement, the community may or may not be involved in the running of the enterprise.
- *Co-management* involves the joint management of resources by a company and a community. In this case, the rights and obligations of each party are clearly spelt out.



Importantly, undefined and insecure land tenure rights are likely to discourage investments by both community members and private sector organisations. In fact, community-private sector partnerships may be a way of achieving the delimitation and registration of the land rights of local people or communities.

However, there may also be downsides, especially when marketing chains are monopolised by single enterprises, or when the partnerships do not reflect the interests of the poor. Community-private sector partnership practices need to be assessed to identify approaches that can maximise the benefits to the poor, while remaining attractive to investors. It is also necessary to explore how national governments, donors and development practitioners can best facilitate the establishment of mutually beneficial partnerships.

## 🌐 Policy recommendations

This DPRN process came up with five important policy recommendations:

1. State interventions should not negatively affect existing land-based institutions, be they formal or informal (the 'do-no-harm' principle).
2. A flexible land governance system is needed. This can be achieved through a phased approach to recognising rights that help poor and socially vulnerable groups to gain access to land rather than ownership.
3. The institutional and legal framework should reflect the reality on the ground and be credible. The risk of extending the geographical extent of land governance beyond these principles is the creation of 'empty institutions', which are likely to lead to increased land disputes.
4. Land tenure systems should be well understood when designing targeted programmes and projects.
5. NGOs should work with government agencies that support poor people's access to land. Judicial and administrative reforms need support – for example through capacity building – to make bureaucracies more responsive and accountable to their rural poor constituencies.

## 🌐 Follow-up

Following up on the DPRN process, the International Land Coalition's blog on commercial land pressures (**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**) grew to

### Process output

The 'Commercial pressures on land: Rethinking policies and practice for development' process included the establishment of a forum and a blog to inform the public about press reports, research papers, case studies and other relevant information. Two meetings were organised: an international expert seminar, and a special session of the EU Task Force to support the revision of the EU Land Policy Guidelines.

This resulted in the following publications:

- Position paper: 'Increasing commercial pressure on land: Building a coordinated response'.
- Online library with policy documents and research papers, now included in the web portal of the Commercial Land pressures <http://www.commercialpressuresonland.org>
- DPRN process report.

All publications are available on the website: <http://pressuresonland.global-connections.nl>

the extent that it was receiving 10,000 hits per month, and being referenced in international press and research articles. Some 40 partners are collaborating in the project, with ILC and Oxfam–Novib being the core partners. As a result of the DPRN process, the two organisations started building a database of verified information on large-scale land acquisitions, and continued a research project on international instruments that can protect the rights of land users. The Centre for Development Studies in cooperation with the Modern East Asia Research Centre (MEARC) of Leiden University, started a new research project on Chinese global land acquisitions: Rethinking ‘land grabbing’ and overseas investments.

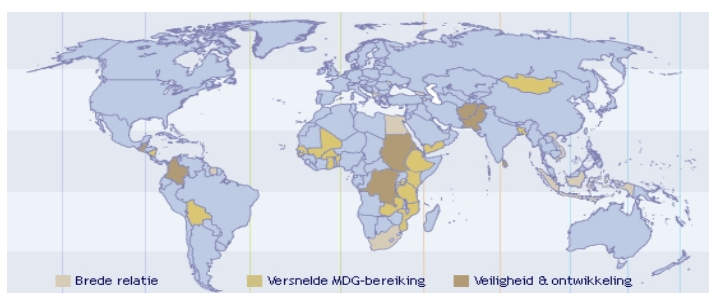
# Singing a new policy tune

## *Singing a new policy tune: Towards a (re)foundation of Dutch development assistance policies*

### 🌐 A theory of development

A theory of development is needed to guide policies in the field of development cooperation. Without such a theory, development cooperation will be less effective. The International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), MDF-Training & Consultancy and Vice Versa initiated a one-year process in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to explore a theory of development through a series of debates.

When former Minister of Development Cooperation, Bert Koenders, presented his agenda for modernisation of Dutch development in 2008, he stated that innovation starts with a critical debate about development policies. In order to prevent simplification and cynicism, this debate should focus on the effectiveness of policies in terms of long-term change processes, based on a clear analysis of problems and the perceived Dutch added value. Such a critical reflection requires a re-assessment of the hypotheses and assumptions underlying Dutch development policies.



*Minister Koenders (2007–2010) opted for partnerships based on three country profiles: broad relationships with near middle-income countries; accelerated MDG achievement in low-income countries and security and development in fragile states (Source image: Wikimedia.org).*

### Process organisation

The 'Singing a new policy tune' process was carried out within the framework of the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) by:

- The International Institute of Social Studies
- MDF-Training & Consultancy
- Vice Versa



In 2006, the Directorate-General International Cooperation (DGIS) of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs started this assessment in the form of a document entitled '*De Broncodes van OS*' ('The source codes of development cooperation'). In this document, DGIS reflected on the efforts to formulate a comprehensive, coherent and theoretically justified foundation of its development policies.

The original ‘source code’ focused primarily on poverty alleviation and not so much on the entire spectrum of international cooperation. Recently, DGIS has been shifting its focus from development cooperation alone towards a broader perspective of international cooperation. This transition is considered unavoidable in the current rapidly globalising, and increasingly complex world. Within the framework of this process there is a need to (re-)formulate a policy theory – the theories, axioms, assumptions, values and norms underlying Dutch development assistance policies – in order to improve the quality of future policymaking.

## 🌐 Towards a new policy theory

The discussions during the ‘Singing a new policy tune’ process generated the contours of a new policy theory. The policy note entitled ‘Towards a theory of development policy’ written by an ISS team coordinated by Arjan de Haan, highlights six elements of a new Dutch development policy theory.

### 1. Changing context

Generally, the assumption still holds that developing countries need to be supported. The humanitarian motive is as strong as ever and untied aid continues to be seen as part of how the Netherlands positions itself in the world. At the same time, both the global and national contexts have radically shifted, with a much stronger dominance of market orientation, a shift in global economic power and ongoing globalisation. Although it is right for there to be a greater emphasis on coherence and global public goods, there is also a need to acquire a better understanding of how the current aid structure needs to be shaped to support this.

### 2. A broadening field

The Minister of Development Cooperation continues to be the focus of Dutch development policy. Through this position, the Netherlands sees itself as an important member of the established international aid community. At civilateral level, Dutch NGOs have always played a critical role in the implementation of policy. However, their position is changing and the field is diversifying. The private sector is becoming more important and the work of DGIS is increasingly integrated with other agencies, notably Foreign Affairs and Defence. There are calls for increased coordination with other ministries that are relevant to managing the global public goods, namely the ministries that deal with agriculture, technology and the environment. Lastly, there is a need for professionalisation and the role of knowledge institutions is thought to be growing in importance.



*The Millennium Development Goals (Source: Wikipedia.org).*

### *3. Planned and unintended outcomes*

The Netherlands government continues to define the reduction of poverty as the core objective of aid, and the Millennium Development Goals as the international framework along which aid is delivered and assessed. However, there are grave doubts about whether aid is achieving what it has set out to achieve. Likewise, there are doubts about the future of the MDG framework. There is also widespread concern about the unintended consequences of aid, such as aid dependency and unequal power relations. There are calls, which are echoed in the WRR report, to change the direction of aid and move away from a focus on poverty alleviation and the social sector towards a focus on economic growth.



*The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should reposition itself (Photo: Wikipedia.org).*

### *4. Evaluation*

Evaluations of development policies and practices are needed, not only to improve these policies and practices, but also to present them to the taxpayers. Although the main elements of Dutch development evaluations are still considered appropriate, the shift from development cooperation to international cooperation implies a need to broaden the discussions on evaluation.

### *5. The lack of theoretical analysis*

The lack of analysis of the theories that underlie development policies seems to be caused, in part, by the practice-oriented nature of many of the stakeholders. Development research has often focused on practical aspects of development rather than on enhancing the theoretical understanding, while scientific disciplines outside development studies have paid relatively little attention to development aid. However, theory and practice do not necessarily have to be contradictory and a better theorisation of development policy would help to improve its practices and outcomes.

### *6. Diversity of views on development policy*

There is a very large diversity of positions, ideas, and interests in the debate on Dutch aid. A thorough theoretical understanding of Dutch development policy would not only need to address the diversity that exists within the aid community, but should also incorporate a wider perspective and reflect the new global challenges and changing ideas and institutions within Dutch society.

## **🌐 Towards international cooperation?**

Development policies are gradually shifting from a narrow focus on poverty alleviation towards a broader approach which addresses global challenges. This transition is often characterised as a shift from development cooperation towards international cooperation. The new approach demands a long-term perspective and should not only involve other



ministries and agencies, but also the general public. The following recommendations were made:

- In the field of international cooperation, the Netherlands should strive to remain an example and guide for other countries (*'gidsland'*).
- The policies of DGIS of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are too narrow for a genuine and comprehensive policy on international cooperation. Contemporary themes related to international cooperation demand a broader look, integrating global issues such as climate change, population growth, the environment, trade and migration. It should also involve stakeholders from other ministries and agencies.
- Development cooperation is an important part of the international cooperation agenda. Effective development cooperation requires country-specific strategies in order to cope with differences between developing countries.
- Support for multilateral organisations is important, but the Dutch government should make its own choices, focus and policies and should use existing expertise in the Netherlands when working on the basis of internationally agreed policies.
- An interactive process between stakeholders from the private sector, research institutes, civil society and politicians is essential to create a broad knowledge base of global issues. The development cooperation sector should dare to think 'outside the box' and shift from traditional assistance towards addressing 'the source of the problems'.
- The implementation period of current policies is too short and a change is needed in the direction of a 'minister proof policy'. A long-term focus is essential because time is needed to see whether (sub)sectoral or thematic policies are effective or not, and because working through multilateral channels takes time. Furthermore, problems which have existed for decades cannot be solved within four years.

#### Process output

The 'Singing a new policy tune' process included an assessment of previous policy formulating initiatives, three conferences on general development policy, two public on specific policy domains, and the publication of a note outline the contours of a new policy theory.

This resulted in the following publications:

- Policy note: 'Towards a theory of development policy'.
- Seminar report: 'Sustainability and global citizenship'.
- Seminar report: 'Governance in fragile states'.
- Conference report: 'How to lift the IC/DC debate to a higher level?'
- Conference report: 'Kick off conference', with additional reports of discussions about thematic policy domains.
- Conference report: 'Pick your brains' with additional reports of discussions about thematic policy domains.
- Paper: *'De Broncode revisited'* ('The source code revisited'), by Frans Bieckmann.
- Paper: *'Naar een Onderbouwd IS Beleid'* ('Towards a substantiated policy'), by Frans Bieckmann.

All publications are available on the website:

<http://www.singinganewpolicytune.nl>

- Public support for international cooperation policies is important for several reasons. Firstly, international cooperation directly relates to our own behaviour as global citizens. Secondly, international cooperation serves the interest of the Netherlands, because the Netherlands is directly affected by global phenomena such as climate change, migration, and the financial crisis. Thirdly, international cooperation implies opportunities for the Dutch economy.

### Follow up

The process has yielded a wealth of ideas and inspired many people to think about policy theory in relation to international cooperation. The International Institute of Social Studies is continuing research and discussions on this topic in its [aiddebates@iss](mailto:aiddebates@iss) part 2.



## *Supporting developing countries' ability to raise tax revenues*

### ☉ Tax: a sustainable financing source

Domestic tax revenues are the most sustain-able source of financing for public expenditure in developing countries. Until recently, how-ever, tax policy and practice has received relatively little attention in development initiatives, policies and research. In 2009, SOMO, Tax Justice NL, CIDIN, Oxfam Novib, the Oikos foundation, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs therefore organised a one-year process to enhance information exchange and cooperation among relevant actors related to taxation and development.

Various studies have shown that tax revenues are more stable and more predictable than foreign aid. In addition, tax revenues allow for more policy space because they lack conditionalities that are often attached to loans or grants. Enhancing direct tax revenues also has the potential to strengthen a government's accountability towards the country's citizens rather than to external donors or national elites.

The ability of developing countries' governments to raise direct tax revenues is constrained by a number of internal and external factors.



#### Process organisation

The 'Supporting developing countries' ability to raise tax revenues' process was carried out within the framework of the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) by:

- The Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO)
- The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Centre for International Development Issues Nijmegen (CIDIN)- Radboud University
- Oxfam Novib
- Tax Justice
- Oikos

The logos displayed are: SOMO (Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations), Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken (Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Oikos (Oikos foundation), CIDIN (Centre for International Development Issues Nijmegen), tax justice nl (Tax Justice), and Oxfam Novib.

Internal factors include a lack of capacity of revenue authorities and low tax compliance. Moreover, governments of developing countries may offer irrational tax breaks to large investors. External factors include trade liberalisation, which reduces revenues from customs duties, and tax avoidance and evasion by multinational corporations and wealthy individuals.

In the past, development agencies and NGOs have not paid a lot of attention to domestic resource mobilisation through tax, especially compared to other issues related to financing for development, such as aid volume, debt and trade. While various NGOs are already engaged in monitoring the allocation of government budgets, there are very few initiatives to monitor government revenues. In donor countries there tends to be a lack of cooperation between staff from government departments involved in development cooperation, tax departments and ministries of finance. This is partly because attention to taxation in relation to development is a relatively new phenomenon. Although substantial progress has been made in research on the relation between taxation and development, this has not yet resulted in a similar progress in development policies.



*The expert seminar provided an important networking opportunity.*

## Papers on tax revenues

The process generated three research papers:

1. 'International barriers to raising tax revenues' by Thijs Kerckhoffs (SOMO).
2. 'Raising taxes in developing countries; domestic constraints' by Andrina Sol (Tax Justice NL).
3. 'Development assistance and tax revenues' by Ruerd Ruben and Ioana Pop (CIDIN).

The first two papers are the result of a literature study, for which both academic studies and reports of civil society organisations were used. These papers benefited from reviews by experts from the field. New research, which analyses the effects of aid on the tax share in gross domestic expenditures, formed the basis of the third paper.



## 🌐 How aid can help raise tax revenues

On 2 December 2009, the Raising Tax Revenues consortium organised a conference in Amsterdam. For this conference, SOMO, Tax Justice NL and CIDIN prepared three papers: addressing respectively (i) international barriers to raising taxes; (ii) domestic barriers to raising taxes; and (iii) the relation between aid and tax revenues. A wide range of experts discussed these issues at the conference. It became clear that development assistance can help developing countries in their efforts to raise tax while, at the same time, donor countries have a role to play in stopping multinationals from siphoning off profits from poor countries through tax evasion and avoidance.

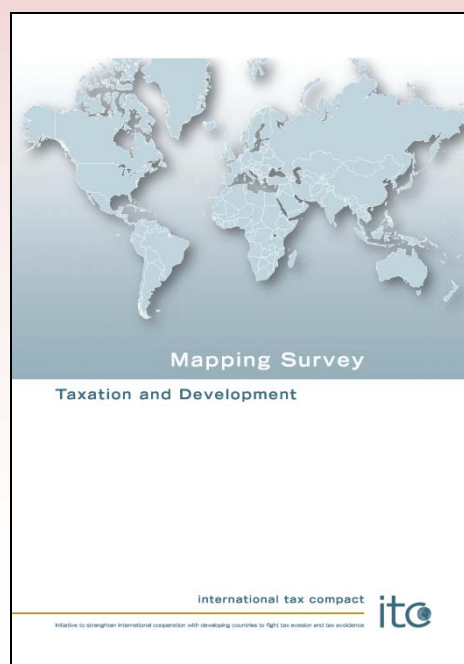
The most important conclusions of the conference were:

- Governments in the South should be supported with putting into place efficient and well-equipped structures to ensure that tax can be raised in an equitable manner.
- Improving the accountability of governments in the South and strengthening general administrative and bureaucratic capacities are prerequisites for raising tax revenues.
- Taxes should be raised for a collective good, otherwise there will be no willingness to pay, and poverty will not be tackled. However, tax collection can also be used as a controlling tool by elites and it is therefore not *by definition* an instrument for development.
- Capacity-building of civil society in developing countries is crucial to ensure accountability of governments.
- Although the distributional effects of various tax measures are country specific, it is generally found that the non-progressive collection of *direct* taxes, such as income tax, will affect the poor more adversely than the rich.
- In low-income countries, *indirect* taxes – such as value added (or consumption) tax – is likely to have a disproportional effect on people in the lower-income bracket because the poor spend a higher proportion of their income on basic consumer goods (e.g. a tax on kerosene). Research shows that indirect taxation benefits more strata of society in middle-income countries.
- Tax-related policies and obligations are enforced at national level. At the same time, however, any solution for tackling barriers to raising tax revenues has to include measures at

## Mapping tax initiatives

One of the activities in the 'Raising Tax Revenues' process was the mapping of existing work on taxation and development. Various organisations provided information about their work via an online questionnaire, but the response was low.

Despite the limited response, the mapping exercise was very fruitful as it led to an exchange of information with the German government initiative International Tax Compact (ITC) ([www.taxcompact.net](http://www.taxcompact.net)), which happened to carry out a similar mapping exercise at the same time. The ITC was set up by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and provides an informal platform of bi and multilateral development partners that intends to increase cooperation on tax matters and strengthen developing countries' tax systems. To avoid duplication and ensure alignment and targeted cooperation, the ITC conducted a mapping survey, providing both a country-specific and a thematic overview of activities and initiatives undertaken to improve revenue systems in developing countries. The DPRN process organisers shared the outcome of the online questionnaire with the ITC, which published its final report in May 2010.







*Leaders of the G20 countries have a key role to play in raising tax revenues in developing countries.*

international level, due to the transnational nature of the problem. There should, for example, be a code of conduct to prevent tax competition, preferably within the UN framework.

- Fiscal constructions by multinational corporations through international tax treaties can be harmful to developing countries.
- In the North, regulations should be developed to tackle tax evasion and avoidance by Northern multinationals.

## 🕒 Follow-up

The key result of the process was that policymakers, scientists and practitioners came together to discuss the potential and constraints of raising taxes in developing countries. As such, an important pool of expertise has been created and a range of activities will ensure that the process is continued.

Selected follow-up activities are:

- The process organisers entered into a dialogue with multinational corporations through existing forums such as the *Vereniging van Nederlandse Ondernemers* (VNO), MVO Nederland, and the National Contact Point for OECD guidelines about the need to include tax practices in Corporate Social Responsibility criteria.
- The process organisers remain in regular contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance within the framework of the informal Roundtable on Tax and Development, hosted by the Ministry of Finance. This roundtable discussion with stakeholders such as multinationals operating in developing countries, NGOs and representatives of VNO, focuses on issues relating to tax justice and raising taxes in developing countries.
- The documents collected during the process were included on the Tax

### Process output

The 'Supporting developing countries' ability to raise tax revenues' process included the publication of three research papers, the building of an online library, a mapping exercise of existing tax initiatives, and an expert seminar.

This resulted in the following publications:

- Research paper: 'International barriers to raising tax revenues' by Thijs Kerckhoffs (SOMO).
- Research paper: 'Raising taxes in developing countries; domestic constraints' by Andrina Sol (Tax Justice NL).
- Research paper: 'Development assistance and tax revenues' by Ruerd Ruben and Ioana Pop (CIDIN).
- Seminar report: on the expert seminar held on 2 December 2009.
- DPRN process report.

All publications are available on the website: <http://taxrevenues.global-connections.nl>

Justice NL website. This database is regularly updated with new reports and initiatives in the field of taxation and development.

- Following the process, the organisers started educating advisors and consultants about tax and development through dialogue, trainings and presentations. Organisations involved in these sessions included the Inter-national Bureau for Fiscal Documentation (IBFD), which advises governments and sometimes the private sector, to present the tax justice vision on tax and development. Furthermore, contacts with large accountancy firms were intensified. Discussions with these firms centre on the type of transparency rules the accountancy firms can integrate into their work, such as the 'Total Tax Contribution' initiative by Pricewaterhouse-Coopers, which encourages its clients to subscribe to more transparent financial reporting.



## *What does Civic Driven Change (CDC) imply for the policy and practice of international cooperation?*

### ☉ A stone in the pond of the development sector

Civic Driven Change (CDC) is about people achieving social change themselves. In relation to international cooperation it reaches beyond the classical poverty reduction agenda and beyond the scope of the development sector. In 2010, a consortium of Dutch and Belgian organisations (see Box) explored the concept of CDC with a particular focus on the implications for development cooperation practice and policy.

The Civic Driven Change (CDC) concept refers to a set of ideas about citizen-led change in society. It is not an established theory but rather an emerging approach. Moreover, it is not a brand new concept, as the main elements of CDC thinking come from existing debates and practices in different contexts. However, looking at social change through a CDC lens triggers our thinking about social change processes and leads to innovative ideas and new insights.

Civic action requires civic agency, which consists of the capacities, skills and imagination of people to change society. Social change happens everywhere, all the time, by people engaging in their own initiatives to change something in their immediate surroundings. Such actions are the result of events, traditions, beliefs and mechanisms at local level, combined with influences and pressures from the greater context, upon which single or united people act. The Civic Driven Change (CDC) concept underlines a number of aspects of societal processes that may not always be adequately taken into account by actors who intend to support social change processes.

#### Process organisation

The 'Civic Driven Change: implications for policymakers and practitioners' process was carried out within the framework of the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) by:

- [Hivos](#)
- [Context, international cooperation](#)
- [Institute of Social Studies \(ISS\)](#)
- [Cordaid](#)
- Broederlijk delen
- [Social E-valuator](#)
- Netherlands [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)





Recently, the debate has flared up again about the future of aid, the roles and tasks of the development sector and the position of the Dutch development NGOs and their Southern counterparts. Viewing development and development aid through a CDC lens offers great potential to contribute to this debate. The CDC concept is a stone in the pond of a traditionally inward looking development sector, as it questions

some of the assumptions which are often hidden beneath development aid practices. One example is the notion that civic action is a cross-sector phenomenon that is not confined to civil society *as we know it*.

### 🌀 The complexities of social change

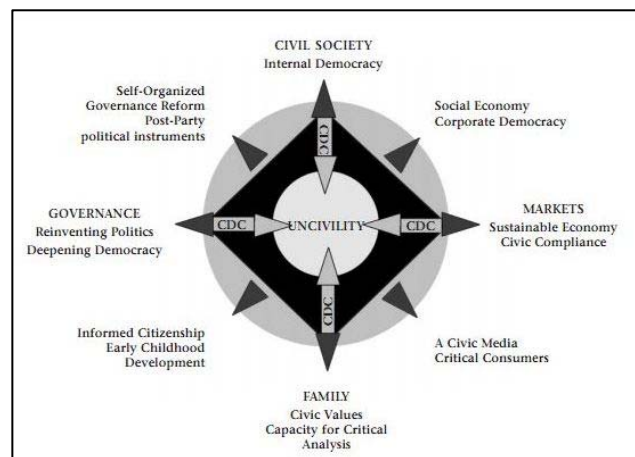
The CDC debate throws up a number of challenges and dilemmas. These are related to the complex nature of social change, the position of CDC regarding traditional sectors, the normative dimension of the concept and the scope for aid.

#### 1. The complex nature of social change

Societal change is a non-linear, fuzzy process, in which cause-effect relations are hard to identify. Choices made by civic actors are based on their understanding of mechanisms at local level ('the politics of small things') and con-textual factors, in combination with their theories of change, values and convictions. Assuming that both the local and the wider contexts are extremely complex and unpredictable is directly opposed to policies and procedures in which development outcomes are predicted, strictly planned, quantified and assessed by outsiders. The current obsession for results (and evidence that applied interventions 'work') overlooks the role of personal relationships, social networks, passion and power, family and community dynamics. It also reveals a western-centred discourse dominated by neoliberal assumptions, where the market is expected to turn 'underdeveloped' people into 'developed' citizens through 'interventions'.

#### 2. Changing the looking glass: from sectors to domains

When looking at social change processes, the division between state, market and civil society is often taken as the point of departure. This implies that NGOs and CBOs are inevitably seen as the actors of change, which represent and mobilise people to claim their rights from the government authorities and force businesses to become more accountable. The CDC concept, however, steps away from the traditional



*CDC compass strategy (Fowler & Biekart, 2008).*

### The 'self' and the 'environment: enabling CDC

CDC is located everywhere, within any citizen, be it a parent, business person, student, volunteer, policymaker or entrepreneur. At a more fundamental level, CDC is associated with values like wellbeing of the whole and respecting variety. This connects with the current debate on a broader, less formalistic interpretation of rights holders and duty bearers, in the sense that citizens not only have rights but also responsibilities, and not just vis-à-vis the state, but also in all other spheres of their daily lives. CDC focuses on change and active citizenship. By taking a critical look not only at our own actions in our communities, but also in our professional activities and private relationships, this optimistic perspective implies that it is possible to reinforce an enabling environment for civic agency. CDC thinking pushes us to look at the role of development actors in a whole new way, as CDC processes are largely unplannable and unpredictable. Actors active in development cooperation might not be able to bring about CDC in developing countries, but they can attempt to contribute to the context in which CDC can flourish, e.g. through the promotion of 'civic-ness' in education in both North and South.

dichotomy between 'rights holders' and 'duty bearers' and emphasises that civic agency is not confined to one sector. Individuals, organised formally, informally, or not at all, have the agency to change their surroundings. This points to a need to strengthen civic agency all round and it underlines the idea that every daily activity is a choice that has an impact on society, both near and far. This refers to all domains. Domains are 'sites' of collective agency with purposeful combinations of processes, interests, collaborators, principles and values. Examples are: anti-corruption, social enterprise and feminism. There are people behind a domain who drive it with a certain interest. Domains pervade all sectors – enterprises, government and the private sphere – and occur at different levels, influencing and changing society.

### 3. Debating the 'civic-ness' of CDC

Actors in aid tend to assume automatically that civil society performs a positive role in development. This,

however, is a problematic assumption because civil society can also have 'uncivic', exclusionary, undemocratic and violent features. The question is: who defines what is civic and what is uncivic action? The boundaries between benign and malevolent are culturally and morally confined. What can be perceived as civic by one person or group, can be perceived as uncivic by others, e.g. homosexuality in the Netherlands versus Uganda. Hence 'civic' is not presented as a given but rather raised as a normative standard and qualification. The 'civic' contained in the concept of CDC refers to change processes that embrace a 'concern for the whole' and that allow for diversity. This qualification of 'civic' helps to reveal tensions and dilemmas about cultural, ethnic or religious differences and serves as a starting point for exploring normative biases. This also brings us to the question: why do people want change? Whereas the CDC discourse easily speaks of processes displaying a 'concern for the whole', the discussions at the DPRN events





showed from participants' experiences that change processes usually start with some degree of self-interest.

#### *4. Aided versus non-aided change*

Although the CDC concept does not take aided change as a starting point for analysing societal change, it does not imply that change processes cannot be aided. Rather, CDC nuances the scope for aid, in its traditional definition of a resource transfer between the North and the South. It highlights the complexity of change processes and states that, within that complexity, aid at most plays a minor role. At the same time CDC also enlarges the scope for aid actors to make a positive contribution to change processes. CDC thinking releases aid agencies from the confines of traditional sector boundaries and stimulates them to explore new intervention opportunities, from the global to the local. In addition, it encourages aid agencies to think about competencies and constituencies, and to reflect on their own value base.

### 📍 Implications for policymakers and practitioners

CDC was never meant to offer a toolbox for development intervention. Rather, it offers the possibility of a refreshing step back, the potential for questioning underlying assumptions, an opportunity for inspiration and a source of critical reflection. For policymakers this means that:

- CDC offers an alternative lens for looking at societal dynamics, and therefore potentially also new policy options. These could range from a new policy with regard to promoting civic agency through better education, to changing methods of civil society assessment.
- Policymakers would need to accept the uniqueness of each country context and to adopt more realistic expectations on the nature and rhythms of development processes.
- Specifically for the Dutch development sector, the CDC framework offers a source of inspiration for dialogue between the co-financing agencies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on future strategies for collaboration. Putting the common ground of citizens and civic agency at the centre of such a discussion might steer the debate away from short term institutional interests.
- In addition, the application of a domain-lens offers a starting point to reflect on the position of the development sector, and in particular the role of non-state actors, in future foreign policy.

Some CDC-related impertinent questions that practitioners could use to scrutinise current practices are:

- Does our policy leave space for endogenous change initiatives, or are we imposing our priorities and approaches on our partners?
- Do we also allow our partners to be involved in defining our strategies and policies? How?
- Are we transparent and outspoken about our own values?

### Process output

The 'Civic Driven Change' process included two meetings about bringing CDC into practice in local politics and development policies. A synthesising writeshop was organised to outline the strategies needed for the further promotion of the CDC concept.

This resulted in the following publications:

- Background paper: 'A short introduction to Civic Driven Change'.
- Discussion paper: 'Youth driven change in the Netherlands', by Chris Aalberts.
- Discussion paper: 'Civic Driven Change and local politics'.
- Seminar report: 'CDC and local politics'.
- Seminar report: 'CDC and policy'.
- Synthesis paper: 'Civic Driven Change: implications for policy and practice'.

All publications are available on the website:  
<http://cdc.global-connections.nl/>

- Do we promote capacities such as imagination and civic agency within our programmes?
- Do we pay attention to power relations and interests by supporting people in mapping these?
- Do our procedures and systems (most notably for result assessment and learning) leave room for complexity and emergent outcomes, or are they based on linear models of change?
- Do we take our own role as civic actors in our own country and sector seriously, by promoting our values within our societies, by acting as a watchdog and advocating for policy space for the types of changes we aim to support?
- Do we support our own staff and networks to be conscious global citizens?
- Do we ourselves take risks, for example by reserving funds to support emerging CDC processes using a hands-off approach, without any strings attached?

### 🕒 Follow-up

Several agencies involved in this DPRN process have been actively attempting to apply CDC to their programming. The Institute of Social Studies (ISS) is planning follow-up research on CDC, with a view to:

- understanding better the societal patterns of change and domain dynamics by working more with complexity theory;
- understanding better the proper supporting roles for outsiders in change processes;
- further developing a normative framework of civic/uncivic norms, values and morals, including a discussion on drivers of (collective) citizen action;
- deepening the theme CDC and markets.



## *Afghan–Central Asian water cooperation on the management of the Amu Darya River: connecting experts and policymakers in the*

### Cross-border management

The transnational Amu Darya river is a main tributary of the Aral Sea basin in Central Asia and crucial for local livelihoods. Millions of people depend on its water for agriculture and hydro-electricity in the downstream countries Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and the upstream countries Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

In the context of ongoing reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts, the international community is implementing numerous water-related projects in Afghanistan. Good examples are the numerous small-scale projects implemented by the Netherlands to dig and restore irrigation channels, protect river banks, and construct new canals, water reservoirs and dams. Belgium funds a series of multilateral projects primarily focusing on rural development, which incorporate numerous water projects.

These projects tend to focus on local or meso-level water infrastructure rehabilitation and often lack a regional perspective, which means that the transboundary impacts of development projects are overlooked. In 2010, the EastWest Institute and the Irrigation and Water Engineering Group of Wageningen University therefore started a process to promote information exchange and raise awareness among Belgian and Dutch policymakers, practitioners, private sector experts and researchers who work on Afghanistan and Central Asia, about the need for cross-border cooperation on water management as a way of improving regional stability.

For this purpose they established the Amu Darya Basin Network, which is an international network of policymakers and experts in the field of rural development and water management in Afghanistan and Central Asia.

#### Process organisation

The 'Amu Darya basin' process was carried out within the framework of the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) by:

- The [EastWest Institute](#)
- The [Irrigation and Water Engineering Group](#) of the Wageningen University



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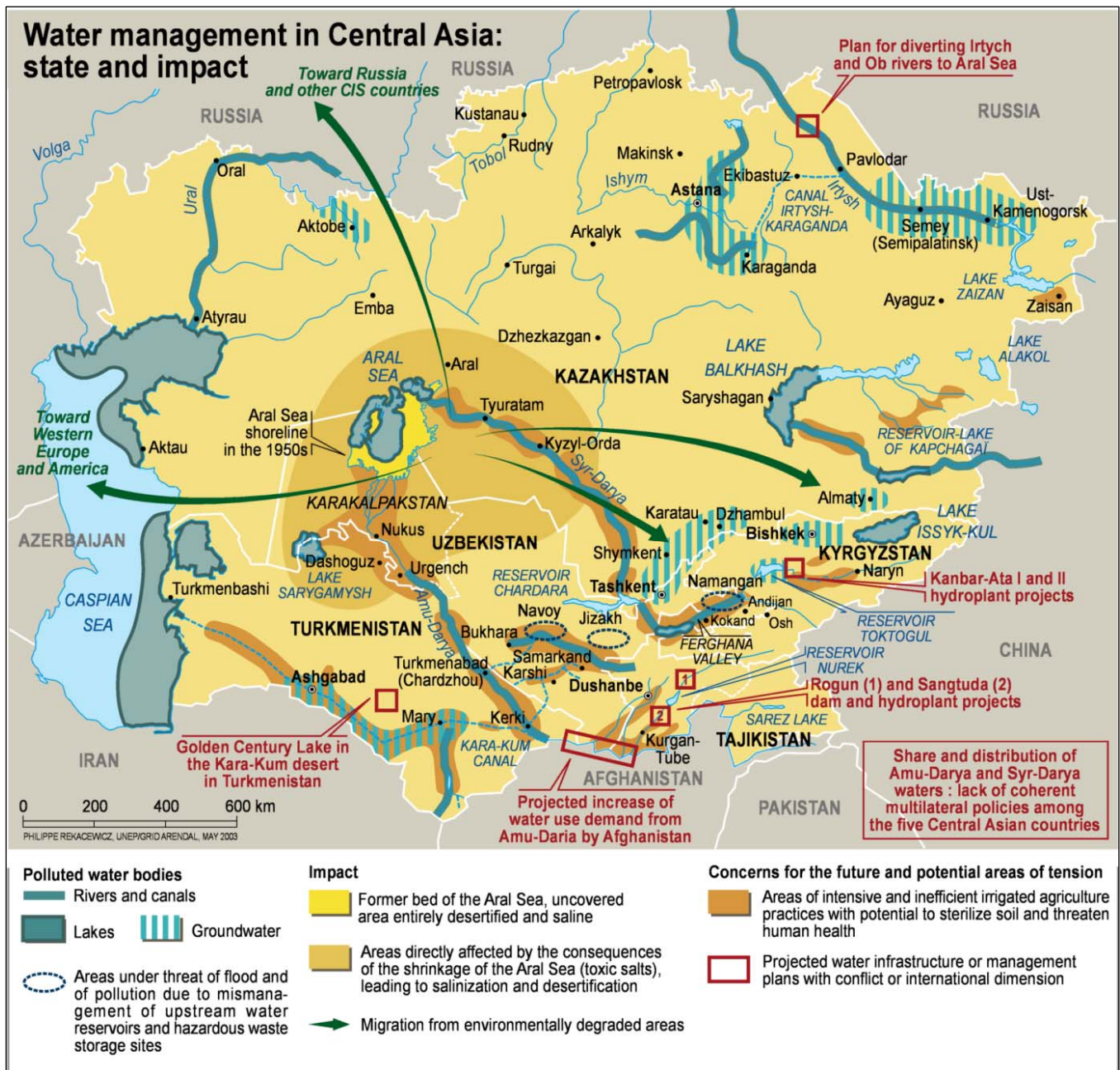


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## 🌐 Challenges and opportunities

Clearly, progress on transboundary cooperation cannot be achieved overnight. For regional cooperation on water sharing within the Amu Darya basin to have any chance of success, political will and commitment at the highest levels of the national governments in the region is a must.

Central Asian states, apart from Afghanistan, embarked on a process of formal negotiations in order to tackle transboundary challenges related to the water resources of the Amu Darya as early as 1992. This has not yet resulted in a solution that is acceptable to all stakeholders. Indeed, a specific challenge in the Amu Darya Basin region concerns the lack of trust



Source: Philippe Rekacewicz, UNEP/GRID-Arendal.



between various parties and the lack of workable and sustainable solutions put forward by local political leaders for the diverging interests of upstream and downstream states.

There is also a lack of coordination between donor activities. Besides the importance of coordinated donor support for social, economic and political change on the ground, experience in other transboundary river basins shows that well-aligned donor activities can play a crucial role by supporting the conclusion of an international treaty.



*Amu Darya basin (Source: Wikimedia.org).*

#### *Coordination and technical expertise*

Another specific challenge faced in the region, and particularly in Afghanistan, is the lack of data and technical expertise relating to water management. Cooperation within the Amu Darya basin region can only be enhanced if data and information exchange are improved. The initial focus needs to be on the coordination of existing data collection and data-sharing frameworks. In the event of any overlap between such initiatives, they should be merged into a single go-to point for data collection and sharing.

Data collection and sharing must go beyond the mere posting of data on an easily accessible shared platform. The comparability of data, regular updates and data collection methods are all important factors to take into account.

#### *Afghanistan as a partner*

The challenges identified show that there is a wide variety of areas for action in regional water cooperation. Existing formal frameworks of cooperation on water in the Amu Darya basin should aim to incorporate Afghanistan as a partner. Such incorporation is likely to be incremental and can be achieved by providing an observer status first and then by gradually building up trust. Donor nations that often fund frameworks for cooperation should consider an approach which leads to the inclusion of Afghanistan in Amu Darya water cooperation projects. In addition, there is a need for local ownership and concrete local engagement. Although the Central Asian and Afghan policymakers ultimately take the decisions, external actors can play constructive support roles in the decision-making process, especially if they include the policymaking community in the donor countries.

#### **Linking researchers and policymakers**

Researchers and policymakers can only bridge the gap between them if there is some sort of intermediate actor that allows for a double filtering mechanism: from policy strategies to research to address knowledge needs and from research to policy to communicate relevant conclusions.



### A matter of political priorities

During the DPRN process it became clear that transnational management of Amu Darya's water resources does not figure prominently on political agendas of the Netherlands and Belgium. This is mostly due to the massive security challenges in Afghanistan, which are considered to be of more immediate political relevance. According to the process



organisers this actually confirms the very need to make policymakers more aware of the longer term challenges. For policymakers in the Netherlands and Belgium, immediate security concerns in Afghanistan are of higher priority than long-term concerns about regional tensions related to water management, and the latter therefore seems to fall off the agenda. This is partly explained by the fact that policymaking and research take place in different and unaligned timeframes. Where policy development and implementation processes are typically designed in line with election terms of 3–5 years, the research community prefers to work with a longer-term perspective as it is driven by the need for credibility based on evidence through longer-term analysis of trends. For research to make sense to policymakers and for policymakers to provide directions for researchers, these time frames need to be synchronised.

A number of actors can fulfil such a filtering role. First of all, researchers themselves need to learn how to communicate their research results to policymakers. An *ad hoc* or permanent advisory council for specific policy domains could be set up to assess knowledge needs and policy options. Existing NGOs and think tanks should also work to facilitate connections between the scientific expert community and policy in areas where they fail to do so themselves. One way of addressing such needs may be the establishment of an all-inclusive regional Centre of Excellence on the Amu Darya basin. Such a Centre can become a key driver as regards linking policymakers with researchers, and can play a unique role in meeting current and future capacity needs in the management of the shared water resources in the region. In addition, networks like the Amu Darya Basin Network (ADBN) can become very important. Within such a network, researchers could send their reports to policymakers and policymakers can make clear which issues need to be addressed in research. This would strengthen contacts between experts and policymakers in all directions. Such a network should preferably have a permanent advisory function through research support and guidance for policy coordination in the areas relevant to land use, hydrology, integrated water management, international water law and rural development. Moreover, such a network could facilitate multi-lingual training of students, farmers and professionals in all matters relating to basin-wide management of the Amu Darya's water resources.

### Follow-up

The organisers plan to continue the online platform ([www.amudarybasin.net](http://www.amudarybasin.net)) and envisage significant visibility of process output and results by making the policy recommendations and reports available to some 750 policy-makers and experts. In addition, the EastWest

Institute is exploring the possibility of a project on capacity development at river-basin level, engaging key local actors, regional organisations and donor agencies.



## *Planning, monitoring and evaluation in complex social situations*

### Complexity in planning, monitoring and evaluation (PME)

Organisations that invest in development programmes are increasingly asked to demonstrate the concrete results of their investments and many organisations are now rethinking their approaches to Planning, monitoring and evaluation (PME). The introduction of results-based management, resulting in the refining of PME approaches, has been one response to meeting these demands.

At the same time, there is a growing realisation that traditional PME systems, such as the logical framework approach, largely treat development as a problem that can be solved through rigorous analysis (problem and solution trees) and thorough planning (SMART indicators). While this approach may suit some development domains, such as infrastructure projects, it faces limitations when it comes to dealing with complex adaptive systems that involve people. Consequently, more and more people are advocating



Source:

<http://www.mande.co.uk/docs/MSCGuide.pdf>

### Process organisation

The 'Planning, monitoring and evaluation in complex social contexts' process was carried out within the framework of the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) by:

- HIVA Research Institute for Labour and Society
- PSO Capacity Building in Developing Countries
- The Flemish Office for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VVOB)
- Vredeseilanden/VECO



complementary PME approaches, such as outcome mapping (OM), and the most significant change (MSC) approach.

Within this DPRN process, the HIVA Research Institute for Labour and Society of the Catholic University Leuven, PSO Capacity Building in Developing Countries, the Flemish Office for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VVOB) and Vredeseilanden/VECO jointly explored

## Complementary PME approaches

### *Outcome mapping*

Outcome mapping is a PME approach that explicitly recognises that development is brought about by changes in the behaviour of people and organisations. It recognises the inter-connectedness and complexity of social systems which are a reality in the majority of development projects or programmes. As such, outcome mapping distinguishes itself from result-based management approaches such as the logical framework, which follow a more reductionist and positivist worldview. Outcome mapping provides a practical PME framework that is not based on predictability and measurement. Instead, it involves a wide range of stakeholders in processes of reflection and feedback to analyse what does and does not work and why, in order to assist and improve future decision making. For more information on outcome mapping see the online learning community: [www.outcome-mapping.ca](http://www.outcome-mapping.ca).

### *Most significant change*

The most significant change approach involves the collection of 'significant change stories' from the field. Panels of designated stakeholders and staff select the most significant of these stories in a systematic manner and identify changes. Next, various people sit down together, read the stories out loud and engage in in-depth discussions of the value of these reported changes. After that, teams of people focus their attention on programme impact, to learn through discussion and to identify areas for improvement. The most significant change approach is a form of participatory monitoring and evaluation. It is participatory because it involves many project stakeholders in both deciding the kinds of change to be recorded and data analysis. Monitoring can occur throughout the programme cycle and can therefore generate information which can help people manage the programme. Outcome mapping contributes to evaluation because it provides data on impact and outcomes that can be used to help assess the performance of the programme as a whole.

the relevance of various PME approaches. The aim was to generate practical lessons for future PME policy and practice.

## Towards methodological diversity

A review of PME policies within the inter-national cooperation sector in Belgium, the Netherlands, the European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) shows the need to move towards more methodological diversity.

The logical framework is still the mainstream PME method that governments and donors in Belgium, the Netherlands and Europe demand for their funded programmes. Interestingly, the development industry is the only sector in which this particular PME method has acquired such an exclusive position. The World Bank and many other donors actively promoted the approach as a useful basis for PME. Combined with the wide dissemination through OECD/DAC publications and in the absence of real alternatives, the 'logframe' became the standard throughout the whole sector.

At the same time, there is growing interest among policymakers in PME methods that are more suited to the often complex contexts of development interventions. This interest is illustrated by a trend towards experimentation with new methods in the Netherlands and

Belgium. Moreover, a number of recent large-scale evaluations in Belgium have advocated the diversification of the PME toolbox.

This trend is supported by important inter-national studies. Several recent OECD publications recognise the limitations of the logical framework and recommend the selection of PME approaches on the basis of their usefulness and effectiveness in a specific context. A recent study on the quality of DFID's evaluation reports by the International Advisory Committee on Development Impact (IACDI) advises experimenting in order to develop new models and approaches for evaluation that are more suitable for complex development strategies.



*In outcome mapping there are three types of progress markers, namely 'expect-to-see', 'like-to-see' and 'love-to-see' (Source: [www.pso.nl](http://www.pso.nl)).*

These developments indicate a more open attitude towards methodological diversity. The challenge ahead for policymakers, practitioners and researchers will be to identify which methods are most useful in particular contexts. The question that needs to be answered is whether alternative PME systems are indeed complementary and suitable for complex contexts and whether they indeed contribute to more effective programming and the delivery of sustainable results.

## 🕒 What do we learn from organisations that are trying to improve their PME practice?

There is a danger of the debate on PME approaches turning into an unhelpful discussion between proponents and opponents of the logical framework approach. It is more helpful to explore the advantages and disadvantages of different PME methods based on what works for whom in which context. The challenge is to identify how elements from different approaches can complement each other and lead to more effective PME.

Recent experimentation with new PME approaches that suit complex processes of social change has yielded several insights:

1. No PME system by itself can guarantee that learning will take place. The key to learning-centred PME is a 'learning culture' within the organisation. This requires people who genuinely seek to customise their PME system in such a way that it helps them to learn about their own adaptive capacity and the results they achieve.
2. A methodological diversity of PME approaches can help organisations to deal with complex dimensions of social change. Combinations of outcome mapping, the most significant change approach and the logical framework will help to monitor changes in behaviour and attitudes, as well as to develop donor reports according to their logframe



indicators. It is important to be aware of the particular advantages and weaknesses of the different methods.

3. Within the current policy environment, organisations have more space to apply different PME approaches at operational level than is often assumed.
4. Developing an actor-centred theory of change is an essential step in the development of a learning-centred PME approach, because it places the people involved in the programme at the heart of PME.

## Recommendations

The process activities generated several recommendations on the use of complementary PME approaches for policymakers and NGOs.

### *Recommendations for policymakers*

- Make organisations accountable for their learning.
- Prioritise an open dialogue about the challenges related to measuring impact.
- Avoid imposing one rigid format for PME.
- Avoid an overload of funding procedures and guidelines.
- Ask organisations to justify their PME approach on the basis of an actor-centred theory of change.
- Develop internal capacity around complexity-oriented PME methods.
- Develop learning relationships with organisations that are supported.
- Support experimentation with alternative PME approaches.

### *Recommendations for NGOs*

- Stimulate a critical dialogue with policymakers about the relevance and feasibility of long-term detailed planning.
- Utilise the available space to implement alternative PME approaches.
- Northern NGOs should lead by example in their PME demands towards their Southern partners.
- Demonstrate successful development results that were obtained through a variety of alternative PME approaches.

## Follow-up

The DPRN process has successfully linked up with a number of similar initiatives. The dialogue about alternative complexity-oriented PME approaches will continue through three main follow-up activities. Firstly, the 'outcome mapping effectiveness working group' which was formed on the online outcome mapping learning community will coordinate a study on the effectiveness of outcome mapping, aimed to draw recommendations for PME policy and practice (2011–2013). Secondly, the PSO Thematic Learning Programme (TLP) on alternative PME approaches for complex social situations will continue until mid-2012. Through its engagement with DPRN, the TLP will also build in a focus area on PME policy (2010–2012).

Thirdly, VVOB, Vredeseilanden, Coprogram and HIVA have started consultations to continue a process that is similar to the DPRN process in Belgium (2011).

### Process output

The 'Planning, monitoring and evaluation in complex social contexts' process included the publication of several documents on PME practices and policies. The results of these were discussed in a synthesising seminar in The Hague on 10 November 2010.

This resulted in the following publications:

- Concept note: 'Rethinking our traditional PME systems – Still struggling with PME'.
- Paper: 'A survey of Government Policy for the planning, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes' (Policy review).
- Paper: 'Dealing with complex reality in planning, monitoring and evaluation – Choosing the most suitable approach for a specific context' (Literature review).
- Paper: 'Learning from the implementation of outcome mapping, most significant change and logical framework' (Summary of review of four learning histories).
- Learning brief: '[The end of logframe's hegemony?](#)' (Lessons from an online discussion on the Outcome Mapping Learning Community).
- Seminar report: '[Complexity-oriented Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation \(PME\) – From alternative to mainstream?](#)'.
- DPRN process report.

All publications are available on the website: <http://pme.global-connections.nl>



## *Collaborate to Innovate:*

### *The role of university development cooperation in innovation*

#### 🌐 The knowledge triangle

The knowledge triangle – education, research and innovation – is crucial for development. It is widely felt that collaboration between Southern and Northern academic and non-academic partners to achieve greater innovation can and should be improved. In 2010, Ghent University, University of the Western Cape, Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation, Nuffic and VLIR-UOS, in cooperation with the City of Ghent (North-South Department), initiated a one-year process to discuss ways in which university development cooperation programmes can lead to innovation.

It is generally accepted that science, technology and innovation are needed for economic growth. This is also true for developing countries in Africa. To sustain growth, the region has to harness science and technology in various sectors, integrate in global markets and transform its economy in the face of globalisation. Against the background of brain drain and limited support for research and development, Africa risks losing out, unless initiatives are taken to provide incentives for innovation.

Innovation refers to the process of turning knowledge into a competitive advantage providing economic and social benefits. This means innovation is not just limited to the development of new products, but includes innovative approaches to regional development and other societal issues employed in the public and non-profit sectors. These attributes of innovation place the concept of the knowledge triangle in a broader perspective, and highlight the possible benefits that spring from cooperation between universities, companies, governments and local communities.

#### Process organisation

The ‘Collaborate to innovate’ process was carried out within the framework of the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) by:

- Ghent University
- University of the Western Cape
- Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation
- Nuffic
- VLIR-UOS
- City of Ghent, North-South Department



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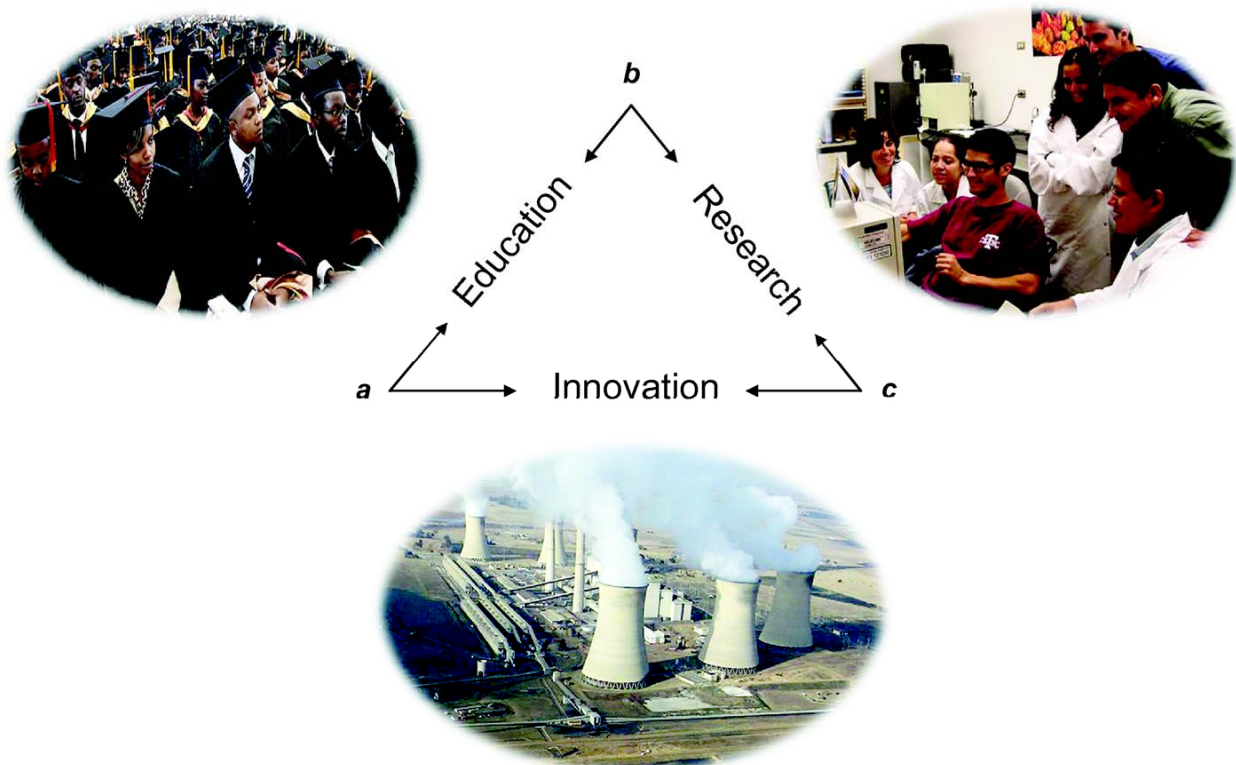
*The 'Collaborate to Innovate' process included a 3-day conference at the University of the Western Cape (Source: <http://www.uwc.ac.za>).*

There is a great potential for innovation coming from university research in developing countries, but this opportunity has so far largely been underexplored. University development cooperation projects usually focus on education and research, sometimes incorporating more institutional issues like research coordination and quality control. However, the knowledge triangle - linking education and research to innovation - is often neglected as a potential field of cooperation.

### 🌐 How can the knowledge triangle be supported in developing countries?

There is a huge potential for innovation in the South, especially in the health, energy and agricultural sectors. The process organisers formulated several recommendations for funding agencies and governments on how to promote innovation in developing countries through the knowledge triangle.

#### Components of the Knowledge Triangle



### *Recommendations for funding agencies*

- Development aid is not ‘charity’. Sponsors should benefit from the support as much as the recipients. If there is no win–win on both sides, the partnership will not be effective. Both sides must be alert to the dangers and pitfalls of patronage and competition inherent in partnerships.
- A two–tiered funding system, with distinct funding sources for academic research and university capacity–building programmes, may not be beneficial to long–term collaboration between universities and even restrict actual university development in the South because quality standards for capacity building are lower than for academic performance. Quality standards (i.e. for publications and degrees) should apply equally to both types of academic collaboration.
- Bottom–up and small–scale initiatives offer the best guarantee for success. Both funding agencies in the North and partners in the South benefit more from their investments if the projects can be steered from the South.
- Awareness ought to be raised amongst ‘regular’ funding agencies like Nuffic and VLIR–UOS that academic talent in the South has greater potential than being a source of talented researchers for excellent institutions in the North. The funding agencies should encourage academics in the South to engage in global academic networks and those in the North to embrace a cooperative spirit in which researchers from the global South are considered equipollent partners in research.



*Glenda Kruss of the Human Sciences Research Council (South Africa) presenting her paper on the role of universities in developing interactive capabilities to promote social innovation and development in South Africa. She wrote her paper in response to the call for papers that was set out by the process organisers.*

### *Recommendations for governments*

- Universities in the South, just like universities in the North, are dependent on government and external funding to fulfil their mission of education, research and service to society. Adequate salaries for academic staff guarantee that they can focus on their core academic business. Access to external funds, allocated on the basis of quality criteria, creates the necessary incentives and dynamics for higher education to flourish.
- In terms of social innovation (e.g. on health and sustainable energy) the potential for development in the South is huge. Unlocking this potential, however, requires political stability as well as government and private investment. Knowledge and creativity alone cannot bring about innovation without visionary socioeconomic policies and an entrepreneurial climate.



- Although many countries in the South are rich in natural resources, these are often sold unprocessed, which leaves their potential for innovative development mostly unused. Strategic initiatives at government and regional levels, combined with ‘smart’ investments, are needed to stimulate innovation in the mining sector.

## The role of universities

There is no shortage of innovative ideas and excellent practices at Southern universities, but the lack of business–university networks and attractive career perspectives hinders the unlocking of their potential. There is a need for more pro–active support for entrepreneurship and research & development at Southern universities. Below are some of the possibilities and limitations to this support.

- Universities in the South can play an important role in development collaboration, but not until a certain level of capacity building has been achieved at primary and secondary level. Political instability, safety risks, inadequate infrastructure and a lack of human resources make it very difficult for universities to enter into successful international partnerships. In Southern countries or regions other types of development aid must take priority.
- In return for their autonomy in decision–making processes, universities must be prepared to accept performance criteria which are linked to rewards (e.g. salaries, bonuses and infrastructure). Such performance criteria should not be solely based on academic performance (e.g. publications or product development) but also on societal relevance. An autonomous and creative space provides a breeding ground for successful innovation, but performance pressure provides the necessary leverage to turn innovative ideas into productivity.
- Collaboration can only be effective if the institutions enter into joint activities treating each other as equal partners. Internationalisation, long–term collaboration and mutual trust between academic institutions are therefore essential. Rather than seizing every opportunity for collaboration or funding, universities and academics should be in a position in which they can refuse funding or partnerships when certain quality criteria are not met or if there is insufficient project ‘ownership’ for one of the partners.
- Technology transfer offices should provide academic staff with training in business skills, so that they learn to translate new knowledge more easily into actual applications, products or

### Process output

The ‘Collaborate to innovate’ process centred on an international conference in South Africa. Following a call for papers, several presentations were held.

This resulted in the following publications:

- Abstract book with the summaries of the thirteen papers that were written by conference participants.
- Paper: ‘The role of development cooperation in the knowledge triangle – the Dutch contribution’.
- Paper: ‘Monitoring developments and interpreting indicators. Measuring progress is as difficult and as crucial as making progress’.
- DPRN process report.

All publications are available on the website:  
<http://innovate.global-connections.nl>

processes. Alternatively, these offices can act as brokers to facilitate this ‘translation’ process.

### Follow up

This DPRN process helped to strengthen the relationships between academic partners in South Africa, the Netherlands and Flanders. The University of Ghent intends to follow up the process with a workshop in two to three years. Other follow-up will take the form of academic publications. Authors affiliated to Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation will write a paper on 10 years of university development cooperation through Nuffic projects. Karen Vandervelde (Ghent University) is preparing a paper on ‘Innovation indicators and monitoring development’, which discusses why measuring progress is as difficult and as crucial as making progress. This will be based on the draft report on innovation indicators written during the DPRN process. A paper by Nancy Terryn of Ghent University will focus on how University Development Cooperation projects can be more successful in their ‘valorisation’ to society.

## DPRN, Global-Connections and Search4Dev websites

Without any ICT support whatsoever, DPRN created its first website in 2005 as a subpage on the CERES website. The design was fairly simple and fulfilled the purpose of providing an overview of DPRN's mission, organisational structure, activities, outputs and partners. In addition, the website offered the possibility to join the mailing list and contact the coordinator. It gained a more professional look in 2008 thanks to Joska Landré, who joined DPRN to provide ICT support, but the function of the independent website [www.dprn.nl](http://www.dprn.nl) did not change essentially throughout the years.

### Web portal

Ambitions went a step further as far as Global-Connections.nl is concerned. With a view to facilitating contacts and exchanges of information between DPRN's target groups, DPRN sought to develop a web portal with a search facility to find development expertise in the Netherlands and Flanders. It soon spotted Connecting-Africa.net (developed and maintained by the African Studies Centre (ASC) in Leiden) as an example that could fit the purpose. This web portal for African Studies in the Netherlands provided access to the geographical and thematic expertise of scientists specialised in Africa and sought to link these experts to their publications. As it would be a waste of effort to re-invent the wheel, DPRN contacted the ASC to explore its willingness to join Global-Connections, to open up its database for professionals outside academia, and make its website architecture available for web portals focusing on other regions. That resulted in close cooperation between DPRN and the ASC in the years that followed.

### Need for more interactivity

Global-Connections.nl enabled a sound basis to be laid for a web portal where development experts can register and link up with each other on the basis of their geographical and thematic expertise. The database allowed DPRN to publish inventories of available expertise for the 13 regions on which expert meetings were organised as well as inventories of MDG

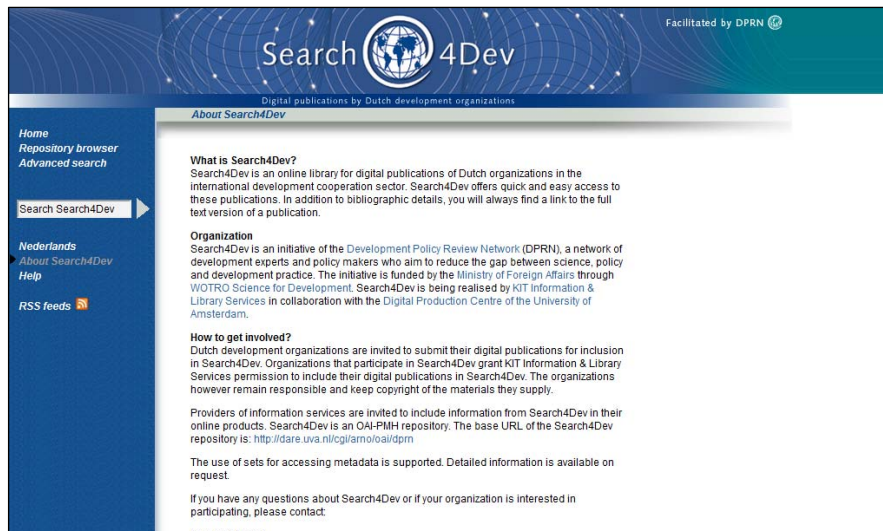




expertise. This was a way to show ‘who is who and who is doing what’ around the regional and thematic expert meetings organised during DPRN’s first phase. However, several problems limited the further use of the website for DPRN’s purposes. Its architecture was too complicated for DPRN staff to manage it actively and independently from the programmer based at the ASC, and it lacked interactive modalities like a mailing list to support the network. DPRN therefore opted for a content management system (CMS) that enabled people without detailed ICT knowledge to publish information on the internet and offered more opportunities for interactive and network-supporting modules. Thanks to assistance from KIT Information & Library Services, this CMS was installed. From 2008 onwards it was thus possible to create process-specific websites with interactive options like a discussion board, a wiki and a mailing list. Joska Landré, responsible for ICT support within DPRN, designed attractive websites for each of the processes with room for a library with background documents and process outputs, interactive tools such as an online forum, and options to register for events. He also instructed the process organisers on how to update the websites, which was greatly appreciated.

## Search4Dev

Until recently, linking experts to their publications was possible only for scientists whose publications are stored online in university repositories from which the titles can be ‘harvested’. Such online repositories were not available for publications of development experts who published outside academia. DPRN therefore signalled the need to provide access to non-academic publications such as policy documents of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and development organisations, public consultancy reports and journalistic work. It found a partner in KIT Information & Library Services, whose staff took up the challenge to create an online library for digital documents from Dutch development organisations. The Search4Dev.nl website offers quick and easy – and, through fixed links, permanent – access to these documents. Hetty Verhagen, who currently coordinates the initiative, soon rang the



alarm bell, saying that interest in the website far exceeded available staff time to process the requests. DPRN facilitated additional support and Joëtta Zoetelief was seconded to KIT for two days a week to meet the demand from organisations wishing to join Search4Dev. Currently 31 organisations have made their online resources available through the website. The initiative was very much welcomed in the sector. In the words of Evelijne Bruning, then editor-in-chief of the Dutch professional journal on development cooperation, Vice Versa: ‘It opens up a wealth of knowledge to which I and our readers previously had little or no access.’

Now that a firm infrastructure has been created, a lot has still to be done to promote awareness of the website among potential participants and users. Staff at KIT hope for a snowball effect and that the more organisations are in, the more easily others will follow and the more users Search4Dev will attract. It would be a major breakthrough in the efforts to build a bridge between the ministry and other sectors involved in international cooperation if the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would get on board and make its reports accessible through Search4Dev.

## Database

In the meantime, DPRN struggled to make the Global-Connections database more user-friendly and to keep it up-to-date. An online survey among potential users yielded positive results. Respondents saw the added value of the database mainly in the information on people’s thematic and geographical expertise and contact data, and links to their personal websites. They also indicated that the database could be made more attractive, for instance by creating the possibility to upload pictures and by linking to other social media, notably LinkedIn. It remains to be seen whether the Global-Connections database can compete with the new social media. An expert database can compete with the new social media only if it has an added value. Staff at the ASC believes that linking the expert database to publications can create this added value. The ASC has already implemented this on the Connecting-Africa web portal, which now has about 1,400 experts linked to 32,000 quality-checked publications, which are fully accessible, also to those in the South who have no institutional contract with publishers of scientific journals. Staff of KIT Information & Library Services



### **The potential of electronic publishing online for Africa**

With the support of DPRN, the ASC hosted the 2006 CODESRIA–ASC Conference on Electronic Publishing and Dissemination from 6–8 September 2006. The aim of the conference was to address asymmetries in communication between African and Western scholars. The conference also discussed the opportunities and challenges for electronic publishing for Africa, as a way to disseminate academic knowledge for development. About 45 people participated in the conference, most of whom were librarians, editors, publishers and researchers from Africa. They concluded that partnerships and scholarly communities need to be built to address inequalities in scholarly communication. Several bottlenecks need to be overcome, such as the need to safeguard quality under open access sources, which are not subject to peer reviews. In relation to this, it should be made clear who can be allowed to publish in open access sources and under what conditions. It was concluded that Connecting–Africa (which was officially launched during this conference) could be further developed as one means of scholar community building in Africa.

certainly sees potential in linking the Global–Connections database with the publications in Search4Dev, but whether future funding will allow them to take up this challenge and take over the expert database is still unclear. In any event it is clear that maintaining a searchable database and keeping it up–to–date requires active promotion and concerted attention far beyond the staff time that was available within DPRN.

### **Bottlenecks in online discussions**

DPRN also made an effort to stimulate online discussions in its processes and considered joining Dgroups – an online platform offering tools and services that bring individuals and organisations together in the international development community. With the transformation of Global–Connections into a content management system, the same tools and services became available as offered by Dgroups, whereas the international coverage provided by Dgroups was not necessary for DPRN to meet its ends. It was therefore more cost–effective to stimulate online cooperation through the Global–Connections websites.

Although all organisers were encouraged to make use of the tools, in practice it appeared to be difficult to mobilise actors online. Among the reasons reported are:

- The lack of a clear issue to be discussed online;
- Lack of staff and/or money to moderate online discussions;
- Lack of time among the target groups;
- Lack of interest to express opinions online;
- The time lapse between two events, which made interest in the process fading away until the next announcement was made.

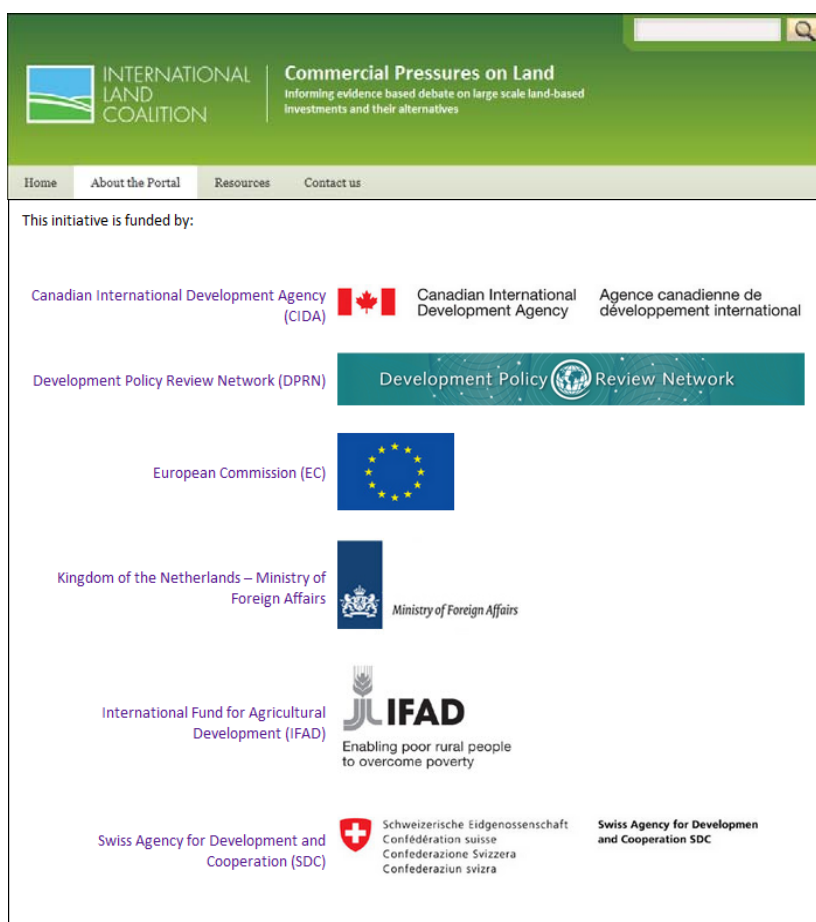
People have a lot of interest in accessing resources online, but much less in engaging in online debates. The experience of The Broker ([www.thebrokeronline.eu](http://www.thebrokeronline.eu)) made it clear that online debates are successful only if intensively moderated.

## Websites as mobilisers

Although setting up online discussions proved difficult, several process websites became important means to communicate between the various stakeholders and mobilise them. Organisers used the websites to announce meetings, send out newsletters, publish reports and make background material available. In the 'Amu Darya Basin' process, the website became instrumental in establishing a solid network of policymakers and experts interested in the issue of water security in Afghanistan and Central Asia. Guljamal Jumamuratova and Benjamin Sturtewagen write in their report: 'It is our firm belief that the online platform [www.amudarya-basin.net](http://www.amudarya-basin.net) has made a significant contribution to the ad hoc cooperation and information exchange that resulted from the project.'

The 'Commercial pressure on land' process experienced something similar. Michael Taylor (International Land Coalition, ILC) wrote to us as follows, several months after the closure of the project: 'The blog on commercial pressures on land - started as a component of the DPRN project - grew to the extent that it was receiving 10,000 hits per month and being referenced in international press and research articles. Based on the DPRN activities, we initiated a fruitful partnership with Oxfam Novib, which has grown significantly. Other partners have since

joined ILC and Oxfam, such as the University of Bern, CIRAD, GIZ and others. Last month the blog was re-launched as the commercial pressures on land portal ([www.commercialpressuresonland.org](http://www.commercialpressuresonland.org)), which will form a part of new Land Portal, to be launched by ILC and 40 partners in April 2011. ILC and Oxfam-Novib are the core partners, joined by others from the portal, in an ambitious project to build a database of verified information on large-scale land acquisitions. This started soon after the end of the DPRN process, and the data is going to be launched in mid-2011. It is the most comprehensive database on this phenomenon that exists, and will be invaluable in informing action to address the risks involved.'



*Weblog on commercial pressures on land acted as a catalyst.*

## Lessons learned

What we learned about online network facilitation is that:

- Interactive ICT facilities – including possibilities to work on and exchange content through discussion boards, wikis, and mailing lists – are needed to support a network like DPRN.
- Websites can act as a catalyst to build new networks. In these cases information provision played an important role.
- Online debates work only if intensively moderated. Lack of time hinders both organisers and participants when it comes to engaging in such discussions spontaneously.
- Maintaining an expert and publication database or a combination of both requires continuous promotion and dedication.
- Such a database should be attractive and user-friendly.
- The attractiveness of Global-Connections lies mainly in the availability of personal information: people's thematic and geographical expertise, contact data and links to personal websites.
- An expert database can be made extra attractive by linking it to other databases and social media.
- The success of the Connecting-Africa web portal is largely based on the combination of publications with data about Africa specialists.
- Search4Dev – the online library for digital publications of Dutch organisations active in international cooperation – fulfils a clear need.
- Information services like Global-Connections and Search4-Dev require relatively few investments in relation to their added value. Sustainable maintenance of such services is however impossible without a sound financial basis.

## Dissemination of information

The overview of all output generated by the DPRN in Phase II (Appendix 5) shows that DPRN made several efforts to publicise its activities during Phase II. Every two months, a page was reserved in Vice Versa to bring the activities of the network to the attention of a broad audience (Appendix 6). Also, infosheets have been published for all DPRN processes carried out in Phase II. These infosheets focus on the theme addressed under each process, its organisational setup, the activities carried out and the output and outcome realised (for an overview and links see Appendix 7). Finally, the DPRN Team wrote the booklet 'Linking to

learn & Learning from linking' with a view to make the tacit knowledge and lessons learned explicit that it acquired about network steering.<sup>2</sup>

## The Worldconnectors

DPRN participated 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 key 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. DPRN took part both in the Worldconnectors Project Group (Dr Koen Kusters, 0.2 fte) and the Worldconnectors Steering Group (Prof. Dr Ton Dietz).

The Worldconnectors organised the following activities (Round Table Meetings or RTW) in 2008–2011:

- A kick-off meeting in February 2008, which, amongst other things, was used to discuss progress made so far.<sup>3</sup>
- An RTW about 'Sustainable Development and Climate Change' In March 2008. The statement that was presented in May 2008 drew 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 2008 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 RTW of June 2008 was about 'Connection of Civilizations'. It brought to discussion the negative aspects of the discourse on the clash of civilizations. The statement, which was presented in September 2008, dealt 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 2008, SID and the RTW organised a 'senate conference' at the First Chamber about 'New Scarcities and Power Shifts', in response to the spike in food and oil prices. A

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<sup>2</sup> The booklet can be found at: [http://www.dprn.nl/sites/dprn.nl/files/file/booklet/DPRN-Linking-to-learn\\_learning-from-linking\\_feburari\\_2011.pdf](http://www.dprn.nl/sites/dprn.nl/files/file/booklet/DPRN-Linking-to-learn_learning-from-linking_feburari_2011.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> 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.

draft statement about 'Bioenergy and food security in developing countries' was presented later that month. The Worldconnectors called 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 2008 about migration from Eastern Europe.
- In December 2008 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.
- A RTW was organised about New scarcities in December 2008 that further elaborated on the biofuel discussion that was initiated in September.
- On 22 March 2009 there was a Round Table meeting on the topic of Europe in the World. The Worldconnectors had selected this as their first theme of 2009, in the light of the elections in June 2009. The Working Group involved in this theme included special advisors from ECDPM, FNV and the Dutch National Youth Council. According to the Working Group, the EU is – and should be – a main player in international cooperation and the management of global public goods. The Working group produced a statement with proposals for the reformation of Europe.<sup>4</sup> Several outreach activities were organised in relation to the theme, including a debate on the European elections, organised with LUX Nijmegen.
- The second Round Table of 2009 took place on 28 May. This Round Table covered two themes; Gender and Diversity and Sustainable World Citizenship. The RT on Sustainable World Citizenship focused on the role that citizens can play in solving global challenges. This is about changing social relationships, new technology (internet) and civic driven change. This Working Group wanted to create a platform for involved individuals. Prior to the Round Table they therefore organised a 'sustainable boat trip' on 11 May 2009. On that day, 70 young 'change agents' met on a boat in Amsterdam to brainstorm, develop new ideas and form new creative alliances. This also served as a start-up for a virtual community of young people on Facebook who want to make a change. The Working Group Gender and Diversity had prepared a statement with proposals for change, starting at individual level. This triggered a lot of interesting discussions at the Round Table meeting, mostly on the positive potential that diversity offers. The statement was finalised after receiving feedback from Worldconnectors and their networks.<sup>5</sup> As a follow-up, the Working Group started to become engaged with other groups in society that are able to implement the strategies formulated in the statement. The Working Group

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<sup>4</sup> The statement can be found at:

[http://www.worldconnectors.nl/upload/cms/341\\_2009\\_05\\_21\\_Statement\\_Europe\\_Final.pdf](http://www.worldconnectors.nl/upload/cms/341_2009_05_21_Statement_Europe_Final.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> The statements can be found at: [http://www.worldconnectors.nl/upload/cms/522\\_genderdiversity-ENG-A.pdf](http://www.worldconnectors.nl/upload/cms/522_genderdiversity-ENG-A.pdf) (part A) and [http://www.worldconnectors.nl/upload/cms/523\\_genderdiversity-ENG-B.pdf](http://www.worldconnectors.nl/upload/cms/523_genderdiversity-ENG-B.pdf) (part B).



cooperates with Women Inc. and will play an important role at the Women Inc. festival in March 2010.

- In the early morning of 23 September 2009 there was a breakfast Round Table, prior to the SID Senate Conference on 'Economic Growth and the Common Good – Effective and Innovative Approaches to Economic Growth and Development', which was co-organised with the Worldconnectors. The breakfast meeting focussed primarily on the new themes to be discussed in 2010.
- On 23 November 2009, a Round Table was held at the office of the entrepreneurial development bank of the Netherlands (MFO) in the Hague on 'financial systems', with Minister Koenders as a special guest. On this occasion the Worldconnectors discussed with Minister Koenders how the financial system (financial institutions in the Netherlands as well as international financial institutions) can be reformed so as to contribute to a more just and sustainable world. The Worldconnectors see the financial crisis both as a system failure and as an opportunity to embrace a new financial system that is based on values of sustainability. The Working Group had formulated its ideas in a draft statement that was discussed during the Round Table. The Working Group is now actively entering a dialogue with influential actors in the government and corporate sectors in the Netherlands (including large banks and Committee de Wit), to raise some fundamental issues that, according to Working Group, are being insufficiently addressed at this point in time.
- On 16 February 2010, there was a Round Table Meeting on the Dutch Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR) report, with author Peter van Lieshout. On the basis of this meeting the Worldconnectors formulated their reaction to the report in three separate documents: one broad vision document, one document focusing on the role of the private sector, and one document focusing on the role of civil society.
- On 27 May 2010 the Round Table Meeting was on the future of the Round Table of Worldconnectors, the WRR follow up, and the celebration of 10 years Earth Charter. Erna Witoelar (Indonesia) and Dumisani Nyoni (Zimbabwe), both members of the International Earth Charter Council, were present as special guests.
- A Round Table Meeting on the political developments in the Netherlands after the elections and the consequences for the Worldconnectors was organised on 4 October 2010. In the second part of this meeting the national budget for International Cooperation was analysed and discussed.
- On 6 December 2010 a Round Table Meeting was organised on food security, with several invited experts and policymakers. Immediately after the roundtable meeting, the working group on food security, chaired by Prof. Dr Ton Dietz, wrote a letter with policy recommendations to the Secretaries of State Mr Knapen (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and Mr Bleker (Ministry of Economy Agriculture and Innovation). In reaction to this letter, the working group has been invited to discuss the theme with the two Secretaries of State.

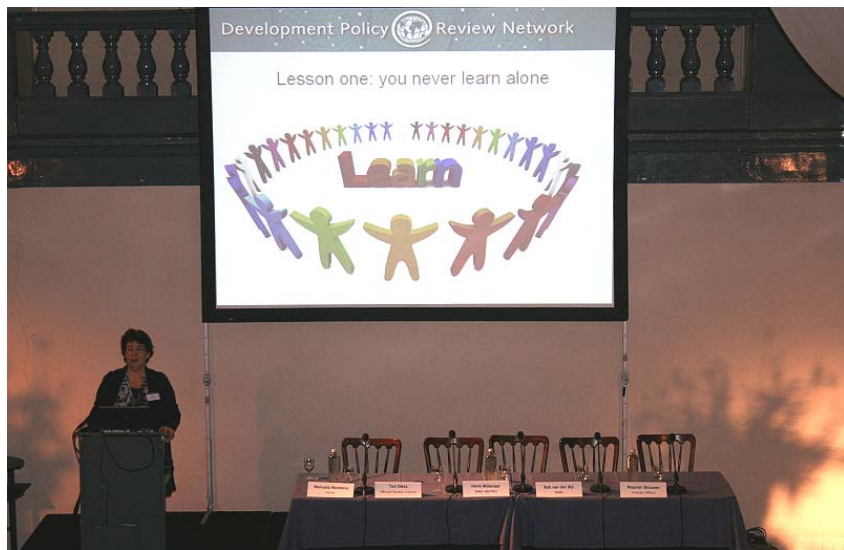
## The Broker

DPRN was 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, For issues addressed in 2008–2010 see <http://www.thebrokeronline.eu>.

## Final event ‘Linking to learn & learn from linking’

To mark its closure, the Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) organised its final event entitled ‘Linking to Learn & Learn from Linking’ on 18 February 2011 in the Ottone Kerk in Utrecht. The idea behind the event was to exchange experiences relating to efforts to realise the DPRN objectives (*i.e.* to stimulate informed debate and enhance cooperation and synergy between scientists, policymakers, NGO staff and business people). More than 100 people participated in lively discussions about lessons that could be learned from more than eight years of DPRN experiences.<sup>6</sup> Ton Dietz presented his view on the Dutch development knowledge infrastructure and the steps that should be taken in order to prevent all that DPRN has built up from falling apart and crumbling in the short term due to



increasingly ominous political circumstances. Mirjam Ros presented the ‘lessons learned’ from eight years of organising informed debate and stimulating cooperation and synergy, and this provided a basis for lively discussions on twelve different themes in a World Café setting. The DPRN Team had gathered the lessons learned prior to the meeting through interviews with DPRN stakeholders from different sectors carried out by Kim de Vries for her MSc research on ‘Bridging knowledge divides’ and the ‘Structure follows strategy’ process; the insights provided by the external evaluators, Fons van der Velden and Chris Eijkemans (Context, international cooperation) and Heinz Greijn (Learning for Development, L4D); the organisers’ reflections in the process reports and their responses to an online survey on their experience with DPRN; telephone interviews with process organisers conducted by Koen Kusters; and the cumulated experience and tacit knowledge of DPRN Team and Task Force. These lessons learned were brought together in the booklet ‘Linking to learn and learning from linking – Lessons from eight years of DPRN’, which was handed over to Henk Molenaar, executive director of NWO–WOTRO Science for Global Development. Henk Molenaar

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<sup>6</sup> Of the 104 participants in the meeting, 26% were scientists, 38% were practitioners, 8% were policymakers, 24% belonged to the private sector and 4% belonged to the rest category ‘Other’. The report of the final event is available on the DPRN website.

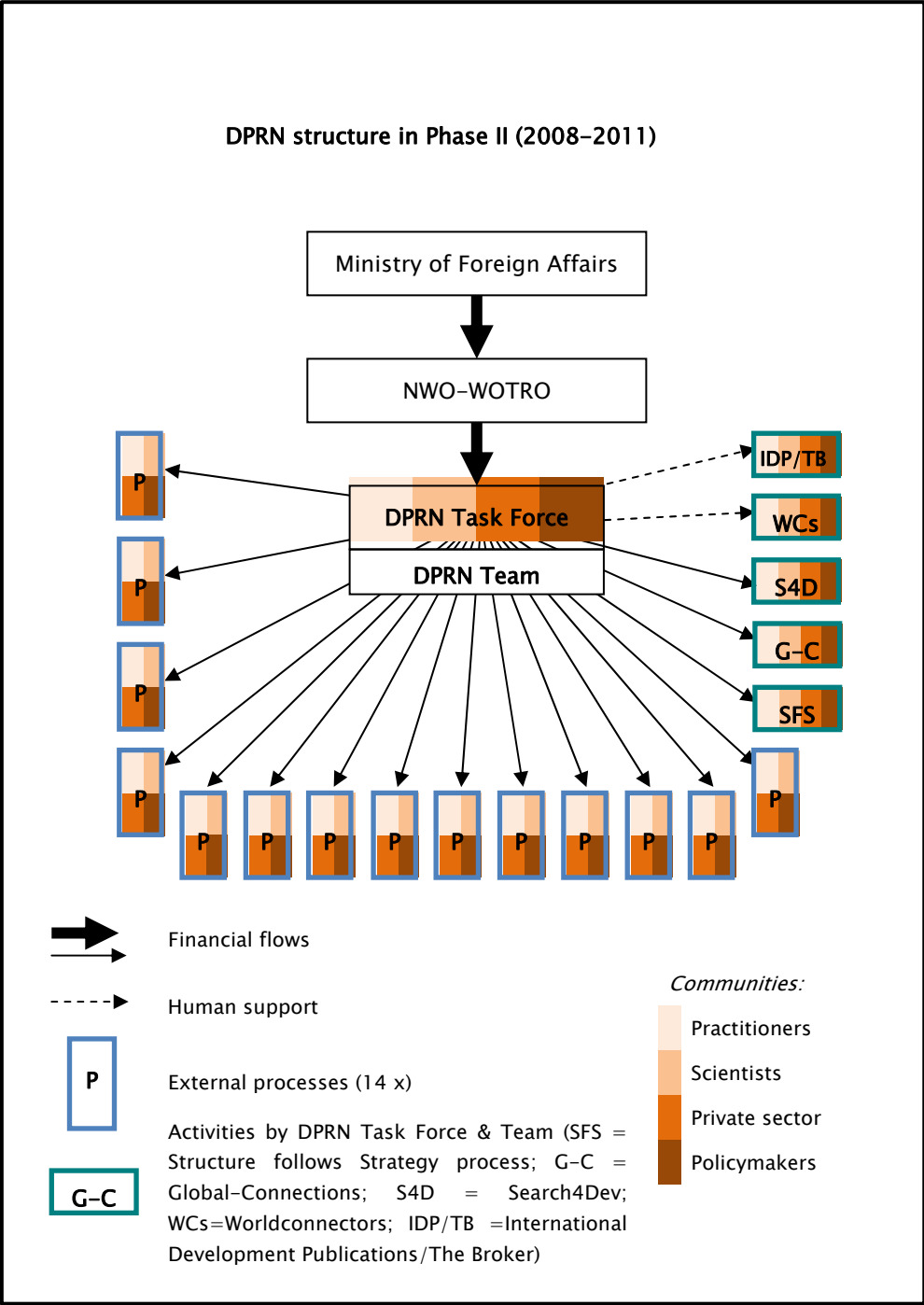
expressed to be positive about the work of DPRN and expressed the hope that funds would provide WOTRO with the means to continue DPRN as part of WOTRO's new strategy in 2011.

The meeting ended with a panel discussion on the way forward. After expressing their individual visions, all the panel members agreed that development today refers to a broad global transition. Poverty reduction is not just related to state interventions or to economic growth, but is part of broad and multi-sectoral processes. Against that background, there is a need to continue in the spirit of DPRN and to work together on solutions for the global challenges.

June 2011

Mirjam Ros

Appendix 1 - DPRN structure in Phase II (2008 - 2011)



## Appendix 2 – Overview of facilitated processes and implementing organisations



### **Value chain governance and endogenous growth: how can NGOs, firms and governments achieve social inclusion and poverty reduction?**

A 2.5-year process aimed at assessing how inclusive value chain governance can be established by systematically comparing, discussing and integrating diverse analytical and intervention frameworks used by firms, NGOs and governments. The process included a writeshop, several meetings and the publication of research papers (later published as a book).

*Website:* <http://value-chains.global-connections.nl>

*Organising agencies:* Institute of Social Studies (ISS) (coordination), WUR, Woord en Daad, ICCO-Kerk in Actie, Hivos, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV), Concept Fruit BV.

*Organisers:*

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Telephone: +31 (0)317 – 484754



### **Gender mainstreaming trajectory**

A three-year process aimed at rethinking and working towards transforming the current understanding and practice of gender mainstreaming in order to improve policies and practices of development actors towards gender equality. The process included two conferences and the publication of research papers and policy briefs.



*Website:* <http://www.ontrackwithgender.nl>

*Organising agencies:* Centre for International Development Issues Nijmegen (CIDIN)–Radboud University (coordination), Hivos, Oxfam Novib, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Human Rights and Peace Building Department, DMH).

*Organiser:*

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### **Stimulating business development: another side of microfinance?**

A one-year process aimed at investigating which role microfinance institutions can play in improving access of small entrepreneurs in developing countries to non-financial business services. The process included three interlinked seminars and the publication of a paper and synthesis report.

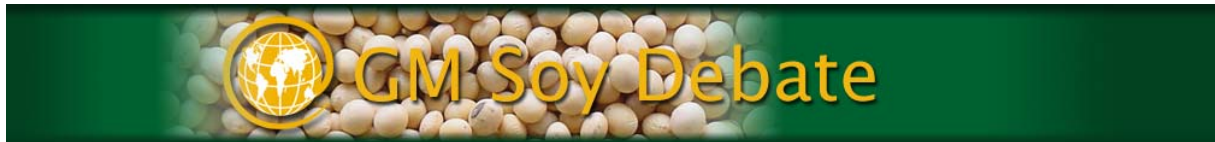
*Website:* <http://microfinance.global-connections.nl>

*Organising agencies:* Triodos Facet (coordination), Inholland University of Applied Sciences.

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## **Risks and benefits for sustainability and livelihoods of genetically modified soy in Latin America**

A one-year process aimed at initiating a constructive, informed and science-based debate on the benefits and drawbacks of GM soy in Latin America from an environmental and rural development perspective. The process included research with stakeholder involvement (through steering committee advice and a stakeholder conference) and the publication of popular reports based on the study.

*Website:* <http://gmsoydebate.global-connections.nl>

*Organising agencies:* Aidenvironment (coordination) and Plant Research International (PRI)– Wageningen University and Research Centre (WUR) with support from Solidaridad, WWF Netherlands and the Ministry of VROM.

### *Organisers:*

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**Learning to understand development better**

A one-year process aimed at discussing the complexity of development processes and ensuring that the issue of development theories and models was put back onto the Dutch debate agenda. The process included a three-day conference and the publication of a position paper.

*Website:* <http://udb.global-connections.nl>

*Organising agencies:* MDF Training & Consultancy (coordination), Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Vice Versa.

*Organisers:*

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**Processes started in 2009, following the second call for proposals**

## Commercial Pressures on Land

Rethinking Policies and Practice for development

**Commercial pressures on land: rethinking policies and practice for development**

A one-year process aimed at providing an evidence base to influence policy processes that enable more secure and equitable access to land for the poor who face increased commercial demand for their land. The process included setting up an online interest group, paper publications and a one-day workshop.

*Website:* <http://pressuresonland.global-connections.nl>

*Organising agencies:* Centre for Development Studies (CDS)–University of Groningen (coordination), International Land Coalition (ILC), Oxfam Novib.

*Organisers:*

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**Phosphorus depletion: the invisible crisis**

A one-year process aimed at increasing global awareness of the depletion of phosphorus (an irreplaceable and indispensable nutrient for plant growth) and investigating possible mitigation options for avoiding food insecurity. The process included the publication of articles, case studies, a documentary, and a plan for the setup of a future 'Nutrient Platform'. Two seminars were held to raise political awareness.

*Website:* <http://phosphorus.global-connections.nl>

*Organising agencies:* Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) (coordination), WASTE advisers on urban environment and development, Plant Research International (PRI–WUR).

*Organisers:*

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### **Singing a new policy tune**

A one-year process aimed at improving the quality of policymaking in development cooperation in the Netherlands by revitalising thinking about policy theories. The process included an assessment of previous policy formulation initiatives, a kick-off conference, 2 public debates to discuss different policy domains, a meeting to discuss the WRR report, and the publication of a note outlining the contours of a new policy theory.

*Website:* <http://singinganewpolicytune.nl>

*Organising agencies:* MDF Training & Consultancy (coordination), Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Lokaalmondiaal-Vice Versa.

#### *Organisers:*

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### **Supporting developing countries' ability to raise tax revenues**

A one-year process aimed at enhancing the exchange of information and cooperation among actors who support developing countries' ability to raise tax revenues, and formulating recommendations on how to address any hindrances to do so. The process included the publication of three research papers, the building of an online library and database, and the organisation of a synthesising seminar.

*Website:* <http://taxrevenues.global-connections.nl>

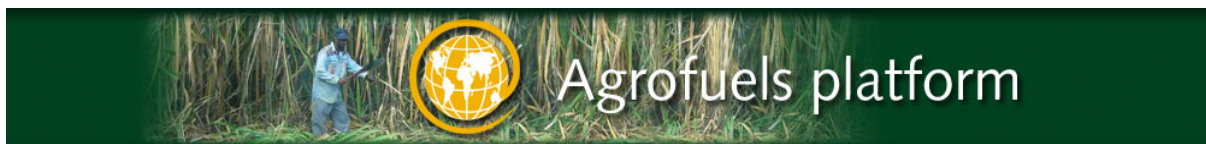
*Organising agencies:* Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO) (coordination), CIDIN-Radboud University, Oxfam Novib, Tax Justice NL, Oikos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs-DEC.

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### **Fuelling knowledge on the social and ecological impacts of agrofuel production**

A one-year process aimed at generating insights into the social and ecological effects of agrofuel production and expansion, with a view to enabling informed decision-making designed to minimise the negative effects. This process included the publication of a paper, setting up an online knowledge community, and a multi-stakeholder meeting.

*Website:* <http://www.agrofuelsplatform.nl>

*Organising agencies:* Both ENDS (coordination), IUCN NL, ETC International, Cordaid, AISSR-UvA, Alterra-WUR, Institute of Environmental Sciences (CML)-University of Leiden, Law and Governance Group-WUR, Mekon Ecology.

#### *Organisers:*

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**Processes started in 2010, following the third call for proposals:**



## **The knowledge triangle in developing countries: a missed opportunity in university development cooperation?**

A one-year process aimed at raising awareness on the idea that science and technology are crucial for development and that the knowledge triangle – education, research and innovation – is important for a knowledge-based society. The process centred on an international workshop in South Africa. Following a call for papers, several presentations were held.

*Website:* <http://innovate.global-connections.nl>

*Organising agencies:* Ghent University (coordination), Centre for Development Innovation (CDI)-WUR, Nuffic, City of Ghent (Department of North-South cooperation).

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## **Civic Driven Change: implications for policy-makers and practitioners**

A one-year process aimed at stimulating dialogue and learning about what Civic Driven Change (CDC) implies for the policy and practice of international cooperation in the Netherlands and Belgium. The process included meetings about bringing CDC into practice in local politics and development policies. A synthesising writeshop was organised to outline the strategies needed for the further promotion of the CDC concept.

*Website:* <http://cdc.global-connections.nl>

*Organising agencies:* Context international cooperation (coordination), Hivos, Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Cordaid, Broederlijk Delen, Social E-valuator.

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**Afghan–Central Asian water cooperation on management of the Amu Darya river: connecting experts and policymakers in the low lands**

A one-year process aimed at improving cross-border cooperation between Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on the management of the Amu Darya basin's water resources. The process included connecting experts in 'The Amu Darya Basin Network' and an international conference.

*Website:* <http://www.amudaryabasin.net>

*Organising agencies:* EastWest Institute Brussels (coordination), Irrigation & Water Engineering Group (IWE)–WUR.

*Organisers:*

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## Planning, monitoring and evaluation in complex social situations



### **Strengthening monitoring and evaluation in development projects that deal with complex social contexts**

A one-year process aimed at developing a better understanding of the effectiveness of outcome mapping as a PME tool in development projects that deal with complex social systems. The process included the publication of several documents on PME practices and policies. The results of these were discussed in a synthesising seminar.

*Website:* <http://pme.global-connections.nl>

*Organising agencies:* HIVA-Research Institute for Labour and Society-KU Leuven (coordination), VVOB-Flemish Office for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance, Vredeseilanden-VECO, PSO Capacity Building in Developing Countries.

*Organisers:*

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### Appendix 3 – Agenda of DPRN meetings in 2008–2011

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Organisers</u>
27–29 August 2008	Conference Learning to understand development better	Hotel de Bosrand, Ede	MDF, ISS, Vice Versa
5 November 2008	Seminar MFIs and BDS in developing countries	Geldmuseum, Utrecht	Triodos Facet, Hogeschool INHolland
25 November 2008	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 2008	Stakeholder conference on GM Soy and Sustainability	Aristo, Amsterdam	Solidaridad, Plant Research International WUR
12 February 2009	Microfinance seminar 2: What can we learn from the South?	Triodos Bank, Zeist	Triodos Facet, INHolland University of Applied Sciences
19 May 2009	Microfinance seminar 3: the future of microfinance and BDS	Hogeschool INHolland, The Hague	Triodos Facet, INHolland University of Applied Sciences
March–May 2009	8 working groups for the SFS process	Various	DPRN
28 May 2009	Expert meeting on ‘Gender mainstreaming trajectory’	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	CIDIN, HIVOS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oxfam Novib
29 May 2009	Seminar on ‘Gender mainstreaming trajectory’	Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague	CIDIN, HIVOS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oxfam Novib
15 June 2009	The future organisation of Dutch development and international cooperation	Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen (KIT), Amsterdam	DPRN
2–3 July 2009	CERES Summer School (with various workshops organised by	Radboud University, Nijmegen	CIDIN

	DPRN processes)		
8 July 2009	Expert meeting on 'Commercial pressures on land'	Universiteit van Utrecht (UU), Utrecht	Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Oxfam Novib, International Land Coalition (ILC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs
10 September 2009	Expert meeting on 'Singing a new policy tune'	Hotel de Bosrand, Ede	MDF, Vice Versa, ISS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
24–25 September 2009	Research writeshop on 'Value chain governance'	Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague	ISS, Wageningen University & Research, Woord & Daad, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, HIVOS, ICCO, Concept Fruit
1–2 October 2009	Two-day conference on 'Singing a new policy tune'	Hotel de Bosrand, Ede	MDF, Vice Versa, ISS, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
7 October 2009	Mini-seminar on 'Phosphorus depletion: the invisible crisis'	Nieuwspoort, The Hague	Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP), WASTE, Plant Research International – WUR
2 December 2009	Seminar on 'Raising tax revenues'	Het Mozeshuis, Amsterdam	Tax Justice NL, SOMO, CIDIN
4 May 2010	Seminar 'Governance in fragile states'.	Hotel de Bosrand, Ede	MDF Training & Consultancy, Vice Versa
24 June 2010	Workshop 'Changing roles and meaning of International Cooperation – Implications for the research agenda and infrastructure'.	ISS, The Hague	DPRN
30 June 2010	Seminar 'Draagvlak voor duurzaamheid en mondiaal burgerschap'.	Hotel De Bosrand, Ede	MDF Training & Consultancy, Vice Versa.
28 September 2010	Bilateral dialogues 'Markets, value chains and development'	Institute of Social Studies, The Hague	ISS, WUR, in cooperation with ISS, Woord & Daad, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Hivos, ICCO, Concept Fruit.
28 September 2010	Bilateral dialogues and dinner event 'Markets, value chains and development'.	Institute of Social Studies, The Hague	ISS, WUR, in cooperation with ISS, Woord & Daad, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Hivos, ICCO, Concept Fruit.

8 – 10 November 2010	Conference ‘Collaborate to Innovate’.	University of Western Cape, South Africa	Ghent University, VLIR-UOS, CDI-WUR, Nuffic.
10 November 2010	Seminar ‘Complexity-oriented Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) – From alternative to mainstream?’.	Theatre Concordia, The Hague	HIVA-KUL, VVOB, Vredeseilanden/VECO, PSO.
1 December 2010	Seminar ‘Did Civic Driven Change fall off the Paris agenda?’.	Progress Hotel, Brussels.	Context international cooperation, ISS, Hivos, Cordaid, Social Evaluator, Broederlijk delen.
7 December 2010	Meeting ‘Enhancing Security in Afghanistan and Central Asia through Regional Cooperation on Water’ (7 December)	European Parliament, Brussels	East West Institute, Wageningen University
18 February 2011	DPRN closing event 'Linking to Learn & Learn from Linking'.	Ottone Kerk, Utrecht.	DPRN
21 – 22 February 2011	Conference ‘Gender mainstreaming 2.0 dialogue’.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague	CIDIN, Hivos, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oxfam Novib.

Appendix 4 – Participants in the DPRN meetings and their distribution over the various professional categories (2008–2011)<sup>7</sup>

Meeting	Scientists / researchers		Policy-makers		Practitioners		Private sector		Other/ Unknown		Total
	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.	%	Abs.
Conference Understanding development better (27–29 August 2008)	38	40%	10	10%	38	40%	5	5%	5	5%	96
Microfinance seminar 1: MFIs and BDS in developing countries (5 November 2008)	14	23%	3	5%	29	47%	15	24%	1	2%	62
Dinner Meeting Value Chain Governance and endogenous growth (25 November 2008)	23	47%	6	12%	12	24%	8	16%	0	0%	49
Stakeholder conference on GM Soy and Sustainability (9 December 2008)	17	23%	5	7%	37	49%	15	20%	1	1%	75
Microfinance seminar 2: What can we learn from the south? (12 February 2009)	11	22%	4	8%	14	29%	17	35%	3	6%	49
8 working groups for the Structure Follows Strategy process (19 May 2009)	14	24%	11	19%	14	24%	18	31%	2	3%	59
Microfinance seminar 3: The future of microfinance and BDS (19 May 2009)	14	23%	4	7%	20	33%	21	35%	1	2%	60
Expert meeting ‘Gender mainstreaming trajectory’ (28 May 2009)	20	43%	4	9%	18	38%	5	11%	0	0%	47
Seminar on ‘Gender mainstreaming trajectory’	41	41%	4	4%	35	35%	6	6%	13	13%	99

<sup>7</sup> The number of participants in the 2008 meetings may differ slightly from those reported last year since corrections were made after a more rigorous check by Kim de Vries while she was writing her thesis entitled ‘Bridging knowledge divides. Strengthening research–policy linkages in the Development Policy Review Network’.

(29 May 2009)												
The future organisation of Dutch development and international cooperation	22	20%	31	28%	40		15			4%	112	
(15 June 2009)						36%		13%	4			
Ceres Summer School Workshop agrofuels[1]	24	75%	0	0%	4	13%	2	6%	2	6%	32	
(2–3 July 2009)												
Expert meeting on 'Commercial pressures on land'	36	35%	22	21%	37	36%	5	5%	3	3%	103	
(8 July 2009)												
Expert meeting on 'Singing a new policy tune'	7	21%	13	39%	7	21%	4	12%	2	6%	33	
(10 September 2009)												
Research writeshop on 'Value chain governance'	35	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	35	
(24–25 September 2009)												
Two-day conference on 'Singing a new policy tune'	13	24%	15	27%	13	24%	12	22%	2	4%	55	
(1–2 October 2009)												
Mini-seminar on 'Phosphorus depletion: the invisible crisis'	15	36%	7	17%	5	12%	13	31%	2	5%	42	
(7 October 2009)												
Seminar on 'Raising tax revenues'	16	41%	10	26%	11	28%	2	5%	0	0%	39	
(2 December 2009)												
Expert meeting: 'Brandende vragen. Zekerheden en onzekerheden in wetenschap en beleid omtrent biobrandstoffen' (18 February 2010)	11	42%	4	15%	9	35%	2	8%	0	0%	26	
Mini seminar 'Phosphorus Shortage: European challenges' (4 March 2010)	12	26%	14	30%	7	15%	12	26%	1	2%	46	
Seminar 'Civic Driven Change in local politics' (26 March 2010)	13	52%	3	12%	5	20%	3	12%	1	4%	25	
Expert meeting 'Hoe tillen we het ontwikkelingsdebat naar een hoger niveau?' (22 April 2010)	12	44%	4	15%	7*	26%*	3*	11%*	1*	4%*	27	
Seminar 'Governance in fragile states' (4 May 2010)	1	2%	7	17%	25	60%	7*	17%*	2*	5%*	42	



Workshop 'Changing roles and meaning of International Cooperation – Implications for the research agenda and infrastructure' (24 June 2010)	17	50%	1	3%	13	38%	1	3%	2	6%	34
Seminar 'Draagvlak voor duurzaamheid en mondiaal burgerschap' (30 June 2010)	8	10%	7	9%	54	67%	12	15%	0	0%	81
OTWG Deep divers seminar (20 August 2010)	7	33%	1	5%	11	52%	2	10%	0	0%	21
Bilateral dialogues 'Markets, value chains and development' (28 September 2010)	16	19%	14	17%	26	31%	24	29%*	20	31%	84
Dinner event 'Markets, value chains and development' (28 September 2010)	12	29%	7	17%	15	36%	8	19%	0	0%	42
Conference 'Collaborate to Innovate' (8–10 November 2010)	66	89%	5	7%	3	4%	0	0%	0	0%	74
Seminar 'Complexity-oriented Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) – From alternative to mainstream?' (10 November 2010)	11	11%	1	1%	65	64%	21	21%	3	3%	101
Seminar 'Did Civic Driven Change fall off the Paris agenda?' (1 December 2010)	14	23%	3	5%	42	66%	4	6%	0	0%	63
Meeting 'Enhancing Security in Afghanistan and Central Asia through Regional Cooperation on Water' (7 December)	22	26%	28	33%	31	36%	3	4%	1	1%	85
DPRN closing event 'Linking to Learn & Learn from Linking' (18 February 2011)	27	26%	8	8%	40	38%	25	24%	4	4%	104
Conference 'Gender mainstreaming 2.0 dialogue' (21–22 February 2011)	11	15%	7	9%	44	58%	14	18%	0	0%	76
Until 2009	360	34%	149	14%	334	32%	163	16%	41	4%	1,047
<b>2010–2011</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>931</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>1,978</b>

## Appendix 5 – Output realised in 2008–2011

### General publications:

DPRN Booklet: Linking to learn & learning from linking (2011)

DPRN Plan of Operations 2010 (updated)

DPRN External review 2010 (by Heinz Greijn)

DPRN Progress Report 2010

DPRN Progress Report 2009

DPRN Progress Report 2008

DPRN Strategic Plan 2008–2010

### Infosheets:

Infosheet Structure follows strategy – The organisation of Dutch development and international cooperation

Infosheet Understanding development better: Do we truly understand the how aid relates to development?

Infosheet Value chain governance and endogenous growth: how can NGOs, firms and governments achieve social inclusion and poverty reduction?

Infosheet GM Soy debate: How to manage risks and benefits of genetic modification in processes intended to improve the performance and practices of the soy sector?

Infosheet Microfinance: Stimulating business development: Another side of microfinance?

Infosheet Tax revenues: Supporting developing countries' ability to raise tax revenues

Infosheet Commercial pressures on land: Rethinking policies and practices for development

Infosheet Phosphorus depletion: the invisible crisis

Infosheet Agrofuel platform: Fuelling knowledge on the social and ecological impacts of agrofuel production

Infosheet Singing a new policy tune: Towards a (re)foundation of Dutch development assistance policies

Infosheet Amu Darya Basin Network: Afghan–Central Asian water cooperation on the management of The Amu Darya River: Connecting experts and policymakers in the lowlands

Infosheet Planning, monitoring and evaluation in complex social situations

Infosheet Civic drive change: What does Civic Driven Change (CDC) imply for the policy and practice of international cooperation?

Infosheet Collaborate to Innovate: The role of university development cooperation in innovation

**Process reports<sup>8</sup>:**

REPORT NO. 1: 'Understanding development better' process, final process report (2008)

REPORT NO. 2: 'Microfinance' process, seminar report.  
*"Seminar 1: MFIs and BDS in developing countries"* (2008)

REPORT NO. 3: 'Microfinance' process, paper  
*"Microfinance in the Netherlands: Do we learn from each other?"* (2009)

REPORT NO. 3a: 'Microfinance' process, seminar report  
*"Seminar 2: Microfinance in the Netherlands, what can we learn from the South?"* (2009)

REPORT NO. 4: 'Value chains' process, dinner meeting report (2009)

REPORT NO. 5: 'Structure follows strategy' process, issue paper  
*"De toekomst van de Nederlandse ontwikkelingssamenwerking"* (2008)

REPORT NO. 6: 'Structure follows strategy' process, synthesis of proposals  
*"De Nederlandse OS/IS na 2010 – 47 stellingen"* (2009)

REPORT NO. 7: 'Structure follows strategy' process, meeting report  
*"De Nederlandse OS/IS na 2010 – Verslag debat 15 juni 2009"* (2009)

REPORT NO. 8: 'Structure follows strategy' process, synthesis report  
*"Programma voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking (PROVO)"* (2009) also available in English

REPORT NO. 9: 'Value chains' process, progress report phase I (2009)

REPORT NO. 10: 'GM soy' process, final process report  
*"GM soy debate: Creating common sense on genetically modified soy"* (2009)

REPORT NO. 11: 'Microfinance' process, seminar report  
*"Seminar 3: The future of microfinance and BDS in developing countries"* (2009)

REPORT NO. 12: 'Microfinance' process, synthesis report  
*"Stimulating business development: another role for microfinance?"* (2009)

REPORT NO. 13: 'Gender mainstreaming' process, progress report phase I (2009)

REPORT NO. 14: 'Understanding development better' process, paper  
*"Een wereld van verschil – Een zaak van iedereen. Ontwikkelingssamenwerkingsbeleid van Pronk tot Koenders"* (2009)

REPORT NO. 15: 'Tax revenues' process, research papers  
*"International barriers to raising tax revenues; Raising taxes in developing countries – domestic constraints; Development assistance and tax revenues"* (2009)

REPORT NO. 16: 'Commercial pressures on land' process, seminar discussion paper  
*"Increasing commercial pressures on land: Building a coordinated response"* (2009)

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<sup>8</sup> Available on <http://www.dprn.nl/phase-ii-publications>.

REPORT NO. 17: 'Commercial pressures on land' process, final process report  
*"Commercial pressures on land: rethinking policies and practice for development"* (2010)

REPORT NO. 18: 'Phosphorus depletion' process, final process report  
*"Phosphorus depletion: the invisible crisis"* (2010)

REPORT NO. 19: 'Agrofuels Platform' process, final process report  
*"Fuelling knowledge on the social and ecological impacts of agrofuel production"* (2010)

REPORT NO. 20: Structure Follows Strategy process, issue paper  
*"Towards a future knowledge agenda and infrastructure for development"* (2010)

REPORT NO. 21: Tax revenues process, seminar report  
*"DPRN Expert Seminar 2 December 2009 Amsterdam"* (2010)

REPORT NO. 22: Tax revenues process, final process report  
*"Supporting developing countries' ability to raise tax revenues"* (2010)

REPORT NO. 23: 'Agrofuels Platform' process, discussion paper  
*"Burning questions – Certainties and uncertainties concerning agrofuels"* (2010)

REPORT NO. 24: Singing a new policy tune process, final report  
*"Singing a new policy tune"* (2010)

REPORT NO. 25: Value chain governance, final process report  
*"Value chain governance and endogenous growth"* (2010)

REPORT NO. 26: Value chain governance, synthesis report  
*"Value chains governance and inclusive endogenous development: Towards a Knowledge Agenda"* (2011)

REPORT NO. 27: Amu Darya river basin, final report  
*"Afghan–Central Asian cooperation on water management of the Amu Darya river"* (2011)

REPORT NO. 28: Planning, monitoring and evaluation in complex social situations, final report  
*"Planning, monitoring and evaluation in complex social situations"* (2011)

REPORT NO. 29: Collaborate to innovate, final report.  
*"The role of development cooperation in innovation"* (2011)

REPORT NO. 30: Civic driven change, final report.  
*"Civic driven change: Implications for policymakers and practitioners"* (2011)

REPORT NO. 31: Report on DPRN's closing event on 18 February 2011  
*"Linking to learn & Learn from linking"*

REPORT NO. 32: On track with gender, final report  
*"Report on the 'gender mainstreaming' process"*

REPORT NO. 28: Programming, monitoring and evaluation, final report.  
*"Monitoring and evaluation in complex social situations"* (2011)

REPORT NO. 29: Collaborate to innovate, final report  
*"Collaborate to Innovate: The role of development cooperation in innovation"* (2011)

REPORT NO. 30: Civic Driven Change, final report  
“Civic Driven Change: Implications for policymakers and practitioners” (2011)

REPORT NO. 31: Report on DPRN's closing event on 18 February 2011  
*“Linking to learn & Learn from linking”*

REPORT NO. 32: On track with gender, final report  
*“Report on the 'gender mainstreaming' process”*

**Vice Versa ‘Afzenderpagina’s’**

See Appendix 7.

## Appendix 6 – Infosheets


The DPRN team made infosheets for 14 DPRN processes<sup>9</sup>. An overview is given below. The infosheets can be accessed at <http://www.dprn.nl/phase-ii-publications>.



**Structure follows strategy: the organisation of Dutch development and international cooperation.**

A three-year process aimed at discussing new strategies and structures for Dutch international and development cooperation (IC/DC) in order to identify alternatives to the fragmented nature of Dutch IC/DC. The process included the organisation of several expert and public meetings, and the publication of two issue papers.


For the infosheet click [here](#).



**Understanding development better**

A one-year process aimed at discussing the complexity of development processes and ensuring that the issue of development theories and models was put back onto the Dutch debate agenda. The process included a three-day conference and the publication of a position paper.

For the infosheet click [here](#).



**Stimulating business development: another side of microfinance?**

A one-year process aimed at investigating which role microfinance institutions can play in improving access of small entrepreneurs in developing countries to non-financial business services. The process included three interlinked seminars and the publication of a paper and synthesis report.

For the infosheet click [here](#).

<sup>9</sup> The 'On track with gender' process was not yet completed at the time of this meeting, and since the organisers of this process intended to bring out a policy brief in March 2011, it was decided not to duplicate the efforts.





### GM Soy Debate: creating common sense on genetically modified soy

A one-year process aimed at initiating a constructive, informed and science-based debate on the benefits and drawbacks of GM soy in Latin America from an environmental and rural development perspective. The process included a stakeholder conference and the publication of popular reports based on the study.

For the infosheet click [here](#).



### Value chain governance and endogenous growth: how can NGOs, firms and governments achieve social inclusion and poverty reduction?

A 2.5-year process aimed at assessing how inclusive value chain governance can be established by systematically comparing, discussing and integrating diverse analytical and intervention frameworks used by firms, NGOs and governments. The process included a writeshop, several meetings and the publication of research papers (later published as a book).

For the infosheet click [here](#).



### On track with gender

A three-year process aimed at rethinking and working towards transforming the current understanding and practice of gender mainstreaming in order to improve policies and practices of development actors towards gender equality. The process included two conferences and the publication of research papers and policy briefs.

For the policy brief click [here](#).



### Commercial pressures on land: rethinking policies and practice for development

A one-year process aimed at providing an evidence base to influence policy processes that enable more secure and equitable access to land for the poor who face increased commercial demand for their land. The process included setting up an online interest group, paper publications and a one-day workshop.

For the infosheet click [here](#).



### Phosphorus depletion: the invisible crisis

A one-year process aimed at increasing global awareness of the depletion of phosphorus (an irreplaceable and indispensable nutrient for plant growth) and investigating possible mitigation options for avoiding food insecurity. The process included the publication of articles, case studies, a documentary, and a plan for the setup of a future 'Nutrient Platform'. Two seminars were held to raise political awareness.

For the infoshheet click [here](#).



### Fuelling knowledge on the social and ecological impacts of agrofuel production

A one-year process aimed at generating insights into the social and ecological effects of agrofuel production and expansion, with a view to enabling informed decision-making designed to minimise the negative effects. This process included the publication of a paper, setting up an online knowledge community, and a multi-stakeholder meeting.

For the infoshheet click [here](#).



### Supporting developing countries' ability to raise tax revenues

A one-year process aimed at enhancing the exchange of information and cooperation among actors who support developing countries' ability to raise tax revenues, and formulating recommendations on how to address any hindrances to do so. The process included the publication of three research papers, the building of an online library and database, and the organisation of a synthesising seminar.

For the infoshheet click [here](#).



### Singing a new policy tune

A one-year process aimed at improving the quality of policymaking in development cooperation in the Netherlands by revitalising thinking about policy theories. The process included an assessment of previous policy formulation initiatives, a kick-off conference, 2 public debates to discuss different policy domains, a meeting to discuss the WRR report, and the publication of a note outlining the contours of a new policy theory.

For the infoshheet click [here](#).



### The knowledge triangle in developing countries: a missed opportunity in university development cooperation?

A one-year process aimed at raising awareness on the idea that science and technology are crucial for development and that the knowledge triangle – education, research and innovation – is important for a knowledge-based society. The process centred on an international workshop in South Africa. Following a call for papers, several presentations were held.

For the infosheet click [here](#).



### Civic Driven Change: Implications for policymakers and practitioners

A one-year process aimed at stimulating dialogue and learning about what Civic Driven Change (CDC) implies for the policy and practice of international cooperation in the Netherlands and Belgium. The process included meetings about bringing CDC into practice in local politics and development policies. A synthesising workshop was organised to outline the strategies needed for the further promotion of the CDC concept.

For the infosheet click [here](#).



### Afghan-Central Asian water cooperation on the management of the Amu Darya River: connecting experts and policymakers in the lowlands

A one-year process aimed at improving cross-border cooperation between Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on the management of the Amu Darya basin's water resources. The process included connecting experts in 'The Amu Darya Basin Network' and an international conference.

For the infosheet click [here](#).



### Strengthening planning, monitoring and evaluation (PME) in development projects that deal with complex social contexts

A one-year process aimed at developing a better understanding of the effectiveness of outcome mapping as a PME tool in development projects that deal with complex social systems. The process included the publication of several documents on PME practices and policies. The results of these were discussed in a synthesising seminar.

For the infosheet click [here](#).

## DPRN kiest drie voorstellen

Het Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) heeft eind 2008 opnieuw drie voorstellen geselecteerd voor financiering. Het doel van de financiering is het stimuleren van debat over ontwikkelingsbeleid en internationale samenwerking en het bevorderen van samenwerking en synergie tussen beleid, wetenschap, praktijk en het bedrijfsleven.

De volgende processen gaan binnenkort van start:

- 'Voedselonzeekerheid en commerciële drak op land', te organiseren door het Centre for Development Studies van de Rijksuniversiteit

Groningen, de International Land Coalition en Oxfam Novib;

- 'Uit een ander beleidsvatje tappen: over belangrijke thema's op de IS-agenda en de wijze waarop beleid tot stand komt'.

Initiatiefnemers: MDF Training and Consultancy, Vice Versa en het Institute of Social Studies;

- 'Fosfor uitputting: de onzichtbare crisis', te organiseren door het Nederlands Water

Partnership, Wageningen Universiteit en WASTE.

Daarnaast zijn nog eens twee voorstellen – over de impact van biobrandstoffen en over steun aan belastingheffingcapaciteit van ontwikkelingslanden – voorwaardelijk goedgekeurd, onder voorbehoud van het beschikbaar komen van financiering.

EB



Meer informatie over deze en lopende DPRN processen is te vinden op [www.dprn.nl](http://www.dprn.nl) en [www.globalconnections.nl](http://www.globalconnections.nl)

## Nieuwe digitale bieb voor de sector

Voor wie in één oogopslag een overzicht wil van de eigen publicaties van Nederlandse ontwikkelingsorganisaties of wie eigen inzichten graag wil delen met anderen uit de sector, is er nu een online bibliotheek: 'Search4Dev'. Met handige zoekfuncties zijn de publicaties van de deelnemende organisaties makkelijk te vinden. Eerst een korte omschrijving en een klik verder ook de volledige tekst.

Search4Dev is een initiatief van het Development Policy Review Network (DPRN), een netwerk van ontwikkelings-experts en beleidsmakers dat tot doel heeft de afstand tussen



wetenschap, beleid en ontwikkelingspraktijk te verkleinen.

De bibliotheekdienst van het Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen beheert de website, en zorgt ervoor dat de online documenten, met behulp van internationale standaarden en protocollen, ook gevonden worden door zoekmachines en andere informatiediensten.

Nederlandse ontwikkelingsorganisaties worden uitgenodigd om hun digitale publicaties aan te bieden voor opname in Search4Dev. En dan liefst niet alleen de jaarverslagen.

EB

Zie voor meer informatie [www.search4dev.nl](http://www.search4dev.nl)

<sup>10</sup> 2008 no longer available.



# 'Uit een ander beleidsvaatje tappen'

Beleid. Het lijkt misschien ver van uw bed en weinig opwindend. Of het is juist zo vanzelfsprekend dat u zich niet eens meer afvraagt hoe het beter zou kunnen. Maar het beleid bepaalt wel de kaders waarin de sector kan opereren. Terwijl beleid wordt gevoed door lang niet altijd duidelijke aannames en hypothesen, zowel vanuit de mondiale en lokale als vanuit de politieke context. Het is bovendien niet altijd duidelijk welke instrumenten, mechanismen en modaliteiten er gebruikt (zouden kunnen) worden om dat beleid ook uit te voeren. En het beleid leidt op zijn beurt weer tot resultaten, die ook niet altijd duidelijk worden gemaakt, of niet teruggekoppeld worden naar het onderliggende beleid.

Het kan en moet misschien wel beter, vinden zowel het ministerie als kenners en gebruikers uit de wetenschap en de praktijk. Daarom gaan dit voorjaar met steun van het Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) drie nieuwe trajecten van start die het beleidsproces onder de loep nemen. Niet alleen op theoretisch, maar ook op praktisch niveau.

Allereerst organiseert DPRN in maart en april een serie gesprekken met 64 afgevaardigden uit verschillende segmenten van de sector (directeuren, denkers, doeners, ondernemers, en ambtenaren van aanpalende ministeries) over de architectuur van de Nederlandse hulp. Dat gebeurt aan de hand van een behoorlijk stevig opiniestuk, dat stelt dat de huidige beheersstructuur van het ministerie ernstig tekortschiet om het gefragmenteerde veld van vele spelers in de sector aan te sturen en af te rekenen. De bijeenkomsten gaan over een lange waslijst aan thema's (de veranderende internationale context, maar ook de huidige en gewenste rollen van multilaterale, bilaterale en civielere organisaties, bedrijfsleven en kennisinstellingen). Daaruit worden vervolgens door DPRN en onderzoeksbureau Wereld in Woorden conclusies getrokken over de strategische langetermijndoelen van

de Nederlandse hulp. En die moeten op hun beurt weer leiden tot aanbevelingen voor het optimaliseren van de huidige sectorstructuur.

Als u voor deze sessies niet bent uitgenodigd, maar wel graag wat in de melk zou willen brokkelen, of na deelname aan het eerste traject nog niet bent uitgedacht en uitgesproken, dan kan dat ook. Want in mei start MDI Training & Consultancy op zijn beurt met een serie bijeenkomsten, waarin deze aanbevelingen op een aantal themagebieden concreet zullen worden uitgewerkt. Welke thema's dat zullen worden ligt op dit moment nog niet vast – het is namelijk de bedoeling dat die worden vastgesteld in overleg tussen de deelnemers en die deelname is voor iedereen toegankelijk. Vervolgens zullen de thema's verder worden uitgewerkt door een aantal wetenschappers, waarvan het werk vervolgens uitgebreid bediscussieerd zal worden in een aantal bijeenkomsten in Ede. Ook daarbij bent u van harte welkom. U vindt binnenkort meer informatie over dit traject via [www.vicerversaonline.nl](http://www.vicerversaonline.nl).

Het derde DPRN-traject op dit terrein, ten slotte, probeert in kaart te brengen wat de belangrijkste uitgangspunten en veronderstellingen en de centrale overwegingen en doelstellingen zijn in het Nederlandse ontwikkelingsbeleid. Dit proces wordt in nauwe samenspraak met het ministerie aangestuurd vanuit het Institute of Social Studies en MDE. Het is de bedoeling dat dit traject, waarover binnenkort meer informatie beschikbaar is op onze website, bijdraagt aan de fundering van het beleid en aan het inzicht in de resultaten, de uitkomsten en de impact ervan. Natuurlijk wordt daarbij ook gebruik gemaakt van de uitkomsten van de eerste twee DPRN trajecten.

**Evelijne Bruning**

## Uit de DPRN nota 'De toekomst van de Nederlandse ontwikkelingssamenwerking':

*Fragmentatie leidt onvermijdelijk tot gebrek aan samenhang, en daarmee tot verminderde effectiviteit van de OS-sector als geheel'. Armoebestrijding los van de belangrijke IS-thema's (zoals voor velen tot uiting komt in de formulering van de Millenniumdoelen) voldoet niet meer'. Het oplossen van mondiale problemen die zich ook in Nederland doen voelen is ook in Nederland's belang'. De vraag rijst of we in de huidige wereldorde nog wel in termen van landenbeleid moeten denken of moeten uitgaan van actie groepen'. Zowel bij overheid als particuliere sector ontbreekt een overkoepelende visie'. De idee dat de Nederlandse OS zou moeten specialiseren op bepaalde thema's vindt over het algemeen instemming – specialisatie kan bijdragen aan profilering en grotere zichtbaarheid, en wordt vooral van belang geacht omdat het de effectiviteit en de impact bevordert'. Bestedingen via het multilaterale kanaal zouden efficiënter en effectiever kunnen indien de uitvoering van projecten wordt uitbesteed aan organisaties op nationaal en lokaal niveau'. De cultuur van diplomatie staat transparantie over de manier van beleidsmaken en netwerken en het voeren van beleidsdebatten in de weg'.*

U vindt de volledige nota op [www.vicerversaonline.nl](http://www.vicerversaonline.nl) of [www.dprn.nl](http://www.dprn.nl)

Viceversa

(advertentie)

# Development Policy Review Network

## Naar een nieuwe OS/IS architectuur

De Nederlandse ontwikkelingssamenwerking (OS) ligt onder vuur. De sector is gefragmenteerd en ontbeert een stevig draagvlak. Bovendien staat OS te zeer los van grote mondiale vraagstukken als klimaatverandering, energieschaarste en internationale veiligheid. Minister Koenders wil de sector moderniseren, maar de vraag is hoe. DPRN wil het debat voeden en startte in 2008 een proces getiteld: 'Organisatie en architectuur van de Nederlandse OS/IS'. Vier werkgroepen, elk samengesteld uit vertegenwoordigers van de vier DPRN-doelgroepen (beleid, praktijk, wetenschap en bedrijfsleven) kwamen twee keer bijeen om te debatteren over de toekomst van de Nederlandse OS/IS. Elke werkgroep werkt aan 12 stellingen die op 15 juni 2009 in een open bijeenkomst aan een breder publiek en de minister worden voorgelegd. De discussie zal gaan over waarom, hoe en langs welke kanalen OS/IS moet worden gerealiseerd, met ruime aandacht voor de rol van het bedrijfsleven en de onderzoekswereid. De uitkomsten moeten leiden tot een 'Programma van elsen' waar aan de Nederlandse ontwikkelingssector in de nabije toekomst moet voldoen. *Voor meer informatie zie: <http://structurefollowsstrategy.dprn.nl>.*

## Over DPRN

DPRN staat voor Development and Policy Review Network en werd in 2003 opgericht als een netwerk van ontwikkelingsexperts uit Nederland en Vlaanderen. Het doel van DPRN is het stimuleren van debat over ontwikkelingsbeleid en het bevorderen van samenwerking en synergie tussen wetenschappers, beleidsmakers, 'de praktijk' en het bedrijfsleven op het gebied van internationale samenwerking. In 2008 startte de tweede fase van DPRN, die loopt tot eind 2010. *Voor meer informatie zie: [www.dprn.nl](http://www.dprn.nl).*

## Microkrediet en dienstverlening voor kleinschalige ondernemers

Welke rol kunnen microfinancieringsorganisaties spelen bij niet-financiële dienstverlening aan kleine ondernemers? Rond deze vraag organiseren Triodos Facet en Hogeschool InHolland een serie seminars in het kader van DPRN. De eerste twee seminars gingen in op de ervaringen met microfinanciering en niet-financiële diensten in ontwikkelingslanden en Nederland. Het derde en laatste seminar, op 19 mei 2009 bij Triodos in Zeist, ging over de toekomst. Hoe kunnen microkrediet instituties beter bijdragen aan kleinschalig ondernemerschap in 2015? Directeur Luis Felipe Derteano Marie van Grupo ACP – een in microkrediet gespecialiseerde non-profit organisatie uit Peru – ging hierover met de deelnemers en een panel van experts in discussie. *Voor meer informatie zie: <http://microfinance.global-connections.nl>.*

## Gender mainstreaming

CIDIN, het ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, Hivos en Oxfam-Novib startten in 2008 een door DPRN gefaciliteerd proces getiteld 'On Track with Gender'. Het proces gaat na wat de gender-mainstreaming-strategie heeft opgeleverd sinds de in 1995 in Peking gehouden 'Vierde Wereldconferentie over Vrouwen' – en wat we van deze ervaringen kunnen leren. Het proces begint met een inventarisatie van beleid, strategieën en activiteiten binnen DGIS, Nederlandse ngo's en universiteiten. Ook de internationale context krijgt aandacht. De resultaten werden op 29 mei 2009 gepresenteerd op het Taking Stock seminar op het ISS in Den Haag. *Voor meer informatie zie: <http://www.ontrackwithgender.nl>.*





## Development Policy Review Network

### De overeenkomst tussen OS en voetbal: het DPRN architectuurdebat

Welke strategie en structuur zijn nodig voor een effectieve OS/IS? Die vraag stond centraal op 15 juni tijdens een DPRN-bijeenkomst met vertegenwoordigers van bedrijfsleven, wetenschap, praktijk en beleid in het Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen in Amsterdam.

Het resulteerde in een interessante mix van visies. Volgens sommigen moet de Nederlandse beleidstructuur op de schop om de uitdagingen van de 21ste eeuw (klimaat, water, voedsel, energie en hun samenhang met armoede) effectief te kunnen aanpakken. Volgens anderen is er een wereld te winnen door in te zetten op de kracht van het Nederlandse bedrijfsleven. Weer anderen pleitten voor een blijvende focus op armoedebestrijding, omdat de grote mondiale problemen vooral de armen treffen. Veelgehoorde klacht was dat de verschillende ministeries te weinig met elkaar samenwerken. Maar ook dat het bedrijfsleven te veel buiten het OS-spel staat. De suggestie om een agentschap te creëren waar beleid, praktijk, bedrijfsleven en wetenschap elkaar vinden kreeg veel bijval. Een dergelijk agentschap zou verkokering moeten tegengaan. De discussie was rijk, maar maakte ook duidelijk dat consensus voorlopig ver te zoeken is. Zoals iemand in de zaal opmerkte: 'Dit lijkt op voetbal. Iedereen die er verstand van zegt te hebben, heeft een andere mening.' Aan DPRN nu de taak om, met de uitkomsten van deze bijeenkomst, te werken aan een pakket met aanbevelingen, als een van de bouwstenen voor een nieuwe structuur voor de Nederlandse OS/IS. *Voor meer informatie zie: <http://structurefollowsstrategy.dprn.nl>*

### Over DPRN

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*Voor meer informatie zie: [www.dprn.nl](http://www.dprn.nl)*

### Zijn biobrandstoffen goed of slecht?

De meningen over biobrandstoffen zijn verdeeld. Sommigen zien biobrandstoffen als het antwoord op de klimaatcrisis en nieuwe kansen voor boeren, anderen benadrukken het risico voor voedselzekerheid, biodiversiteit en van nieuwe broeikasgasemissies. Eigenlijk is maar een ding écht duidelijk: er is nog veel kennis nodig over de effecten van biobrandstofproductie op mens en milieu. De politiek is echter ongeduldig en neemt besluiten op basis van aannames waarbij achterliggende motieven niet altijd helder zijn. Dit heeft potentieel grote gevolgen.

Als onderdeel van DPRN creëerde een aantal Nederlandse onderzoeksinstituten en ngo's daarom een 'kennisplatform'. Het platform beoogt bij te dragen aan een beter overzicht van beschikbare kennis, uiteenlopende belangen en aannames. Zo'n overzicht ontbreekt nu, terwijl het goed geïnformeerde besluitvorming zou bevorderen. In november van dit jaar staat een bijeenkomst met het bedrijfsleven en beleidsmakers gepland.

*Voor meer informatie zie: [www.agrofuelsplatform.nl](http://www.agrofuelsplatform.nl)*

### Genetisch gemodificeerde soja leidt niet tot structureel hogere oogsten

De discussie over de voor- en nadelen van genetisch gemodificeerde (GM) soja wordt sterk gepolariseerd door gebrek aan kennis. Het in DPRN-kader georganiseerde 'GM Soy Debate' bracht afgelopen juni een aantal opvallende onderzoeksresultaten naar buiten in een brochure over de agro-ecologische effecten van GM-soja in Brazilië en Argentinië. De brochure, gebaseerd op wetenschappelijk onderzoek van Wageningen Universiteit en Researchcentrum, maakt inzichten in twaalf claims over GM-soja toegankelijk voor een breed publiek. De belangrijkste bevindingen zijn dat GM-soja noch tot structureel hogere oogsten, noch tot lager herbicidegebruik leidt. De publicaties, informatie over de betrokken organisaties en een online discussieforum zijn te vinden op: <http://gmsoydebate.global-connections.nl>



## Development Policy Review Network

### On Track with Gender

De Vierde Wereldconferentie over Vrouwen lanceerde in 1995 Gender Mainstreaming (GM) als strategie om gendergelijkheid te bevorderen. Hoe heeft deze strategie de afgelopen vijftien jaar in de praktijk vorm gekregen en wat heeft ze opgeleverd? Deze vraag stond centraal in de eerste fase van het On Track with Gender-proces van DPRN. De resultaten van de inventarisatie liegen er niet om. In het afgelopen decennium had GM vaak meer weg van 'gender away-streaming'. Gender werd vooral in cijfers uitgedrukt (bijvoorbeeld het aantal vrouwen met toegang tot krediet), waardoor de kwalitatieve aspecten van gendergelijkheid nauwelijks aandacht kregen. Deze technocratische benadering werkte averechts en heeft geleid tot teleurstelling onder genderspecialisten. GM leidde ook vaak tot afbraak van genderspecifieke budgetten, minder experts en minder ruimte voor vrouwenorganisaties. Toch zijn er ook successen geboekt en gender is een legitiem aandachtspunt geworden. Dat creëert weer nieuwe mogelijkheden. De belangrijkste resultaten van de inventarisatie zijn verwerkt in een rapport dat toegankelijk is via: <http://www.ontrackwithgender.nl>.

### Land grab

Grootschalige commerciële bedrijven zijn steeds vaker actief op zoek naar landbouwgrond in ontwikkelingslanden. Sommigen zien dit als een motor voor ontwikkeling. Anderen benadrukken dat het leidt tot een *land grab*, ten koste van de armen. Het is evident dat processen van land toe-eigening beter gereguleerd en gecontroleerd moeten worden, maar om dit goed te doen is meer kennis nodig over de belangrijkste oorzaken en effecten van de vercommercialisering van landbouwgrond. Tijdens een DPRN expert seminar op 8 juli in Utrecht (gecoördineerd door het Centre for Development Studies van de Universiteit van Groningen) werd de noodzaak voor extra onderzoek nog eens onderstreept. Op het seminar waren meer dan honderd deelnemers aanwezig. Presentaties van studies van over de hele wereld leverden levendige discussies op en het seminar oogstte een grote hoeveelheid aan inzichten en aanbevelingen. Deze worden nu door de organiserende partijen verwerkt. Meer informatie over de uitkomsten van het seminar en vervolgvactiteiten zal binnenkort te vinden zijn op: <http://pressureonland.globalconnections.nl>.

### IS: Geen geitenwollensokken-aangelegenheid van als professionals vermomde hobbyisten

Er bestaat ongenoegen over het functioneren van de Nederlandse OS/IS. Daarom schreef de DPRN Task Force een 'Programma voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking' (PROVO). In deze notitie, gevoed door werkgroepen bestaande uit wetenschappers, beleidsmakers, praktijkmensen en vertegenwoordigers uit het bedrijfsleven, wordt gesproken over een paradigmamaverandering. Duurzaamheid wordt een belangrijker thema dan armoedebestrijding. De Task Force signaleert op basis van de discussies een gevoel dat de Nederlandse IS van een monopolie van specialistische sectoren naar een collectieve inspanning van alle sectoren moet: zowel de dominee als de koopman spelen hierin een rol. Belangrijk hierbij is dat het bedrijfsleven en kennisinstellingen meer bij IS worden betrokken. De dominante cultuur van de sectoren beleid en praktijk zou moeten worden ingeruild voor een cultuur waarin ook andere waarden meetellen, zoals ondernemerschap, winstgoeder, lerend vermogen, kennisontwikkeling en kennisbenutting. In het PROVO, een vervolg op de door DPRN georganiseerde publieke bijeenkomst van 15 juni 2009, worden de contouren geschetst van een nieuwe strategie en structuur voor de Nederlandse OS/IS.

Het document is te vinden op:  
<http://structurefollowsstrategy.dprn.nl/>.  
Reacties op de notitie zijn van harte welkom.

### Over DPRN

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Voor meer informatie zie: [www.dprn.nl](http://www.dprn.nl)





### De kansen van fosforschaarste

Fosfor is een essentiële voedingsstof voor planten en dieren waarvoor geen alternatief bestaat. De wereldwijde fosforvoorraden zijn naar schatting binnen 100 jaar uitgeput en de toenemende fosforschaarste kan leiden tot stijgende voedselprijzen, voedselonzeekerheid en groeiende ongelijkheid. Toch hoor je er maar weinig over. In het kader van het DPRN-proces over de fosforcrisis probeert de Nutrient Flow Task Group (NFTG) het probleem onder de aandacht te brengen. Zij benadrukt de noodzaak om de fosforcrisis onder ogen te zien en onderstreept tegelijkertijd de kansen die dat met zich mee brengt. Zo kan het terugwinnen van fosfor uit menselijke fecaliën gepaard gaan met een verbetering van de sanitaire voorzieningen en afvalverwerking in ontwikkelingslanden. Op 7 oktober presenteerde de NFTG samen met de Technology Assessment Stuurgroep van het ministerie van LNV een beleidsnotitie en bijbehorend briefadvies voor minister Verburg. Dit werd gevolgd door een miniseminar over fosforschaarste met deelnemers uit de politiek, kennisinstellingen, het bedrijfsleven en het maatschappelijk middenveld. Zie voor meer informatie: <http://phosphorus.global-connections.nl> en het artikel 'The next inconvenient truth' in het augustusnummer van The Broker ([www.thebrokeronline.eu](http://www.thebrokeronline.eu)).

### De laatste kans om procesvoorstellen in te dienen

DPRN zal in 2010 voor de derde en laatste maal vijf voorstellen financieren. De voorstellen moeten gericht zijn op het stimuleren van communicatie, discussie en samenwerking tussen de verschillende sectoren in Nederland en Vlaanderen op het gebied van internationale samenwerking. Voor elk proces is een maximum van 50.000 euro beschikbaar. De deadline voor het indienen van voorstellen is 7 december 2009. De subsidieaanvraag moet gebaseerd zijn op een samenwerkingsverband van instellingen uit ten minste twee van de volgende sectoren: (1) wetenschap, (2) niet-gouvernementele organisaties, (3) beleid, en (4) de private sector. In deze laatste ronde geeft de DPRN Task Force prioriteit aan innovatieve thema's, internationale samenwerking die verder gaat dan klassieke armoedebestrijding, en processen met een internationale insteek. Vlaamse instellingen worden in het bijzonder uitgenodigd om een voorstel in te dienen. Let op: DPRN financiert dit keer alleen eenjarige processen – elk proces moet dus vóór 31 december 2010 zijn afgerond. Het aanmeldingsformulier is te vinden op de DPRN-website: [www.dprn.nl](http://www.dprn.nl).

### Belasting heffen in Afrika?

Niet iedereen zal het willen toegeven, maar het heffen van belastingen is belangrijk om tot evenwichtige economische ontwikkeling te komen. Dit geldt zeker ook in ontwikkelingslanden. Belastingen zijn namelijk een duurzame bron van financiering – in tegenstelling tot bijvoorbeeld hulp gelden – om investeringen in infrastructuur, gezondheidszorg en onderwijs mee te bekostigen. Nu is het vaak zo dat overheden van ontwikkelingslanden belastinginkomsten mislopen door interne en externe factoren, zoals belastingcompetitie tussen landen, belastingontwijking door bedrijven en de geringe capaciteit van de belastingautoriteiten. Een van de DPRN-processen ('Raising Tax Revenues') houdt zich daarom bezig met de vraag hoe belastinginkomsten in ontwikkelingslanden verhoogd kunnen worden. In het kader van dit proces worden verschillende studies uitgevoerd. Zo evalueert hoogleraar Ruedr Ruben van het CIDIN aan de Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen de relatie tussen ontwikkelingssamenwerking en binnenlandse belastingheffing over de afgelopen zeventien jaar. Een van zijn conclusies is dat de toename van budgettaire hulp sinds 2000 een positief effect lijkt te hebben gehad op de mogelijkheden om belasting te heffen in ontwikkelingslanden. Op 2 december vindt een seminar plaats in Amsterdam waar beleidsmakers, academici en mensen uit de 'praktijk' hun hoofd zullen buigen over de vraag hoe ontwikkelingslanden hun belastinginkomsten kunnen verhogen. Voor meer informatie zie: <http://taxrevenues.global-connections.nl>.

### Over DPRN

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Voor meer informatie zie: [www.dprn.nl](http://www.dprn.nl)





**Singing a New  
Policy Tune**



Development Policy  Review Network

## Zet de WRR nu echt alles op zijn kop?

De ontwikkelingssector is voortdurend in beweging. Om kennis, ervaringen en ideeën uit te wisselen rond specifieke ontwikkelingsthema's, organiseert 'Singing a New Policy Tune' vier bijeenkomsten voor professionals uit de brede OS-sector. De thema's zijn gebaseerd op de veranderende OS/ IS agenda en het onlangs uitgekomen WRR rapport.

Met deze bijeenkomsten willen we deze thema's op een constructieve wijze onder de loep nemen, nieuwe inzichten krijgen over de bijdragen die geleverd worden door verschillende interventiekanalen en komen tot kruisbestuiving. Voor deze bijeenkomsten zijn onder andere uitgenodigd: de verschillende directies van het Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, wetenschappers, politici en experts uit de sector. Er zal een lezing verzorgd worden door een praktijk/ thema deskundige met daarin verwerkt de reflectie van de WRR over het thema. In het middag programma kunt u deelnemen aan werkgroepen om tot verdere verdieping te komen en goede inhoudelijke discussies te hebben.

1. Goed bestuur in fragiele staten - dinsdag 4 mei
2. Economische Groei & Verdeling - dinsdag 25 mei
3. Klimaatverandering & adaptatie - dinsdag 15 juni
4. Duurzaamheid en de globaliseringsagenda - maandag 28 juni

*Bijeenkomsten: 10.00 - 16.00 in Hotel de Bosrand in Ede. Kosten zijn 50 euro voor 1 dag, incl. lunch en borrel (25 euro voor studenten).  
Meer informatie en inschrijven: [www.singinganewpolicytune.nl](http://www.singinganewpolicytune.nl)*

"Singing a New Policy Tune" wordt georganiseerd door:



# Development Policy Review Network

## Een bonte verzameling nieuwe processen, met één doel

DPRN selecteerde voor 2010 voor de derde en laatste keer een aantal processen. Er zijn tot nu toe vier voorstellen goedgekeurd, waarin Vlaamse en Nederlandse organisaties intensief zullen samenwerken. Het is een bonte verzameling. Een van de processen richt zich op *civic driven change* en de toepasbaarheid daarvan in verschillende vormen van internationale samenwerking. Een tweede proces streeft naar het bijeenbrengen van kennis over de mogelijkheden van regionale samenwerking rondom de Amu Darya-rivier in Centraal-Azië. In weer een ander proces is het doel om innovatiestrategieën te ontwikkelen voor de samenwerking van universiteiten met andere partners. Ten slotte is er een consortium dat gaat onderzoeken in hoeverre *outcome mapping* een effectieve methode is voor het plannen, monitoren en evalueren van ontwikkelingsprojecten.

Hoewel de thema's verschillen is er wel degelijk een gemeenschappelijk doel: het versterken van de communicatie, discussie en samenwerking tussen de verschillende sectoren in Nederland en Vlaanderen. U kunt de voortgang van de processen volgen via: [www.dprn.nl](http://www.dprn.nl)

## Biobrandstoffen – De trein stoppen, of gewoon goed sturen?

De Europese Unie en de Nederlandse overheid stimuleren het gebruik van biobrandstoffen in de transportsector, onder andere omdat het de uitstoot van broeikasgassen zou verminderen. Het DPRN Agrofuels-platform organiseerde op 18 februari een expertbijeenkomst in Den Haag, waar wetenschappers, vertegenwoordigers van ngo's en beleidsmakers bij elkaar kwamen om de voor- en nadelen van het huidige biobrandstoffenbeleid te bespreken.

Er bestaat inmiddels consensus over het feit dat de productie van brandstof uit landbouwgewassen risico's voor voedselzekerheid en biodiversiteit met zich meebrengt. Daarnaast kunnen er door de uitbreiding van het landbouwareaal ten koste van natuurlijke gebieden (waar vaak veel koolstof zit opgeslagen in de vegetatie en bodem) grote hoeveelheden broeikasgassen vrijkomen. Door deze zogenoemde indirecte effecten wordt het eigenlijke doel van het stimuleringsbeleid – verminderen van broeikasgas-emissies – tenietgedaan.

De meningen zijn verdeeld over wat de gevolgen van deze risico's zouden moeten zijn voor het beleid. Sommigen pleiten uit voorzorg voor het afschaffen van alle stimuleringsmaatregelen, aangezien de gevolgen nog onvoldoende zijn te overzien. Anderen zijn van mening dat de negatieve effecten gecontroleerd kunnen worden. Over één ding blijkt iedereen het eens: de huidige duurzaamheidscriteria moeten snel worden verbeterd, zodat daarin ook de indirecte effecten van landgebruikveranderingen worden meegenomen. Alleen dan zal duidelijk worden of, en zo ja welke, biobrandstoffen feitelijk bijdragen aan de vermindering van klimaatverandering, en onder welke omstandigheden. Voor meer informatie over het Agrofuels-platform zie: [www.agrofuelsplatform.nl](http://www.agrofuelsplatform.nl)

## Ontwikkelingsexperts opgelet: Vinden en gevonden worden op [www.global-connections.nl](http://www.global-connections.nl)

DPRN start een nieuwe promotiecampagne voor het gebruik van [www.global-connections.nl](http://www.global-connections.nl) – een online database van professionals die zich bezighouden met ontwikkelingsvraagstukken. Deze door DPRN beheerde database is uniek, omdat hij sectoroverschrijdend is: het maakt de aanwezige kennis van Nederlandse en Vlaamse academici, ondernemers, beleidsmakers en 'praktijkmensen' inzichtelijk. Via de website kan iedereen zoeken naar personen en organisaties op basis van hun inhoudelijke en geografische expertise. Wilt u bijvoorbeeld meer weten over gender in Kenia? Het invoeren van deze twee trefwoorden zal u een overzichtelijke lijst met personen en hun contactgegevens verschaffen die op dit gebied actief zijn. De database stelt professionals zodoende in staat om anderen te vinden en zelf gevonden te worden. DPRN roept iedereen op die zich beroepsmatig bezighoudt met ontwikkelingsvraagstukken om zich aan te melden op [www.global-connections.nl](http://www.global-connections.nl)

## Over DPRN

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## Nieuw beleid voor fragiele staten?

Fragiele staten staan hoog op de Nederlandse ontwikkelingsagenda, maar hulporganisaties stuiten in landen als Congo, Afghanistan en Guatemala op enorme problemen. Hoe moeten ze er te werk gaan? Het eerste 'Singing a New Policy Tune'-seminar van dit jaar ging over deze vraag.

'Sociale en politieke spanningen, gebrek aan veiligheid, en geweldpleging tegen de bevolking zijn kenmerken van een fragiele staat', vertelt Hans Wesseling van het ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken. 'Er heerst wetteloosheid, en basisvoorzieningen zoals onderwijs en gezondheidszorg ontbreken gedeeltelijk of helemaal.' Veiligheid, legitiem bestuur en vredesdividend zijn de drie pijlers waarop het Nederlandse fragiele-statenbeleid rust. Omdat de ernst van de situatie van land tot land verschilt, hanteert Nederland een contextspecifieke benadering. 'Wij zetten vooral het multilaterale kanaal en niet-gouvernementele organisaties in en werken samen met lokale partners', legt Wesseling uit.

Seth Kaplan, auteur van *Fixing Fragile States*, is erg sceptisch over de internationale pogingen om stabiliteit en ontwikkeling te brengen in (post-)conflictgebieden: 'Ons idee van een regering is te westers. Een centrale overheid is niet overal te realiseren.' Kaplan benadrukt ook dat er te veel wordt gefocust op armoedebestrijding: 'Waarom al die nadruk op de Millenniumdoelen, als primaire levensbehoeften niet eens vervuld worden?'

'Er moet een klimaat geschapt worden waarin mensen kunnen samenwerken en waarin de staat optimaal gebruik kan maken van de capaciteit van de bevolking', stelt Kaplan. Hulporganisaties kunnen een rol spelen in het vergroten van die capaciteit door lokale mensen te trainen: 'Geef geen vis, maar leer iemand een vis vangen.' Kaplan besluit zijn betoog door de aanwezige organisaties te adviseren een project niet vanuit het niets op te bouwen. 'Ontwikkel iets wat al wortels in de aarde heeft, dat vergroot de kans op duurzaam succes.'

'Niet de ngo's, maar lokale partijen zijn de eigenaren van het probleem. Zij moeten het formuleren en daarna met een oplossing komen', aldus Congo-specialist Paul Mbitkay. Hij ervaart dat buitenlandse organisaties vaak problemen op tafel gooien die de lokale bevolking zelf niet als problemen beschouwt. 'Een niet bestaand probleem is ook niet op te lossen.' Er ontstaat discussie over de verantwoordingsplicht. Liggt de verantwoordelijkheid voor een project bij een ngo of bij de lokale bevolking? Farah Karim, directeur van Oxfam Novib, vraagt zich af hoe ngo's verantwoordelijk kunnen worden gehouden. Mbitkay stelt verontwaardigd dat het niet goed is als ngo's deze last dragen: 'Mensen zijn verantwoordelijk voor het opbouwen van hun eigen land!'

'Het Nederlandse beleid lijkt soms zaden te strooien waardoor staten juist fragiel worden', vindt een afgevaardigde van de regering van Zuid-Soedan, die zijn pijlen op Wesseling richt. Wesseling vindt het moeilijk hierop te reageren. Geopolitieke belangen spelen een belangrijke rol, maar ook andere omstandigheden beïnvloeden het beleid. Als voorbeeld vertelt Wesseling dat Nederland geopolitiek gezien weinig in Congo te zoeken heeft. De zusjes Ilse en Femke Van Velzen vestigden echter de aandacht op Congo met hun bekroonde documentaire. Ook dat maakt terugtrekking uit het Afrikaanse land moeilijker.

Contextgevoelighed, samenwerking tussen de verschillende belanghebbenden, capaciteitsopbouw en het betrekken van de lokale bevolking bij het opzetten en uitvoeren van projecten zijn termen die domineren tijdens de bijeenkomst. Maar in hoeverre wordt er een nieuw beleidslied gezongen? Al komen de ideeën en werkwijzen logisch en doordacht over, ze klinken nog weinig vernieuwend.  
*[Eva de Vries]*

Op 15 juni vindt het seminar 'Klimaatverandering en adaptatie' plaats en op 30 juni 'Duurzaamheid en de globaliseringsagenda'. Singing a New Policy Tune is een initiatief van Development Policy Review Network, MDF Training & Consultancy, het Institute of Social Studies en Vice Versa. Voor meer informatie, zie [www.singinganewpolicytune.nl](http://www.singinganewpolicytune.nl)





## Development Policy Review Network

### Civic Driven Change wie doet er mee?

De succesvolle verkiezingscampagne van Barack Obama wordt vaak aangehaald als een voorbeeld van Civic Driven Change (CDC), omdat burgers zichzelf organiseerden om verandering tot stand te brengen. In het door DPRN gesteunde Civic Driven Change-proces staat de vraag centraal hoe het ontwikkelingsbeleid en de praktijk meer ruimte kunnen geven aan burgerinitiatieven. Tijdens een eerste bijeenkomst op 26 maart – vlak na de Nederlandse gemeenteraadsverkiezingen – stond de relatie tussen burgerinitiatieven en lokale politiek centraal. Ervaringen uit Nederland en het Zuiden werden uitgewisseld en bleken grote overeenkomsten te vertonen. Zo organiseert de middenklasse in India zich steeds beter om haar eigen belangen te behartigen, maar heeft de arme bevolking daar niet per se baat bij. De vraag is dus: wie doet er eigenlijk mee aan Civic Driven Change in het belang van het geheel? Een vraag die net zo relevant blijkt in de Nederlandse context, waar burgerinitiatieven vaak beperkt zijn tot een kleine groep hoogopgeleide personen, die kortstondig reageren op een niet gewenste verandering (*'not in my backyard'*). Er volgen nog drie bijeenkomsten, over CDC & business, CDC & ontwikkelingsbeleid en een afsluitend publiek evenement.

Voor meer informatie over het DPRN Civic Driven Change-proces, zie: [www.cdc.global-connections.nl](http://www.cdc.global-connections.nl).

### Aandacht voor fosfor in Brussel en op YouTube

De Nutrient Flow Task Group (NFTG) vraagt aandacht voor het opraken van de wereldwijde voorraad aan fosfor – een essentiële voedingsstof voor planten en dieren. Wat gaat dit betekenen voor de voedselvoorziening? Landbouw is immers voor een groot deel afhankelijk van fosfor als bestanddeel van kunstmest. Volgens de NFTG moet de politiek de fosforschaarste onder ogen zien. Ook in EU-verband, waar men belangrijke beslissingen op landbouwgebied kan nemen, zoals het stimuleren van efficiëntere landbouw en het terugwinnen van fosfor. Op 4 maart organiseerde de NFTG daarom een miniconferentie onder DPRN-vlag in het Europese Parlement. Ook produceerde de groep, in aanloop naar de Nederlandse verkiezingen, een film met de titel *Fosfaarschaarste: Element P*, die op YouTube te zien is. Voor meer informatie zie: <http://phosphorus.global-connections.nl>.

### DPRN en WRR

De discussies over het rapport van de Wetenschappelijke Raad voor het Regeringsbeleid (WRR) zijn in volle gang en DPRN-partners zijn hierbij op verschillende manieren betrokken. Op 22 april organiseerde het Institute of Social Studies in samenwerking met *The Broker* een discussie met dertig deskundigen. De komende maanden organiseert MDF Training & Consultancy een aantal publieksbijeenkomsten en gaat DPRN onderzoek doen naar de meningen van academici over de OS-kennisagenda en de daarbij horende kennisarchitectuur. Voor meer informatie zie [www.dprn.nl](http://www.dprn.nl).

### Biobrandstoffen en het belang van ruimtelijke planning

Het DPRN Agrofuels Platform heeft het afgelopen jaar volop gediscussieerd over de voor- en nadelen van biobrandstoffen. De meningen waren verdeeld, maar over één ding was iedereen het eens: transparante en participatieve planning rondom landgebruik is van cruciaal belang om te voorkomen dat kleine boeren, inheemse gemeenschappen en natuurgebieden de dupe worden van ongereuleerde uitbreiding van biobrandstoffenplantages. Enkele partners van het Agrofuels Platform gaan zich nu richten op planningsprocessen in West-Kalimantan, een gebied met enorme oliepalm-expansieplannen. Tussen nu en 2020 wil de lokale overheid meer dan vijf miljoen hectare extra plantages aanleggen. Doel van het project is om methoden voor participatieve planning te ontwikkelen. Daarnaast worden indicatoren uitgewerkt waarmee 'Europa' de duurzaamheid van biobrandstoffen vanuit landgebruiksperspectief kan monitoren. Het project wordt gefinancierd door Agentschap NL en gecoördineerd door Both ENDS. Het World Agroforestry Centre is verantwoordelijk voor de meeste activiteiten in Indonesië. Het onderzoek is een succesvolle follow-up van het DPRN Agrofuels Platform (zie: [www.agrofuelsplatform.nl](http://www.agrofuelsplatform.nl)).

### Over DPRN

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## Draagvlak is gebaat bij diversiteit

**Leiden draagvlakactiviteiten tot gedragsverandering en mondiaal burgerschap? En leidt versnippering van de verschillende draagvlakactoren tot meer of minder effectiviteit? Deze vragen stonden centraal tijdens het tweede Singing a new policy tune-debat op 30 juni.**

Bijna honderd mensen van 53 verschillende organisaties waren op een mooie zomerse dag naar Ede gekomen voor een seminar over draagvlak. In zijn openingswoord benadrukte Jan Donner, voorzitter van de Task Force DPRN die de bijeenkomsten financiert, dat juist complexe problemen zoals het ontwikkelingsvraagstuk een draagvlak in de samenleving vereisen. Sinds het begin van het nieuwe millennium is het draagvlakbeleid in Nederland duidelijk verschoven van bewustwording en informatievoorziening naar het opzetten van kleine projecten door betrokken burgers. Als het aan de aanwezigen lag, wordt dit in de toekomst weer omgedraaid. 'We smijten het geld liever over de balk aan het amateurisme van particuliere organisaties wiens schooljes staan te verpletteren, in plaats van aan professionele organisaties', zei Donner op enigszins schampere toon.

Na de presentatie van het boek *Verloren in wanorde* van Karel van Kesteren en een reactie daarop van WRR-ld Peter van Lieshout, werd in een Lagerhuis-setting gedebatteerd onder leiding van draagvlakdeskundige Lau Schulp. Draagvlak begint met goede en transparante informatievoorziening, vonden veel van de aanwezigen. Alleen Plm de Graaf van Artsen zonder Grenzen was het daar niet mee eens. Hij wees op de grote steun die zijn organisatie van het Nederlandse publiek krijgt. In wat Artsen zonder Grenzen precies voor werk doet, zijn de donateurs helemaal niet zo geïnteresseerd. 'Het hoeft dus niet per se transparant te zijn', aldus De Graaf. Margreet van der Pijl van de relatief jonge 1%CLUB was het daar niet mee eens. 'Dat werkt misschien bij een oude generatie. Mijn generatie is echter heel kritisch en wil precies weten waaraan ze bijdragen.'

Hans Beerends, oprichter van de wereldwinkels en auteur van diverse boeken over de derdewereldbeweging, gaf aan dat er naast informatie ook vooral perspectief moet worden geboden. 'Ik probeer

wel eens een ingewikkeld verhaal over handel te vertellen, maar dat komt niet aan. Kinderarbeid daarentegen raakt mensen wel. Het gaat om hele basale dingen waarmee je grote groepen mensen kunt aanspreken, zeker als ze het gevoel hebben dat er perspectief is, dat er concrete resultaten binnen handbereik liggen. Uiteindelijk moet dat leiden tot internationale wetgeving.' Als je een duidelijk perspectief aanreikt, hoef je volgens Beerends ook niet te veel informatie te geven. 'Als je mensen overvoert met kennis bestaat het gevaar dat ze al snel beginnen te denken: deze problemen zijn zo groot dat je er toch niets aan kunt doen.'

Over de vraag over de versnippering van draagvlakactoren was iedereen het eens. Minder versnippering leidt niet tot meer effectiviteit. De aanwezigen vonden versnippering bovendien een negatief woord en kozen liever voor het woord 'diversiteit'.

In de middag gingen de deelnemers uiteen in werkgroepen en kwamen terug met enkele interessante concrete ideeën voor draagvlakcampagnes. Zo kwam Henk Holtslag van Connect International met het idee om een Twitter-campagne te organiseren waarbij telkens in één Twitter-bericht voor een 'Telegraaf-publiek' het belang voor ontwikkelingssamenwerking wordt uitgelegd. De eerste Tweet had zijn werkgroep al bedacht. 'Wat is mijn belang bij ontwikkeling in Tanzania? Als de armoede niet verminderd wordt, bestaat de wereld straks uit 15 miljard mensen.'

Ook kwam Holtslag met het idee om de *costs of no action* door te rekenen. Wat gaat het ons kosten als we niets doen aan armoedevermindering? Hoe ziet de foto van de aarde er dan over vijftig jaar uit? Het Al Gore-verhaal, maar dan over armoede. Over wie het gezicht van deze campagne moest worden, was snel overeenstemming bereikt: prinses Máxima.  
*(Marc Broere)*

**Singing a New Policy Tune is een initiatief van Development Policy Review Network, MDF Training & Consultancy, het Institute of Social Studies en Vice Versa.**





## Ontwikkelingskennis – de agenda voor de toekomst

Nederland loopt achter. Althans, wat betreft investeringen in kennis over ontwikkelingsvraagstukken. Die kennis is echter belangrijk om tot goede beleidskeuzes te komen. Daarom is het niet verwonderlijk dat de Wetenschappelijke Raad voor het Regeringsbeleid in haar rapport 'Minder pretentie, meer ambitie' pleitte voor grotere investeringen in ontwikkelingsgericht onderzoek. Maar waarin moet dan geïnvesteerd worden? Als onderdeel van het Structure Follows Strategy-proces vroeg DPRN in de afgelopen maanden 17 hoogleraren in ontwikkelingsstudies en gerelateerde disciplines om te reflecteren op vragen over de toekomstige onderzoeksagenda en -infrastructuur.

Als eerste kwam naar voren dat een beleidsgeoriënteerde onderzoeksagenda kan botsen met wetenschappelijke autonomie en vernieuwing. Verder willen de wetenschappers meer aandacht voor de relatie tussen economische groei en duurzaamheid, hervorming en ontwikkelingsprocessen van onderaf. In plaats van een focus op een beperkt aantal thema's waar Nederland een comparatief voordeel zou hebben (zoals voedselproductie of water), voelen de hoogleraren meer voor het formuleren van een aantal strategische vragen. Naar hun mening leidt een minder normatieve benadering tot beter inzicht in ontwikkelingsprocessen.

Op 24 juni presenteerde DPRN de uitkomsten van het onderzoek tijdens de CERES-EADI Summerschool, waarna een gevarieerd publiek verder discussieerde over de toekomstige agenda en organisatie van ontwikkelingskennis. Ngo's pleitten voor een vraaggerichte onderzoeksagenda waarin zuidelijke partners een

stem hebben. In de samenwerking met universiteiten zien ze vooral hiel bij het systematiseren en evalueren van ervaringen en het werken aan innovaties. Volgens een vertegenwoordiger van de private sector zouden kennisinstellingen nauwer moeten samenwerken met bedrijven, gericht op het gezamenlijk ontwikkelen van een toolbox die inzicht biedt in de vraag waar de mogelijkheden liggen en wat, waar, voor wie en onder welke voorwaarden werkt.

Een felle discussie ontspon zich over de potentiële rol van WOTRO ofwel de NWO-stichting voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek van de Tropen en Ontwikkelingslanden. Wat Ton Dietz (directeur van het Afrika Studiecentrum en hoogleraar aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam) betreft krijgt WOTRO de leiding over de onderzoeksgelden van ministeries en ngo's en over het bepalen van de kernthema's. Zo'n rol als knowledge broker hoeft niet ten koste te gaan van originele ideeën en innovatief onderzoek, benadrukte uitvoerend directeur Henk Molenaar. WOTRO reserveert immers de helft van haar gelden voor out-of-the-box ideeën. Professor Rueder Ruben van het Centrum voor Internationale Ontwikkelingsvraagstukken (CIDIN) toonde zich fel tegenstander van een grotere rol voor WOTRO. Hij meent dat zo'n rol niet past bij een organisatie waarvan de universiteiten sterk afhankelijk zijn.

De bevindingen van het DPRN-onderzoek onder 17 hoogleraren en een samenvatting van de discussie zijn binnenkort te vinden op <http://structurefollowsstrategy.dprn.nl>

## Samenwerken voor vernieuwing

De kennisdriehoek – onderwijs, onderzoek en innovatie – is cruciaal voor ontwikkeling. Veel universiteiten in het Noorden en Zuiden werken dan ook samen onder de noemer van capaciteitsopbouw. De nadruk ligt dan meestal op investeringen in infrastructuur, ICT en de opleiding van medewerkers. Maar is dit de meest efficiënte manier van capaciteitsopbouw, en hoe kan het beter? Hoe kunnen universiteiten beter met elkaar en met niet-academische partners samenwerken met het oog op innovatie? En hoe te investeren in menselijk kapitaal op universiteiten? In het kader van het DPRN-proces Collaborate to Innovate is een groep kennisinstellingen uit Zuid-Afrika,

Nederland en België met deze vragen aan de slag gegaan. Ze kijken onder andere naar de rol van universiteiten bij het ontwikkelen van beleid rond innovatie in Nederland, Vlaanderen en Zuid-Afrika en zoeken naar succesvolle voorbeelden. Uiteindelijk zal het proces moeten leiden tot een strategie ter versterking van de synergie tussen kennisinstellingen, private initiatieven en regionale ontwikkeling. Van 8 tot en met 10 november organiseert de groep een workshop in Zuid-Afrika, waarbij de focus zal liggen op succesvolle voorbeelden van samenwerking en innovatie in Sub-Sahara Afrika. De call for papers is open.

Voor meer informatie zie: <http://innovate.global-connections.nl>

## Over DPRN

DPRN staat voor Development and Policy Review Network en werd in 2003 opgericht als een netwerk van ontwikkelingsexperts uit Nederland en Vlaanderen. Het doel van DPRN is het stimuleren van debat over ontwikkelingsbeleid en het bevorderen van samenwerking en synergie tussen wetenschappers, beleidsmakers, 'de praktijk' en het bedrijfsleven op het gebied van internationale samenwerking.

## Development Policy Review Network

### Naar een nieuwe methode voor planning, monitoren en evaluatie

Wie investeert in een ontwikkelingsprogramma moet concrete resultaten kunnen aantonen. Planning, monitoren en evalueren (PME) is daarbij van groot belang. Het vaststellen van de relatie tussen investeringen en concrete resultaten is echter geen sinecure. Bestaande PME methodes zoals het *logical framework* – 'logframe' in jargon – voldoen vaak niet, zeker niet in complexe sociale situaties. Een consortium van Vlaamse en Nederlandse organisaties onder leiding van het HIVA van de Katholieke Universiteit Leuven onderzoeken in DPRN-verband daarom de effectiviteit van verschillende PME-methoden. De relatief nieuwe *outcome mapping*-methode krijgt daarbij bijzondere aandacht. Bij deze methode gaat het niet om het meten van concrete projectresultaten maar om waargenomen gedragsveranderingen bij mensen

en organisaties. Het bundelen van praktische ervaringen van ontwikkelingsorganisaties met PME in zogenaamde leergeschiedenissen is een belangrijk onderdeel van het proces. Daarnaast maakte het consortium een overzicht van PME-methoden en de uitdagingen daaromheen. Interessant is het overzicht van beleid rond PME in België, Nederland en Europa. Een levendige online discussie over het thema was te volgen op het forum [www.outcomemapping.ca](http://www.outcomemapping.ca). Dit alles fungeert als input voor een internationale conferentie op 9 en 10 november 2010 over het nut en de beperkingen van verschillende PME-methoden.

Voor meer informatie over de activiteiten van het consortium zie: <http://pme.global-connections.nl>

### Waterbeheer voor regionale veiligheid

Ter bevordering van de stabiliteit in Afghanistan voert de Internationale gemeenschap tal van lokale ontwikkelingsprojecten uit. Veel van deze projecten richten zich op het verbeteren van de toegang tot water – bijvoorbeeld door het bouwen of herstellen van dammen en irrigatiesystemen – in het stroomgebied van de transnationale Amu Darya-rivier. De mogelijke negatieve effecten van dit soort projecten op de beschikbaarheid van zoet water in stroomafwaartse landen zoals Turkmenistan en Oezbekistan, en daarmee de kans op toenemende regionale spanningen, ziet men echter vaak over het hoofd. Het Brusselse *EastWest Institute* en de Universiteit Wageningen vroegen zich daarom af of een betere samenwerking tussen Afghanistan en andere Centraal-Aziatische staten op het gebied van waterbeheer de regionale

veiligheid zou kunnen bevorderen. In DPRN-verband startten ze eerder dit jaar een proces om de informatie-uitwisseling over dit thema te verbeteren. Ze richtten daarvoor het *Amu Darya Basin Network* op; een internationaal netwerk van experts op het gebied van plattelandsontwikkeling en waterbeheer in Afghanistan en Centraal-Azië. Doel van het netwerk is het ontwikkelen van aanbevelingen die de lopende reconstructie en rehabilitatie-inspanningen in Afghanistan kunnen ondersteunen. In een reeks van virtuele discussies werkt het netwerk toe naar een bijeenkomst met sectorspecialisten en andere actoren in de regio waar de voornaamste aanbevelingen de revue zullen passeren.

Voor meer informatie zie: <http://www.amudaryabasin.net>

### Nieuwe procesrapportages

De volgende rapporten met de resultaten van een aantal recent afgeronde DPRN-processen zijn nu beschikbaar op [www.dprn.nl/phase-II-publications](http://www.dprn.nl/phase-II-publications):

- Commercial pressures on land: Rethinking policies and practice for development.
- Phosphorous depletion: The invisible crisis.
- Agrofuels platform: Fuelling knowledge on the social and ecological impacts of agrofuel production.
- Tax revenues: Supporting developing countries' ability to raise tax revenues.

### Over DPRN

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## Development Policy Review Network

### Gender Mainstreaming 2.0

Onder het motto van 'gender mainstreaming' kwamen zowel de expertise als de budgetten voor specifiek genderbeleid in Internationale samenwerking de afgelopen 15 jaar onder druk te staan. Ook in inhoudelijke zin is de agenda uitgehold. Zo ligt de nadruk bijvoorbeeld vaak op cijfers (zoals het aantal vrouwen met toegang tot krediet) en te weinig op de kwalitatieve aspecten van gendergelijkheid. In DPRN-verband werkt het Centrum voor Internationale Ontwikkelingsvraagstukken (CIDIN) samen met het Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken, Hivos en Oxfam Novib in een proces dat het beleid en de praktijk op het gebied van gendergelijkheid nieuw leven moet inblazen. Na een inventariserende fase zoekt het consortium nu in op vier specifieke beleidsterreinen: (1) kleinschalige economische ontwikkeling, (2) bestrijding van geweld tegen vrouwen, (3) gender en de nieuwe hulparchitectuur in Tanzania

en (4) genderstrategieën van het Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken en Nederlandse ngo's. Dit DPRN-proces eindigt op 21 en 22 februari 2011 met een open bijeenkomst getiteld 'Gender Mainstreaming 2.0'. Op de agenda staat een discussie over strategieën die nodig zijn om gender mainstreaming tot een succes te maken en welke terreinen daarbij extra aandacht vragen. De komst van Internationale experts als Aruna Rao (Gender at Work), Prof. Jane Parpart (University of the West Indies) en facilitator Ellen Sprenger staan garant voor een levendige discussie. Voor de Policy Brief over de eerste fase van dit DPRN-proces en meer informatie over de bijeenkomst zie [www.ontrackwithgender.nl](http://www.ontrackwithgender.nl).

### Vallen burgerinitiatieven voor sociale verandering buiten de Parijs Agenda?

Beleid voor ontwikkelingssamenwerking is nog sterk gericht op de rol van de staat en de markt. Er komt echter steeds meer aandacht voor de rol van burgerinitiatieven als motor voor verandering. Hoe speelt ontwikkelingsbeleid in Nederland en België in op deze vaak spontane, onvoorspelbare en niet te plannen initiatieven? Is er sprake van stimulans of eerder afremming? En moet ontwikkelingsbeleid zich wel met burgerinitiatieven bezighouden? Deze vragen krijgen aandacht op een bijeenkomst in Brussel op 1 december 2010. Het seminar biedt beleidsmakers, wetenschappers en mensen uit de praktijk de mogelijkheid om met elkaar in discussie te gaan. Twee Zuid-Afrikaanse sprekers, Prof. Dr. Alan Fowler (Institute of Social Studies en de Universiteit van KwaZulu Natal) en Dr. Gavin Andersson (afkomstig van het Seriti

Instituut en gespecialiseerd in maatschappelijke verandering) verzorgen een sprankelende inleiding over het onderwerp. De bijeenkomst wordt georganiseerd door het Vlaamse Broederlijk Delen en een aantal organisaties uit Nederland (Context, International cooperation, het Institute of Social Studies, Hivos, Social Evaluator, Cordaid en het Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken). Later dit jaar volgt nog een bijeenkomst over Civic Driven Change en het bedrijfsleven. Voor meer informatie en registratie zie [www.civicedrivenchange.org](http://www.civicedrivenchange.org).

### Naar het einde van DPRN

Op 1 maart 2011 houdt het Development Policy Review Network (DPRN) in zijn huidige vorm op te bestaan. Het is dan zes jaar actief geweest en – getuige twee externe evaluatierapporten – met succes. Samenwerking tussen wetenschap, beleid en praktijk is vanzelfsprekender geworden sinds DPRN werd opgericht. Dankzij de meer dan 70 partnerorganisaties staan achtergrondinformatie en verslagen van de debatten en processen goed gedocumenteerd op de websites van DPRN- en Global-Connections. De Global-Connections database van ontwikkelingsdeskundigen is vernieuwd en het Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen lanceerde

In DPRN-verband de nieuwe online bibliotheek voor digitale publicaties van Nederlandse ontwikkelingsorganisaties ([www.Search4Dev.nl](http://www.Search4Dev.nl)). Het is nu aan de betrokken organisaties om de DPRN-gedachte voort te zetten. DPRN sluit af met twee evenementen. Op 14 januari 2011 organiseert het DPRN een middag over DPRN-ervaringen en de lessen die daaruit kunnen worden geleerd. Op 15 februari 2011 organiseren DPRN, WOTRO en het MDG-profs platform een conferentie over strategische kennisvragen en ontwikkelingsgericht onderzoek. Meer informatie over deze activiteiten zal worden verspreid via DPRN News.



## Appendix 8 – Overview of identified outcomes of DPRN processes

The following follow-up activities have been identified per process:

### Structure follows strategy

The discussion about the future knowledge agenda and infrastructure for international cooperation will be continued in cooperation with NWO-WOTRO and the MDG-Profes platform. These organisations are going to organise a conference in September 2011, on how to draw up a strategic knowledge and research agenda for global sustainable development.

### Understanding developing better

The three organising institutions, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, followed up on the conference in 2009 with another DPRN process entitled 'Singing a new policy tune'. This process was intended to improve the quality of policy-making in international development cooperation in the Netherlands by revitalising the discussion on underlying policy theories

### GM soy debate

The process outcomes were presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Soybean Research Conference in Beijing, China, in August 2009. They also played a role in discussions of the Round Table of Responsible Soy (RTRS), which is an initiative of producers, industry, retail, financial institutions and civil society organisations to develop voluntary standards to mainstream responsible soy production and reduce the adverse impacts of soy production.

The process organisers have been looking into the possibilities for more research on the socioeconomic impacts and institutional aspects of GM (soy) cultivation and PRI has obtained government funding for a second phase of research.

### Microfinance and business services

After finalisation of the process, the discussion continued within the Netherlands Platform for Microfinance. The Netherlands Platform for Microfinance ([www.microfinance.nl](http://www.microfinance.nl)) consists of 15 Dutch organisations that work together to improve the effectiveness of their microfinance activities. The platform organised a debate about the social and environmental aspects of microfinance, in which the linkages between the provision of financial and non-financial services were discussed. The research questions formulated during the process have also been taken up by the research group on Microfinance & Small Enterprise Development of Inholland University of Applied Sciences.

### Phosphorous depletion

The process was successful in generating new alliances and plans for activities related to phosphorous depletion. The Nutrient Flow Task Group (NFTG) has been transformed into a Dutch Nutrient Platform (NP). This platform is continuing NFTG's work in close cooperation with key partners like the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (an initiative of the

Dutch and US Governments and UNEP following the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference on Sustainable Development in May 2010) and the Global Phosphorus Research Initiative, with which alliances were established during the DPRN process. The Nutrient Platform brings together private companies, NGOs and knowledge institutions with the aim being to create the conditions necessary for sustainable nutrient use. The platform's strategic plan describes the vision and mission of the platform, its purpose and strategy, its learning approach, proposed activities, the organisational structure and funding requirements.

The European Directorate-General for the Environment commissioned PRI-WUR and the Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI) to perform a desk study of the sustainable use of Phosphorus in 2010. The study focuses on the present and future supply and demand of phosphate in the world, the environmental effects of phosphate use (biodiversity, radioactivity, energy, heavy metals), solutions and institutional requirements.

## Agrofuels

This DPRN process resulted in several follow-up activities, including a three-year project aimed at improving the sustainability of oil palm production in West Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Based on the discussions held during this DPRN process, several members of the Agrofuels Platform wrote a project proposal to experiment with participatory planning in the context of oil palm expansion in West Kalimantan, Indonesia. This proposal was awarded by the Global Sustainable Biomass Fund. The project is coordinated by Both Ends, and aims to mitigate or prevent negative effects of palm oil for fuel production through a more participatory and transparent spatial planning. The project partners, including several Indonesian NGOs, are going to play an active role in facilitating a multi-stakeholder process in Sanggau district, West Kalimantan, to achieve a mode of land-use planning which incorporates community maps (*i.e.* detailed maps of local land uses, made by communities, using mobile phones with GPS technology) in the formal land-use planning process at district level. The project partners will document the lessons and disseminate these for wider use in Indonesia and elsewhere.

In addition, the results of the multi-stakeholder meeting in The Hague were used as input for the discussions on the conditions for a green Dutch bio-based economy at a large international event entitled 'The Great Escape' that IUCN-NL organised in April 2010. The aim was to provide clarity amongst policymakers on the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems to achieve economic development goals.

## Commercial pressures on land

Following up on the DPRN process, the International Land Coalition's blog on commercial land pressures (<http://www.commercialpressuresonland.org>) grew to the extent that it was receiving 10,000 hits per month, and being referenced in international press and research articles. Some 40 partners are collaborating on the project, with ILC and Oxfam-Novib being the core partners. As a result of the DPRN process, the two organisations started building a database of verified information on large-scale land acquisitions, and continued a research project on international instruments that can protect the rights of land users. The Centre for Development Studies in cooperation with the Modern East Asia Research Centre (MEARC) of

Leiden University, started a new research project on Chinese global land acquisitions: Rethinking 'land grabbing' and overseas investments.

## Tax revenues

The key result of the process was that policymakers, scientists and practitioners came together to discuss the potential and constraints of raising taxes in developing countries. As such, an important pool of expertise has been created and a range of activities will ensure that the process is continued.

Selected follow-up activities are:

- The process organisers entered into a dialogue with multinational corporations through existing forums such as the Vereniging van Nederlandse Ondernemers (VNO), MVO Nederland, and the National Contact Point for OECD guidelines about the need to include tax practices in Corporate Social Responsibility criteria.
- The process organisers are still in regular contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance within the framework of the informal Roundtable on Tax and Development, hosted by the Ministry of Finance. This roundtable discussion with stakeholders such as multinationals operating in developing countries, NGOs and representatives of VNO, focuses on issues relating to tax justice and raising taxes in developing countries.
- The documents collected during the process were included on the Tax Justice NL website. This database is regularly updated with new reports and initiatives in the field of taxation and development.
- Following the process, the organisers started educating advisors and consultants about tax and development through dialogue, trainings and presentations. Organisations involved in these sessions included the International Bureau for Fiscal Documentation (IBFD), which advises governments and sometimes the private sector, to present the tax justice vision on tax and development. Furthermore, contacts with large accountancy firms were intensified. Discussions with these firms centre on the type of transparency rules the accountancy firms can integrate into their work, such as the 'Total Tax Contribution' initiative by Pricewaterhouse-Coopers, which encourages its clients to subscribe to more transparent financial reporting.

## Singing a new policy tune

The Institute of Social Studies is continuing research and discussions on this topic in its [aiddebates@iss](mailto:aiddebates@iss) part 2.

## Civic driven change

Several agencies involved in this DPRN process have been actively attempting to apply CDC to their programming. The Institute of Social Studies (ISS) is planning follow-up research on CDC, with a view to:

- understanding better the societal patterns of change and domain dynamics by working more with complexity theory;

- understanding better the proper supporting roles for outsiders in change processes;
- continuing to develop a normative framework of civic/uncivic norms, values and morals, including a discussion on drivers of (collective) citizen action;
- deepening the theme CDC and markets.

Hivos and Context are going to continue developing methods, frameworks and policy 'angles' inspired by CDC, in cooperation with the other participants and actors that were involved in the process. As far as Hivos is concerned, CDC will feature as a key strand in the next phase of the Hivos Knowledge programme, just as it has already been a prominent pillar of the Hivos MFS application. Context is going to work in particular on CDC in relation to social business and children.

## The Amu Darya Basin Network

The organisers continued the online platform ([www.amudarybasin.net](http://www.amudarybasin.net)) and envisaged significant visibility of process output and results by making the policy recommendations and reports available to some 750 policymakers and experts. In addition, the EastWest Institute is exploring the possibility of a project on capacity development at river-basin level, engaging key local actors, regional organisations and donor agencies.

## Planning, monitoring and evaluation

The DPRN process has successfully linked up with a number of similar initiatives. The dialogue about alternative complexity-oriented PME approaches will continue through three main follow-up activities. Firstly, the 'outcome mapping effectiveness working group' which was formed on the online outcome mapping learning community will coordinate a study on the effectiveness of outcome mapping, aimed to draw recommendations for PME policy and practice (2011–2013). Secondly, the PSO Thematic Learning Programme (TLP) on alternative PME approaches for complex social situations will continue until mid-2012. Through its engagement with DPRN, the TLP will also build in a focus area on PME policy (2010–2012). Thirdly, VVOB, Vredeseilanden, Coprogram and HIVA have started consultations to continue a process that is similar to the DPRN process in Belgium (2011).

## Collaborate to innovate

This DPRN process helped to strengthen the relationships between academic partners in South Africa, the Netherlands and Flanders. The University of Ghent intends to follow up the process with a workshop in two to three years. Other follow-up will take the form of academic publications. Authors affiliated to Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation are going to write a paper on 10 years of university development cooperation through Nuffic projects. Karen Vandervelde (Ghent University) is preparing a paper on 'Innovation indicators and monitoring development', which discusses why measuring progress is as difficult and as crucial as making progress. This will be based on the draft report on innovation indicators written during the DPRN process. A paper by Nancy Terryn of Ghent University will focus on how University Development Cooperation projects can be more successful in their 'valorisation' to society.

