

# Danish Development Research Network

---

## DDRN General Assembly 2009

### Board candidate:

Estelle Fanjaud

I have great reasons to think that my competencies and abilities can be profitable for the already very competent and successful board. The professional activities I have conducted match very well with the themes DDRN is working with such as food security, agricultural production, natural resource management, and management and trade, private sector and economic development.

#### Background

I am educated as an agronomist from Landbohøjskolen (now KU, LIFE), where I have been studying Land Use in Developing countries - Bachelor on Banana disease (Black Sigatoka) on Comoro Islands and Master on Mango production and pest management in Burkina Faso. Right after my studies I have been working together with the Network for Smallholder Poultry Development, where I conducted studies on poultry production as a poverty reduction issue mainly in Burkina Faso, Togo and Benin.

#### Actual position and professional activities

In February 2005 I was hired as a junior consultant at COWI A/S in the French Markets area. Missions I have been part of have mostly concerned formulation (with the orientation and identification phases) of Danida's agricultural sector program in Burkina Faso and Niger.

For a while, because of family compromises, I have decided to mainly work from the headquarter Office. I have taken the position as project manager and as member of the Quality Assurance team of the long term programs, especially within the agricultural issues in West Africa, such as among others:

- Technical assistance of the agricultural program in Burkina Faso, financed by Danida, dealing with the increase of the revenues of the producers by improving their productivity and considering the private sectors issues.
- Technical assistance of the National Confederation of the producers' organisations in the French Guinea Conakry, financed by EU, by among others, assisting them with initiatives funds.

This professional experience gives me the opportunity to collaborate both at the national level with Ministries and at the regional level with the decentralized institutions, which can also be research institutions.

Another part of my job is to work with the EU framework contracts implemented in the French speaking countries. I am in charge of the Lot 1 dealing with rural development and food security in developing countries where COWI is lead. Themes are evaluations, formulations, and studies of programs related to production such as for example cotton, sugar, groundnuts, but also institutional support to agricultural ministries and institutions regarding agricultural politics. The company I am working in, COWI, continues to show a large interest and a strong will in development assistance. Quality of the work and capitalization of the results obtained through funding of diverse donors in those countries are of our main concern. These issues coming from an

## Danish Development Research Network

---

expert of a consulting firm could be interesting to combine with the various profiles present in the board.

My French nationality, my current knowledge of the West Africa context as well as my French network in the agricultural fields especially can be an added value to the existing ones of the board. Finally I have developed a great interest in Africa during the last 10 years and I have been involved in several African associations and manifestations. The latest is the umbrella association Venskabsforening Danmark-Vestafrika and the organization of Couleur Café in Fælledparken every year. I will be happy to share these experiences with all the members of the DDRN and the members of the board!