



Producing knowledge for development together

Lessons from the
Danish Development
Research Network



Danish
Development
Research
Network



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Report production by Clare Gorman and Lance Bellers. Photographs by DDRN staff.

www.ddrn.dk

Front cover photographs

Top left Knowledge sharing, Nicaragua

Top right Preparing for group presentation. Research communication workshop, Vietnam

Lower left Students at Makerere University, Uganda

Lower right Group exercise. Research communication workshop, Tanzania

Main Evelyne Lazaro, Research Project Leader, Tanzania

Back cover photographs

Top left Ugandan participant. Conference on North-South cooperation, Denmark

Top right Children playing, Vietnam

Lower left Carpentry street in Kampala, Uganda

Lower right Participants at research communication workshop, Vietnam

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Acronyms

AAU	Aalborg University, Denmark (www.en.aau.dk/)
AgriDev	DDRN Working Group on Agriculture and Development
ATPS	African Technology Policy Studies Network (www.atpsnet.org/)
AU	Aarhus University, Denmark
CBS	Copenhagen Business School (www.cbs.dk/en/)
CC	Climate Change
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCTF	Climate Change Task Force (ddrn.dk/ddrn_working_groups-climate-change-task-force.html)
CHEA	Ministerial Conference on Higher Education and Research in Agriculture in Africa (www.fanrpan.org/documents/do1036/)
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (www.comesa.int/)
COP15	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties 15 (www.denmark.dk/en/menu/Climate-Energy/COP15-Copenhagen-2009/cop15.htm)
Danida	Danish Development Assistance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (www.um.dk/en)
DBL	Centre for Health Research and Development (www.dbl.life.ku.dk/)
DDRN	Danish Development Research Network (ddrn.dk/intro.html)
DFID	UK Department for International Development (www.dfid.gov.uk/)
DIIS	Danish Institute for International Studies (www.diis.dk/sw152.asp)
DTU	Technical University of Denmark (www.dtu.dk/English.aspx)
DU	Universities Denmark (www.dkuni.dk/English)
DWF	Danish Water Forum (www.danishwaterforum.dk/)
Enreca Health	Danish Research Network for International Health (www.enrecahealth.dk/)
ENRECA	Enhancement of Research Capacity (A Danida funding window)
EU	European Union
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (www.fara-africa.org/)
FFU	Danish Development Research Council
FS	Food Security
GDN	Global Development Network (www.gdnet.org)
Gendernet	NGO Network on Gender and Development (www.gendernet.dk/)
GEPPA	Research Network for Governance, Economic Policy and Public Administration
GVC	Global Value Chains
HE	Higher Education

HE&R	Higher Education and Research
IARU	International Alliance of Research Universities (www.iaruni.org/)
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute (www.ifpri.org)
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (www.ipcc.ch/)
KU Life	Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen (www.life.ku.dk/english.aspx)
KU	University of Copenhagen (www.ku.dk/english/)
LDC	Least Developed Countries
NETARD	Network for Agricultural Research for Development
NIAS	Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (www.nias.ku.dk/)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRM	Natural Resource Management
N-S	North-South
N-S-S	North-South-South
PAEPARD	Platform for African – European Partnership in Agricultural Research for Development (paepard.blogspot.com/)
RC	Research Communication
R&D	Research and Development
ReNED	Research Network for Environment and Development (www.rened.dk/)
RSS feeds	Rich [Web]Site Summary feeds
RUC	Roskilde University Centre (www.ruc.dk/en/)
RUFORUM	Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (www.ruforum.org/)
SACCNNet	Southern Africa Climate Change Network (www.saccnet.org/)
SADC	Southern African Development Community (www.sadc.int/)
SANORD	Southern African-Nordic Centre (sanord.uwc.ac.za/)
SARUEM	Southern African Research Network for Urban Environmental Management
SASMin	Centre for Sustainable Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (sasmin.ku.dk/)
SDU	University of Southern Denmark (www.sdu.dk/?sc_lang=en)
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
SUA	Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania (www.suanet.ac.tz)
TAS	Technical Advisory Services, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification (www.unccd.int/)
UEM	Urban Environmental Management

Foreword

Knowledge networks and networking knowledge

The term ‘networks’ has become fashionable in recent years and the emergence of web-based social and professional networks has dramatically changed the way we communicate and share information with many people around the world.

In this immense stream of information there is a clear need for structures and modalities for engaging and sharing information among professionals working in the same field. During the last four and a half years, the Danish Development Research Network (DDRN) has demonstrated that this need exists. It has also shown how a network can attract members from around the world and provide significant added value by facilitating:

- Structured access to the latest research findings, meetings and other events
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue and direct engagement from government ministries, private companies, universities, NGOs and individual researchers
- North-South cooperation focusing on joint and needs based approaches

The report is really a story about success and what made it successful. It can hopefully provide good examples and

learning for other similar networks. Focus has been on being inclusive and flexible, creatively using the skills of members and making information available effectively.

I have become very engaged in DDRN over the years, first as a member of the Network and later on the Board where I have been the Chair for the last year. I have benefited tremendously in my professional life from the network, its activities and from engaging with its members.

Despite strong efforts, especially by the Secretariat, securing DDRN’s future with financial support from Danida, has not been successful.

It is still hard to understand why such a successful activity has to lose its core funding, but with the commitment of involved individuals among members, in the Secretariat and the Board, and the little funds remaining from the current grant, it is



“The report is really a story about success and what made it successful.”

fortunately possible to continue a minimum level of activities on a voluntary basis for the rest of 2011. We hope a new and even stronger Network will emerge from this initiative in the future.

Above
Transporting
painting
frames,
Zanzibar

All this has been made possible through the skills and dedication of the core Secretariat team supported over time by a number of very talented student members. Special thanks goes to Anne Sørensen, Kris Prasada-Rao, Lone Frederiksen and Marianne Forti.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Christensen'.

John Christensen
*Chairman of DDRN Board and
Head of UNEP Risoe Centre on Energy,
Climate and Sustainable Development*