



EUROPEAN COMMISSION & THE SUPPORTS TO ARD



Introduction

At the request of the EIARD Working Group, this note explains:

1. The mandates of the different Directorates General (DGs) of the European Commission (EC) involved in the support to ARD
2. The main EU policies and programmes involving and supporting ARD.
3. The main financial instruments currently available for this support.

Mandate of different DGs involved in ARD

The following table summarise the mandates of the DGs involved in ARD

	Geographical mandate for international cooperation	Technical mandate
DG RESEARCH http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/research/index_en.html	All states	Policies, programmes and projects formulation and implementation.
DG DEVELOPMENT http://ec.europa.eu/development/AboutGen_en.cfm	Afrique, Caribbean and Pacific states (ACP)	Policies and programmes formulation.
DG RELEX http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/external_relations/general/mission_en.htm	All countries except EU & ACP	Policies and programmes formulation.
DG AIDCO http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/who/about/index_en.htm	All states except EU	Programmes and projects implementation.

Main Policies & programmes involved

Agricultural Research for Development is a key element of 3 main EU policies:

1. The Development co-operation policy → DG DEV/DG AIDCO
2. The Neighbourhood Policy → DG RELEX/DG AIDCO
3. The Research policy → DG RESEARCH

the first two of which, contribute to the overall EU external policy.

In recent years, the EU and the European Commission have provided substantial financial support to ARD through these different policies.

1. EU Development co-operation policy and programmes → DG DEV/DG AIDCO

The **EU development policy** is articulated in the “European Consensus on Development”, which is focused on the attainment of the MDGs and addresses food insecurity as a priority in the fight against poverty. It further associates food security, among others, with rural and agricultural development and with the sustainable management of natural resources. Recently, the commitment to the poorest regions – sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia has been affirmed at political level. The EU 2005 EU Strategy for Africa restates the importance of addressing food security in the frame of pro-poor growth and agricultural development.

- The European Commission has provided support to ARD at regional level, in particular in Sub-Saharan Africa, through **European Development Fund** regional programmes. Activities include institutional and network support, training, capacity building, and competitive research funds. The programming phase of the 10th EDF is in progress.
- At global level, EC has been supporting the implementation of agricultural research of international public goods nature, carried out by the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research Centres (CGIAR), through the Food Security Budget Line.
- In the near future, the new Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP)¹ will continue to finance ARD at the global, continental and regional level with the objective of reducing food insecurity and promoting agricultural development through the delivery of global/international public goods in the area of agricultural research.

2. EU Neighbourhood Policy and programmes → DG RELEX/DG AIDCO

The **2006 Communication of the Commission on the "Strengthening of the European Neighbouring Policy"** has restated the constitutive role of S&T cooperation in the EU Neighbourhood policy. In particular in the long standing Euro-Mediterranean Partnership with the ambition to create an Euro-Mediterranean Research and Innovation Area.

As far as Agricultural research is concerned, it is mentioned in several bilateral agreements with Mediterranean countries (Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia) to tackle national but also regional economic, environmental and socio-political issues, such as those linked to the scarcity of water.

The **Monitoring Committee for Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation** in RTD (MoCo) was set up by the European Council within the framework of the "Barcelona Process" (Barcelona Conference, 27-28 November 1995) to promote cooperation in the field of research and technological development and to support the sustained development of the region. The MoCo has thus played an important role in determining the priority areas of EU-Mediterranean RTD cooperation especially within the European Framework Programmes for Research (FP 4, FP 5 and FP6). Synergies with other instruments of biregional cooperation have also been explored by the MoCo inter alia with a view to the Euro-Mediterranean free trade zone planned for 2010

3. EC Research policy and programmes → DG RESEARCH

The **EC Communication "Building the European Research Area of Knowledge for Growth" (2005)** sets as priority goals for the EU to foster sustainable prosperity and solidarity, and to make the Union a strong global partner. Putting the knowledge triangle of "research-education-innovation" at work for the benefit of the economy and of society, in Europe and world-wide, is a major goal.

In 2002, the EU laid out its policy on biotechnologies in its **EC Communication on Life Sciences and Biotechnology - A Strategy for Europe**. This strategy reaffirms the role of Europe in the world towards responding to global challenges, and sets a European agenda for international co-operation, with a responsibility towards the developing world.

This commitment to global co-operation is reflected in the main instrument for implementing the EU research policy, which is the “**Framework Programme for research and development**”. The Framework Programmes (FPs) have been the main financial tools through which the European Union supports research and development activities covering almost all scientific

¹ See

http://ec.europa.eu/development/ICenter/Pdf/rural_Development/food_security/B2_TPF00_01_2006_en.pdf

disciplines. The 7th **Framework Programme**² has been launched and will run between 2007 and 2013. With a budget of 54 billion euros, and almost complete opening to participation by non EU countries, this FP represents the largest international programme for R&D in the world.

The FP7 Thematic priority of **Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology**³ will address issues such as sustainable agriculture, safer and healthier foods, cleaner environment, the production of renewable bio-resources, including for energy use. It will contribute to the building of a European Knowledge Based Bio- Economy by exploiting new and emerging research opportunities that address social, environmental and economic challenges such as : the growing demand for safer, healthier and higher quality food and for renewable bio-resources; the increasing risk of epizootic and zoonotic diseases and food related disorders; threats to the sustainability and security of fisheries, aquaculture, agricultural, and livestock production, including those resulting, in particular, from climate change.

International co-operation will be an important aspect throughout the 7th FP and it will be implemented via two main channels:

- the opening of all activities carried out in the thematic areas to researchers from third countries and
- specific co-operation actions in each theme dedicated to third countries, including co-operation activities targeted at developing countries and emerging countries, focusing on their particular needs in fields such as health, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and environment.

The 7th Framework Programme will contribute to meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Particularly, a dedicated package of research actions in health, food, agriculture and environment will contribute to the UN Millennium Development Goals . For instance, the thematic priority Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology has launched this year, calls for specific international co-operation actions addressing topics such as malnutrition and neglected zoonoses in developing countries, improved agro-forestry systems for sustainable farming, food crops tolerance to multiple abiotic stresses, including drought and salinity. One topic concerns coordination of Members States AR programmes with those of Mediterranean partners countries, through the setting up of an ERANET on Agricultural Research in the Mediterranean.

Remark: For more details on the main EC financial instruments supporting ARD, see the annex below.

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² See http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html

³ See http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/food_en.html

Annexe: The main financial instruments supporting ARD

The main EC financial tools potentially supporting ARD during the next years are:

- RTD Framework Programme on Research and Technology (FP7) 2007-2013
- European Development Fund (10th EDF) 2008-2013
 - National Indicative Programmes
 - Regional Indicative Programmes
 - All/Intra ACP
- Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)
 - Geographic
 - Thematic (Food Security Thematic Programme FSTP 2007-2010)
- European Neighbourhood & Partnership Instrument (ENPI) 2007-2010

The following table explains how the different programmes cross each type of research activity and each level of intervention.

Each programme has a specific set of goals, priorities, implementation modalities, and criteria for partners' eligibility. The following sections will treat each programme.

Table 1 Type of research activity and level of intervention, in relation to the different EC programmes potentially targeting ARD

Type of Research activity	Level of intervention		
	National	Continental/Regional	Global
Implementation	EDF (NIPs) DCI -Geographic ENPI FP7 (Cooperation)	EDF (RIPs, Intra/All ACP) DCI - Thematic (FSTP continental/regional) DCI - Geographic FP7 (Cooperation)	DCI- Thematic (FSTP Global)) FP7 (Cooperation)
Support actions	EDF (NIPs) DCI -Geographic ENPI FP7 (Capacities, People)	EDF (RIPs, Intra/All ACP) DCI - Thematic (FSTP continental/regional) DCI - Geographic FP7 (Capacities, People)	DCI- Thematic (FSTP Global) FP7 (Capacities, People)

1. RTD 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7)

International Cooperation in FP7 (2007-2013)

With the seventh Framework Programme the entire concept and implementation of cooperation on research with developing countries has changed. In the past there was the so-called INCO programme, which had a dedicated budget and operational support structure. With the new approach, research for development will be mainstreamed in the entire Programme, and in its different specific programmes.

The new international research policy has three objectives:

- To support European competitiveness through strategic partnerships with third countries in selected fields of science and by engaging the best third country scientists to work in and with Europe (this is particularly relevant for emerging economies).
- To enhance the production of knowledge and scientific excellence by enabling European universities, research institutions and firms to establish contact with their partners in third countries, thereby facilitating access to research environments outside Europe and promoting synergies on a global scale.
- To address specific problems that third countries face or that have a global character, such as the attainment of the MDGs, on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit.

The Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) is organized into four specific programmes *Cooperation*, *Ideas*, *People* and *Capacities*, under which international S&T cooperation can be funded. A novel approach is followed to support the activities of International Cooperation. The theme-oriented international cooperation actions are carried out under the *Cooperation* programme. The international actions in the area of human potential are carried out under the *People* programme. The *Ideas* Programme will be investigator-driven, supporting research carried out across all fields by individual, national or trans-national teams in competition at European level. There are possibilities to involve non-EU participants in these teams. Actions of the *Capacities* Programme are designed to support and stimulate the participation of third countries in the FP.

The bulk of international S&T cooperation will come under the *Cooperation* Programme, based on the thematic priorities⁴. Particularly relevant for ARD are:

- Food, agriculture and biotechnology
- Environment (including climate change)

Under *Cooperation*, international cooperation projects will be implemented in each thematic area and across themes by:

- Opening all activities carried out in the thematic areas to researchers and research institutions from all non-EU countries (including industrialised countries) involved in international cooperation. In addition particular emphasis will be placed on encouraging participation by non-EU countries in identified areas of mutual interest;
- Specific International Cooperation Actions (SICAS) in each thematic area dedicated to particular or groups of non-EU countries on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit. Identification of specific needs and priorities will be closely associated with relevant bilateral cooperation agreements and with ongoing multilateral and bi-regional dialogues between the EU and these countries or groups of countries

Under the *Capacities* programme horizontal measures and actions will be implemented that have a focus other than that of a specific thematic or interdisciplinary area. The deliverables of the activities of International Cooperation under the *Capacities* Programme are as follows.

- Identification of S&T priorities with third countries to be used by the Themes under the *Cooperation* Programme.

⁴ Nine themes have been identified in the *Cooperation* Programme: Health; Food, agriculture and biotechnology; Information and communication technologies; Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies; Energy; Environment (including climate change); Transport (including aeronautics); Socio-economic sciences and humanities; Security and space.

- Supporting and strengthening of the participation of third countries in the Framework Programme.
- Reinforcing the bilateral S&T cooperation with targeted third countries.
- Coordinating S&T national programmes of EU Member States with third countries.

A coherent approach across the specific programmes, in line with this strategy, will be ensured and the Capacities Programme will play a major role in this respect. Close cooperation will be sought with instruments of the Member States and other Community budget lines and instruments.

Research to be financed under the FP7, might include (considering the different programmes):

- research projects to explore and test innovative ideas offering potential high returns, but which due to their undefined or high risk of failure would not be funded by other sources (so called Blue sky research);
- generic research (e.g. genomic);
- targeted research on global issues (e.g. Climate change), and on development issues for which upstream research could be instrumental (e.g. Genetic characterisation of under utilised species) and/or could offer major spill over for European agriculture (e.g. Converting C3 crops into C4 crops, from rice to wheat);
- networking of European Research institutions (e.g. under the ERA-NET)
- biregional S&T dialogues on ARD;
- private sector led R platforms: Private sector, Research Institutions, consumers, etc.;
- human resources mobility: EU and third countries exchange of researchers.

Research could target both emerging economies and least developed countries, at all geographical levels, including partners such as the European Advanced Research Institutions, International Agricultural Research Institutes of the CGIAR, and NARIs which are strong on specific research topics.

2. European Development Fund (EDF)

Cotonou Agreement⁵

The Cotonou Agreement, agreed in 2000, builds on the successive Lomé Agreements and forms the basis of cooperation between the EU and 71 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The agreement is centred around the principles of ownership, partnership and common objectives. The Cotonou Agreement differs from its predecessors by involving a comprehensive political dimension, promoting participatory approaches and the involvement of civil society. It has a strengthened focus on poverty reduction, sets out a new framework for economic and trade cooperation and reforms financial cooperation.

National and Regional Programmes (NIPs/RIPs)

Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, where existing, developed in a participatory manner, are increasingly used as the framework for mainstreaming poverty reduction in government and donor policies. The central feature of the concept is that country ownership is paramount and governments will have responsibility for both the design process and the final product. Within the Commission, Country Strategy Papers or Regional Strategy Papers (CSPs/RSPs) lay out the framework for cooperation between the EC and countries or regions. Similarly these are developed in a participatory manner. National Indicative Programmes (NIPs) and Regional Indicative Programmes (RIPs) detail the funding allocations to these sectors and projects. In both these processes, political commitment particularly by the National Authorizing Office is essential in determining the content of the PRSP or CSP.

In those countries where Agriculture, Food Security or Rural Development are targeted as concentration sector, or as non-focal area, and where the aid will be channelled through sector wide programmes it is essential to support the dialogue between the NARS and the Ministry of Agriculture. In Sub Saharan Africa, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and its sub-regional organisation have an

⁵ See http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/body/cotonou/index_en.htm

official mandate from the African Union for the implementation of the research and technology component of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) through the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP). Where the geographical instruments target agriculture as a focal sector CAADP Country round tables and National CAADP action plans, provide a concrete opportunity to link effectively ARD to national strategy and to build the coherence between the national, sub-regional, continental and global level of agricultural research.

In the past several programmes have financed to support sub-regional research organisations in Sub-Saharan Africa (ASARECA, CORAF, SADC/FANR). In future these programmes should pass under the Food Security Thematic Programme.

All/Intra ACP

Under the All and Intra ACP component of the EDF there are a number of initiatives which potentially target ARD or capacity building connected with it.

Programme for S&T Innovations and Capacity Building (PSTICB) in ACP Countries. PCSTIB is a response to the conclusions of the Cape Town ACP Ministerial Forum on Research⁶ and the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) 2002. It addresses the issue of building and enhancing strong scientific and technological capacity to support research, development and innovation in the ACP region at three levels:

- Institutional, administrative and policy making;
- Academic research and technology;
- Business and civil society.

The programme will emphasise the promotion of an interdisciplinary approach to sustainable development. There are three main axes: Co-ordination and networking in applied research; Development of appropriate instruments for collaborative research; Management of research activities and reinforcement of research quality.

The programme is open to all ACP and EU countries. Projects selected for funding under this programme will be identified through an open Call for Proposals. Applications will be considered for funding if submitted by networks of institutions working closely around a joint project. Relevant actors, such as universities, research institutes, public authorities, civil society and civil society organisations, business sectors will be associated with the preparation and implementation of projects.

On Agriculture and agro-industry, the programme will address food productivity and security, adding value to agro-products and encouraging a stronger participation by farmers in production and post-harvest management;

The ACP Secretariat is the contracting authority for the implementation of this programme.

EduLink

EDULINK is the first ACP-EU Cooperation Programme in Higher Education. and aims to foster capacity building and regional integration in the field of higher education through institutional networking, and to support a quality higher education system that is relevant to the needs of the labour market and consistent with ACP socio-economic development priorities. EDULINK is open to all countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and to the 15 EU Member States that are signatories to the 9th European Development Fund (EDF). Joint projects submitted by networks of ACP and European Higher Education Institutions will be identified through open calls for proposals⁷.

Support to Research in the ACP Sugar Cane Sector.

The ACP Scientific Committee on Sugar has requested the European Commission (EC) to help improve the competitiveness of the sugar industries in the ACP countries (and in particular the ACP Sugar Protocol countries) by funding an ACP-wide programme on sugar cane research and innovation. This

⁶ Cape Town Declaration on Research for Sustainable Development, 28 July 2002

⁷ <http://www.acp-edulink.eu/>

follows the launching of the EU Sugar Reform in 2005 and recommendations from the ACP Secretariat to fund the programme out of the remaining 9th EDF intra-ACP funds.

3. Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)

The primary and overarching objective of cooperation under the development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) is be the eradication of poverty in partner countries and regions in the context of sustainable development, including pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals., Community assistance, in the framework of DCI, shall be implemented through geographic and thematic programmes.

Geographic programmes

Consistently with the overall purpose and scope, objectives and general principles of the DCI Regulation, Community assistance to the countries of Latin America, Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, as well as South Africa, shall include, among the others:

- supporting the implementation of policies aimed at poverty eradication and at the achievement of the MDGs;
- promoting, scientific and technological cooperation,
- supporting sustainable rural development, including decentralisation and empowerment, particularly with a view to ensuring food security;
- promoting sustainable development through environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources,

Principles for programming at the national and regional levels are similar to those of the EDF.

Strategy papers are based on a dialogue with the partner country or region which involves civil society and regional and local authorities, so as to ensure that the country or region concerned takes sufficient ownership of the process and to encourage support for national development strategies, particularly those for reducing poverty. Given the objectives of the DCI at the geographic level, support to agriculture and ARD, or more in general to research and innovation, might be identified as a priority sector at the national level only in exceptional cases.

Thematic Programmes - Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP)

The objective of the Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP), under the new Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), is to improve food security in favour of the poorest and the most vulnerable and contribute to achieving the first MDG, through a set of actions which ensure overall coherence, complementarity and continuity of Community interventions, including in the area of transition from relief to development. The FSTP objective is to be pursued during the period 2007-2010. The first FSTP component is about "supporting the delivery of international public goods contributing to food security: research and technology".

The objective of this component is to reduce food insecurity and promote agricultural development through the delivery of global/international public goods in the area of agricultural research. The expected results will contribute to:

- deliver pro-poor scientific, technological innovations and policies, promoting/ensuring better use of what is already known ;
- develop research programmes, capacity and institution building, thus responding to beneficiaries' needs;
- enhance the active role of low-income smallholder farmers in research programmes;
- exchange information, experience and knowledge, through scientific networks and (multi-)stakeholder platforms (e.g. GFAR and its continental and regional stakeholders),
- generate complementarity and synergy with research programmes and activities financed through the 7th Framework Programme on research, technological development and dissemination.

The programme will operate at two levels:

- global;
- continental/regional.

At the global level the programme will be mainly implemented by greater strategic cooperation on ARD with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

The EC support for CGIAR will focus on a limited number of the new strategic priorities adopted for the period 2005-2015 and will take into account lessons learnt from previous and ongoing monitoring and evaluation exercises.

For restricted funding at the level of centre projects the focus will be on the three following priority areas:

- sustaining biodiversity for current and future generations;
- producing more and better food at lower cost through genetic improvements;
- improving policies and facilitating institutional innovation to support sustainable reduction of poverty and hunger.

Support to genetic improvement will include conventional plant breeding and modern biotechnologies. Biotechnologies co-financed by the Commission and utilised for genetic improvement are based on molecular markers, tissue culture, DNA and immuno-diagnostic techniques, and should not include transgenic modification of crops.

Challenge Programmes, by definition, are linked to a broader set of CGIAR system priorities, such as Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Management of Water, Land and Forest Resources, and Reducing Rural Poverty through Agricultural Diversification and Emerging Opportunities for High-Value Commodities and Products (e.g. research into value-adding post-harvest and agro-processing technologies for cereals, root crops, fruit, vegetables, fish, animal and forest products, as well as research into cash, niche and under-utilised crops).

The share of the allocation to existing and new programmes involving several centres (System-Wide Programmes) and/or non-CGIAR stakeholders (Global Challenge Programmes) will be up to 50% of the total CGIAR allocation. Through the support to global Challenge Programmes, the EC will broaden its contribution to whole spectrum of CGIAR system priorities, and will widen the supported partners, including National Agricultural Research Institutes, NGOs, farmers organisations, European advanced research institutes, local communities, universities in the north and in the south.

The share of allocation benefiting Africa will be increased to 40-45%.

The possibility will also be explored to provide some core funding to centres, to contribute to their more general function of providing global public goods in the priority area of sustaining biodiversity for current and future generations.

At the global level the programme will also be implemented through advanced research institutes, international agricultural research centres, organisations/initiatives which provide scientific advice or perform scientific evaluations.

At the continental/regional level the programme will support continental, regional and sub-regional programmes and institutions which coordinate and support national agricultural research systems could include the drafting and implementation of action plans, as required by the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP), to address the challenges of the African Union's New Partnerships for African Development (AU-NEPAD)/Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP).

The aim of this cooperation area is to increase the impact of agricultural research and knowledge systems on rural productivity, poverty reduction, food security and sustainable management of natural resources.

Key elements for this component include the strengthening of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS)⁸, as well as of regional research and knowledge systems; capacity building in defining research

⁸ NARS ideally include various stakeholders such as research institutions, universities, NGOs, extension services, farmers organisations, farmers, private sector etc.

agendas; strengthening research linkages with producers (responsiveness to research needs; dissemination of results); empowering agricultural producers and their organizations; fostering public-private research cooperation, as well as cooperation with civil society; promoting harmonization and strategic prioritization of research agendas; and strengthening and widening agricultural support services.

Regional and continental level cooperation will include:

- strengthening of cross-country collaboration in research to reduce fragmentation and create synergies;
- development of continental and regional research strategies;
- co-financing of priority research with supra-national implications;
- capacity building for new forms and channels of extension, training and education ;
- creation of networking platforms; and
- enhanced coordination between national, regional and international research programmes.

4. European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)

The ENPI Cross-border Cooperation Strategy Paper 2007-2013 and Indicative programme 2007-2010 provide the strategic framework for EC support for cross-border cooperation on the external borders of the European Union, and the indicative allocations and programming framework. Cross-border cooperation (CBC) on the external borders of the EU is a key priority both in the European Neighbourhood Policy (covering the countries of Eastern Europe, the Southern Caucasus, Near East and the Southern Mediterranean) and in the EU's Strategic Partnership with Russia. It likewise figures in associated policies such as the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona Process), and the Northern Dimension. The ENPI has considerably enhanced the scope for cross-border cooperation, both qualitatively and quantitatively and it is based on earlier experiences under Tacis, Meda, Phare and Interreg.

Similarly to other instruments(e.g. EDF and DCI), under the ENPI, EC assistance priorities are identified, together with the country and other relevant actors, in general Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) which cover 7 year periods, more detailed National Indicative Programmes (NIPs) which cover 3 years and detailed annual programmes.

ENPI has four main objectives, including some areas of potential interest for ARD such as:

- promoting economic and social development in regions on both sides; this might include support to scientific research, which is essential to the building of a knowledge society and bringing down unemployment in a more open economy;
- working together to address common challenges, in fields such as the environment and environmental governance;
- promoting local cross border "people-to-people" actions, this might include research exchanges.

Under the ENPI a number of partner countries have reviewed their research and innovation policies and restructured their research systems. The transfer of knowledge between public research organisations and industry, and the link between research and innovation is often an important element of this policy review. Tunisia and Moldova have set up special agencies to promote this transfer and have increased their research budgets. Partners are seeking to increase their participation in the Community R&D Framework Programme⁹.



⁹ Commission staff working document - Sectoral progress report accompanying the COM(2006) 726 final- Strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy