

Minutes from meeting in the DDRN group giving inputs to the preparation of the conference on Agriculture and Rural Development

Friday 6th of July, 2007 at 9:00

Institute of Geography and Geology, Copenhagen University.

Preliminary agenda:

1. Background and objective. Why this conference? What can we offer? (*Updating*)
2. Ideas for themes and sub themes. It is the idea that one of the perspectives should be the WB report 2008 on Agriculture for Development, but which other relevant perspectives could we imagine? (*Brainstorming*)
3. Ideas and suggestions of introductory speakers and facilitators (*Brainstorming*)
4. Target group/participants and venue. Number? Who? From where? South participation? (*Discussion and decision*)
5. Timetable for the further process – meeting dates for the working group, role and distribution of tasks (Danida/DDRN secretariat/DDRN members) concept paper, invitations, budget, etc.

Participants:

Among the 27 members interested in participating in the preparatory process, the following 9 had been able to assist at the meeting:

Andreas de Neergaard, Biliana Zarankov, Dorthe Busch, Finn Tarp, Jørgen Henriksen (JH), Karl Allesø (KA), Karsten Nellemann Kryger, Ole Mertz, and Torben Birch-Thomsen (TBT)

Besides, Hanne Carus (HC) from Danida participated.

Present from DDRN secretariat were: Anne Sørensen (AS), Lluís Armangué, and Lone Frederiksen.

Key points from the meeting:

Ad 1:

After a brief round of presentation of all participants and confirmation of the agenda, HC gave a summary of the background for the meeting: Agriculture is coming back on the development agenda, and Danida will follow suit. A World Bank report on Agriculture in development is in Grey copy and will be released in autumn 2007. DDRN is an evident partner for Danida in preparing a conference. It is important to decide on themes and key-note speakers soon.

Ad 2:

Discussion on the objectives of the conference touched upon the importance of giving inputs to Danida's strategies, upon a cross-disciplinary/cross-sectorial versus a more narrow agriculture perspective, and upon the possibility of influencing Danida's choice of sectors in development aid.

HC underlined that the choice of sectors is already more or less settled, but inputs e.g. from the conference may influence the way in which they will be implemented in future. Moreover, she stated that the role of research in development is being discussed in other fora, so that is not an obvious issue here.

There was a general consensus that an important theme could be the interaction of different sectors in development (e.g. public, private, civil society), and that inputs to Danida regarding a broader

perspective on experiences within development aid could be relevant. It is also relevant to link the discussion to the WB report.

Ad 3:

Possible key persons mentioned were:

Kevin Kiefer, Director at IFAD, (earlier CGIAR) (JH)

Thomas Preston, researcher on integrated systems (KA)

Representative(s) from African networks with relation to coupling of sectors, e.g. FARA (TBT)

Ad 4:

This point did not get much attention at this early stage.

Ad 5:

It was decided that:

A concept paper will be developed by a small group of 3-4 persons from the group among interested members hosted by the secretariat.

Danida disposes of funds for inviting people from abroad, and for paying key-note speakers.

The most realistic time for the conference may be in the beginning of 2008 in stead of November 2007, as had hitherto been planned.

HC drew attention to a report from OECD on agriculture (Spring 2007), which also presents a cross-sectorial perspective.

The link will be attached to the minutes together with a list of relevant documents.

Minutes: Lone Frederiksen, DDRN