

Bringing together

knowledge and development



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Danish
Development
Research
Network

DDRN General Assembly 2011

Progress 2010-11

Highlights of achievements and challenges

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Achievements and challenges

Dissemination and communication of knowledge

Improvements on DDRN website

- Member database improved through introduction of field for core areas of expertise vs. other areas AND online registration of members
- From 700 to 1140 online profiles (60 pct. increase – while 20 pct. increase total number of members)
- Additional tools for statistics introduced
- Online member forum introduced

Challenge

- Online member forum not used by many members



Achievements and challenges

Dissemination and communication of knowledge

Other main activities

- 85 monthly newsletters (general and thematic)
- 8 individual news mails
- Training workshops: Tanzania (comm. strategy, with co-funding), Bangladesh (social media) – total participants: 94 researchers, NGO staff, students
- Strengthened links to communication units, esp. in UK
- Danida Research Portal – with DFC, NIAS, CABI

Challenge

- Though very encouraging that some projects have prioritised research communication by co-funding workshop in Tanzania, for other projects it has proven more difficult to mobilise the same support



Achievements and challenges

Production and communication of knowledge

Mappings and overviews

- Report in collaboration with DU on donor models for strengthening HE&R in developing countries
- Report on Gender and development research
- Review of GVC methods (by GVC working group)
- Review of Nordic perspectives in Dev. Res. (by FAU)

Challenge

- Choice of the right person for elaboration of reports and reviews is essential

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Achievements and challenges

Multistakeholder interaction & collaboration

Enhanced collaboration in DK across sectors and institutions – Thematic meetings

- DDRN has co-organised a number of events together with Danish institutions and organisations: UM, DIIS, DWF, DPU, NGO Forum
- Alone, DDRN organised a conference in connection with the GA 2010

Challenge

- Efforts to secure continuation of key activities have taken much time and efforts, which has influenced on the amount of external activities



Achievements and challenges

Multistakeholder interaction & collaboration

Dynamic sparring - Working groups and task forces

4 WG/TF have been active throughout the period:

- GVC (Input to Danida's new strategy, review of tools, conference)
- NISN (conference, film festival)
- Organic Agriculture for Sustainable Development (OA) (seminar)
- Climate Change Task Force (Researchers' Day; joint workshop with Danida; policy brief with key recommendations)

New WG on Agriculture and Development established

Challenge

- Striking the balance between secretariat support and member driven

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Achievements and challenges

Multistakeholder interaction & collaboration

Support of cross-institutional member-led activities

Opportunities for innovative, cross-disciplinary activities with restricted funding:

- 7 member driven workshops supported (170,000 DKK)
- 2 travels for members' participation in international events (25,000 DKK)

Challenges

- Activities have not been very innovative
- Funding members' travels rarely benefited more than the person travelling, since participation in follow-up after-work meetings was limited. This activity was thus discontinued.



Achievements and challenges

Multistakeholder interaction & collaboration

Student activities – promoting the young resource base

- Development Science Shop linking students and private sector/ NGOs (6 study proposals published, 4 studies ongoing)
- Inspiration seminars (5 seminars with around 100 participants)
- Assessment of Danida's travel grants (32 grants; 425,000 DKK)
- Special student site at the DDRN website (Master courses, grants, abstracts of theses etc.)

Challenge

- Science Shop: Many students show interest, but rather few enter into agreements on study proposals



Achievements and challenges

Enhancing partnerships in the North

Collaboration with partners in DK and the North

Besides efforts in view of ensuring sustainability of the Network's key activities, DDRN has been engaged in:

- Danish representation in EFARD SC and PAEPARD SC
- Support to Nordic collaboration (FAU and Nordic sister org.)
- Participation in GCARD (enhancing the impact of ARD)
- Communications networking (SciDev.Net, ODI, IDS, CABI & international knowledge networks)
- Increased collaboration with PegNET (German sister network)

Challenge

- Uncertainty about the Network's future has to some degree impeded networking and collaboration.



Achievements and challenges

Enhancing North-South partnerships

Collaboration with partners in the South

- RUFORUM – DDRN in International Advisory Committee
- FARA and UniBRAIN – DDRN contact point in DK
- SACCCNet – support to GA and launching workshop
- DDRN member of preparatory committee for CHEA conference and co-organiser of pre-conference training session

Visits from the South

- MOST, VN – hosting study tour for seven officials
- UniBRAIN – assistance with organisation of study tour

Challenges

- Embedding SACCCNet ownership locally
- Extending partnerships outside ARD and res. communication



Hand-over and sustainability activities

The period has been characterised by efforts to ensure sustainability of key activities and partnerships:

- Meetings and dialogue with DU/BSU and Danida in view of integrating DDRN competencies in BSU
- Elaboration and revision of proposals for integration
- Informal dialogue with DIIS and CAS on the future of DDRN
- Dialogue with FAU on taking over information services and student activities
- Agreement on ensuring Danish representation in relevant European ARD organisations



Future perspectives

- A brainstorming meeting was held in May 2011, inspired by members' reactions to the impending stop of Danida funding.
- Two voluntary groups were formed to come up with proposals for the future (to be presented under item 4 of the GA agenda)
- A future DDRN will build on what DDRN has achieved so far:
 - A strong network of more than 2300 members
 - Strong partnerships in DK, Europe and in the South
 - Members willing to contribute on a voluntary basis



Status on accounts June 2011

	Personnel & student	Travels & meetings	Services & equipment	Subcontr FAU & EADI	TOTAL
Budget (incl. balance 2010)	1,112,120	150,000	868,192	120,000	2,250,312
Expenses	970,031	119,525	226,640	120,000	1,436,196
Commitmts	163,000	5,000	581,838	0	749,838
Expected balance	20,911	25,475	59,714	0	64,278
Pct consumed	102	83	93	100	97

