



## Danish Development Research Network

*Bringing together knowledge and development*

### **DDRN After Work Seminar Series Spring 2015**

Danish Development Research Network (DDRN) hereby invites researchers, students, aid practitioners, private sector representatives, consultants and other stakeholders to participate in three after work seminars this spring. Each seminar will present a newly launched development research project for an early discussion on problem analysis, research design and expected results.

#### **Seminar 1:**

**“Access and eXclusion along the Charcoal Commodity Chain in Ghana (AX)” – a DANIDA funded research project which examines how each set of actors along Ghana’s charcoal chain gain or maintain access to benefits.**

**Speaker:** Christian Pilegaard Hansen, Associate Professor, PhD, Section for Global Development, University of Copenhagen.

**Date:** Tuesday 19 may 2015, 16.00-17.30

**Venue:** UN City, Marmorvej 51, 2100 Copenhagen Ø. (Kindly bring photo ID for entry)

**Registration is very important because of security entry at UNcity:**

**Please register your full name to [info@ddrn.dk](mailto:info@ddrn.dk) by Friday 15 may 2015.**





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### **Description:**

The research project “Access and eXclusion along the Charcoal Commodity Chain in Ghana” (AX) examines how each set of actors along Ghana’s charcoal chain gain or maintain access to benefits. Access, defined as “the ability to benefit from things,” is controlled and maintained via a broad repertoire of social and structural means – including rights (property), authority, coercion, stealth, or identity-based privilege. Understanding these processes and means is a prerequisite for any prescription aiming at equitable natural resource benefit sharing. AX investigates access, and its converse, exclusion – how they are established, maintained and lost – in the case of the charcoal commodity chain in Ghana, from woodcutters to end users. It also analyzes the environmental sustainability of production as it is shaped by access relations. In Ghana, woodfuels provide for 64% of the primary energy consumption and some 450,000 people produce, transport and market charcoal as their primary occupation. AX strengthens research capacity through three embedded PhD studies, closely coordinated with senior staff from Ghana and DK. To link research, policy and practice, AX establishes two district-level charcoal platforms and a national stakeholder forum to share and discuss research findings and further their application. AX identifies how means of access and exclusion shape current distribution of benefits in this sector. It provides the basis for the design of equitable natural resource policy and practice. This project will hone access analysis as a means for guiding the design of natural resource benefit sharing arrangements.

Source: [http://ifro.ku.dk/english/research/projects/projects\\_development/ax/](http://ifro.ku.dk/english/research/projects/projects_development/ax/)



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### **Seminar 2:**

**“Preserving African Food Microorganisms for Green Growth” – a DANIDA-funded research project about how to obtain a sustainable West African food production**

**Speaker:** Moses Mengu, Director, International Centre (DTI).

**Date:** Thursday 28 may 2015, 16.00-17.30

**Venue:** Danish Technological Institute (DTI), Gregersensvej 1, 2630 Taastrup.

Please register to [info@ddrn.dk](mailto:info@ddrn.dk) by Tuesday 26 may 2015.

### **Description:**

The aim of the project is to turn the food sector in West Africa into a driver of sustainable growth, improve food security, create new business opportunities, ensure job generation, alleviate poverty and create stronger linkages between relevant stakeholders. The major part of West African foods are fermented (i.e. foods produced by the activity of microorganisms) and do play a predominant role in the diet of West Africans. Fermented foods have many advantages; they are produced from local crops, at reduced energy cost, they are nutritious and generally free from pathogens, they have a long shelf life and can be stored unrefrigerated. They are mainly produced and sold by women and constitute an important source of family income. Globalization and urbanization however challenge the traditional food culture and thereby the livelihood of many families. To preserve these valuable foods it is important to up-scale from household to semi-industrial scale, control these otherwise spontaneous fermentation by adding starter cultures, introduce quality control systems, increase the productivity and quality in the production chain, improve marketability by developing business models and implement sustainable packaging technologies and ways of distribution. West African microorganisms are unique and an important natural biological resource well-suited to the West African climate and crops. To obtain a sustainable West African food production it is therefore important to preserve the inherent microbiota of West African fermented foods. The project will isolate and scientifically characterize these microorganisms, establish national bio-banks in Ghana, Burkina Faso and Benin, develop technologies for production and distribution of starter cultures to SMEs, create new market opportunities through up-scaling from house-hold to semi-industrial scale, upgrade specific indigenous foods to convenience food – produced and packaged to fulfil the needs of an urbanized population.

Source: <http://drp.dfcentre.com/project/preserving-african-food-microorganisms-green-growth>



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### **Seminar 3:**

**“Innovation and Renewable Electrification in Kenya (IREK)” – a DANIDA-funded research project by the Global Network for Economics of Learning, Innovation, and Competence Building Systems (GlobeLics).**

**Speaker:** Rasmus Lema, Associate Professor, Department of Business and Management, Aalborg University.

**Date:** Tuesday 23 June 2015, 16.00-17.30

**Venue:** Aalborg University, Sydhavnen, A. C. Meyers Vænge 15, 2450 Copenhagen SV.

Please register to [info@ddrn.dk](mailto:info@ddrn.dk) by Friday 22 June 2015.

### **Description:**

#### **GlobeLics**

GlobeLics is a worldwide, open and diverse community of scholars working on innovation and competence building in the context of economic development. The major purpose of the organisation is to contribute to academic knowledge creation and exchange in the field of innovation and development. The network brings together scholars who study innovation and economic development and encompasses scholars from all Continents and from different academic disciplines. GlobeLics constitutes a platform for North-South and South-South interactive learning. The network's primary objective is to stimulate and raise the quality of research on innovation and development world-wide. A specific priority is to help build research capacity in Africa and other regions and to contribute to knowledge infrastructure in those regions. Another priority is to give young scholars from developing countries access to global research resource. The secretariat is located at the department of business and management at Aalborg University.

Source: <http://www.globelics.org/>

#### **Innovation and Renewable Electrification in Kenya (IREK)**

As the global climate change regime moves ahead towards 2020, there will be increasing investments related to climate change mitigation and adaptation in poor countries. Ensuring that the most adequate technologies are selected and that they are diffused and used in such a way that the outcome is better living conditions for the population is a major challenge.

This project studies two specific low-carbon technologies solar photovoltaic and wind power and it takes as its starting point the role international sources of knowledge can play for Kenya. It will explore whether or not actors originating from China have the potential to provide particularly relevant low carbon technologies that bring benefits to the poor in Africa as compared to actors



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from Denmark and Germany. As the next step it will study what kind of public policies, institutional settings and participatory organizational forms are necessary to realize such a potential and thereby contribute to fulfilling the sustainable energy for all imperative. The project will combine quantitative analysis including use of survey data with qualitative analysis and case studies. Interactive learning with policy makers and other stakeholders is an integral part of the project design.

Source: <http://drp.dfcentre.com/project/innovation-and-renewable-electrification-kenya-irek>