



Producing knowledge for development together

Lessons from the
Danish Development
Research Network



Danish
Development
Research
Network



July 2011

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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/)
SACCNat	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 loose 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*

Executive summary

The Danish Development Research Network (DDRN) has demonstrated how researchers and practitioners from the global North and South can work together to create needs-based knowledge that can contribute to sustainable development. Over the past four and a half years, this broad and inclusive knowledge network has attracted over **2,300 members**; 60 per cent of who are based in the North, mainly Denmark, and approximately 40 per cent in developing countries.

Between 2007 and 2011 DDRN has carried out a wide range of activities. A few highlights include:

- Holding, co-organising or funding over 90 conferences, workshops and seminars that were attended by a total of over 3,500 participants;
- Developing and maintaining a website that has received an average of 6,000 unique page views (a third of which come from the South), provided content for over 400 newsletters and a membership database containing more than 1,100 online profiles.
- Facilitating eight working groups and two platforms, all including participants from various sectors, and some particularly promoting North-South (N-S) cooperation;
- Organising eight awareness and training workshops on research communication for over 200 participants in Denmark and in the South.

This report was written by the DDRN secretariat staff members and has a dual purpose. On the one hand, it aims to

inspire future network practice, and on the other hand, to contribute to conceptualising and measuring the value of knowledge networks within the development sector. It focuses on three key activity areas where the Network has proven to be of added value to its users and members. These are:

- 1 **Outreach and uptake of research-based information.** The uptake of research has been a very high priority throughout the existence of DDRN. The network acknowledges the importance of providing easy access to research-based knowledge for people who may already be overwhelmed by the amount of online information available. It is also based on the acknowledgment that development-focused research that is communicated widely and strategically can contribute to improved implementation of development programmes and guide decision makers in formulating new policies.
- 2 **Multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration.** To promote 'out-of-the-box' thinking, which is necessary to address a range of complex and interlinked problems faced by developing countries, DDRN has brought together



Above
Students at
Makerere
University,
Uganda

researchers and practitioners across a range of disciplines to create an enabling environment for interaction, and facilitate interdisciplinary and cross-sectorial sharing and collaboration. Bringing together not only stakeholders from different professional categories, but also members representing different stages of their career, is another approach prioritised by DDRN to broaden inputs and perspectives.

- 3 **North-South cooperation.** The involvement of the South as members, users and key actors in the Network has been crucial in achieving the overall objective of DDRN, i.e. to contribute to the inclusion of research and research-based knowledge in development. The actors in

the South are the ones who know the research needs of their respective countries, who can act to address these needs and guide policy makers to make evidence-based decisions.

Lessons gathered in this report demonstrate how a number of factors contribute to the success of the various activities carried out. The most significant are highlighted here:

Being a network enables DDRN to access and share information for **online news services** that might otherwise not be broadly known. As well as filtering a range of broad sources, DDRN uses active networking of the secretariat staff and contributions by network members to generate further news that might be of interest to its members.

Executive summary *Continued*

It is also important to provide information through a flexible system that allows for adjusting themes and categories based on the interests of members while maintaining an overall structure that makes navigation easier.

Training workshops on research communication are a very good tool to enable the strategic communication of research. When carrying out these kinds of events, it is crucial to promote local ownership and relevance to participants through 1) Tailoring the contents of the training workshops to the specific needs of the projects involved; 2) Promoting cross-fertilisation and mutual learning by including experiences of local projects; and 3) Delegating responsibility for parts of the preparation to local partners. Furthermore, opportunities for learning are optimised by planning for timing and contents of the workshop that allow for immediate application and further development of outputs after the workshops.

When organising **conferences, seminars, workshops, and meetings**, it has proven very valuable to co-organise events with other partners to increase participant outreach and available resources. Most importantly, co-hosted events enable the contribution of inputs on cross-cutting and issue-based themes that reach beyond the sometimes narrowly defined research agendas of research institutions and departments. Good planning of direct face-to-face communication and exchange at events that allows for active participation and discussions of strong interest to the participants can be fine breeding grounds for further cross-thematic and cross-sector collaboration.

Working groups have proven a particularly useful low-cost mechanism for engaging researchers and practitioners in interdisciplinary collaboration and experience-sharing. Here, as for events driven by members, facilitation support and seed money from DDRN has enabled these groups to run. This support is especially necessary in the initial phase where a core group needs to be consolidated. Experiences also stress the value of having key capacities that are well respected and connected in a working group to help broaden the scope of the outputs of the group.

To engage students in development and research, DDRN's web-based *Science Shop* which links students to the private sector and NGOs with projects in developing countries, has shown to be an effective and inspirational entry point. Another valuable way of linking students to various stakeholder groups in the development sector is organising seminars for Master students, where personal accounts from experiences 'in-the-field' provide inspiration to their future study.

Platforms are a way to promote **North-South-South knowledge sharing and cooperation** around a theme of shared interest and to enhance South-led cooperation. DDRN have been able to support the initial phase of setting up platforms through a flexible work plan combined with a strong secretariat, whose main functions include process facilitation, information services and logistic support. This support highlights the importance of identifying research gaps and of mapping



the institutional landscape in order to help shape and focus platform activities and avoid overlaps. It has also proven to be important to establish links to existing research initiatives within the same or related topics in the country or region where the research is expected to take place.

Entering strategic alliances with existing regional Southern-based structures on North-South research and higher education has proven to be the most effective way of including the voice of the South and promoting South leadership in

North-South-South research cooperation. Events conducted through alliances have shown to be very effective, for example, in terms of lobbying African governments to pay more attention to higher education and research in their priority setting and budget allocations. Alliances can help reveal the different types of challenges faced by universities and research institutions in the South, and between the South and the North. This can in turn be a first step in building capacity and correcting existing imbalances in North-South cooperation.

Above
Rural market,
Uganda



Introduction

In recent times, networks have become a very popular and widespread way of organising for a wide range of purposes, including research and development. The Danish Development Research Network (DDRN) was established in 2007 after the merger of three former networks and covers agriculture, environment, governance, economic politics, and public administration¹.

The overall objective of DDRN is to contribute to the inclusion of research and research-based knowledge in development². Members interact and learn from each other through a variety of events and activities, including thematic task forces, working groups, seminars and training courses. This has resulted in the development of new approaches and tools for promoting access and exchange of research and knowledge. Furthermore, it has enhanced the North-South-South dialogue and cooperation across research, policy, and practice. As expressed by one of our institutional members from Africa:

“DDRN has provided for the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), and by extension to our 15,000 network members, improved understanding on what goes on in Denmark and Europe. Our priorities have been influenced by DDRN by increased engagement at the European level and importantly, a better understanding of factors that influence European engagement with Africa. Through DDRN, we have been able to identify and in some cases to engage European partners that are key supporters of African agriculture.”
Moses Osiru, RUFORUM.

Being broad and inclusive are two special features of DDRN. Around 60 per cent of the members of DDRN are from the North, mainly Denmark, and around 40 per cent from developing countries. Membership not only includes researchers and students, but also development professionals and people working in the private sector and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

Figure 1 Estimated regional distribution of members

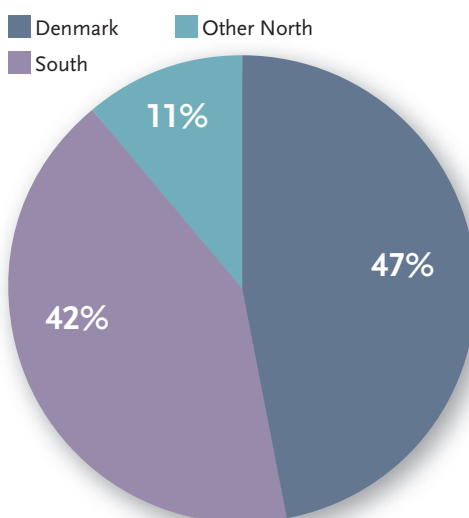
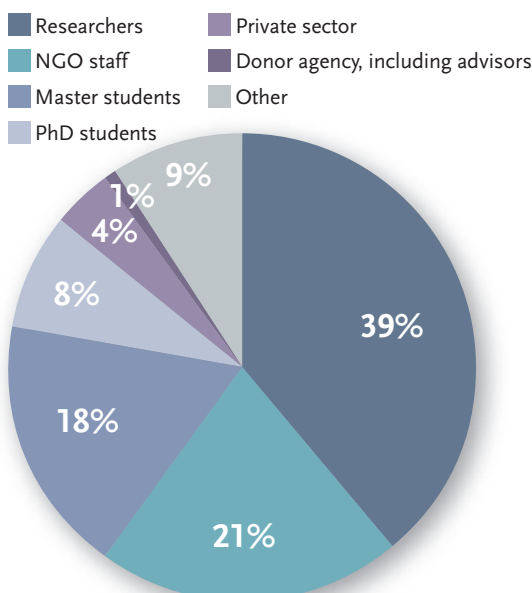


Figure 2 Estimated stakeholder categories of members



Source: DDRN membership database 2011

This report is the story of what we have achieved, how we became what we are today, and what we have learned from our activities during the past four and a half years. During this period DDRN was funded by Danida whose support has enabled the network to grow, collect valuable experience, and to develop into a widely recognised network providing quality services to members and other users. From the end of June 2011 Danida will no longer be funding research networks in Denmark³.

Report overview

The current report presents the results of an internal learning evaluation aimed at inspiring and improving network practice⁴. The evaluation is based partly on the Secretariat's analysis of reports, surveys and other documents produced by the Network and partly on staff members' experiences of interacting with members and facilitating and nurturing the Network since it began in 2007. Rather than attempting to measure the Network's results according to standardised criteria using quantitative methods only, the approach used complements these techniques with contextual methods, case studies and process descriptions. 'Learning' is per definition always to the better, but recognising that valuable learning potential may also lie in the weaknesses, or where the network has been less successful, we not only deal with what worked well, but also with what did not work.

The report focuses on achievements, challenges and enabling and hindering factors within the three activity areas where DDRN has provided added value to members, other users and to the organisational and institutional environment in research and development in terms of knowledge, experiences and contacts, namely: 1) research communication and outreach, 2) multi-stakeholder participation in research for development, and 3) North-South links and collaboration. These areas have also drawn increased attention from donors within the development sector, who see them as key components in their support of development research, for example, the European Union (EU) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

During the last decade the literature examining knowledge networks in the development sector has grown considerably. Nevertheless, researchers, practitioners, and donors involved in these networks still grapple with conceptualising and measuring the value of knowledge networks like DDRN; and there are still outstanding questions and gaps in our knowledge about networks.

This analysis of DDRN's experiences is a contribution to filling some of these gaps, which face the research and practices of knowledge networks in the development sector. The following key questions will guide the analysis of network practices throughout the report: Why is the activity important? How did we do? What are the results? And what have been the experiences and lessons learnt?

After this brief introduction (**Chapter 1**), the report is arranged over four further chapters. The information and communication activities of the Network are dealt with in **Chapter 2** which describes the specific characteristics of the research-based information system and assesses activities geared towards building the research communication skills of members and collaborators. **Chapter 3** focuses on multi-stakeholder interaction, in other words, researchers and students; development professionals; NGOs; private sector, and others who have an interest or a 'stake' in research and development. This chapter analyses activities that aim to promote learning across sectors and disciplinary boundaries and highlights opportunities and challenges. In **Chapter 4** we put the spotlight on the South and the efforts to create a genuine North-South network with a balanced participation of researchers and other stakeholders from developing countries and Denmark. We also assess thematic research platforms, strategic alliances and their related activities and draw some key lessons. Finally, **Chapter 5** provides our conclusion, draws out issues cutting across the previous chapters and summarises the key lessons learnt.

Chapters 2, 3 and 4, each of which focus on a specific activity area in the Network; research communication, multi-stakeholder interaction, and involvement of the South, can be read independently of each other. All resource documents are available on the DDRN website. Annexes one to three at the end of the report provide an overview of activities to give a more detailed picture of what the learning gathered has been built upon.

Right
Woman
delivering
bread,
Vietnam



2

Enhancing outreach and uptake of research-based information⁵

This chapter summarises the experiences and main lessons gathered by DDRN through:

- Developing and maintaining online news services used by a steadily increasing number of members
- Providing access to resource people and institutions
- Contributing to the uptake of research projects by providing assistance on communications
- Advocating the importance of approaching the communication of research strategically

Providing broad access to research-based information has been a very high priority throughout the existence of DDRN. Easy access to information is important to a broad range of people in development and research. For example, people outside academia who are interested in applying new knowledge but have little time, or researchers and students who are interested in being updated on what is being discussed in and outside their field of research.

An initial needs assessment and several surveys carried out during the past four and a half years have highlighted that access to information is a major expectation and benefit for the members of DDRN.

In 2008, DDRN introduced research communication as a focal theme to address the need for dialogue among various stakeholders in view of promoting the uptake of development research⁶.

This has resulted in an approach that involves two overall types of activities:

- 1 Dissemination of research-based information which is of relevance to stakeholders within and outside academia through online services (website and newsletters) and print overviews; and
- 2 Seminars and training workshops to strengthen communication of research.

Free and well-structured access to research-based information

At a time when improved connectivity is enabling higher numbers of people

to access and upload large amounts of information, DDRN plays an important role in helping to avoid overload by synthesising and selecting the most useful and relevant materials for its members.

The availability of online information has also opened up new opportunities for stakeholders in developing countries, where access to new scientific publications is often limited. Because of this, reaching a large number of stakeholders in the South has been a key focus for the information and communication work of DDRN.

The DDRN website and newsletters provide easy access to information of interest to a diverse group of members across the globe.

**Table 1 DDRN news in numbers:
A few highlights**

Monthly newsletters	320
Extra newsmails	90
Unique visits on website (average per month)	1960
Unique page views (average per month)	6600
Countries visiting website (average per month)	120
Online member profiles	1130
Links to reports on website	1500
Links to knowledge and research organisations	430

Online news services

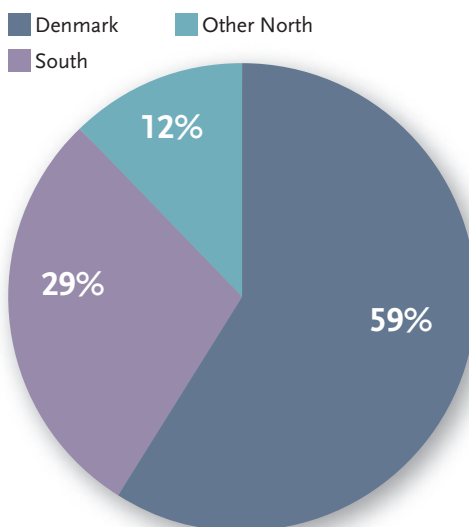
Information concerning the themes covered by the Network are gathered from a large variety of sources and featured on the DDRN website. Sources such as newsletters of other organisations, other websites and information accessed from events are filtered and supplemented by contributions from members who wish to share relevant information within the Network. Special attention is given to sharing information gathered by the Secretariat through networking at national, European, and global levels, some of which may otherwise be difficult for others to access. For example, information on funding openings through EU networks.

The core principle behind the website's flexible structure is to make it easy to find the specific type of information that various stakeholders may be interested in. For example, events, working papers, funding opportunities, policy briefs or manuals. In line with the principle of engaging multiple stakeholders, information posted is selected by giving priority to innovative knowledge that may be of common relevance and to information that may be of use to both researchers and practitioners. Another priority is to include information gathered from the South even if it is only directly relevant to Southern-based members⁷.

Feedback from network members⁸ indicates that the news services are used and appreciated by researchers, NGO staff, students, and government and private sector representatives in Denmark and across the globe. Statistics for the website and newsletters show that about a third of the 2,000 average monthly unique visits on the website and 3,500 average monthly unique clicks on links in the newsletters are from members and other visitors based in the South⁹.

Once a month, all news posted on the website under the various themes, including the sections on DDRN activities and

Figure 3 Regional distribution of readers of DDRN news



general development issues, is gathered in newsletters that are sent to all members, according to their thematic preferences. From time to time, these are supplemented by occasional newsletters. This activity has resulted in more than 400 newsletters being sent between 2007 and 2011.

Despite the adaptable nature of the website's structure and content management, the system allows for limited flexibility concerning tailoring specific lists of recipients. As a result, news that is only relevant to a very limited segment of the DDRN membership is not always readily disseminated. It may still be posted on the website, but to avoid overloading too many members no newsletter is sent. If time permits it, this news is sent through standard emails to some of the active members of DDRN that could find it relevant, which is valued as a more personal way of communicating. However, sometimes the end result is that the news is not shared.

"It always makes me happy to receive DDRN News! The June issue has brought me really exciting articles on Climate Change and most of all 'Writing Convincing research proposals and effective scientific reports.' Just the thing I need when I am stuck in writing up so much that has been done!"

(Researcher, Uganda, 2010)

In a 2010 survey on the benefits of being a member of DDRN, respondents were asked whether they had access to similar information from other sources. The survey indicated that more than half of the members use DDRN as their primary source of general information concerning development research; and only 37 per cent have access to similar sources of information.

"Thanks for the newsletter. I do often forward various links and documents to our food security programme officers in Africa, Asia, and Central America, depending on what is relevant to them; and they appreciate it very much. They share it [the information] with our partner organisations and civil society in their respective countries; and this way much information reaches out at many levels."

(NGO member, Denmark, 2009)

Receiving the newsletters is generally the main reason given for joining DDRN. The Secretariat experiences an increase in requests for registration following each publication, indicating that the sharing of the newsletters by member to friends and colleagues (confirmed through feedback) has increased the outreach of the Network.

Among the general feedback from network members on the news services, the following characteristics were also highlighted:

- News that focuses on issues relevant for Southern members
- Important information that is not otherwise easily accessible
- A forum for exchange and discussion of focal and cross-disciplinary themes

- A place where research-based news on innovative initiatives is included
- A time saving service, as many members do not have time to go through the vast number of sources themselves.

Table 2 Top ten pages 2010

1. DDRN intro page
2. Members update profile
3. DDRN funding opportunities
4. Development Science Shop
5. Registration of new members
6. Student scholarships and grants
7. Members search engine
8. Members list by name
9. Upcoming DDRN events
10. Upcoming climate change events

Figure 4 Increase of DDRN membership 2007-2011

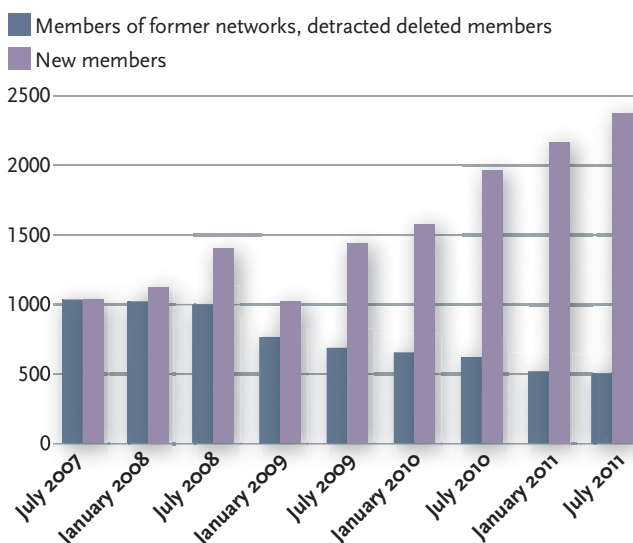


Table 3 Top five categories in newsletters

DDRN activities and general news	Climate change, food security and research communication	All (other) themes
1. DDRN funding	1. CC funding	1. Agriculture funding
2. General news – funding	2. CC events	2. Natural resource management funding
3. DDRN events	3. RC events	3. Student news – other news
4. General news – events	4. FS events	4. Urban industrial management funding
5. General news – papers and reports	5. CC papers and reports	5. Natural resource management events



Overview reports of resource people and institutions

Another way of providing easy overviews of available knowledge within a specific topic or region is by gathering information about people and institutions. DDRN has done so mainly through two channels:

1) thematic overviews outlining competences of individuals and institutions; and 2) an online membership database with searchable profiles of members.

DDRN published 14 overview reports in 2007-2011. The majority of these were mappings of competences in relation to a specific theme, mainly within DDRN's thematic areas and multi-disciplinary focal themes, but also covering other crosscutting themes. Most overview reports

focused on the Danish resource base¹⁰, its research and experiences, but two mapped competences in Southern Africa. These mappings were mainly produced as part of the preparations for new collaboration initiatives that DDRN was supporting, and where it was important to get an overview of resource people and institutions to be included or to show gaps in research fields that could be covered. Another purpose of providing overviews was to produce input for discussions at thematic workshops and conferences, for example by showing trends and gaps in current knowledge and research on the specific area discussed.

As exemplified in Chapter 4, DDRN maps and overviews have proved to be valuable inputs. However, the challenges of these, as of any overview tools, are that they require a large amount of time to make sure they

Above
Participants.
Research
communication
workshop,
Tanzania

provide the full picture. Also, mappings provide a snapshot of the resource base at a given time and are therefore of most value immediately after being compiled, while gradually losing value over time. DDRN did not set any mechanisms in place to regularly update these overviews as this would have been an extremely time consuming exercise that we did not have resources for.

DDRN's online membership database

Priority was given to updating the online membership database which aims to provide overviews of people within the fields covered by DDRN, as well as to share information about who the Network is composed of. The database has been adjusted on a continuous basis, including giving members the opportunity to update their profile online as they register to join the Network. Members have been encouraged to update their profiles and statistics show that many have done so. As of June 2011, the database counts more than 1,100 visible profiles, i.e. nearly half of the members. Emails to members that repeatedly bounce back are regularly deleted from the database in order to keep it up-to-date. The degree to which members update their profile and the variable amount of information provided mean that it is difficult to achieve a full picture of the competences across the Network's membership.

The database has proven to be a very useful entry point to the DDRN website as keywords searched by visitors entering the site have often been names of Danish members who had recently produced new information. As indicated in Table 2 (on page 17), pages concerning members are among those most used. This is in line with another major expectation of members joining DDRN, namely networking and getting connected with others. 2010 statistics on usage indicated that an estimated 900 profiles were viewed a total of more than 4,500 times.

At the time of writing this report, DDRN is

engaged in developing a new public portal to provide information on development research projects financed by Danida. The portal will be hosted by the Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC), who administers the funds to the projects. DDRN has been engaged in establishing the portal in acknowledgment of the need to provide an entry point to Danish development-oriented research. The portal is being developed in partnership with DFC and Danida and with assistance from CABI UK and the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS), who have the required technical expertise with developing and maintaining portals.

Enabling and hindering factors



- Accessing and sharing news that is otherwise not broadly disseminated through **active networking of the secretariat staff and contributions by network members**.
- Providing information through a flexible system that allows **adjusting entry points based on interest of members** while maintaining overall **consequent structure** to make navigation easier.
- Paying special attention to include **research related news that targets all stakeholder groups** of the network, from Danish researchers interested in events in Denmark, to students from the South interested in scholarships.



- Full overviews **need to be updated continuously**, which is very time consuming both in terms of getting new content and, in the case of printed mappings, editing the information received.
- The **lack of a system that can automatically update interested members** when news is posted can result in valuable news not being disseminated.

Research communication capacity building in North-South partnerships

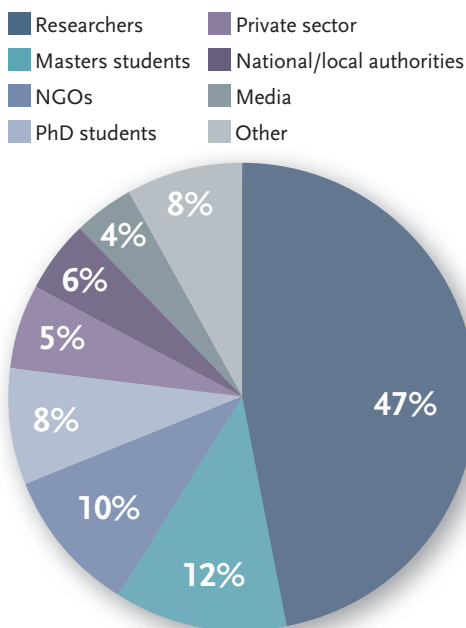
Development focused research that is disseminated and communicated widely and strategically can increase the degree to which much needed changes in the developing world are implemented. While many interesting initiatives are taking place, research findings are still not often shared beyond academia. The reasons for this are many, including individual researchers' lack of time, incentives and skills, but also because the role of communication has not been fully acknowledged.

Since 2008, DDRN has run a series of seminars and training workshops in Denmark and in several countries in the South to address these challenges. The goal of these seminars and workshops was to promote awareness and understanding among researchers and other stakeholders of the importance of communicating research in order to promote change in development practice. This work also included introducing specific tools and approaches, thus strengthening the communications skills of members and their partners.

Research communication is high on the agenda of a number of international donors and organisations. DDRN has engaged in this work through involving experts from other countries, primarily from the UK. Engaging with experts has enabled DDRN to provide members and their research partners with the latest knowledge and approaches within the field.

In 2008, four awareness raising and training workshops were carried out in Denmark; and in 2009 and 2001, four training workshops were carried out in Tanzania, Vietnam and Bangladesh with a combined total of more than 220 participants from Denmark (60), Africa (57), and Asia (107). As indicated in Figure 5, several categories of stakeholders attended these events, which is in line with the DDRN approach to research

Figure 5 Participants in research communication seminars and workshops by stakeholder category



communication, i.e. promoting dialogue among a range of groups to which research results are of relevance.

In Denmark, these seminars addressed overall issues, such as the importance and challenges of evaluating communication of research. The seminars were initiated by the Secretariat of DDRN and carried out in cooperation with other research networks, with inputs on contents from international experts and staff from Danida. One of the seminars was carried out upon the initiative of a member interested in introducing the use of video in participatory research; and this was offered twice as a two-day capacity building workshop particularly aimed at students.

In the South, most workshops were targeted towards the research pilot projects supported by Danida¹¹ and took place in Vietnam and Tanzania. The idea of organising these workshops emerged from discussions with researchers from these countries during visits to Denmark. On learning that DDRN had a special focus on research communication, a wish was expressed for the Network to assist the projects with an issue that had become

Right
Participants.
Research
communication
workshop,
Vietnam



increasingly important to Danida, but was quite new to many researchers involved. A workshop was also carried out in cooperation with a number of organisations in Denmark, Holland and Bangladesh with the objective of addressing the use of social media in research. This activity was initiated through discussions with the local Danish embassy. Common for all the workshops was the fact that they were based on needs expressed in the countries where the workshops took place.

Participants in all events showed great interest in learning more about how to communicate research, especially how to

influence decision makers and policy processes. A major lesson from most training workshops was the understanding of the value of targeting the various stakeholders differently, for example, through different channels and messages. Alliances, coordination, and cooperation among stakeholder groups were all acknowledged as important means to make communication more efficient,

“Capacity building in communication is very important. I recommend all projects do it before they start.”

Participant Vietnam workshop, 2009

for example in terms of cooperation with the media and knowledge and information intermediaries. On several occasions, the challenge of lack of time and incentives for researchers to communicate was raised, but on most occasions it was suggested that this could partly be overcome by cooperating with others to get assistance.

All the workshops carried out in the South experienced some degree of problems with internet connectivity in spite of arrangements being made to provide better coverage. This was solved by presenting tools offline through power point presentations, or using breaks if the connectivity seemed to improve then.

IN FOCUS

Developing communications plans in Tanzania

The first training workshop on research communication carried out in the South was held at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in August 2009, when three pilot projects which were carried out in cooperation between researchers from SUA and several universities in Denmark were just starting. Discussions on holding the workshop started in October 2008 during the projects' visit to Denmark in order to identify research partners. The preparations had taken place in cooperation between the secretariat of DDRN and the projects at SUA; and one of the projects assumed the responsibility for organising all local logistics. The content of the training was based on the project descriptions handed to Danida, with special emphasis on addressing how to work on a communications strategy.



Above Group work. Research communication seminar, Tanzania

To provide a good combination of knowledge on research communication and relevance to the context in which the projects were to be carried out, two facilitators and trainers were selected using the communication network of DDRN from leading organisations in Europe and East Africa. The same was done to mobilise additional people from the library at SUA in order to strengthen relevant local links for the participants. During the three days of the workshop, the projects experienced a combination of introductions to various aspects of communication and group work to develop plans and outputs related to their project. Most of the thirty participants were researchers involved in the projects, but representatives from local authorities, NGOs, and media were also involved.

The participants expressed a very strong satisfaction with the workshop, especially of how they gained an improved understanding of the stakeholders involved and the potential of their research. There was a strong interest in new internet tools that provide access to online information introduced at the workshop. The participants also appreciated the good facilitation of the workshop and the possibility to apply the contents of the workshop specifically to their own projects during the various group sessions.

A year and a half after the workshop, a second one was held at SUA, with the costs shared between DDRN and the projects attending. A crucial factor that enabled this was the arguments of the researchers involved in the first workshop, that it was three days worth investing in. At the second workshop, the first projects also got an opportunity to share their experiences explaining how they had worked with communication after their initial workshop. This showed different but effective approaches, for example, continuous dialogue with journalists met at the first workshop, use of local networks, engaging with the radio, holding stakeholder meetings, and developing newsletter, thus proving that the workshop had provided valuable inspiration.

Although they would have been more efficient had the participants gained a more direct hands-on experience, these sessions were still very much appreciated.

The timing of the Southern-based workshops at the beginning of the pilot projects also allowed participants to work on developing communications strategies. As well as allowing participants to define their stakeholders early on, they were also able to see how communication can be an integral part of a research project rather than a time consuming add-on. This timing also contributed to promoting team building by working together on a different subject than the scientific contents of the projects. It was very useful that the projects concluded the workshops with outputs that they could apply, and develop further, straight away.

Since many projects involved in this training were at their initial stage, and in some cases clear procedures for internal communication still needed to be developed; issues of internal communication required more attention than was given in the workshop programme. This was especially the case of new research partnerships, where the traditional ownership roles are switched (as it was in the case of the pilot projects). It has to be acknowledged that internal communication may need to be addressed as a separate issue deserving attention. This was only partly done at the workshops.

Research communication training is carried out by a number of organisations, but the approach of focusing on developing communications plans while introducing tools to develop outputs is quite unique for DDRN. This approach was adopted by the GDN training workshop on research communication carried out in May 2011 by the Global Development Network (GDN) in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), who acknowledged DDRN's model as their inspiration.

Enabling and hindering factors

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- Promoting local ownership and relevance to participants through 1) **Tailoring the contents** of the training workshops to the specific needs of the projects involved; 2) **Promoting cross-fertilisation and mutual learning** by including experiences of attending and other local projects; and 3) **Delegating responsibility** for parts of the preparation to local partners.
- Optimising opportunities for learning by planning for timing and contents of the workshop that **allow for immediate application and further development of outputs** after the workshops.
- Mobilising a strong communication network to engage: 1) **Experts** from leading organisations within research communication to facilitate workshops; 2) **Additional local resource persons**, and 3) **Communications experts with a thematic background** of specific relevance to the workshop participants, where possible.

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- In the case of new research partnerships, issues of **internal communication need to be addressed explicitly** as it may otherwise compromise the participants' commitment to communications training and is crucial for the running of the research projects.
- Even though making special arrangements to prevent it, **limited power availability and internet connectivity** pose a challenge in many countries in the South. Always have a 'Plan B' to make sure that participants get at least a useful understanding of the potentials of internet tools.

3

Facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration¹²

This chapter summarises the experiences and main lessons gathered by DDRN through:

- Arranging, co-arranging and funding events on interdisciplinary themes and key challenges, where members and other actors can interact, share, and learn from each other
- Facilitating thematic working groups which engage members in active sharing and collaboration
- Nurturing the younger segment of the resource base through activities targeting students



Above
Woman goat
farmer,
Vietnam

Tackling poverty and ensuring sustainable development requires a range of integrated approaches based on an understanding of the interaction between technical, bio-physical, socio-economic, political, and cultural factors. It is in this context that development research has to provide relevant knowledge and inputs; and to ensure its relevance. As a result, it is important that research takes the broader perspective into account. Also, research-based knowledge and inputs are not always

easily available for practitioners; and there is potential for researchers to benefit from the practical experience and on-the-ground presence of practitioners.

A prominent feature of DDRN is its broad membership which reaches well beyond universities and researcher to include, among others, development practitioners who constitute a significant proportion of the Network's members. As described in Chapter 1, DDRN comprises of a mix of researchers, PhD and Master students,

NGO staff members, private sector (mainly development consultants), donor representatives, and advisors. Dialogue and collaboration across scientific disciplines and the research-practice continuum is deliberately encouraged. For example, through a focus on tangible themes and challenges of broad interest, such as the impact of climate change in developing countries, food security, research communication, and N-S collaboration. Likewise, DDRN aims to target the younger resource base by including specific initiatives for students. A significant feature of DDRN is the focus on inclusiveness and open access. For example, DDRN membership is free of charge and open to all; and as a principle, all DDRN working groups and events (except informal meetings and capacity building activities in the South) have open participation.

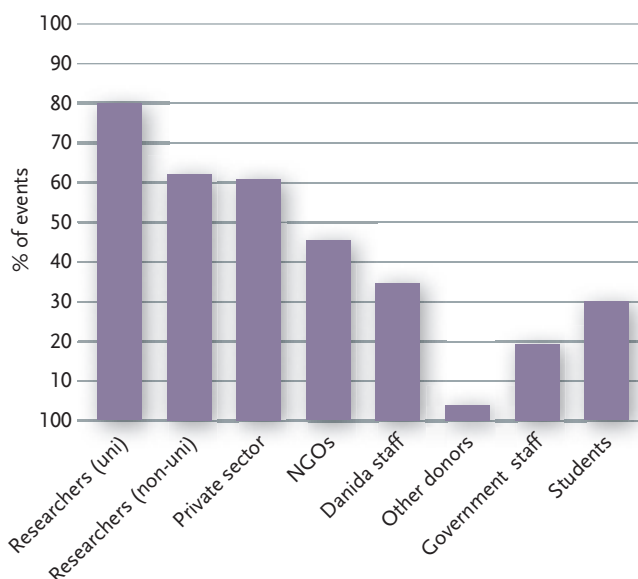
Acknowledging the crucial importance of interdisciplinary and cross-sectorial sharing and collaboration, DDRN's core activities include events and working groups. Strengthening multi-stakeholder dialogue and interaction is also the objective of DDRN's various initiatives targeting students. Besides exposing participants to new knowledge, other perspectives, and different approaches, face-to-face member interaction also provides opportunities for members to engage in new partnerships, for example in relation to developing joint research proposals.

Events promoting interdisciplinary learning and networking

Conferences, seminars, workshops and meetings are valuable tools in helping to promote multi-stakeholder collaboration. This is done directly by the Secretariat by actively engaging in planning and holding events, as well as indirectly by providing small funds for members to be the drivers of similar activities.

During 2007-2011, DDRN helped to arrange, finance and contribute to 91 conferences, seminars, workshops, and meetings with

Figure 6 Stakeholder participation in events



a total of 3,586 participants. More than half of these were arranged by members themselves. Annex three provides a list of all DDRN events.

Secretariat-driven conferences, workshops and seminars

DDRN is able to attract international and Danish experts and stakeholders with different backgrounds. The purpose and structure of DDRN make it possible to arrange activities on cross-cutting and issue-based topics, which reach beyond the research agendas of research institutions and departments.

In 2009, with support from the Board, the Secretariat decided to stop organising large events on this basis since this approach was very time consuming. Instead, efforts were focussed more on co-organising events with partner institutions and networks. This approach was used both in Denmark and in the South (which is expanded on in Chapter 4). Events were co-organised with NGOs, knowledge networks, research institutions,

“A significant feature of DDRN is the focus on inclusiveness and open access.”

Gendered Governance Conference – a collaborative event for broader outreach

DDRN acknowledges that gender is an important issue across all sectors and aspects of development cooperation and is therefore a member of the NGO network Gendernet. In October 2009, DDRN collaborated actively with Gendernet's steering group in relation to arranging an international conference. This conference brought together international and Danish practitioners, policy makers and researchers with an interest in the gender dimension on governance. To facilitate active dialogue and interaction, the backbone of the conference programme comprised of parallel discussion sessions for small groups focusing on specific dilemmas and cases, debate sessions, and interactive sharing sessions. Professional facilitators were engaged to facilitate active participation and to bring out views and experiences of participants.

DDRN participated in the planning of the event; and as an input to the conference, DDRN produced an overview of the Danish resource base on gender research in relation to agriculture, environment, and governance in developing countries. The preliminary findings were presented at a parallel session at the conference. The range of organisations (several NGOs, UNDP, and DDRN) represented in the conference planning group proved a major advantage, as the conference could tap into the internal capacity of the organisations, and thereby a) involve key international and national capacities in the conference; and b) attract a number of participants from a range of stakeholder groups in Denmark and abroad. NGOs were prominently represented, but a number of consultants, government staff, UN agencies, and researchers also participated. Due to the collaboration, the conference had a much broader and more widespread outreach than the participating organisations could have achieved individually.

Danida and Danish embassies. Collaboration on events has enhanced the qualitative and quantitative inputs to the planning process, increased the human and financial resources available, and extended their reach to a broader public. The inclusion of stakeholder perspectives from collaborating partners further strengthen the multi-stakeholder aspect and the inter-disciplinary outreach, as illustrated by the conference on *Gendered Governance*.

The role of the Secretariat in relation to events organised in collaboration with others has typically been to contribute to the definition of objectives and themes, based on DDRN's broad outreach in focus and membership. Drawing on the large number of members with backgrounds from multiple disciplines, institutions and countries, the Secretariat has helped identify

and contact speakers and facilitators. The Secretariat has also assisted with logistics and reporting.

A focus on networking and dialogue, face-to-face meetings and spaces for personal exchange have been prioritised when planning events. The feedback from several participants in the workshop *Climate Change Adaptation – Linking Policies and Practice* (CCTF) expressed a particular appreciation of the emphasis on working groups and the opportunities these provided. (See panel on page 31) The following are a few examples of what they particularly appreciated:

“Active dialogue with basically all the participants.”; “Lots of participation and knowledge shared in the discussions.”; “Working group discussions were very thorough.”; and “The working group formations and opportunity to participate.”

Conference on Global Value Chains, Business and Development – a catalyst for joint activities

In December 2008, DDRN arranged a conference on global value chains (GVC). The conference comprised of presentations from a range of Danish and international actors, including researchers, companies engaged in value chains for products from developing countries, consultants, private and public financing institutions and donors. 70 participants came from the full range of stakeholders. Three main themes were covered: a) emerging issues and international trends; b) challenges and consequences of the integration in the global economy for developing countries; and c) ensuring sustainable economic growth in developing countries.

The participants' evaluation revealed a general appreciation of the conference; the majority of participants found the programme good and the conference contents useful for future research. At the conference, participants agreed that dealing with GVC issues requires interdisciplinary collaboration. DDRN was requested to arrange an informal follow-up meeting in 2009 to discuss further collaboration. This meeting led to the formation of a still active Global Value Chains Working Group (GVC Working Group), which among other activities arranged a second GVC conference in 2011.

DDRN have found that events that allow for proper time for direct face-to-face communication and interdisciplinary exchange can be fine breeding grounds for further collaboration (as illustrated by the case of the conference on *Global Value Chains, Business and Development*).

Seed funds for member-driven activities

Another way of promoting members' networking and dialogue is through support to member-driven activities. During 2007-2010, the network had a small fund from which members could apply for support to activities that lay within the objectives of the Network. Access to financial support from DDRN enabled members to arrange several thematic workshops, seminars and conferences in Denmark and the South. These seed funds, with simple, un-bureaucratic application and reporting requirements, enabled members to arrange interdisciplinary events of exchange.

In the beginning, the number of applications was quite limited and the relevant ones could be funded. However, the demand for this opportunity increased

among members and during 2009-10, competition for the funds had grown quite substantially. A total of 45 events have been supported, covering a broad spectrum of themes and topics (See Annex Three for a list of all member-driven events).

Several of these events were collaborative efforts which involved members from different institutions and a mix of researchers and practitioners; and these events provided opportunities for the participants to expand their network and draw broader attention to their work and experiences.

Examples of collaborative initiatives and results emanating from DDRN-supported events include:

- A large strategic research project proposal submitted to Danida by several participants from the workshop on *The Role of Higher Education in Africa: 'Triple Helix' Responses to Climate Change* in 2009, which included substantial input from the workshop;
- The formation of new research collaboration between researchers from the South and Danish

universities attending the conference on *Climate Change and Human Mobility* in 2010;

- The formation of a collaborative *Intercultural Winter Research and Exchange School* by the institutions arranging the workshop on *Transnational Forms of Cooperation and Intercultural Dialogues: Towards Alternatives to Human Development and Rights* in Bolivia in 2009.

These outputs cannot of course be entirely ascribed to the DDRN funding, since they are primarily results of dynamic individuals, but the support has contributed a framework for fruitful dialogue.

Financial support from DDRN has also enabled members to participate in international events and benefit from N-S learning, networking, and communication of their work. Twenty DDRN members have benefited from this opportunity, including researchers, representatives of donors and international agencies, Government staff, NGOs, and students from the South. However, while participation proved useful for the benefiting members, it did not provide significant contributions to the other activities and broader work of DDRN and was not found to be a cost effective use of the Network's resources. As a result, the number of funded trips for participation in international events was significantly reduced in 2010.

A third category of 'other' member-driven activities receiving support targeted the development of innovative initiatives. A few have been funded – for example, a platform for information on climate change in South-East Asia, but unfortunately, not much came of it. One problem might have been that the partnership between the local actor and the Danish researcher was created for the occasion since involvement of a Danish researcher was a requirement for funding. As a result the collaboration did not have a very strong foundation or a mutually developed goal.

Enabling and hindering factors

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- **Co-organising events with other partners** increases participant outreach, the possibility of well-founded cross-cutting themes, and available resources
- Good planning of direct face-to-face communication and exchange at events, e.g. through group work, that allows for **active participation and discussions of strong interest to the participants** can be fine breeding grounds for further cross-thematic and cross-sector collaboration
- **Financial support of member-driven events** can be the basis for long-lasting trans-institutional and -sectorial collaboration.

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- **Long-term collaboration risks coming to nothing when partnerships are created for the occasion.**

Thematic working groups for sharing experiences and collaboration

Working groups have proven a particularly useful and low-cost platform for engaging researchers and practitioners in interdisciplinary collaboration and experience-sharing. Particular advantages of working groups are that they a) are participatory and engage members proactively; and b) can ensure quite long-term continuity, which allows more in-depth exploration of themes and issues, strengthens collaboration, and builds a sense of 'community'.

In 2011, DDRN has four active working groups, three of which are thematic and cover global value chains, agricultural development (AgriDev), and organic farming, while the last is country specific and focuses on development issues in Indonesia.

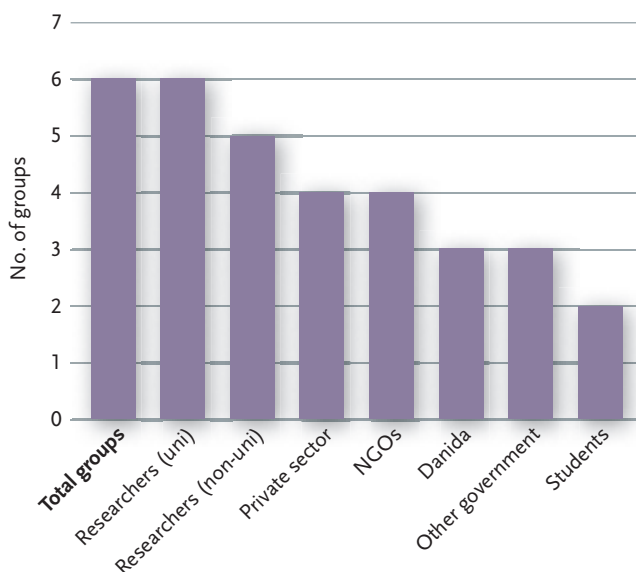
Furthermore, DDRN has a joint Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) with its sister networks, the Danish Water Forum (DWF) and Enreca Health (see panel on opposite page). In total, these initiatives comprise of 181 individuals from broad range different sectors (see Figure 7). Additionally, during 2007-2009, DDRN had three other working groups dealing with poverty and environment, urban air quality and pollution, and good governance.

Depending on their objectives, DDRN working groups undertake a range of activities, the most frequent types being events and meetings. Some groups also undertake mappings and overviews of research competencies or carry out reviews, such as one carried out by the *Global Value Chains in Business and Development* (GVC) Working Group. This group undertook a review of available global value chains tools, guidelines, and methodologies

Several DDRN working groups collaborate closely with Danida in a number of ways, for example, as informal fora for sparring and providing research and experience based inputs on key issues. This was the case when the GVC Working Group and the CCTF engaged in informal sparring meetings with the Technical Advisory Service (TAS) of Danida during the development of the new Danida development strategy *Freedom from Poverty*. The CCTF also elaborated a specific policy brief; and a group of researchers from different institutions joined forces to draw up a new collaborative research project.

Typically, a two-tier structure is adopted, with the working groups being driven by a small core group of committed members, who actively plan and facilitate group activities, while other members are kept updated about plans and activities by email. Members of most working groups generally display different levels of commitment: a) core group members, who actively facilitate; b) active members, who participate in events and sometimes provide comments and suggestions or share information with other group members; c) semi-active

Figure 7 Stakeholder representation in active groups



members, who participate in events; d) inactive members, who are on the mailing list and follow discussions, but rarely attend events. Some groups comprise of only a small core number of members who prepare events for a broader audience. DDRN has found that groups which depend on one leading individual have shown some inherent weaknesses as such a group: a) is only able to move forward when that individual has the time to lead, b) is likely to break up if the leading individual leaves, and c) it is difficult to build ownership and commitment among group members.

While working group members are normally strongly committed, participation in these groups is usually not part of their job descriptions and can often conflict with other commitments. It can be difficult for consultants from the private sector to invest time in activities that do not generate income. While researchers may have less pressure in this regard, they are facing an ever-increasing demand to focus on producing articles and writing proposals to attract research funding, which also poses a challenge in terms of time at their disposal for networking activities.

Some groups are able to facilitate themselves without support. This can be the ideal situation as sustainability is ensured

The Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) – engaging the full range of stakeholders

CCTF was formed on the initiative of the Chairs of DDRN and DFW in 2008; and while experts were invited to join from the onset and provided inputs, activities were mainly planned by the Chairs and secretariat staff. With this model, CCTF prepared a parallel session on climate change in developing countries for the *International Conference on Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions*, organised by University of Copenhagen in March 2009, and carried out a comprehensive mapping of the Danish research resource base on climate change and developing countries. Following these activities, CCTF members agreed to form a core group to spearhead the group's work.

The core group was comprised of a mix of researchers and network coordinators, which proved a fruitful combination; all core group members have been dedicated and proactive, the coordinators ensured efficient facilitation and administration, and the researchers enabled CCTF to effectively engage national and international capacities, for example, IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) members. Collaboration with a Danida advisor further enhanced the capacity of CCTF to arrange workshops and meetings attracting large interest and providing a forum for dialogue between researchers, practitioners, and policy makers, which created a strong sense of ownership among CCTF members.

Due to these factors, CCTF had a particularly high level of activity in 2011 and arranged a) an informal meeting with Danida to provide inspiration for the development of a new Danish development policy; b) a researcher day, where researchers could present their work and share experiences; and c) a workshop in collaboration with, and financial support from, Danida on *Climate Change Adaptation – Linking Policies and Practice*. This workshop had presentations from a number of international capacities from the UN system, research institutions and NGOs, who were brought together with other participants in thematic working groups on food security, water, and disaster risk reduction. Key findings of the working groups were synthesised in the Policy Brief *Linking Climate Change Adaptation Policies and Practice*, aimed at informing both policy makers and practitioners about good approaches to include climate change considerations in development assistance.

as long as there is sufficient demand and relevance. In other cases, especially during start-up, or when the activity and ambition level is high, process facilitation support can be necessary. Groups with active secretariat involvement generally have had a higher level of activity. However, while facilitation can be an enabling factor, the right balance between ensuring effectiveness and participation on one hand and long-term sustainability on the other can be difficult to strike. Attracting key capacities can be important, particularly if the group intends to reach out to decision makers or international fora. For example, the ability to attract attention to activities and to bring in external national and international high-calibre experts and decision-makers is a key element of the successful events arranged by some groups.

Most groups have been formed on the initiative of the members, who got together around a specific theme and operate

independently without or with limited secretariat support. However, some groups were formed through other processes, which involved more significant secretariat support. This was the case for the GVC Working Group, that was initiated by a couple of members who from the onset requested facilitation support from the DDRN secretariat, where a staff member also joined as a group member. Another example is the AgriDev Working Group that was initiated by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Technical Advisory Services (TAS) of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Groups have generally been low-cost initiatives as meetings and events can be arranged by utilising facilities at the members' institutions. Apart from secretariat support, they have normally only received funding from DDRN through applications for specific activities, such as conferences, seminars, or reviews.

The only exception is CCTF, which received DKK 10,000 in core funding from each network.

The lifespan of working groups vary according to their objectives and the interest and capacity of core group members. For example, the Good Governance Working Group was specifically set up to comment on a new Danida strategy and therefore discontinued after this objective was accomplished. In 2008, the Poverty and Environment Working Group had a high level of activity, but in 2009 the activity level was lower; and the members then decided to disband the group in early 2010. On the other hand, the Organic Agriculture Working Group has continued for several years and is still active.

The Secretariat is confident that most groups have succeeded in promoting mutual learning across sectors – as is the case for delivering measurable outputs that aim at bridging research and practice, for example, producing briefs and organising events.

Enabling and hindering factors



- **Facilitation support and seed money** can enhance the running of groups by providing resources and space for interaction. This is especially necessary in the initial phase where a **core group needs to be consolidated**.
- **Having key capacities that are well respected and connected** in a working group may contribute to broadening the scope of the outputs of the group. While operating with open working groups that can be joined by any interested member, efforts to engage relevant experts and stakeholders in the network can be a way to promote the outreach of the groups.



- **Dependence on a single person** for the planning and facilitation may compromise the chances of continuity and sustainability of a working group.

Engaging students in research and development

Developing activities that target the younger segment of the Danish resource base has been a priority in all DDRN work plans. Bringing together not only stakeholders from different professional categories, but also members representing different generations is a way of broadening inputs and perspectives. Channelling knowledge and facilitating links between students and the Danish resource base at large are seen as important contributions to a strong Danish development milieu. In line with DDRN's focus on the involvement of key actors in the South, the Network has also attached great importance to facilitating students' access to projects or programmes in developing countries.

While the website and newsletter services are also intended as ways to provide knowledge to student members in the South (a group whose importance is highlighted in the new development strategy of Danida – especially for Africa), DDRN has developed a number of unique activities targeting primarily students in Denmark. As a result, students make up 18 per cent of the Network's membership.

The key student activities comprise of:

- A web-based *Science Shop* linking students to the private sector and NGOs with projects and programmes in developing countries;
- Four to six annual inspiration seminars for Master students at Danish institutions of higher education;
- Advice to students and assessment of applications for the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs funded travel grant scheme for Master students.

The *Science Shop* gives easy access to study proposals for students wanting to work with issues that are immediately relevant to development activities, either through field work in the South or as desk studies. At the same time, the Science Shop offers a direct access for firms,



Above
Students at
Makerere
University,
Uganda

NGOs and others to advertise their study proposals to development students. Some Danish universities have science shops where relevant study proposals are posted. However, these gather proposals within all subjects; and very few of the proposals target development issues. For students interested in development, it has been difficult to find relevant proposals; and besides, development NGOs and businesses rarely posted proposals there. The *Development Science Shop* was launched on the DDRN website in September 2010 and is one of the most frequently visited pages at the DDRN website. As a result of the shop, ten students or young researchers have engaged in agreements with businesses or NGOs concerning four

Master's theses, two Bachelor theses, and two PhD theses. Besides the direct agreements on cooperation, the contacts between students and firms or NGOs also offer opportunities for students to learn more about the milieu and of specific issues of their interest.

"Seeing that three students are presently writing theses related to micro finance [as a result of posting a project proposal on the Science Shop], and that I have been sparring with five others who have got an idea of the potentials of micro finance and loan and savings groups, I can only be satisfied with the result. I think that I have learned something myself and contributed to others' learning at the same time."

Flemming Kramp, Oikos Bank, 2011

To a large extent, the substantial number of student members of DDRN can be ascribed to the *Inspiration Seminars*, where out of the approximately 400 students attending the seminars, about 300 signed up as members afterwards. The seminars were held at different universities across the country and attracted students from several other institutions other than the hosting one.

At the *Inspiration Seminars* speakers were invited from a wide range of stakeholder groups, including consultants, Danida staff, and NGOs, as well as students from the South studying in Denmark (see Figure 8¹³). This broad representation implies inspiration for relevant study subjects and opportunities for dialogue between students and invited presenters from various stakeholder groups outside Danish universities.

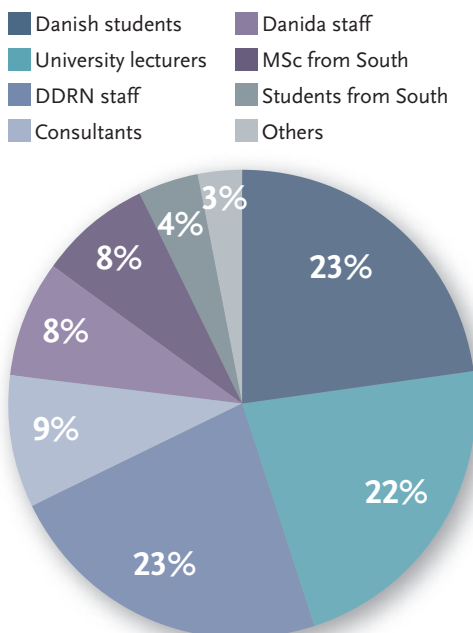
The *Inspiration Seminars* have contributed to an enhanced knowledge on behalf of Danish students of working conditions and key issues presented by researchers, development practitioners, and decision makers. Another advantage of the seminars is the opportunity offered to students who have carried out field studies in a developing country to share their experiences.

The seminars have been well attended, though in a few cases only a small number of students participated. Although the seminars were promoted in the same way at all the universities, the differences in structures and channels for information posed a challenge.

The seminars have also helped to clarify a number of questions and uncertainties about Danida's Travel Grants, and enhanced the quality of applications.

The *Travel Grants Scheme for Master Students* was started in 1999 on the initiative of the former research networks (NETARD and Enreca Health). Throughout its existence, DDRN has been involved in the assessment of the applications, which are currently administered by the Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC). Engagement in this activity has given an important

Figure 8 Inspiration seminars – speaker categories



insight into up-to-date issues and valuable exchange with development students. The link between DDRN and the Travel Grants has also resulted in approximately 80 abstracts of Master's theses having been posted on the special section for student news on the DDRN website and in the relevant thematic newsletters, giving students the opportunity of publishing their work widely.

Below
Food stall,
Vietnam



AIM	AIM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GIVING BACK FEEDBACK ON RESEARCH FINDINGS - AIM TO GIVE BACK SUCCESSFUL STORIES - INFORMING THE AVAILABLE CREDIT FACILITIES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 - SHARING OF INFORMATION ON DIVERSITY OF NEEDS (SPECIFICALLY ON FINANCIAL INFORMATION) - SHARE OF INFORMATION ON INFORMAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 - MOBILIZATION OF INFORMAL GROUPS - GIVE BACK SUCCESSFUL STORIES 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 - TO CREATE AWARENESS ON COMPLEMENTARITIES - TO STIMULATE DIALOGUE BTN LOCAL PROFESSIONALS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5/5 - TO CREATE AWARENESS AMONG ACTUAL AT LOCAL A DISTRICT LEVEL THAT WILL HELP THEM MOBILIZE LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO DEVELOP TO FIT NEEDS

Enabling and hindering factors

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- As a **one-point entry to development relevant proposals from all stakeholder groups**, the *Development Science Shop* has created important links between students, NGOs and firms.
- *Inspiration Seminars* have been valuable meeting points offering **networking possibilities for students with other stakeholder groups** of the Danish development milieu.

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- **Study proposals** posted at the *Science Shop* that are **too narrow thematically** have rarely been responded to by students.

Above
Result of group
work. Research
communication
workshop,
Tanzania

4

North-South research cooperation on a win-win basis¹⁴

This chapter summarises the experiences and main lessons gathered by DDRN through:

- Promoting Southern membership and providing opportunities for engaging with fellow researchers at seminars, face-to-face meetings, and by using the website
- Providing assistance to the formation of North-South-South thematic research platforms
- Contributing to mapping the research gaps, resources and capacities in the South
- Advocating and lobbying for increased investments in higher education and research in developing countries by entering into alliances with Southern-based regional networks and through joint activities

“DDRN’s membership in the South has been increasing with more than 40 per cent of the members from developing countries.”

Why was it important to involve the South in a network based in Denmark? For DDRN, partners in the South are key actors in identifying research needs in their respective countries, carrying out research to address these needs, and in guiding policy makers and others concerned with development to make evidence-based decisions. In other words, the involvement of Southern partners is crucial to achievement of DDRN’s overall objective, i.e. to contribute to the inclusion of research and research-based knowledge in development.

Southern participation and influence are promoted through activities such as seminars, the formation of thematic platforms and through strategic alliances with like-minded regional networks working within research and development, especially in Africa. These have been instrumental in implementing a number of successful events in Africa and Denmark and have contributed to setting higher education and research further up the agenda of policy makers and donors.

The ways in which Southern membership of the Network has been encouraged are mainly indirect. The Network does not have a recruitment strategy, neither targeting stakeholders in the South or indeed elsewhere. However, an introduction to DDRN has been a regular item on programmes for workshops and conferences organised or co-organised by DDRN, and in connection with visits to local institutions and development programmes in the South. The increase in numbers of new members immediately following major events in developing countries, (for example, in Uganda, Tanzania and Vietnam) demonstrate that

this has been an efficient way of promoting DDRN in the South. It also indicates that there is a demand for the type of services and benefits offered to members and users in developing countries.

The large number of Southern members of the Network clearly shows that DDRN has been very successful in attracting individual and institutional members from the South. DDRN’s membership in the South has been increasing since 2007 with more than 40 per cent of the members from developing countries. Moreover, while the majority of DDRN events have been held in Denmark, Southern representatives have participated in 50 per cent of these; and almost 20 per cent of events arranged or supported by DDRN were held in Africa, Latin America and Asia. A considerable number of events are conducted in developing countries and often in cooperation with local institutions.

Visibility and voice for the South

The imbalances and asymmetries in North-South research partnerships are many and Northern dominance is prevalent. The reasons for these imbalances are diverse and include inequalities with regard to access to knowledge, information and education, differences in socio-economic conditions, and the majority of North-South research cooperation projects and partnership programmes being funded and managed from the North. DDRN has tried to tackle these issues in various ways, among other things, through organising some of its activities in the South and thereby enabling more people from developing countries to participate in

conferences, meetings or platforms. Due to the high travel costs, there are usually few participants from developing countries at DDRN events that take place in the North (and visa versa). However, there may be special reasons which justify an exception to this rule. The support for the participation of 15 researchers from the South in two different scientific conferences on climate change prior to COP15 in March 2009 (organised by University of Copenhagen and University of Aarhus, respectively), is one such example. In this case it was important to ensure that people from developing countries could air their views and problems. Furthermore, although the themes presented and discussed at the conferences were on global issues, little emphasis was put on perspectives from developing countries. The presenters invited were mainly well-known international academics from the North. Against this background, DDRN decided to pay the travel and accommodation costs of a few southern-based participants. Organisational and technical support was provided jointly by the Secretariat and the Climate Task Force described in Chapter 3.

Apart from encouraging Southern membership of the Network and participation in network activities, the Network secretariat has also challenged the traditional North-South divide by using facilitation methodologies, which encourage inclusiveness and participation, dialogue and reflection. For example, by choosing workshop facilitation methodologies which encourage all participants to explore the challenges of strategic partnerships, reflect critically on these and see the potentials in the challenges. These potentials may be used as the building blocks for future partnerships, which are more balanced and owned by all its partners.

New partnerships through thematic platforms on research

The network has provided a number of possibilities for Southern members to interact with fellow researchers and other key actors in research and development. This interaction has among other things resulted in the establishment of thematic North-South research platforms within the focal areas of the Network. The main purpose of DDRN support to platforms is to promote North-South-

IN FOCUS

Providing the South with a seat at the table



Above Presentation at the IARU congress on climate change

The least developed countries (LDCs) are predicted to be the most severely affected from the consequences of climate change. Yet these countries are the ones least prepared; and various factors make LDCs generally less resilient to the impacts. As a preparation for the *UN Conference on Climate Change (COP15)* in 2010, the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) organised a scientific congress entitled: *Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions* held in Copenhagen on 10-12 March, 2009. In order to put spotlight on the climate problems of LDCs, the Climate Task Force – which includes representatives from the Danish Development Research Network (DDRN), Danish Water Forum (DWF) and Danish Research Network for International Health (Enreca Health) – organised a session entitled *Adaptation to climate change in Least Developed Countries – challenges, experiences, and ways forward* under the theme *Preparing for Impacts: Adapting to the Inevitable*. The main purpose of the session was to contribute research-based input to the IARU conference and to the successive COP15 conference, on the establishment of effective and pro-poor adaptation strategies in LDCs. The support from the Climate Task Force and the networks enabled researchers from LDCs to deliver their oral and written presentations at the conference and give decision makers the research-based information needed for informed debates on new policies. The presentations were later compiled in a book.

South knowledge sharing and cooperation around a theme of shared interest, and to enhance South-led cooperation.

DDRN has been involved in the establishment of two platforms; the ongoing Southern African Climate Change Network (SACCNet) and The Southern African Research Network for Urban Environmental Management (SARUEM) which is no longer active. These two platforms illustrate some of the challenges experienced and the lessons learnt from this type of North-South cooperation and partnerships.

A strong secretariat whose main functions include process facilitation, information services and logistical support, combined with a flexible work plan has made it possible for DDRN to support the initial phase of setting up the afore-mentioned platforms. The support provided to platforms by

DDRN includes assistance in mappings and explorative studies, (for example, thematic overviews like the ones described in Chapter 2), organisation and facilitation of face-to-face meetings and workshops, match-making, and information and communication services.

Great attention is paid to mapping the resource base and the capacities in both Denmark and the developing country or region where the platform's research activities are expected to take place. It is also a condition for DDRN support that the platform focuses on research problems of relevance to development and within which Danish researchers have strong expertise and experience. However, careful preparation is not always enough to ensure that the platform takes off and that researchers start *doing* research together.

IN FOCUS

The SARUEM Initiative: A successful process but no funds for research

The aim of the SARUEM Initiative, launched in 2007, was to develop a conceptual framework, a programmatic and multi-disciplinary approach, and an inclusive framework with clearly defined roles of all stakeholders for doing research within Urban Environmental Management (UEM) in Southern Africa. The main role of the DDRN secretariat was to facilitate the process of establishing the platform. DDRN support included a mapping study, facilitation of workshops and meetings in both Southern Africa and Denmark and liaising with staff at the Danish embassies in Tanzania and South Africa. In 2008 a core group of researchers from Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa and Denmark submitted a proposal to the Danish Development Research Council (FFU) for seed money to develop a full research programme proposal. Despite positive recommendations from the Danish embassies in the involved countries, the application was rejected.

There were several positive outcomes of the SARUEM initiative, including 1) identification of research gaps; 2) documentation of lacking regional coordination and cooperation; 3) mapping of the existing research expertise in Southern Africa and in Denmark; and 4) establishment of new links and contacts. But because the proposal was rejected, the researchers and development personnel involved in the initiative became frustrated and lost momentum. They were left with the impression that their efforts were futile. They had demonstrated the development relevance of the research and had involved experienced researchers with innovative ideas; they had positive recommendations from local Danish embassies; and they had applied a regional approach and responded to the call for larger strategic research programmes.

The rejection of the proposal made it difficult to keep the group of researchers together and prevented them from entering into the next phase of implementing research projects. In the case of SARUEM, work started from scratch and a lot of effort was therefore put into getting to know each other with limited time for other issues, including fundraising. An external factor which put constraints on this initiative was a change in Danish policy from providing sector support to UEM in Southern Africa to broader environmental support. This change happened at the time when the researchers sent in their application for funding and put new constraints on their collaboration with Danida supported development programmes within the region.

The SARUEM case also raises questions about how far a network secretariat, whose main role is to facilitate knowledge exchange and be an incubator for innovation and research, can go to ensure tangible results of such processes. Was DDRN right to pull out at an early stage? Or should the Network have gone one step further and provided the seed money themselves? In consideration of the fact that the Network secretariat is neither an implementing agency nor a research funder, its secretariat should refrain from getting involved in implementation of research. This should be left for the researchers and their universities and research institutions. However, the time in the process to step back will always be context and case specific and based on personal judgement.

The other platform initiative in Southern Africa, in which DDRN is involved, is the Southern Africa Climate Change Network (SACCNet). As shown in the panel below, this platform also struggled with the

transition from establishing itself as a platform to implementing joint research projects, but for other reasons than SARUEM.

The challenges displayed draw attention to the issue of the sustainability of DDRN supported platforms, the necessity for platforms to develop diverse funding strategy and take measures that can reduce vulnerability to shifts in development policy and dependency on support from a few sources. The challenge of platforms losing momentum and having difficulties in moving from preparatory activities to implementation of research projects may also be related to a very ambitious platform agenda. In the case of SACCNet, this included conference paper presentations, development of cross-disciplinary regional research project proposals within several sectors: health, water, and food security, at the same time as building the platform and finding a suitable organisational form for the platform. In SACCNet there were early signs

IN FOCUS

Funding as a necessary, but not exclusive, condition for success

SACCNet is a joint initiative of the four Danish knowledge networks – the Danish Water Forum (DWF), Enreca Health, DDRN – and DBL Centre for Health Research and Development (DBL). The main purpose of the initiative is to establish a regional knowledge sharing network within the Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC) region, and between the SADC region and Denmark. It is envisioned that establishing a formal, sustainable research network will facilitate cross-disciplinary cooperation for evidence-based actions in response to climate change. The network aims to contribute knowledge and research input to conferences and activities within the area of climate change, facilitate the development of joint research proposals, and inform developing practices and policies within the SADC region. The Danish networks have provided support to explorative and preparatory work in the form of mappings, workshops and logistic support. Significant results have been achieved in terms of establishing an organisational setup which accommodates South-South as well as South–North cooperation. Furthermore, cross-disciplinary research themes of relevance to the region have been identified. Nonetheless, significant challenges remain in order to for SACCNet to be a viable, sustainable, and truly South-led initiative:

- None of the working groups have finalised their work plans and submitted research proposals for funding.
- The intended shift of the secretariat function from North to South has only happened to a limited extent.
- The platform has not built up regional links of coordination, cooperation and mutual support to other networks and initiatives on climate change.¹⁵



Above
Participants
working together.
Research
communication
workshop,
Tanzania

of differences in perceptions of research approach and methodology between Northern and Southern partners. Whereas the North pushed for working across sectors from a multi-disciplinary perspective, several of the researchers from the South expressed that they preferred to stick to doing research in the sector of their expertise and then work in parallel projects. These differences were perhaps not sufficiently addressed by the facilitators at the initial meetings and workshops and might be part of the explanation why the groups have not developed any work plans yet.

Another issue rising from the platforms is the lack of distinction between the Network and its supporting entity, in this case the Secretariat. Such support structures are often mistakenly taken to be the Network

and perceived as a ‘project’ on its own with objectives and work plans. But the Network is the people and the relationships between them. We, the ‘facilitating’ secretariat, sometimes tend to forget this as well. When we ‘projectised’ the SACCNet platform and evaluate and judge it in terms of deliverables such as work plans, we ignore that platforms, just like networks, are primarily about relationships between people.

Another problem is that it is extremely difficult to measure and evaluate a platform’s fluid structure. It is hard and resource intensive to keep track of the new contacts, information and other benefits which participants in platforms may get from their involvement. As a result we tend to make the intangibles measureable.

Enabling and hindering factors

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- **Identification of research gaps and mapping of the institutional landscape** within the research area targeted can assist in shaping and focusing platform activities and avoid overlaps.
- **Establishment of links to existing research initiatives** within the same or related topics within the country or region where the research is expected to take place.
- **Development of a diversified funding strategy as early as possible** is likely to increase the funding options and reduce the dependency on single sources.

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- **Difficulties in identifying and combining different funding sources** for North-South cooperation. Donors often have different requirements, priorities, formats and deadlines. Furthermore, research councils may perceive development-oriented initiatives as too much development and too little research.
- **Failure to acknowledge asymmetries and hidden differences**, for example, in approaches and experiences with problem-based and multi-disciplinary research, under the jargon of equal partnerships. If such differences are not revealed and addressed at an early stage it may affect the dynamism, ownership and sustainability of the platform.
- **Shifts in development and research policies and priorities** at national and regional levels may be an external factor that affects the platform negatively, for example, in terms of raising funds, if the theme or the sector is, for one reason or another, no longer a priority for donors and research councils.

Alliances with regional networks in the South

Alliances are an important approach for the inclusion of voices from the South. Alliances can also increase funding opportunities for North-South and South-South research cooperation. Linking up and building on existing structures for regional cooperation has proven to be a very effective way of enhancing South participation in DDRN activities, promoting local South ownership and achieving a better balance in North-South-South cooperation. Activities conducted in alliances with partner networks and other institutions include joint conferences, lobbying for policy influence, knowledge exchange, and joint studies. The following section describes the lessons learnt from the strategic alliances that DDRN has engaged in with regional 'sister' networks in Africa.

Below
Participants
at the
Africa-Europe
platform
workshop,
Ghana



DDRN-RUFORUM cooperation: With the South in the driving seat



Above DDRN staff with RUFORUM secretariat, Uganda

The Ministerial Conference on Higher Education and Research in Agriculture in Africa (CHEA), held in Uganda in November 2010, was a major continental event spearheaded and organised by RUFORUM and assisted by its strategic partners in the South and the North, including DDRN. The conference was the outcome of several years of preparations and lobbying within the African continent.

The particular input of DDRN to CHEA was pre-conference training for managers at RUFORUM universities to build their capacity in policy influence. During the two-day training workshop, forty university deans and other university managers were equipped with tools and methods which they could use to influence policy makers and parliamentarians during the successive conference, and extend dialogue with the policy makers in their respective countries after the meeting. The particular input of DDRN to the pre-conference training workshop *Placing Agricultural Tertiary Education in Policy Agenda* was to inform and mobilise key persons in the EU system and management at Danish universities, assist in the training concept and a programme, identify and recruit an experienced trainer from within its international network, and facilitate the workshop.

African participants and their training needs were identified by RUFORUM and its partner network, the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS), a multi-disciplinary network of researchers, practitioners and policy makers that promotes science, technology and innovation (STI), policy research, dialogue and practice, for African development. ATPS also provided a back-up structure for follow-up and monitoring of the action plans developed during the training.

A direct result of the training was the development of university action plans and clear messages for policy makers. The latter were delivered at the successive CHEA Conference. The Conference itself had several immediate outcomes, including a special budget allocation made by the Agricultural Minister of Rwanda for agricultural Higher Education & Research (HE&R), an invitation from the African Union for a meeting forwarded to the Director of RUFORUM to discuss HE&R and extensive media coverage of the event itself.

Mapping North-South differences and similarities

In 2009, DDRN together with the SANORD secretariat decided to make a survey on the *Internationalisation of Higher Education and Research at SANORD universities*. The survey was an input to the preparation of the SANORD second *International Conference Inclusion and Exclusion*, held on 7-9 December 2009 at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa. The survey report revealed important differences between North and South, both in the conditions for, and the perspectives of, engaging in the internationalisation of HE&R. There were stronger and weaker universities; and Southern universities expressed a need for strengthening regional South-South cooperation. Furthermore, the survey laid the ground for developing SANORD's institutional database. The survey has increased the common knowledge of institutional strategies, policies, and programmes within HE&R among SANORD member institutions in the Nordic countries and Southern Africa.

DDRN's cooperation with the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is an example of a successful alliance of mutual benefit. As a consortium of 25 universities in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa, RUFORUM's mandate is to oversee graduate training and networks of specialisation within the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). Cooperation with RUFORUM was initiated by the DDRN predecessor, the Network for Agricultural Research for

Development (NETARD), soon after the establishment of RUFORUM in 2004. In 2001, NETARD had already started to share and exchange information and contribute to each other's activities; and the cooperation gradually developed into joint activities. Over the years, first NETARD and later DDRN have planned a number of successful joint events.

Another strategic partnership has been entered with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), an umbrella organisation bringing together and forming



Left
Greeting
Archbishop
Desmond
Tutu, South
Africa

coalitions of major stakeholders in agricultural research and development in Africa. FARA provides a strategic platform to foster continental and global networking that reinforces the capacities of Africa's national agricultural research systems and sub-regional organisations. DDRN is an associate member of FARA. It is obvious that linking up with networks and organisations such as RUFORUM and FARA, which are rooted in Africa, has a mandate to improve the chances of creating sustainable outcomes of joint activities within research cooperation. What our involvement with RUFORUM also shows is that many African universities and organisations are fully aware of their dependency on donor funds for developing their systems of higher education. They work towards reducing this dependency by among other things lobbying their national governments and international organisations to pay more attention to higher education and research in their priority settings and budget allocations.

DDRN's alliance with the Southern African-Nordic Centre (SANORD) has a broader scope. It is not limited to the agricultural research sector and is a low-cost model for N-S cooperation between universities in Southern Africa and the Nordic countries across a range of themes and programmes of higher education. Currently three Danish universities are members of SANORD: University of Southern Denmark, University of Aarhus, and University of Aalborg. Unlike the Danish universities, DDRN is not involved in implementing research projects and educational programmes, but works mainly at secretariat-to-secretariat level. The Network has assisted the SANORD secretariat in organising joint parallel events at the bi-annual SANORD conferences and in getting access to thematic research information. Other activities conducted jointly with the SANORD secretariat have been capacity-oriented. The contributions of DDRN into the alliance are highly appreciated.

"Of importance to us also is DDRN's North-South development research approach. Through our interaction with DDRN we became aware of a strong southern priority. ... singular institutions in the North or the South cannot address the local and global challenges we face but through the harnessing of the diverse North-South research energies we could deal with our ever changing challenges."

Leolyn Jackson, Director, SANORD

DDRN has also assisted SANORD to map its resources and capacity and has documented the similarities and the differences in the type of challenges faced by universities in Southern African and Nordic member universities. Addressing such differences can be the first step in building capacity and correcting existing imbalances in North-South partnership programmes.

Enabling and hindering factors



- **Links to thematic regional networks in the South** may play a key role in promoting South leadership in North-South research cooperation and ensuring local anchorage and sustainability of this cooperation.
- **Integration of the South in mappings** of research gaps, resources and the institutional landscape contributes to making the resource base in the South visible in studies and organisational set-ups.
- **Utilise the comparative advantages and differences in capacities and needs of all partners in the alliance for mutual benefit.** Dialogue and cooperation must build on mutual trust and respect.



- **Avoid building up new organisational structures** that are difficult to sustain and may easily evolve into new projects and too heavy dependency on external funding. Use and link up to the existing ones instead.

5

Conclusion

This report has highlighted a number of lessons learnt and challenges faced in DDRN's efforts to bring research into practice and practice into research. We have demonstrated that the achievements of the Network are closely related to the strengths and advantages of being a broad, inclusive and flexible network, and to finding ways of utilising members' capacities.

The core strength of DDRN is its members. The role of the Network secretariat has been to support members' interaction and to promote cross-fertilisation and learning among them in various ways. For example, by tailoring the contents of training workshops to the specific needs of the involved partners or projects and sharing responsibilities for preparation, training and follow-up activities among the involved partners.

The case of capacity-building of North-South partnerships on research communication which are described in Chapter 2 show that this approach has allowed for the immediate application of the lessons learnt and further development of outputs after the workshops. The case of training high level managers to strengthen University competence and practice for engagement with policy as outlined in Chapter 4, also shows how a needs-oriented approach that utilises members' and collaborators' joint capacities can enhance South-South learning and achieve a much greater impact.

Enhancing cross-fertilisation and learning

The participatory working groups and task forces are results of DDRN's deliberate strategy of enhancing cross-fertilisation and learning among different stakeholder groups within research and development in Denmark and across different levels of experience and ages. These groups have contributed to strengthening the resource base by creating avenues where contacts are made and new relationships are created.



Above
Group exercise,
research
communication
workshop,
Tanzania

Bringing together not only stakeholders from different professional categories, but also members representing different generations is a way of broadening inputs and perspectives and acknowledging that young people are the resources on which a society builds its future economic development. This is why DDRN has made a special effort to include young people through various activities targeting students. As a result, students' participation in working groups, conferences, seminars and other events organised by the Network has been enhanced and their access to information, knowledge and experiences improved.

The interests and needs of all of DDRN's different stakeholder groups have also been guiding principles in building the news services and website of DDRN. Entry points and focal areas on the website have been developed and continuously adjusted according to the interest of members at the same time as the overall structure of the website is easy to navigate. This strategy has resulted in a coherent and flexible information system as shown in Chapter 2.

Networking with other networks is another distinctive feature. DDRN neither knows everything, nor does everything on its own. The contributions by members have been boosted by secretariat staff accessing new, relevant information and engaging experts with experience and knowledge within areas of great relevance to the members and

users of DDRN. As shown in the analysis of communication activities in Chapter 2, being part of other networks and organisations working with research communication has been conducive to the development of new training concepts and tools on capacity building in research communication and outreach. This proactive networking with networks and international organisations has also enriched DDRN within other areas, for example, within agricultural research and research for policy influence. Within all these areas the ‘networking of networks’ has enabled DDRN to draw on and collaborate with leading experts and involve them in the Network’s activities as trainers, speakers, colleagues and facilitators.

The forming of strategic alliances with like-minded regional networks in Africa, can also be powerful tools for Southern inclusion. Through strategic alliances, activities can be taken to a higher level where decision makers can be reached for greater policy influence and change. The South-led initiative on promoting the role of higher education and research in development in Africa described in Chapter 4 is a good example of this.

Producing knowledge for development together

In summary, much of the Network’s work is related to finding ways of addressing existing gaps and imbalances in North-South-South research cooperation in a constructive way and using the differences in capacities and capabilities as building blocks in existing and future collaboration initiatives. Seen from this perspective, the analysis and presentation of lessons in this report are also a contribution to current debates on equal partnerships and how to engage young people and non-traditional stakeholder groups in development research. Nevertheless, the main intention of this report has been to contribute to the understanding of what networks actually are and can be. By documenting, assessing and communicating some of the results and

by reflecting on the interactive processes and the enabling and hindering factors for making the Network a success, we hope to have made a modest contribution to deepening our understanding of networks, what they are, how they evolve and what value they bring to their members and users.

By engaging and providing services to its members and actively networking with a broad range of organisations, DDRN has become a widely acknowledged network that is valued by its members. It provides a sense of global outreach while managing to capture the interests of individual members. This, we believe, is a key to creating commitment and engagement in dynamic fora that can produce innovative and needs-based knowledge to promote development.

Endnotes

¹ GEPPA, NETARD, and ReNED.

² The immediate objectives of DDRN are 1) to disseminate information; 2) to foster an engaged and committed network of members; and 3) to promote the production and exchange of research-based knowledge N-S-S.

³ In June 2011 DDRN held its sixth General Assembly, which was the last one within the grant from Danida. At this General Assembly it was decided to continue DDRN as a voluntary association. A new Board was elected and members have started working on the future organisation and activities of the Network.

⁴ The annual progress reports and the Project Completion Report (PCR) submitted to Danida analyses DDRN activities vis-à-vis the targets outlined in the Logical Framework Analysis (LFA) matrix, on the basis of which the Network's work plans have been developed.

⁵ The resource section for this chapter on the DDRN website includes links to the following documents: Reports and documentation from eight research communication seminars and trainings held in DK and the South (2008 to 2011); Lessons and ideas from research communication events held (2010); Research communication survey among researchers in DK (2010); DDRN member benefit survey (2010); DDRN editorial policy (2010); DDRN communications strategy (2008); DDRN member needs assessment (2007). www.ddrn.dk

⁶ As indicated in the introductory chapter, within the last decade research communication has gained importance on the agenda of several donors, especially that of DFID. During this period an increasing number of organisations working as knowledge intermediaries have emerged. Within the last couple of years it has become widely acknowledged that making information available is not enough to promote research uptake. Many organisations now work to promote communication of research through a range of approaches including dissemination and dialogue among groups of stakeholders.

⁷ Further information on the guiding principles for posting information can be found in the editorial policy of DDRN. www.ddrn.dk

⁸ Gathered through: unsolicited emails from members, informal feedback at various meetings, responses to various surveys, written input gathered in preparation of a meeting on benefit of DDRN membership held in 2010, and email on closure of DDRN in 2011.

⁹ Statistics on usage of the DDRN website and newsletters are gathered through Google Analytics, Statcounter, Bit.ly and a system inherent in the newsletter function. These numbers are estimates indicating averages based on numbers in 2010. The

data on website usage was gathered throughout 2010, while those on newsletters are based on four months as data was not collected evenly every month.

¹⁰ 'Resource base' is used in this report to describe the human resources available in research and development.

¹¹ In 2008, the Pilot Research Cooperation Program (PRCP) financed by Danida introduced a new approach by reversing the traditional approach of Danish research institutions defining the themes and selecting their partners. Instead, in the PRCP institutions in the partner countries are taking the lead and are responsible for identifying relevant Danish partners. (www.dfcentre.dk/?Research_Projects:Pilot_Research_Cooperation)

¹² The resource section for Chapter 3 on the DDRN website includes links to the following documents: Proceedings, minutes and other documentation from conferences, seminars and other events in Denmark organised by DDRN alone or in cooperation with others (2007-11); reports, minutes, travel reports and other documentation from DDRN supported member-driven activities, including working groups and task forces (2007-11); study proposals posted on the *Science Shop* section of the website during 2010-11. www.ddrn.dk

¹³ In some cases one person (for example, DDRN staff or MSc from South) has given presentations at several meetings and is thus counted several times.

¹⁴ The resource section for this chapter on the DDRN website includes links to the following documents: Reports, travel reports and documentation from all activities conducted in the South (2007-2011); Reports and minutes from meetings and conferences held in relation to the formation of the Urban Environmental Management platform SARUEM (2007-2008) and the Climate Change Platform SACCNet (2009-2011); Conference reports and proceedings from events on Climate Change and Higher Education and Research (HE&R) held in Denmark (2007 to 2011); Survey among member universities of Southern African-Nordic Centre (2009); DDRN travel reports from visits to the South, including reflections and lessons from the activities carried out (2007-2010). www.ddrn.dk

¹⁵ The mapping study financed by DDRN, showed that there are a number of other regional initiatives and projects on climate change in the SADC region.

Annex 1: DDRN facts

DDRN membership

- 2,345 members (May 2011)
- North-South distribution: 42% South and 58% North. Regional distribution: 42% South, 47% Denmark, and 11% other North.
- Distribution in stakeholder categories: 39% researchers, 21% NGO staff, 18% Master students, 9% other stakeholders, 8% Ph.D. students, 4% private sector, 1% donor agencies including advisors.

Website

- 119,000 page views in 2010. Regional distribution of visits in 2010: 42% Denmark, 34% South, 24% other North. Page views per month in 2010: 9916.
- Ten most visited pages in 2010:

1.	/members-update-profile.html
2.	/ddrn_activities-funding-opportunities.html
3.	/ddrn_activities-student-news-development-science-shop.html
4.	/events-ddrn_activities-upcoming-events.html
5.	/student_news-scholarships-and-grants.html
6.	/ddrn_working_groups-climate-change-task-force.html
7.	/members-search-engine.html
8.	/members-list-by-name.html
9.	/ddrn_activities-funding-opportunities-application-procedure.html
10.	/ddrn_activities-past-events.html

- Science shop (Sep 2010- May 2011): 7 study proposals posted, 23 enquiries from students, 16 applications, 1 student working on a study, 5 students in dialogue with organisations.

Newsletters, Feb 2007 to Jun 2011

DDRN Activities and General News: 43
Agricultural Production: 32
NRM and Biodiversity: 32
Urban and Industrial Management: 30
Public Administration, Democracy and Human Rights: 20
Trade, Private Sector and Economic Development: 32
Student News: 43
Climate, Food and Communication: 25
All Thematic News: 32
Livelihoods and Social Development: 12
Public Administration and Public Policy: 12
Democracy, Human Rights and State-building: 12 (-1, a shared newsletter)
OTHER: 83
TOTAL: 407

Publications

Policy contributions: 5
Guides/guidelines: 2
Research overviews/competence mappings: 7 Denmark, 3 South, 1 Global.

Task forces and working groups

- Active groups (2011): 1) Global Value Chains in Business and Development, http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_working_groups-global-value-chains-in-business-and-development.html 2) Nordic Indonesia Studies Network (NISN), <http://norindo.org> 3) Organic Agriculture for Sustainable Development (OASD, http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_working_groups-organic-agriculture-for-sustainable-development-oasd.html 4) Climate Change Task Force (CCTF), http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_working_groups-climate-change-task-force.html 5) AgriDev; and 6) Southern African Climate Change Network (SACCNet), a network with Danish Water Forum and Enreca Health, <http://www.saccnet.org>
- 243 members¹: University researchers – 6 groups; non-university researchers – 5 groups; private sector – 4 groups; NGOs – 4 groups; Danida/government staff – 3 groups; students – 2 groups.
- Closed groups (56 members): Air Quality and Air Pollution Management in Urban Areas in Less Developed Countries; Industry, Environment, Energy and Infrastructure (IEEI); Good Governance Strategy Group; and Poverty and Environment.
- Activities implemented in 2007-2011: 1 film screening, 2 policy briefs, 3 overviews/reviews, 5 conferences, 8 workshops, 9 seminars, and 11 meetings.

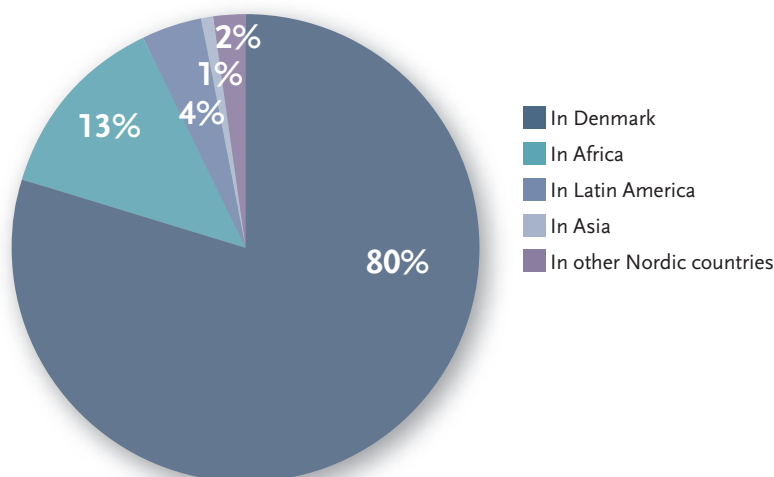
Research communication workshops

- 4 Workshops, 167 participants: 63% from Asia, 30% from Africa, 7% from Denmark. Researchers (59%)

Events

During 2007-2011:

- 85 events, 3,586 participants². South participation in 33% of events in Denmark.



- 55% arranged by members. 80% arranged with partners: 31% universities, 29% non-university research institutions, 24% research/academic networks, 8% NGOs, 5% Danida, 4% private sector, 4% government, 1% other donors.
- Main Danish partners: 15% Danish Water Forum, 14% Enreca Health, 13% Danish Institute for International Studies, 12% University of Copenhagen, 9% Aarhus University, 7% Aalborg University, 5% Roskilde University, 4% Foreningen af Udviklingsforskere I Danmark (FAU), 4% Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, 1% University of Southern Denmark, 1% Copenhagen Business School.
- 18 master student inspiration seminars at Danish universities: 1 at SDU; 2 at AAU; 2 at CBS; 2 at DTU; 3 at AU; 3 at RUC; 5 at KU. Presentations: http://ddrn.dk/student_news-inspiration-seminars.html

¹ Some DDRN members are members of more than one group and are thus counted for each group.

² DDRN has not received accurate participant lists for a small number of member-driven events; in such cases, the number of participants has been estimated.

Annex 2: DDRN publications

Briefs/policy contributions

Title	Link	Country/region	Date
Linking Climate Change Adaptation Policies and Practice (Climate Change Task Force publication)	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/CCTF_policy_brief_o22o11.pdf	–	Apr 2011
Revision of strategy for support to civil society in developing countries [in Danish]	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/DDRN_input_udkast_CS_Strategi_juni_2oo8_rev.pdf	Denmark	Jun 2008
Strategy for the UN Convention to Combat Desertification: Comments by DDRN member, Kjeld Rasmussen	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/KR_comments_on_UNCCD-21o8o7.pdf	Global	Aug 2007
Policy contribution to Danish Africa Strategy: Prioritisation of research-based knowledge as a resource – also cross-sectorally [in Danish]	http://www.afrika.um.dk/da/servicemenu/Debat/DebatOmFattigdom/DebatOmFattigdom.htm?forumpostingid=214	Denmark	Jul 2007
Policy contribution to Good Governance Strategy	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-policy-contributions.html	Denmark	Apr 2007

Guides

Title	Link	Country/region	Date
A Guide to Value Chain Guides	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn-value-chain-metaguide-report.html	–	May 2011
Project Management Guidelines for Research Capacity Building Partnerships	http://ddrn.dk/papers_and_reports-research-overviews-research-capacity-building-partnerships.html	–	Apr 2010

Research overviews/competence mappings

Title	Link	Country/region	Date
Nordic Development Research Perspective(s)	www.ddrn (forthcoming)	Denmark	July 2011
Gender and Development Research Competences and Projects at Danish Institutions: Overview of a Section of the Danish Resource Base with a Focus on Agriculture, Environment and Governance in Developing Countries	http://ddrn.dk/gender-development-research-competences-and-projects-at-danish-institutions.html	Denmark	Nov 2010
Mapping the world of higher education and research funders: Actors, models, mechanisms and programs	http://ddrn.dk/papers_and_reports-research-overviews-mapping-the-world-of-higher-education.html	–	Oct 2010
Background on the Debates and Documentation of Research on Climate Change and Food Security in Southern Africa	http://ddrn.dk/papers_and_reports-sadc-climate-and-food-security.html	Southern Africa	Jun 2010 (update) Feb 2009
Project management in research capacity building projects – a review of management experiences, challenges, and opportunities in Enreca projects	http://ddrn.dk/papers_and_reports-research-overviews-project-management-in-rcb-projects.html	Denmark	Apr 2010
Strategic Collaboration on Research for Development: A Review of the Institutional Framework in Selected European Countries	http://ddrn.dk/papers_and_reports-research-overviews-strategic-collaboration-on-research-for-development.html	Europe	May 2009
Danish Research Competences and Projects on Global Value Chains, Business and Development	http://ddrn.dk/papers_and_reports-research-overviews-gvc-business-and-development.html	Denmark	December 2008
Overview of Danish research competences and research projects – with regard to climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation in developing countries (Climate Change Task Force publication)	http://ddrn.dk/papers_and_reports-research-overviews-cc-impacts-mitigation-and-adaptation-in-dc.html	Denmark	Jun 2008
Research trends and challenges in Rural Economic Development – and the contribution of the Danish resource base	http://ddrn.dk/papers_and_reports-research-overviews-research-in-rural-economic-development.html	Denmark	Apr 2008
Review of competences and research within urban environmental management in South Africa, Mozambique and Tanzania	http://ddrn.dk/papers_and_reports-research-overviews-urban-environmental-management-in-sa-mozambique-and-tanzania.html	South Africa, Mozambique & Tanzania	Feb 2008
Profiles of DDRN members with expertise within Governance	http://ddrn.dk/papers_and_reports-research-overviews-ddrn-members-with-expertise-within-governance.html	–	Sep 2007
Overview of Danish research on Nicaragua. Agriculture, environment and governance [in Spanish]	http://ddrn.dk/papers_and_reports-research-overviews-investigaciones-danesas-sobre-nicaragua.html	Denmark & Nicaragua	Jul 2007
Danish researchers interested in UEM in South Africa	http://ddrn.dk/papers_and_reports-research-overviews-researchers-interested-in-uem.html	Denmark	May 2007

Annex 3: DDRN events and research communication workshops

Research communication workshops

Title	Link	Country	Collaborating partner(s)	Date
Strengthening communication in N/S research partnerships for development	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-research-communication-tanz-2011.html	Tanzania	Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), the University of Dar es Salaam, Mzumbe University, the Institute of Rural Development Planning	2011
Improving Research Infrastructures with Social Media	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/Bangladesh_Conference_flyer.pdf	Bangladesh	Focuss.Info Initiative, Institute of Social Studies (ISS), NIAS, Bangladesh NGOs network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC), D.net	2011
Strengthening communication in N/S research partnerships for development	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-n_s-research-communication-in-vietnam.html	Vietnam	Euforic Services Ltd., Vietnam Institute of Meteorology, Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM), UNU-IAS, Institute of Geography, VAST	2009
Strengthening communication in N/S research partnerships for development	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-ns-research-communication-in-tanzania.html	Tanzania	Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), CABI-Africa, Danish Water Forum, Euforic Services Ltd.	2009
Seminar 3/2008: Assessing and evaluating communication activities: Tools for improving communication of research and knowledge for development	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-seminar-32008-evaluation-of-communication.html	Denmark	Danish Water Forum, Enreca Health	2008
Seminar 2-2/2008: Video Stories – digital opportunities for communication in research for development	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-seminar-2-2_2008-video-stories.html	Denmark	Danish Water Forum, Enreca Health	2008
Seminar 2-2/2008: Video Stories – digital opportunities for communication in research for development	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/Video_seminar_Copenhagen_list%20participants.pdf	Denmark	Danish Water Forum, Enreca Health	2008
Seminar 1/2008: Research Communication – Why and how?	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-seminar-research-communication--why-and-how.html	Denmark	Danish Water Forum, Enreca Health	2008

Conferences

Title	Link	Country	Collaborating partner(s)	Date
Researchers' Day – Climate Change Impact, Adaptation and Mitigation (Climate Change Task Force)	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-researchers-day-climate-change-impact-adaptation-and-mitigation.html	Denmark	Enreca Health, Danish Water Forum	2010
PEGNet conference 2010: Policies to Foster and Sustain Equitable Development in Times of Crises	http://www.pegnet.ifw-kiel.de/	South Africa	Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Development Bank of South Africa, GTZ, Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung	2010
Konference om dansk uddannelsesforskning rettet mod udviklingslande	http://www.uddannelsesnetvaerket.dk/images/FCKfiles/File/Afrapportering%20fra%20konference%2027%20maj%202010.pdf fra konference 27 maj 2010.pdf	Denmark	Aarhus University, Uddannelsesnetværket	2010
Strategic Collaboration on Higher Education and Research for Development – Drivers and Challenges	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-strategic-collaboration-on-higher-education-and-research.html	Denmark	–	2009
IARU Climate Congress: Session 41 – Adaptation to climate change in Least Developed Countries – challenges, experiences, and ways forward (Climate Change Task Force)	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-iaru-climate-congress-session-41.html	Denmark	Danish Water Forum, Enreca Health	2009
Global Value Chains, Business and Development	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-conference-global-value-chains.html	Denmark	–	2008
Conference on Rural Economic Development: Opportunities and Challenges in Future Growth Strategies	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-conference-rural-economic-development.html	Denmark	Danida	2008

Annex 3: DDRN events and research communication workshops

Seminars

Title	Link	Country	Collaborating partner(s)	Date
Strengthening the potential outcome of networks in the development sector: Experiences and perspectives	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-strengthening-the-potential-outcome-of-networks.html	Denmark	NGO Forum	2010
Rethinking foreign aid: Where do we go from here?	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/Report_seminar_Rethinking_foreign_aid_final.pdf	Denmark	Danish Institute for International Studies	2010
Research for water, environment and development – make sure that research is relevant for societies and is being used	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/Splash-DK_res_comm_meeting_programme(2).pdf	Denmark	Danish Water Forum, University of Copenhagen	2010
Achieving sustainable natural resource management in the Sahel after the era of desertification – Research findings, policy issues and communication strategy	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/Minutes_NRMSahel(2).pdf	Denmark	University of Copenhagen	2008
Urban Environmental Management (UEM) knowledge and research for development: First steps to develop a new regional framework for UEM research	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-workshop-uem-in-southern-africa.html	South Africa	SANORD Centre	2007
How can knowledge generation and utilisation improve development cooperation?	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/Minutes_Seminar%2009-05-07.pdf	Denmark	–	2007

Workshops

Title	Link	Country	Collaborating partner(s)	Date
Workshop in connection with DDRN General Assembly 2011		Denmark	–	2011
Climate Change Adaptation – linking policies and practice (Climate Change Task Force)	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_working_groups-past-events-cc-adaptation-linking-policies-and-practice.html	Denmark	Enreca Health, Danish Water Forum, Danida	2010
Strengthening university competence and practice for engagement with policy – CHEA pre-conference event (Theme 5)	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-chea-workshop.html	Uganda	RUFORUM, Association of African Universities, African Technology and Policy Studies Institute	2010
SACCNNet general assembly and Working Groups workshop (SACCNNet)	http://www.saccnet.org/content/1st-agm-and-working-group-workshops	Tanzania	Danish Water Forum, Enreca Health	2010
Key drivers and challenges in strategic collaboration on Higher Education and Research in development	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-strategic-collaboration-on-he-r.html	South Africa	Aarhus University, University of Southern Denmark, University of Aalborg	2009
Experience sharing workshop: Dried fruits and vegetables enterprise development	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-dried-fruits-and-vegetables-enterprise-development.html	Uganda	Sokoine University of Agriculture, Aalborg University, Danish Technological Institute	2009
Meeting on New GDN Global Research Project – The Climate Challenge: Sustaining Development Progress in a Warming World	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-ddrn-gdn-meeting-climate-research-project.html	Denmark	Global Development Network	2009
Understanding the linkages between climate change, human health, water and food security: Research and knowledge sharing for Southern Africa (SACCNNet)	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-sadc-climate-networking-workshop.html	South Africa	University of Copenhagen, Enreca Health, Danish Water Forum, Global Water Partnership, Southern African Development Community	2009
Governance Knowledge and Research in Uganda (RUFORUM-DDRN Workshop)	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/MEMO_on_UGANDA_wshop_governance_website.pdf	Uganda	RUFORUM	2007
Shaping the new network – DDRN as a key agent of change or service provider?	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/Workshop_Proceedings_130307FINAL.pdf	Denmark	–	2007

Annex 3: DDRN events and research communication workshops

Meetings

Title	Link	Country	Collaborating partner(s)	Date
Climate Change Task Force Meeting: IPCC reports and process (Climate Change Task Force)	http://ddrn.dk/cctf-meeting-may-30-2011.html	Denmark	Danish Water Forum, Enreca Health	2011
Information Meeting on the Danida funded Pilot Research Cooperation Program, Ghana	http://www.ambaccra.um.dk/en/menu/TheEmbassy/News/INFORMATIVEWORKSHOPONPILOTRESEARCHCOOPERATIONPROGRAM.htm	Ghana	Danida	2011
1st meeting of the DDRN Working Group Agriculture and Development – ‘AgriDev’ (Agriculture and Development Working Group)		Denmark	Danida	2010
The value of DDRN from a member/user perspective. Reflections from the North and the South.	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-event-value-of-ddrn.html	Denmark	–	2010
Agricultural development and support: Experience from the past, prospects for the future?	http://www.um.dk/en/menu/DevelopmentPolicy/Evaluations/Recent+Events.htm	Denmark	Danish Institute for International Studies	2010
Southern African Nordic Centre (SANORD): Multilateral Networking, Cooperation and Mobility through Research and Higher Education – What is in it for you?	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-ddrn-meeting-on-sanord.html	Denmark	–	2010
SACCNet meeting with Danish members	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/SACCNET%20DK%20meeting%20Sept%202009%20Key%20Points%20final%200%20addresses.pdf	Denmark	Danish Water Forum, Enreca Health	2009
Meeting presenting new network initiative on climate change to promote research cooperation and North-South knowledge sharing (SACCNet)	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-saccnet-dk-meeting.html	Denmark	Danish Water Forum, Enreca Health	2009
Information and discussion meeting: Eco-business as a driver of sustainable development in Central America?	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-meeting-eco-business-for-sustainable-development.html	Denmark	–	2008
Enhanced collaboration between African and European universities	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-after-work-meeting-collaboration-between-universities.html	Denmark	–	2008
How to approach regional cooperation within Urban Environmental Management in Southern Africa	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-meeting-regional-uem-cooperation-in-southern-africa.html	Denmark	–	2008
Opportunities for scientific interrelation between research institutions in Scandinavia and the industry sector in developing countries (Air Quality and Air Pollution Management in Urban Areas in Less Developed Countries Working Group?)	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/Minutes_from_after_work_meeting_Air_quality.pdf	Denmark	Aarhus University	2007
After work meeting on DDRN workshop in Uganda on governance research		Denmark	–	2007

Events arranged by DDRN members
Conferences – member driven

Title	Link	Country	Collaborating partner(s)	Date
Global Value Chains and Sustainable Development (Global Value Chains in Business and Development Working Group)		Denmark	–	2011
Perspectives on global warming and livestock in developing countries of Latin America	http://ddrn.dk/perspectives-on-global-warming-and-livestock-in-developing-countries-of-latin-america.html	Peru	Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, Colegio Ingenieros del Peru e ITDG	2011
2010 (2nd) Bolivian Conference on Development Economics (BCDE 2010)	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-2nd-bolivian-conference-on-development-economics.html	Bolivia	Institute for Advanced Development Studies (INESAD), Society of Bolivian Economists (SEBOL), Universidad Privada Boliviana (UPB)	2010
Cooperation between Danish research and NGOs about development of sustainable organic agriculture (Organic Agriculture for Sustainable Development (OASD) Working Group)	http://ddrn.dk/sustainable-organic-agriculture.html	Denmark	Organic Denmark, ICROFS, Aarhus University, Dan Church Aid	2010
Understanding the possibilities and limitations for Africa to access international markets: A good basis for real development	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-understanding-possibilities-and-limitations-for-africa-to-access-international-markets.html	Denmark	Venskabsforeningen Danmark-Vestafrika	2010
Climate Change and Human Mobility	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-climate-change-and-human-mobility.html	Denmark	University of Copenhagen	2010
Roskilde Development Day	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-roskilde-development-days.html	Denmark	Roskilde University	2009
First Bolivian Conference in Development Economics	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-bolivian-conference-in-development-economics.html	Bolivia	University of Copenhagen, Institute of Advanced Development Studies (INESAD), Universidad Privada Boliviana	2009
Joint Actions on Climate Change. Session on: Institutionalizing climate change requirements in lending and investment practices	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-joint-actions-on-climate-change.html	Denmark	Aalborg University	2009
19th annual FAU conference: Bringing the State back in – New Roles and Responsibilities of the 21st Century State	http://www.fau.dk/Konference09/dokumenter/2009_-_Report_FAU_Conference.pdf	Denmark	Foreningen af Udviklingsforskere I Danmark	2009
How can developing countries gain from the growing market for organic food (Organic Agriculture for Sustainable Development (OASD) Working Group)	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/OASD_English_brief_report.pdf	Denmark	Organic Denmark	2008
New Latin American Development Strategies in a Changing International Economic and Political Context	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/Latin_America_Conference_Report.pdf	Denmark	Aalborg University	2008
FAU Conference 2008: Cities, Climate Change and Development – Is Urban change for sustainability possible?	http://www.fau.dk/Opdatering_workshopsside.htm	Denmark	Foreningen af Udviklingsforskere I Danmark	2008

Annex 3: DDRN events and research communication workshops

Seminars – member driven

Title	Link	Country	Collaborating partner(s)	Date
Small-Scale Mining and Development Aid in Africa	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-small-scale-mining-and-development-aid-in-africa.html	Denmark	University of Copenhagen	2009
Agribusiness in Developing Countries	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-agribusiness-in-developing-countries.html	Denmark	University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen Business School, Aalborg University	2009
The Role of the Private Sector in Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Poverty Alleviation in Developing Countries (Poverty and Environment Working Group)	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-the-role-of-the-private-sector-in-sustainable-nrm-and-poverty-alleviation.html	Denmark	Danish Institute for International Studies	2009
Matchmaking between the labour market and master students/recently graduated students within the field of development work	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-matchmaking-between-the-labour-market-and-newly-graduated-candidates.html	Denmark	University of Copenhagen, Roskilde University	2009
Poverty, Forests and Climate Change – Practical Strategies for Ensuring Pro-Poor Approaches to REDD (Poverty and Environment Working Group)	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-practical-strategies-for-ensuring-pro-poor-approaches-to-redd.html	Denmark	Danish Institute for International Studies	2009
Local Water Governance in Developing Countries, Part II (Poverty and Environment Working Group)	http://www.diis.dk/sw69761.asp	Denmark	Danish Institute for International Studies	2008
Local Water Governance in Developing Countries, Part I (Poverty and Environment Working Group)	http://www.diis.dk/sw69284.asp	Denmark	Danish Institute for International Studies	2008
Development Strategies in the New Millennium	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/Report_for_DDNR_Development_strategies_seminar.pdf	Denmark	Aarhus University	2008
World Development Report 2009: Spatial disparities in development	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-seminar-spatial-disparities.html	Denmark	University of Copenhagen	2008
Lessons on local participation in biodiversity conservation, Part II (Poverty and Environment Working Group)	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-local-participation-in-biodiversity-conservation.html	Denmark	Danish Institute for International Studies	2008
Lessons on local participation in biodiversity conservation, Part I (Poverty and Environment Working Group)	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-local-participation-in-biodiversity-conservation.html	Denmark	Danish Institute for International Studies	2008
Local livelihood strategies and climate change, Part II (Poverty and environment Working Group)	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-seminar-local-livelihood-strategies-and-climate-change.html#part%202	Denmark	Danish Institute for International Studies	2008
Local livelihood strategies and climate change, Part I (Poverty and Environment Working Group)	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-seminar-local-livelihood-strategies-and-climate-change.html#seminar%201	Denmark	Danish Institute for International Studies	2008
Trade Monday Seminar: Regional and Bilateral Trade Agreements in Africa: Current Developments		Denmark	Danish Institute for International Studies	2008

Workshops – member driven

Title		Country	Collaborating partner(s)	Date
Capacity enhancement through scientific communication: information portals in Vietnam	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/Workshop_Capacity_Enhancement_Vietnam.pdf	Vietnam	Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, Central Institute of Economic Management	2010
Developing Indonesia – Second Annual NISN Workshop (Nordic Indonesia Studies Network)	http://ddrn.dk/index.php?side_id=350	Denmark	Nordic Institute of Asian Studies	2010
Workshop on the Role of Higher Education in Africa: 'Triple Helix' Responses to Climate Change	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-higher-education-in-africa-triple-helix-responses-to-climate-change.html	Denmark	Aalborg University, Roskilde University, Aarhus University	2009
Organic Agriculture for Improved Food Security in Africa: Recommendations to Future Development (Organic Agriculture for Sustainable Development (OASD) Working Group)	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-organic-agriculture-for-improved-food-security-in-africa.html	Uganda		2009
Nordic Indonesia Studies Network (NISN) inaugural workshop (Nordic Indonesia Studies Network)	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/ACTIVITY_REPORT-NISN_inaugural_workshop.pdf	Denmark	Nordic Institute for Asian Studies	2009
Transnational Forms of Cooperation and Intercultural Dialogues: Towards Alternatives to Human Development and Rights	http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/Transnational_Cooperation_workshop_report_May2009_DDRN.pdf	Bolivia	Vice-presidency of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cuban Institute of Cultural Research, Gothenburg University, Roskilde University, Universidad Mayor de Sant Andrés	2009
The Corporate Social Responsibility Chain Link	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-after-work-meeting-collaboration-between-universities.html	Uganda	Uganda Christian University, Institute of Corporate Governance of Uganda	2008
Urban Environmental Management and Air Quality in Less Developed Countries (Air Quality and Air Pollution Management in Urban Areas in Less Developing Countries Working Group)	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-workshop-uem-and-air-quality.html	Denmark	Aarhus University	2007
DDRN-BiosafeTrain Workshop: Environmental consequences of growing GM crops in the developing countries	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-workshop-environmental-consequences-of-gm-crops.html	Denmark	BiosafeTrain, International Organisation for Biological Control (IOBC)	2007

Annex 3: DDRN events and research communication workshops

Meetings – member driven

Title		Country	Collaborating partner(s)	Date
Third meeting of the DDRN Working Group on Agriculture and Development – AgriDev Working Group)		Denmark	–	2011
Second meeting of the DDRN Working Group on Agriculture and Development – AgriDev Working Group		Denmark	---	2011
Third meeting in group on Nordic Development Research Collaboration		Norway	Norsk Utenrigs Politisk Institut (NUPI)	2010
Second meeting in group on Nordic Development Research Collaboration		Sweden	Dag Hammarskjold Foundation, Nordic Africa Institute	2010
First meeting in group on Nordic Development Research Collaboration		Denmark	Foreningen af Udviklingsforskere I Danmark	2010
Informal GVC-Danida inspiration meeting	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_working_groups-global-value-chains-in-business-and-development.html	Denmark	Danida	2010
CCTF meeting: Climate change challenges seen in the perspective of the UN COP process and the new Danida Development Strategy. Discussion of knowledge and issues in relation to: Land and water, health, forestry, and low carbon development	http://ddrn.dk/cctf-meeting-march-23-2010.html	Denmark	Danish Water Forum, Enreca Health	2010
Developing and engaging community participation in climate change initiatives (Air Quality and Air Pollution Management in Urban Areas in Less Developing Countries Working Group)	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_activities-past-events-developing-and-engaging-community-participation-in-climate-change-initiative.html	Denmark	---	2009
Constituent meeting of the Air quality and Air Pollution Management in Urban Areas of Less Developed Countries Working Group	http://ddrn.dk/ddrn_working_groups-previous-groups-air-quality-and-pollution-management.html	Denmark	---	2007

Notes

Notes



**Danish
Development
Research
Network**