

**COVER NOTE - COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

AGENDA ITEM <add number>

- 1. **OVERALL PURPOSE** For information
  
- 2. **TITLE:** Report on support to development research 2013
  
- 3. **PRESENTATION FOR PROGRAMME COMMITTEE** n/a
  
- 4. **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2013, the total commitment to develop research amounted to DKK 326 million. This included support to research collaboration projects, the Building Stronger Universities programme run by Danish Universities, core funding to international agricultural research through CGIAR, core funding to two social science institutions, and to health research institutions, as well as the last commitment to the research programme on results of development cooperation (ReCom).

Also during 2013, an evaluation of part of the assistance to development research initiated in 2012 was finalised, and a draft strategy for Danish support to development research was consulted in Denmark and priority countries.
  
- 5. **STRATEGIC QUESTIONS FOR THE COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY**
  - Is the support to development research adequately supporting and promoting the possible nexus between science, research, non-university research institutions (e.g. think tanks), innovation and the practical application of research results by e.g. governments, civil society organisations and private business in the South as well as in the North?
  - How can research communication and dissemination be improved with a view to strengthen the uptake of research results by stakeholders in priority countries?
  - How can the support to development research

adequately support the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA)? As an example, access to research results and evidence-based knowledge that can inform policy choices can be seen as an important common good and a political right. Should more be done to promote linkages between HRBA and support to development research?

## REPORT ON SUPPORT TO DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH 2013

The overall objective of Danish support to development research is to strengthen research capacity in priority countries and to create new knowledge capable of alleviating development problems.

2013 witnessed a number of important developments within the Danish support to development research including i) the formulation and public hearing of a draft strategic framework for Danish support to development research; ii) an evaluation of Danida supported research on agriculture and natural resource management 2006-2011; iii) a reformulation of the Building Stronger Universities (BSU) programme; and iv) a consolidation of the South-driven research collaboration under the Consultative Research Committee for Development Research (FFU).

Support for development research has not previously relied on a formal strategic framework, and the preparation of a draft strategy was initiated in 2012. The draft “Strategic Framework for Danish Support to Development Research 2014-2018” was sent out for public consultation in Denmark and in priority countries in September 2013. The Strategic Framework includes, among others, more emphasis on South-driven activities, a focus on fewer countries in the South, more core funding to strategic research institutions, and attempts to address capacity development not only at the individual and institutional level but also at national level in priority countries through support to national research strategies, research councils, peer review systems, etc.

The public hearing process included two public meetings in Copenhagen and Aalborg with participation of the Minister for Development Cooperation (7 October and 11 November) as well as discussions in the Council for Development Policy (25 October) and in the Foreign Affairs Committee (14 November). The Strategic Framework was also discussed in a meeting held on 8 November between the Minister for Development Cooperation and the Minister for Research, Innovation and Higher Education, and it was presented at a meeting with Centre for Africa Studies on 31 October, and at a meeting with the Association of Development Researchers in Denmark on 7 November. More than 10 official responses were received from various institutions and individuals during the hearing process. Some of the critical remarks relate to the plan of focusing the support to fewer countries in the South.

The draft Strategic Framework was also consulted with a range of stakeholder in the South including national researchers in connection with the Technical Advisory Services (TAS) Department’s visit to Tanzania, Ghana and Nepal, as well as through video-conferences where researchers in the South were invited by the embassies for consultations with TAS.

An evaluation of Danida Supported Research on Agriculture and Natural Resource Management 2006-2011 was initiated in 2012, and a final report was published in August 2013. The evaluation covered the period of 2006-2011 and concentrated on the support provided to natural resource management and climate change themes through five funding instruments including i) the competitive research grants (North- and South-driven), ii) the Building Stronger Universities (BSU) programme, iii) the support to networks, iv) minor studies, as well as v)

support provided to centre contracts with the University of Copenhagen. The evaluation comprised two country studies in Tanzania and Burkina Faso. Many of the recommendations of the evaluation fed directly into the preparation of the Strategic Framework, including i) ensure that dissemination and uptake of research results play a more prominent role in the support to research projects; ii) let the support to research be more driven by Southern priorities and increase the support to South-driven projects; iii) strengthen not only individual and institutional capacity but also national institutional frameworks and capacities for planning and coordination of development research within Southern priority countries; and iv) improve the results framework including the institutionalization of LFA Results-Based Management (RBM) within Danida's modalities for funding development research

The BSU programme was reformulated after a version prepared by Danish Universities was rejected by the Minister for Development Cooperation. The decision was based partly on a very critical assessment of Phase I by the above mentioned evaluation, and partly on reservations by the Ministry towards the proposal including a heavy administrative setup, a bias towards a North-driven modality, a significant share of programme funds spent on coordination (notably in Denmark), as well as unclear results from Phase I. A reformulated new phase of the programme (BSU-II) was endorsed by the External Grant Committee in November 2013 and approved by Parliament's Finance Committee in December 2013. BSU-II started in January 2014 and is well underway with the process of matchmaking between the selected universities in the South and Danish universities which will be assisting the Southern universities with capacity development.

The South-driven research collaboration modality was consolidated during 2013. Vietnam is being phased out with the last commitment approved at the end of the year, and Nepal was added to the programme. The South-driven modality now covers Tanzania, Ghana, Vietnam and Nepal. National Screening Mechanisms were identified and consolidated in the three countries, and a decision was taken to i) opt for a 50-50% division of the competitive grants between North-driven and South-driven projects from 2015; ii) harmonise the application cycle and the conditions for the North- and South-driven projects (5 years and up to 10 million DKK per project); and iii) re-introduce thematic focus areas for the South-driven modality in order to set strategic direction for the programme and increase the quality, relevance and potential impact of the research proposals.

A presentation of new commitments for development research in 2013 is provided in table 1 below. In order to allow for comparison across years, the table includes the actual commitment level for 2011, 2012 and 2013 as well as the planned commitments for 2014.

**Table 1: Commitments to development research 2011-2014 in million DKK (rounded)**

<b>Grants by areas of activity:</b>	<b>2011</b> (actual)	<b>2012</b> (actual)	<b>2013</b> (actual)	<b>2014</b> (planned)
<b>§ 06.35.01.11 Competitive grants through the Consultative Research Committee (FFU)</b>	93	131	98	160
<i>A: Projects, which are North-driven (researchers from DK take the initiative)</i>	73	110	78	105
<i>B: Projects, which are south-driven (researchers from institutions in priority countries take the initiative)</i>	20	21	20	55
<b>§ 06.35.01.10 Support to projects in Denmark</b>	108	29	110	
<i>A: Building Stronger Universities</i>	60	19	100	
<i>B: The international Research program, ReCom</i>	10	10	10	
<i>C: Results contract with University of Copenhagen</i>	36			
	2			
<b>§ 06.35.02.10 International Agricultural research (CGIAR)</b>	35	35	105	
<b>§ 06.35.02.11 Other international development research</b>	25	40	5	12
<b>§ 06.35.01.15 Minor studies</b>	10	9	8	7
<b>§ 06.32.02.26 UniBRAIN</b>	99			
<b>Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>179</b>

In addition to the research activities described in this report, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also supports development research through core funding to a series of Danish institutions, including Danish Institute for International Studies, Danish Institute for Human Rights, and the Dignity Institute, to UN organisations and the World Bank, including several earmarked allocations to the last-mentioned organisations' research activities. There are also research components in a number of Danida-funded sector programmes, such as the environmental programme in Tanzania, the business sector programme in Vietnam, the budget support programme in Mozambique, and the transition support programme in Bhutan.

### **1. Competitive funds (FFU) (§ 06.35.01.11)**

The Consultative Research Committee for Development Research (FFU) is appointed by the Minister for Development Cooperation. The Committee advises the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding research applications under the competitive funds. The Danish Council for Strategic Research (DSF) (from 1 April 2014 The Danish Innovation Fund) provides consultation and formally approves the proposals for support recommended by the Committee. A list of the members of the FFU is found in annex 1.

Grants are awarded to strategic research cooperation which i) generates new knowledge relevant to the needs and strategies of developing countries and to Denmark's development cooperation, and ii) contributes to strengthening research capacity in Danish priority countries.

The research projects are carried out as collaborative research between Danish and South-based research institutions.

Research projects can be either North- or South driven. In North-driven projects, researchers based in Danish institutions take the initiative, contact research partners in the South, and submit the application. South-driven projects were introduced on a pilot basis in Vietnam and Tanzania in 2008, and in 2011 Ghana joined. In these projects, the South-based researchers decide on the research topic, contact Danish-based research partners and submit the application. In 2013 a new country (Nepal) was phased in, as planned. The South-driven research support programme thus comprises Tanzania, Ghana, Vietnam and Nepal.

In 2013 a decision was taken to harmonise both the application cycle and the conditions for the North- and South driven project proposals, including a common budget ceiling of DKK 10 million and a time frame of 5 years. It was also decided to opt for a 50-50% division of the total budget for competitive funds between North- and South driven projects.

### **1.1. North-driven projects (researchers from Danish research institutions take the initiative)**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs received a total of 40 eligible research applications for North-driven projects in 2013. A total of DKK 76.8 million was granted to eight (8) projects where researchers at Danish research institutions were the responsible applicants. The eight projects were within the following three themes:

- **Theme 1: Governance in fragile and unstable environments** (*1 project with a total amount of DKK 10 million*)
- **Theme 2: Green economy, inclusive growth and employment** (*5 projects with a total amount of DKK 49 million*)
- **Theme 3: Rights to natural resources** (*2 project with a total amount of DKK 17.8 million*)

Statistics on the granted projects is found in annex 2 and 3. These include data on the distribution of projects according to thematic areas, project types, institutions, regions and gender of the applicant.

In relation to the application cycle for 2014, 39 eligible North-driven research applications for Phase-1 were received and assessed by FFU in December 2013. 17 of these were approved for Phase-2 of the 2014 application cycle.

During 2013, the Ministry in collaboration with Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) and FFU carried out a thorough revision of the reporting format, the call text and application material, including guidelines, and improved the communication to applicants on reasons for rejection and approval. Applications continued to be handled electronically through an e-fond system where they were uploaded to the website of DFC. The FFU, the Ministry and DFC also held information meetings at Aalborg University and University of Copenhagen to present the content of the programme, answer possible questions, and meet demands for further

explanations of chosen research themes for the call. Like previous years, it was the impression that the information meetings were welcomed and encouraged researchers, who had not applied for funding before, to do so. Based on the good experience from the meetings, it has been decided to arrange more information meetings for the call for applications in 2014 both in Denmark and in the three priority countries for the South-driven modality (Tanzania, Ghana and Nepal).

The quality of the research proposals received in 2013 was generally assessed to be relatively poor compared to previous years. A decision was therefore taken to change the research themes for the North-driven modality and introduce new and more innovative themes. It is the hope that these changes may assist in reaching out to new research environments and institutions in Denmark that have not applied in previous years.

## **1.2. South-driven research projects (researchers from institutions in priority countries take the initiative)**

Due to the decision to harmonise the application cycle and the conditions for the North- and South-driven projects the modality for the South-driven projects was in a transition in 2013, with a mix of project applications under both the former (pilot) modality and the new and harmonised modality.

Under the former pilot modality, in Vietnam, the first grant of DKK 30 million for the period of 2008-2010 was followed by a second phase for the years 2011-2013 with a total grant of DKK 45 million. The second phase provided grants for new projects and extension of the most successful on-going projects from the first phase. All projects in Vietnam are within the theme of "Climate Change, including applied technologies". In 2013 the last grant of 10 million was available for Vietnam, and one pilot project was (conditionally) approved at the end of the year (finally approved on 20 February 2014). With the grant allocated in 2013 the phasing out of the programme in Vietnam will end in 2016<sup>1</sup>.

In Tanzania, under the pilot modality, a grant of DKK 30 million was given for the years 2008-2010. Tanzania selected "Business Sector, Urbanisation, and Good Governance" as themes for the programme. It was decided to continue the programme in Tanzania with a total grant of DKK 20 million reserved in 2012 for extension of existing projects. Within the grant for project extensions, two projects in 2012 and two projects in 2013 were approved for extension. Tanzania will continue the South-driven research collaboration under the new and harmonised modality.

In Ghana, under the pilot modality, the first yearly grant of DKK 10 million was allocated in 2011, and a similar grant was reserved for 2012 of which DKK 5 million was committed for one pilot project. Ghana has selected "Growth and Employment, Climate Variability, Natural

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<sup>1</sup> In May 2012 an unannounced audit found irregularities in the financial administration of three South-driven projects in Vietnam and all activities were put on hold. Further investigations led to a decision to close the projects in October 2012, and a final audit was undertaken. Based on this, claims for refund of project funds were made to two of the three suspended projects. The case was still ongoing at the end of 2013.

Resource Management, and Governance” as themes for the programme. In 2013 an amount of DKK 10 million was reserved for Ghana, and two pilot projects were approved.

Appendix 3 provides an overview of approved projects in 2013 under the former pilot modality.

Under the new and harmonised modality, in relation to the application cycle for 2014 a total of 86 South-driven applications were received (49 from Tanzania, 19 from Nepal, and 18 from Ghana). A National Screening Mechanism established in each country selected six applications from each of the three countries. Thus, a total of 18 eligible South-driven research applications for Phase-1 were assessed by FFU in December 2013. 11 of these were approved for Phase-2 of the 2014 application cycle.

The Call for South-driven research proposals in 2013 did not include research themes. During information meetings held in Tanzania, Ghana and Nepal to explain the Call and the application procedures it was mentioned by many potential applicants that they would prefer research themes to have a strategic direction for the applications. A decision was therefore taken to re-introduce thematic areas from the 2014-Call and onwards, in order to set strategic direction for the programme and increase the quality, relevance and potential impact of the research proposals. The research themes for the South-driven projects in the 2014-cycle were identified in the beginning of 2014 in consultation with a range of local stakeholders in each of the three countries (Tanzania, Ghana, and Nepal).

In 2013 Annual Meetings for all on-going South-driven projects were held in Vietnam in April, in Ghana in May, and in Tanzania in August. The Annual Meetings provide an opportunity to take stock of progress in the research projects and to discuss the Danida funded research support programme with national stakeholders. As such, the Annual Meetings constitute an important element of the ongoing monitoring of the support to development research projects.

## **2. Projects in Denmark (§ 06.35.01.10)**

The support to projects in Denmark comprises the BSU programme through Danish Universities, a new BSU fellowship programme, and support to the international research programme, ReCom. Until 2012 it also comprised support to three research centres through an overall results contract with the University of Copenhagen, KU-LIFE.

### **2.1. Building Stronger Universities (BSU)**

The objective of the Building Stronger Universities (BSU) programme is to build institutional research capacity at a number of universities in selected priority countries. The first phase of the programme (BSU-I) was initiated in 2011 when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided a two-year grant of 60 million DKK. In 2012, a supplementary three-year grant of 19 million DKK benefitting the same partners was allocated for capacity building within research communication, dissemination and networking.

BSU-I was organised in the following four thematic platforms: 1) Human Health; 2) Growth and Employment; 3) Environment and Climate; and 4) Stability, Democracy and Rights. The platforms linked the eight universities in Denmark and 11 universities in Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Nepal. The programme was implemented by Danish Universities under the auspices of the Rectors' Conference.

A proposal for a continuation of BSU-I prepared by Danish Universities was tabled for the External Grant Committee meeting in June 2013 but the proposal was withdrawn by the Minister before it was deliberated by the Committee. The decision was partly based on a very critical assessment of BSU-I by the Evaluation of Danida Supported Research on Agriculture and Natural Resource Management 2006-2011 (2013). The evaluation concluded that BSU-I was operationally flawed although the idea underpinning the programme was sound. The decision not to proceed with the proposal from Danish Universities was also based on reservations by the Ministry towards the proposal including a heavy administrative setup, a bias towards a North-driven modality, a significant share of programme funds spent on coordination (notably in Denmark), as well as unclear results from Phase-I. A reformulated new phase of the programme (BSU-II) was endorsed by the External Grant Committee in November 2013 and approved by Parliament's Finance Committee in December 2013.

The redesigned BSU-II programme covers the period January 2014 – November 2016 and provides 100 million DKK with the aim to strengthen the capacity of seven universities in Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda and Nepal to undertake high-quality research. Activities include e.g. support to strengthen research policies and strategies, PhD schools, development of research concepts, enhancement of research quality assurance and improvement of libraries and publication management systems. BSU-II builds on the experience and results from the first phase and a number of successful activities will continue. The organisation and management of the programme has been changed to ensure that the responsibility for identification and implementation of activities rests with the universities in the South. Under the programme, the universities in the South are envisaged to partner with individual Danish universities - or consortia – enabling these to contribute to the enhancement of research capacity of the benefitting universities.

The following universities in the South are supported through the appropriation: a) Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana; b) University of Ghana, Ghana; c) Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College, Tanzania; d) Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania; e) State University of Zanzibar, Tanzania; f) Gulu University, Uganda and g) Kathmandu University, Nepal. Apart from Kathmandu University, these universities also formed part of BSU-I.

By addressing institutional aspects of capacity development and providing options for synergy between institutional support and specific research activities supported through FFU (North- and South-driven projects), the initiative is meant to complement other channels of Danish support for development research.

In order to quickly initiate the implementation of BSU-II, the programme has been fast-tracked through a series of strategic interventions by the Ministry in the beginning of 2014. Information meetings have been held with Danish university partners in January and March, and physical missions to all the seven partner universities in the South have been undertaken in January and February. This has enabled the fast production of Project Outlines by the Southern partner universities specifying the exact development needs of their respective universities. These efforts to start up implementation of BSU-II will culminate in a match-making process in April-June that eventually will link the partner universities in the South with Danish universities through formalized and fundable agreements.

### **New fellowship programme - BSU Scholarship Programme**

At the end of 2012 the Minister for Development Cooperation approved a new fellowship programme – ‘the BSU Scholarship Programme’. The aim of the programme is to provide talented students holding a bachelor degree from one of the (then) 11 BSU South partner institutions in Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and Nepal with the opportunity to obtain a master's degree from a Danish university, to obtain knowledge of Danish society, culture, values, and to allow the students to form personal and professional relationships with Danish students. During BSU-I (2011-2013), Danish Universities was tasked with the responsibility for overall implementation of the fellowship programme, whereas DFC was responsible for the administration of the programme. Since the end of 2013, DFC has taken over the full responsibility for the programme.

It is the intention that the students will return to their home university after having obtained their degree and thereby contribute to strengthening the capacity for research and education at institutions in the South, contributing to the objectives of the BSU initiative.

A total of 31 scholarships (five one-year and 26 two-year) were granted in 2013 for studies at existing master programmes (in English) at universities in Denmark. Another eight two-year scholarships will be offered in the middle of 2014 for the balance of the total budget of DKK 20 million (the South partner institutions are in 2014 limited to the seven universities included in the BSU II). The first review of the programme is planned to take place six months after the first batch of Master-students have returned to their home countries, which is in the beginning of 2015. Only at that point in time it will be possible to meaningfully assess the impact of the scholarship programme.

### **2.2. The international research programme – ReCom**

The objective of ReCom (Research and Communication on Foreign Aid) has been to research, document and communicate what works and what is achieved through efforts in development cooperation. The programme has intended to better understand the complexity of foreign aid, understand and fill critical knowledge gaps, and improve aid effectiveness. Consequently, ReCom has adopted a multi-disciplinary approach bringing together researchers from economics, political science and other relevant disciplines as well as aid officials, policy makers, NGOs and civil society. ReCom has focussed on five thematic areas: i) growth and

employment; ii) governance and fragility; iii) gender equality; iv) environment and climate change; and v) social sectors.

ReCom was launched in late 2010 and was operational until the end of 2013. In 2013, the programme received a grant of DKK 9.135 million of which DKK 6.4 million was managed by UNU-WIDER in Helsinki and DKK 2.3 million has financed studies conducted by the Danish Institute of International Studies (DIIS). The remaining funds have been reserved as unallocated funds, mainly to support communication efforts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The programme is co-financed by SIDA with a grant of an equal size as the Danish grant (i.e. 30 million DKK over three years).

During 2013 the results of ReCom were consolidated through submission of research publications as well as communication of the results. Four major results meetings were held in 2013; one on development cooperation and social sectors (Stockholm in March); one on development cooperation and climate change/ environment (Stockholm in June); one on development cooperation and fragility (Copenhagen in October), and finally one on aid and gender (Copenhagen in December). In addition to the results meetings a number of initiatives in relation to communication and publishing of newsletters, thematic meetings etc. have been carried out. These are presented at the website: [www.recom.wider.unu.edu](http://www.recom.wider.unu.edu) which has turned into an effective communication platform for the programme. In addition, the overall findings within the five thematic focus areas of ReCom, have been summarized and analysed in five position papers to be published early 2014. Finally, a small summary publication will present the highlights and major findings of ReCom and serve as the official termination of the programme. This publication is expected to be submitted in mid-2014.

### **3. International agricultural research (CGIAR) (§ 06.35.01.10)**

In June 2013 a grant of DKK 105 million was approved for CGIAR covering the period of 2014-2016. In recognition of the results in the reform progress of the CGIAR Fund, the grant was given as a multiannual core funding. The core funding was also in line with the recommendations made by the Board of Danida when the previous grant was approved in December 2012, namely to make use of core funding as modality for the future support. The grant has a foreseen yearly disbursement of DKK 35 million over the three years.

CGIAR has received and acknowledged the multiannual core contribution by praising Denmark for being a “role model” for other donors despite of the relatively modest Danish contribution. The untied and harmonised allocation to the CGIAR Fund allows CGIAR to invest in the priorities decided by the Fund Council.

The overall objectives of CGIAR – which represent CGIAR’s contribution to the global development goals - are: i) reducing rural poverty; ii) improving food security; iii) improving nutrition and health and; iv) sustainable management of natural resources. The Strategic Results Framework keeps track of progress in the impact and contribution towards the global objectives under which the sixteen thematic CGIAR Research Programmes have been formulated.

Results of the present CGIAR Research Programmes are so far generated from smaller projects under each program and reflect to a lesser extent globally formulated objectives. Bringing the research into a common framework is considered well on track. The advances of research activities are evident not least as a result of general trends in the availability of new technology where economy of scale permits faster testing and dissemination across a number of centres. An example is plant breeding technology where 20 per cent higher yield in rice under unfavourable conditions can be achieved. Partnerships with the national research systems and the private sector have further increased the adoption of new maize varieties.

For synchronisation purposes all programmes have been extended to the end of 2016 in order to bring in lessons learnt and foresight analyses on the basis of which the programmes will be positioned and launched in 2017.

#### **4. Other support to international research (§ 06.35.02.11)**

During the past years, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made an emphasis to concentrate the support for international development research on fewer institutions mainly in Africa. The reason is the wish to have a closer dialogue with the institutions and to be better able to monitor the results of the support. Technical Advisory Services participates actively in donor meetings of the supported social science institutions and assesses the institutions' development in close contact with like-minded donors. The policy department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (UGS) monitors the research institutions in the health sector. The distribution of the commitments of DKK 20 million in 2013 to 'other international research' is shown in Annex 6.

The choice of institutions is mainly based on assessments of the relevance of the institutions' research and on their work in relation to the priorities of Denmark's development cooperation. In social science, the support is now concentrated on three regional research institutions in Africa: The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), the Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA), and the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC).

CODESRIA is an independent pan-African research organisation which promotes and facilitates research and knowledge production in Africa. It strengthens the institutional basis of knowledge production by engaging and supporting other research institutions and their networks of scholars, and it promotes the publication and dissemination of research results undertaken by African scholars. OSSREA is a research and capacity-building organisation whose mission is to promote dialogue and interaction between researchers and policy-makers in Eastern and Southern Africa with a view to enhancing the impact of research on policy-making and development planning.

AERC is a public not-for-profit organisation which develops capacity to conduct economic research in Africa through formal higher education, training, network, competence development and applied research. The AERC programme aims at improving the skills of local researchers while allowing for both regional and national economic policy research. The

programme also fosters closer ties between researchers and policy makers. The AERC training programme supports both Master and Ph.D. studies in economics, and it helps to improve the capacity of departments of economics in universities across the continent. The Masters and Ph.D. programmes are widely recognized and has a track record of positive reports from external examiners. The interaction between students from all over Africa paves the way for collaboration between participating universities, future policy makers and policy-making institutions. Furthermore, the training programmes contribute to the regional retention of scarce capacity of teaching staff, as professional opportunities for excellence have increased.

Technical Advisory Services is in close contact with SIDA and Norad, which support the same three institutions. The dialogue includes physical Nordic meetings, exchange of information on planned support, reviews and audits, and considerations about possibilities for undertaking joint evaluations.

In the health area, Denmark has focussed support on two institutions which play a central role in the prevention of HIV/AIDS: The International Partnership on Microbiocides (IPM) and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI). IPM has achieved positive results and has two products in the pipeline which - subject to a positive outcome of on-going Phase III clinical trials - will be put into production within three years. This is of great significance as HIV and pregnancy are the two leading causes of death among young women in Sub-Saharan Africa, and HIV infection rates among young women in the region have not been going down since 2010. The products have the potential to empower women to protect themselves against infection and unwanted pregnancy.

IAVI has established centres for HIV vaccine research partnerships in 19 countries where it engages with more than 100 civil society partners for HIV prevention and global health issues. Its clinics have reached over 300,000 people for voluntary testing and counselling, and IAVI has helped build research capacity in East and Southern Africa where so far over 800 scientists have been trained. A total of 16,000 volunteers are enrolled in the various trials across the world. IAVI focuses on developing a vaccine targeting the virus varieties in Sub-Saharan Africa. The HIV virus is multifaceted and constantly changes/adapts to its new and changing environment and “enemies”. This implies that there are a multitude of different HIV virus strains around the globe, and they constantly evolve, making identification of a vaccine/cure a challenge. Over time IAVI has developed 22 new vaccine candidates, out of which 13 have been assessed in clinical trials. Since 2012 a new vaccine strategy building on techniques using synthetic reconstruction rather than animal tests has speeded up the timelines for finding a vaccine, and during 2012 two Phase I clinical trials to test safety were completed. The work of IAVI has a positive “add-on effect”, as IAVI makes its research findings and results available for other research groups, thereby contributing to potentially faster development of a vaccine.

## **5. Support to UniBRAIN (§ 06.32.02.26)**

The UniBRAIN programme, launched in 2010 as a follow up to the Africa Commission, aims to support the setup of innovation centres in a joint undertaking between universities, research institutions and the private sector in order to foster innovative solutions and products, as well

as to strengthen the role of the research community and of universities in agriculture and agro-industry. UniBRAIN is executed by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). The programme is supported with a total budget of 130 million DKK (2010-2015). A UniBRAIN Facility has been set-up within FARA's premises in Ghana, Accra, and it is tasked with the responsibilities of programme implementation, programme development and liaisons with partners of the programme.

The year of 2013 saw the invigorated consolidation of the UniBRAIN concept and its affiliated six incubators all of which now operate in their own renovated premises. At the end of 2013, UniBRAIN and its incubators reported to have a) facilitated the commercialization of 29 agribusiness-related technologies, b) supported 68 agribusiness SMEs, c) incubated 49 entrepreneurs, and d) overseen that 149 students received improved industry-related agribusiness courses.

More details of the UniBRAIN programme and the six incubators are provided in annex 7.

The Ministry has commissioned, under the Minor Studies modality, the Department of Food and Resource Economics at University of Copenhagen to undertake a research project closely linked to the UniBRAIN programme. The purpose of the study is to analyse and minimise barriers to the implementation of the UniBRAIN programme and improve its impact by enhancing the learning process of the six incubator consortium partners. This is done by capturing participants' experiences and by facilitating a discussion of lessons learned across the programme. The study addresses the incubators' efforts according to two research questions corresponding to two of UniBRAIN's main objectives, i.e. 1) How are agribusiness product, service and process innovations supported and promoted by tripartite incubator networks comprising universities, research institutions and private enterprises? And 2) How are universities supported in developing agribusiness curriculums that facilitate graduates' leaving university with entrepreneurial and business skills? The results of the study are expected to contribute to the knowledge of how to foster innovation through closer relationships between universities, research institutions and the private sector.

## **6. Minor Studies (§ 06.35.01.15)**

A 'minor study' is a smaller research-based study by Danish or foreign researchers or consultants, requested by embassies and departments of the Ministry of Foreign Ministry to improve the quality of Danish development cooperation, typically by exploring an issue in relation to strategic or development policy changes.

The Technical Advisory Services is responsible for the overall administration of the scheme and assesses incoming proposals for studies. In 2013 the budget frame for minor studies was DKK 8 million.

Annex 5 contains a list of new studies initiated in 2013.

As an example, a frame agreement was entered with Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) to undertake research within five selected areas including i) partnerships, ii) stability and fragility, iii) development finance, iv) results, and v) the changing role of civil society and the impact of ICT. The overall purpose is to foster innovation in Danish development policy, and the research is meant to assist the Ministry in its work with tendencies in development cooperation. The focus of the research will be on global, regional and national development tendencies and scenarios that may stimulate the formulation and implementation of the Danish development policy as it is formulated in the strategy “The Right to a Better Life” (2012).

## **ANNEX 1: MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTATIVE RESEARCH COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH (FFU)**

### **2012-2014**

Professor, ph.d. Henrik Secher Marcussen, University of Roskilde, Chairman

Director, MSc. Lisbeth Valentin Hansen, Danish Hydraulic Institute, Vice Chairman

Associate professor, ph.d. Anne Mette Kjær, University of Aarhus

Professor, ph.d. Stefano Ponte, Copenhagen Business School

Senior researcher, ph.d. Helle Munk Ravnborg, Danish Institute of International Studies

Professor, ph.d. Morten Bøås, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs

Professor, ph.d. Flemming Konradsen, University of Copenhagen

Associate professor, ph.d. Kåre Lehmann Nielsen, University of Aalborg

Head of Technical Advisory Services, ph.d. Tove Degnbol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## ANNEX 2: APPROVED NORTH-DRIVEN RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2013

Applicant	Institution	Project title
Mathias Neumann Andersen	Aarhus University	Green Cohesive Agricultural Resource Management WEBSOC
Henrik Egelyng	University of Copenhagen	Valorizing Green Growth in Africa (VALOR)
Tobias Hagmann	Roskilde University	Governing economic hubs and flows in Somali East Africa
Lene Jespersen	University of Copenhagen	Preserving African Food Microorganisms for Green Growth
Jens Friis Lund	University of Copenhagen	Science and Power in Participatory Forestry
Nanna Roos	University of Copenhagen	GREEiNSECT - Insects for green economy
Carsten Smith-Hall	University of Copenhagen	Transiting to green growth: natural resources in Nepal
Ida Theilade	University of Copenhagen	REDD+, -the forest grab of all times?

**ANNEX 3: APPROVED SOUTH-DRIVEN PROJECTS IN TANZANIA, GHANA AND VIETNAM IN 2013**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Danish Partner</b>
Tanzania <sup>2</sup>	Evelyne Albert Lazaro	Sokoine University of Agriculture	Rural-Urban Transformation (RUT): Governance, Mobility, and Economic Dynamics, in Emerging Urban Centres for Poverty Reduction	University of Copenhagen,
Tanzania <sup>3</sup>	Joseph A. Kuzilwa	Mzumbe University	Productivity, Market Access and Incomes for Small Farming Businesses in Tanzania: Potentials and Limitations in Contract Farming	University of Copenhagen
Ghana	Stephen Amisah	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology	Sustainable fish feed development in Ghana	Technical University of Denmark
Ghana	Ruby Asmah	Water Research Institute	Effects of Climate Change on Volta Lake Resources	Aarhus University
Vietnam <sup>4</sup>	Dao Bach Khoa	Plant Protection Research Institute	Climate Change Impacts on Outbreaks of Crop Pests in Vietnam	Aarhus University

<sup>2</sup> Second phase of an ongoing project.

<sup>3</sup> Second phase of an ongoing project.

<sup>4</sup> This project was conditionally approved on 2 December 2013 and finally approved on 20 February 2014.

#### ANNEX 4: STATISTICS REGARDING APPLICATIONS SCREENED BY FFU IN 2013

Share of each research area in total number of North-drive projects applied for and granted (in %)

	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	ap-plied	gran-ted								
Humanities	4	3	2	-	3	-	4	10	2	-
Agricultural Science*	28	34	29	40	22	7	24	10	38	67
Natural Science	14	14	20	20	10	-	12	10	9	8
Social Science	15	9	26	25	33	50	12	-	23	17
Health Science	30	34	15	5	16	-	34	60	7	-
Technical Sciences	5	6	4	5	8	21	12	10	14	8
Interdisci- plinary	3	-	4	5	8	21	1	-	7	-
%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

\*) including forestry-related research.

Number of applications (North-driven) per region:

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Africa	79	88	86	66	32
Asia	22	24	30	10	17
Central- and Latin America	6	4	2	1	2
Middle east	1	3	1	2	2
Other	-	3	2	-	-
Trans regional/International	5	6	6	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>57</b>

**Distribution of the main applicants by sex of North-driven projects applied for and granted (in %)**

	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	applied	granted								
<b>Men</b>	64	49	59	60	71	57	73	70	79	58
<b>Women</b>	36	51	41	40	56	43	27	30	21	42
<b>%</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**Distribution of North-driven applications per institution. Number of applied and approved projects (rounded) per institution as a percentage of total number.**

**(A =Applied, G=granted)**

	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G
University of Copenhagen	43	64	49	50	51	44	39	40	47	74
University of Aarhus	12	3	15	30	13	14	21	20	16	13
Roskilde University	6	6	3	-	2	-	5	-	7	13
Danish Inst. for Int. Studies	4	6	6	15	6	21	-	-	-	-
The Danish Inst. for Hum. Rights	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-
Statens Serum Institut	4	6	2	-	1	-	4	-	-	-
The Geological Survey for Denmark and Greenland	2	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	5	-
Technical University of Denmark	4	3	5	5	5	-	9	20	-	-
Aalborg University	6	-	9	-	5	-	5	-	12	-
University of Southern Denmark	2	3	-	-	6	-	2	10	5	-
Odense University Hospital	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Rigshospitalet	5	6	2	-	-	-	2	10	-	-
The School of Visual Arts	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dignity -The Danish Institute Against Torture	-	-	2	-	2	7	-	-	-	-
Copenhagen Business School	2	-	2	-	2	7	-	-	2	-
Danish Technological Institute	2	-	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Danish Meteorological Institute	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Danish Hydraulic Institute	-	-	-	-	1	7	1	-	2	-
Other	4	-	2	0	3	0	10	-	2	-
<b>%</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

## ANNEX 5: MINOR STUDIES INITIATED IN 2013

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Researcher or institution:</b>	<b>DKK:</b>
Illicit financial flows from selected Danish priority countries	Global Financial Integrity	682,000
Election support: Best practice and lessons learnt at field level in Danish priority countries	University of Aarhus	366,065
Study of Approaches to Danish-Arab Dialogue	University of Roskilde	935,000
Contestation and Security in Algeria	DIIS	840,480
Research on Local Administrative Structures in Syria	Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue	200,000
CBE Education	University of New York	1,500,000
Further Operationalization of R2P in the Danish Development, Rule of Law and Human Rights Work	Martin Mennecke, Ph.D University of Southern Denmark	1,200,000
DIIS Challenges in Development Policy	DIIS	2,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7,723,545</b>

**ANNEX 6: COMMITMENTS FOR 'OTHER INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH' IN 2011, 2012 AND 2013**

<b>ORGANISATION:</b>	<b>Commitments (million DKK) 2011</b>	<b>Commitments (million DKK) 2012</b>	<b>Commitments (million DKK) 2013</b>
<b>Social science Institutions - regional African institutions:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council for the Development of Social Research in Africa (CODESRIA)</li> </ul>	4 (2 years)		2 (1 year)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA)</li> </ul>			2 (1 year)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)</li> </ul>		10 (2 years)	
<b>Social Sciences – International Institutions:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Nations University - World Institute on Development Economic Research (UNU-WIDER)</li> </ul>	2 (2 years)		1 (1 year)
<b>Health Science:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Partnership on Microbiocides (IPM)</li> </ul>	15 (3 years)		7.5 (1 year)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)</li> </ul>		15 (3 years)	7.5 (1 year)
<b>Total</b>	<b>DKK 21 million</b>	<b>DKK 25 million</b>	<b>DKK 20 million</b>

## **ANNEX 7: THE UNIBRAIN PROGRAMME**

The UniBRAIN programme was launched in 2010 as follow-up to the Africa Commission. The programme's development objective is to create jobs and raise incomes through sustainable agribusiness development. UniBRAIN's immediate objective is to enable universities, business and agricultural research institutions to commercialise agricultural technologies and produce graduates with entrepreneurial and business skills through agribusiness incubator partnerships.

UniBRAIN is based on partnerships (consortia) involving universities, agricultural research institutions and stakeholders from the private sector. The activities of the programme fall within the following three areas related to agriculture, agribusiness and agroindustry, i.e. a) development of innovation and incubation centres, b) strengthening of related tertiary education, and c) dissemination of experiences and best practices regarding incubation and innovation.

The programme has enabled the creation and establishment of incubator consortia in the following five countries: Ghana, Mali, Zambia, Uganda and Kenya. The consortia have developed and established the following six incubators:

- Creating Competitive Livestock Entrepreneurs in Agribusiness (CCLEAR), Ghana. This incubator is dedicated to promoting commercialization of smallholder livestock (poultry, small ruminants and grass cutter).
- West African Agribusiness Resource Incubator (WAARI), Mali. The focus is on non-timber agro-forestry products, cereals and fruits.
- The Agribusiness Incubation Trust (AgBIT), Zambia. The incubator is concerned with value-chains related to tropical fruit and vegetables.
- Afri Banana Products Limited (ABP Ltd), Uganda. The focus is on staple food and cash crops - initially within the specific value chain of banana.
- Consortium for Enhancing University Responsiveness to Agribusiness Development (CURAD), Uganda. The incubator's value proposition is on plantation and cash crop value-chain enhancement with an initial focus on coffee.
- Sorghum Value-Chain Development Consortium (SVCDC), Kenya. The incubator works with smallholder dry land food grains focusing on sorghum.

## **ANNEX 8: THE BSU SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME**

A total of 31 scholarships (five one-year and 26 two-year) were granted in 2013 for studies at existing master programmes (in English) at universities in Denmark. The 31 students are representing eight of the BSU-I universities, i.e.

- University of Ghana (Ghana) – 10 Master students;
- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (Ghana) – 5 Master students;
- Maseno University (Kenya) – 4 Master students;
- Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania) – 4 students;
- The State University of Zanzibar (Tanzania) – 2 Master students;
- University of Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania) – 1 Master student;
- Kilimanjo Christian Medical Centre (Tanzania) – 2 Master students;
- Tribhuvan University (Nepal) – 3 Master students.

Another eight two-year scholarships will be offered in the middle of 2014 for the balance of the total budget of DKK 20 million.