

**COVER NOTE - COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

**AGENDA ITEM 5**

- 1. OVERALL PURPOSE** For information
  
- 2. TITLE:** Report on support to development research 2014
  
- 3. PRESENTATION FOR PROGRAMME COMMITTEE** n/a

**4. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The total commitment to develop research during 2014 amounted to DKK 169 million. Of this, DKK 150 million was allocated to North- and South-driven research collaboration projects, while smaller amounts were granted as core funding to the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) and United Nations University – World Institute on Development Economic Research (UNU WIDER). A last commitment of DKK 7 million was granted for minor studies, before the scheme was closed down by the end of 2014.

Assessment procedures for South-driven applications were further developed, and in Tanzania, Ghana and Nepal well-functioning panels were assessing and shortlisting applications before these were passed on to the Consultative Research Committee for Development Research (FFU). An attempt was made to ensure that the themes for North- and South-driven research project better complement each other.

Activities funded by previous multi-year grants continued and of these, the Building Stronger Universities programme was both the largest in terms of funding and the most demanding in terms of coordination and dialogue with the many partners involved. During 2014, the second phase of the programme got off to a very good start.

The cooperation among research departments in the

ministries in the Nordic countries (Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark) was consolidated in the form of half-yearly meetings to coordinate support to international research organisations and to share experience for mutual inspiration.

Finally, the strategic framework for Danish support to development research was formally approved and published in April 2014.

## **5. STRATEGIC QUESTIONS FOR THE COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

- Should Danida emphasize high-quality academic research, or the wish for researchers to reach out to practitioners who can use the research (private sector actors, civil society organisations and policy makers)?
- How can research communication and dissemination be improved with a view to strengthen the uptake of research results by stakeholders in priority countries?
- What can be done to further promote gender mainstreaming in support to research projects and institutional capacity development of research institutions?

## REPORT ON SUPPORT TO DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH 2014

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.

During 2014, the major achievements centred around four areas:

- 1) Assessment procedures for South-driven research projects were consolidated, and training and coaching provided by members of the Consultative Research Committee for Development Research (FFU) to assessment panels (National Screening Mechanisms) in Tanzania, Ghana and Nepal helped to increase the quality of the South-driven applications received. It remains a major challenge to ensure that information about the call is spread to all relevant institutions in the three countries. It is a particular challenge to reach out to qualified female researchers and have more women involved both as main applicants and participating researchers. Finally, the South-projects granted in 2014 had a pronounced bias towards science and health science themes, whereas socio-economic research was insufficiently represented.
- 2) The second phase of the Building Stronger Universities (BSU II) programme started in early 2014 with match-making between seven partner institutions in the South and consortia of Danish universities. All Danish universities are represented in one or more of the partnerships, and several of the consortia include also other research institutions or private companies. Both South and North partners have received the new design of the programme very well, and the difficulties haunting the first phase of the programme have virtually disappeared. Preliminary experience from inception workshops and documented in inception reports shows that the programme is off to a good start.
- 3) Coordination with other Nordic countries on development research activities has been formalised in the form of half-annual meetings for Norad, Sida, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and Danida represented by Technical Advisory Services (TAS). Denmark, Norway and Sweden have all been in the process of preparing new strategies during 2013 and 2014, and being ahead of the others, the Danish strategy has been drawn upon for inspiration by Norway and Sweden. Also specific coordination of support provided by two or more of the agencies to the same partner institutions (CGIAR, CODESRIA, AERC, OSSREA, and UNU-WIDER) is an important purpose of the meetings.
- 4) The 'Strategic framework for Danish Support for Development Research 2014 – 2018' was published in April 2014 after a process of public consultation in Denmark and in a

number of priority countries. Taking account of recommendations from reviews and evaluation of Danida-supported development activities and international experience, the strategic framework formulates the guiding principles for the future Danish support. Of these, increased emphasis on South-driven activities, focus on fewer countries in the South, core funding to selected international research institutions, and further support to capacity development at all relevant levels are among the most important.

New commitments for development research in 2014 are presented in table 1 below. To allow for comparison across years, the table includes the actual commitment level for 2012, 2013 and 2014 as well as the planned commitments for 2015.

**Table 1: Commitments to development research 2012-2015 in million DKK (rounded)**

<b>Grants by areas of activity:</b>	<b>2012</b> (actual)	<b>2013</b> (actual)	<b>2014</b> (actual)	<b>2015</b> (planned)
<b>§ 06.35.01.11 Competitive grants through the Consultative Research Committee (FFU)</b>	131	98	150	135
<i>A: Projects, which are North-driven (researchers from DK take the initiative)</i>	110	78	92	70
<i>B: Projects, which are South-driven (researchers from institutions in priority countries take the initiative)</i>	21	20	58	65
<b>§ 06.35.01.10 Support to projects in Denmark</b>	29	110		20
<i>A: Building Stronger Universities</i>	19	100		20
<i>B: The international Research program, ReCom</i>	10	10		
<i>C: Results contract with University of Copenhagen</i>				
<b>§ 06.35.02.10 International Agricultural research (CGIAR)</b>	35	105	0	0
<b>§ 06.35.02.11 Other international development research</b>	40	50	12	6
<b>§ 06.35.01.15 Minor studies</b>	9	8	7	0
<b>§ 06.32.01.23 UniBRAIN</b>				
<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>161</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. Also the Danish core funding and earmarked support to UN organisations and the World Bank fund research activities, and there are research elements in some of Danida's country programmes in priority countries (including Vietnam and Bolivia). Finally, support to two international research institutions in the health area, the International Partnership on Microbiocides (IPM) and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) is no longer part of this report, as funding for the organisations since 2014 is managed jointly with

other funding provided to them in the context of Danish support to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

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

Under the budget for competitive funds, 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. The budget ceiling for a project is DKK 10 million and the recommended time frame is 5 years.

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 research projects include Tanzania, Ghana and Nepal, and in these projects, the South-based researchers decide on the research topic, contact Danish-based research partners and submit the application.

As a follow up on the strategic framework, there will be a 50-50% division of the total budget for competitive funds between North- and South-driven projects granted in 2015. The Call and the first round of assessments in the second half of 2014 were organised in line with this principle. Thus, of 30 eligible North-driven research applications for the first phase received and assessed by FFU in November 2014, 12 were approved for the second phase of the 2015 application cycle. Of a total of 120 South-driven applications received from Tanzania, Ghana and Nepal, 27 were shortlisted by the assessment panels (National Screening Mechanisms) in the countries, and 17 were approved by FFU for the second phase of the 2015 application cycle.

An overview of grants provided to North- and South-driven research projects since 2004 is found in the Danida Research Portal managed by Danida Fellowship Centre: <http://drp.dfcentre.com/> A video prepared to further explain the requirements to applications for North- and South-driven projects can be downloaded at this link: <http://um.dk/en/danida-en/partners/research/cons-research-com/>

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 Innovation Fund (before 1 April 2014, the Danish Council for Strategic Research (DSF)) under the Ministry of Higher Education and Science approves the members of the Committee, provides consultation and formally approves the proposals for support recommended by the Committee.

In line with recommendations previously received from the Ministry of Higher Education and Science, an effort was made during 2014 to identify new members of FFU with an international background. In December, a new FFU for the coming three years (2015-2017) was approved, and the Committee now has a Norwegian, a Swedish and a Kenyan member, while five members are from Danish research institutions, and one member is from Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Four of the nine members are women. A list of the FFU members is found in annex 1.

When assessing research applications, FFU is drawing on assessments made by the embassies of the relevance of the proposed research and assessments made by two international peer reviewers for each application, of which one can be proposed by the applicant and the other is identified by Danida Fellowship Centre.

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

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs received a total of 39 eligible research applications for North-driven projects in 2014. A total of DKK 87.4 million was granted to nine (9) projects where researchers at Danish research institutions were the responsible applicants.

Inspired by an earlier discussion in the Council for Development Policy, it was attempted to select themes for North-driven research projects which encouraged a more global or regional perspective instead of projects focusing on only one (or sometimes two) country(ies). The idea has been to make North-driven and South-driven project themes complementary instead of having similar themes for projects with two different types of management set-up.

The Call included three themes, and as it appears, it resulted in a significant concentration of grants to projects within the second theme:

- Theme 1: Sustainable peace and state building – causes of conflict and new approaches for development effectiveness (*1 project with a total amount of DKK 9 million*);
- Theme 2: New development actors and changing partnerships (*6 projects with a total amount of DKK 59.6 million*);
- Theme 3: ICT for development (*2 projects with a total amount of DKK 18.9 million*).

Statistics on the granted North-driven projects are 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. Unfortunately, it appears that the share of female applicants in 2014 was only 15%, while the share of female researchers responsible for a project, which was approved, was 22%. The figures are significantly lower than in previous years and accentuate

the need for more attention to gender mainstreaming. FFU and the Ministry will jointly reflect upon how to address this important challenge.

The work on improving the reporting format continued during 2014. A revision of the format made early in the year introduced a requirement for each research project to produce policy briefs in order to improve communication of the research results. Based on this revision it was further discussed how to optimize the quality assurance and monitoring of progress of on-going research projects. In September 2014 it was decided to substitute the annual progress reporting with a first year, midterm and final report (from 2015 onwards). The new reporting formats are meant to better capture the natural course of developments of a research project over its lifetime. Also, the new formats are designed to 1) weight the three main assessment criteria (quality, relevance, and effect) and not mainly be output-oriented, 2) ensure qualitative (rather than only quantitative) reporting on capacity development activities, 3) ensure that the reports are joint products of all partners, and 4) emphasize that all major changes in the projects must be reported and justified.

FFU members, Technical Advisory Services, and Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) held information meetings at Roskilde University, University of Southern Denmark, and Copenhagen Business School to present the content of the programme, answer possible questions, and meet demands for further explanations of chosen research themes for the call. The meetings were appreciated by the participants and provided inspiration for further developing the call text and guidelines.

Danish researchers have enquired about the possibilities of leveraging FFU grants with EU funds for development research, and the question has also been raised by the Council for Development Policy. In the 'Strategic Framework for Danish Support to Development Research 2014-2018' it is mentioned as an ambition to identify ways to do this in practice. Technical Advisory Services has investigated the matter and one of the options found is that Danish support to FFU projects in the area of health research may leverage funds from the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) that has an overall budget of Euro 683 million until 2020. DFC has forwarded a list of EDCTP relevant Danida-funded health research projects to Statens Serum Institute (SSI) to assist the application by SSI for EDCTP funding of FFU-awarded projects.

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

Under the 2014 Call, a total of 86 South-driven applications were received (19 from Nepal, 18 from Ghana, and 49 from Tanzania). A total of 5 of these were granted, of which 1 project

from Nepal, 2 projects from Ghana and 2 projects from Tanzania. Appendix 3 provides an overview of approved projects in 2014.<sup>1</sup>

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 national stakeholders in each of the three countries (Tanzania, Ghana, and Nepal).

The research themes selected in Nepal were:

- Theme 1: Economic Development and Poverty Reduction/Green Growth
- Theme 2: Fragility, Stability and Rights
- Theme 3: Climate Change/Natural Resource Management/Livelihoods.

Research themes selected for Ghana were:

- Theme 1: Natural Resource Management/Climate-Smart Agriculture/Environmentally Sustainable Solutions
- Theme 2: Economic Development and Poverty Reduction/Role of the Informal Sector
- Theme 3: Right to Health/Health Care/Determinants of Health.

Research Themes selected for Tanzania were:

- Theme 1: Good Governance
- Theme 2: Economic Development and Poverty Reduction/Green Growth/Natural Resource Management
- Theme 3: Health: Right to Health/Health Care/Determinants of Health.

As it appears, there is a tendency for the themes in the Call for South-driven projects to be biased towards science and health science themes, whereas socio-economic research is less well represented. Among the projects granted in 2014 the bias was even more pronounced. Technical Advisory Services has followed up on this in the dialogue with national stakeholders on the preparation of the 2016 call announced in early March 2015.

In each of the countries, National Screening Mechanisms (NSM) have been established to assess and shortlist the South-driven applications before they are passed on to FFU. A significant amount of work has gone into identifying three relevant institutions in Tanzania, Ghana and Nepal which may be used as strategic partners to undertake national screening of applications from the South. The three institutions identified include Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) in Tanzania, Ghana Academy for Arts and Sciences (GAAS) in Ghana, as well as University Grants Commission (UGC) in Nepal. Strategic

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<sup>1</sup> One South-driven project from Vietnam was approved in early 2014. Vietnam has been phased out of the South-driven development research programme. Six South-driven research projects are currently on-going in Vietnam.

partnership agreements have been entered with each of the three institutions, and it was agreed to second two FFU members and one representative from DFC to participate in the NSM meetings in 2014 in order to develop the capacity of the institutions. This significant investment in the NSM system is meant to ensure that the necessary procedures are adhered to, not least regarding the important FFU policy of conflict of interest. While the vision is that the national institutions eventually may assume full responsibility for the assessment of applications, participation by FFU and DFC in the NSM meetings will have to continue for some time in the future in order to ensure that the integrity of the NSM mechanism is maintained.

Information meetings for potential applicants were held in Nepal in April 2014 as well as in Ghana and Tanzania in May 2014. All information meetings were well attended, with 60 and 80 participants in Tanzania and Ghana, respectively. It remains a major challenge to ensure that information about the call is spread to all relevant institutions in the three countries. It is a particular challenge to reach out to qualified female researchers and have more women involved both as main applicants and participating researchers. Data on the participation of female researchers in South-driven projects were not systematically collected for the 2014 call, but preliminary data suggest that the gender bias is even larger than in the North-driven projects. Gender disaggregated data will be collected and presented in the 'Report on support for development research 2015'.

In May 2014, an annual review meeting was held in Ghana, while the review meeting in Tanzania was postponed to 2015. Also individual project meetings on research progress and project management were held in Ghana. The annual review meeting and the individual project meetings provide an opportunity to take stock of progress in the research projects, and these meetings constitute an important element of the ongoing monitoring of the support to South-driven development research projects. In Ghana and Vietnam, DFC visited new projects to introduce them to project administration requirements, and also on-going projects in Vietnam were visited to follow up on their project management.

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

The support to projects in Denmark comprises the Building Stronger Universities programme, and until 2013, it also included support to the international research programme, ReCom.

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

The objective of the Building Stronger Universities (BSU) programme is to strengthen the capacity of seven universities in Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda and Nepal to undertake high-quality

research. The first phase of the programme was initiated in 2011, and its second phase covers the period January 2014–November 2016 with a budget of DKK 100 million.

The following universities in the South are supported through BSU: 1) Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana; 2) University of Ghana, Ghana; 3) Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College, Tanzania; 4) Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania; 5) State University of Zanzibar, Tanzania; 6) Gulu University, Uganda, and 7) Kathmandu University, Nepal.

Activities include strengthening research policies and strategies, establishing PhD schools, enhancing research quality assurance, improving access to library resources, use of ICT in research training, and strengthening research administration.

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 second phase, the programme was fast-tracked through a series of strategic interventions by the Ministry in the beginning of 2014. All the seven partner universities in the South were visited by Technical Advisory Services and DFC in January and February. This enabled the fast production of Project Outlines by the Southern partner universities specifying the exact needs for capacity building of their respective universities.

Information meetings were held with Danish university partners in January and March to prepare a match-making process during April 2014, which eventually linked the partner universities in the South with Danish universities through formalized and fundable agreements. More than 50 researchers from the Danish universities participated in the match-making process. This process resulted in the establishment of seven consortia across all the Danish universities. Each consortium consists of three to six universities, and they collaborate across sectors. The seven consortia comprise a mix of new and old partnerships, where some of the partnerships have worked together for many years.

The next step in the process was the organisation of inception workshops at the universities in the South with the participation of their Danish partners. These workshops were facilitated by an experienced process consultant specialised in the issue of capacity development. Participants were provided with an opportunity to develop a joint approach to theory of change, indicators and monitoring & evaluation - all of which of crucial importance to future programme performance and results based management. During 2014, the first six Inception Reports - outlining the partnerships' detailed work plans, objectives, monitoring and results framework as

well as specific indicators - were approved, and actual activities kicked off in the second half of 2014.

The overall development of the second phase of BSU has been positive. Projects are embedded at university level, and experience from the projects shows that the initial time invested in a comprehensive inception phase has paid off, especially in terms of identifying available resources both internally at university level and externally with collaborating partners. This has improved the utilization of already existing and available resources. The South-driven approach has truly required the universities in the South to undertake internal reviews and baseline studies to identify their needs, especially in terms of grant management across the university which forms a central topic in all the projects approved. Also, the time invested during the inception phase in establishing M&E and project management systems has paid off in terms of the ability of the South universities to continuously monitor the detailed status of project activities.

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

In 2012 the Minister for Development Cooperation approved the 'BSU Scholarship Programme' with the aim of providing 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. A total of 31 scholarships were granted in 2013 at universities in Denmark, and five of these students successfully completed their one-year Master programmes in 2014. Another eight scholarships were offered in September 2014. See annex 8 for more details.

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

The ReCom programme (Research and Communication on Foreign Aid) was running from 2011 to 2013 and had as its objective to research, document and communicate what works and what is achieved through efforts in development cooperation. In five thematic areas: i) growth and employment; ii) governance and fragility; iii) gender equality; iv) environment and climate change; and v) social sectors, the programme has produced a series of studies which have been summaries in results papers available at the website: [www.recom.wider.unu.edu](http://www.recom.wider.unu.edu) During 2014, a summary publication was produced to present the highlights and major findings of ReCom. The publication is available at this link: [www.um.dk/en/danida-en/partners/research/recom/recom-magazine/](http://www.um.dk/en/danida-en/partners/research/recom/recom-magazine/)

### **3. International agricultural research (CGIAR) (§ 06.35.02.10)**

As a result of the decision to replace the previous funding of thematic research programmes by three-year core funding commitments, the first disbursement of DKK 35 million to the CGIAR Fund was made in early 2014. Denmark is now in full alignment with the preferred funding modality of CGIAR and contributes to the financial stability and predictability needed in long-term research programming.

In 2014, a mid-term review of the CGIAR reform was carried out. The main conclusions were that the 16 CGIAR Research Programmes (CRPs) have i) improved CGIAR's focus on gender equality and inclusion; ii) improved collaboration among centres; iii) broadened partnerships, and; iv) led to increased funding and to some extent improved predictability of funding to the programmes. The experience is uneven across the programmes, and further efforts need to be made in all the areas, but substantial achievements have been made.

In addition, the gene banks maintained by the centres are seen as a unique public good and fundamental to preserve biodiversity as well as the global food and nutrition security. The Fund Council has strengthened the focus on fiduciary management resulting in more transparent decision making and management as well as system-wide harmonised financial reports. The CRP's provide a good platform for bringing CGIAR in a position to provide important leadership to address global challenges such as climate change. CGIAR announced that it will invest at least 60% of its budget in helping millions of farmers adapt to the more stressful growing conditions through climate-smart and adapted agriculture.

Challenges to be addressed in the reform process persist. Among these are: improvement of the research oversight and quality assurance in order to strengthen the CGIAR image; identification of strategic partners to increase and maintain overall funding - in particular core funding and CRP funding; and removal of identified in-built governance ambiguities resulting from the two-tier Fund/Consortium set-up.

A new strategy is expected to be approved by the Fund Council in mid-2015 after an extensive consultative process. The strategy and its results framework for 2016-2025 will align with the Sustainable Development Goals (post 2015) and will be guiding the next generation of thematic CRPs.

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

Support to three regional research institutions working with social science in Africa continued in 2014. These were Council for Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), and Organisation for Social Sciences Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA). In addition to these, also the

support to United Nations University – World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) continued. An appropriation was approved in 2014 of DKK 10 million for AERC covering two years, and of DKK 2 million for UNU-WIDER covering one year. Appropriations of DKK 2 million for CODESRIA and OSSREA were approved in 2013 covering 2013-2014.

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. During 2014, CODESRIA has worked on securing transparent rules and procedures. In March 2014 at the First Joint Annual Review meeting, CODESRIA made a strong emphasis on this work. CODESRIA is also foreseen to adapt both a gender and an ethics policy at the next CODESRIA General Assembly in June 2015. In the upcoming years, CODESRIA will have a strong focus on improving its reporting on results and effects. This also includes a stronger focus on outreach.

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. In November 2014, at the last Board of Directors meeting AERC presented a draft of the new AERC Strategic Plan 2015-2020. The Strategic Plan is expected to be approved in March 2015 by the Board. The Strategic Plan has a special focus on moving AERC's services into fragile African states, a stronger focus on gender, on francophone African countries, as well as stronger collaboration with the private sector. Funding for the strategy will be sought through renewal of existing donor agreements, re-engagement of former donors, and financial engagement by African Governments as the main financial sources to explore.

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. Denmark has supported OSSREA since 2010, and other major donors have included Sweden and Norway. However, in 2014 both Sweden and Norway decided to terminate their support to the organisation. An appraisal commissioned by Norway in 2013 of OSSREA's financial system found serious deficiencies in the internal control systems. As a follow up, and as a reaction to rumours of mismanagement, Danida, in late 2013, financed an audit by Ernst & Young. The audit concluded that there was no material misstatement in OSSREA's financial statements for 2010, 2011 and 2012, but it also noted instances where appropriate economic management

could be questioned. On the basis of Sweden's and Norway's decision to terminate their support, Denmark also decided to phase out support to OSSREA. It would not be feasible for Denmark to continue supporting the organisation as the sole principle donor in a situation where allegations of mismanagement were constantly popping up. Nor would Denmark be able to continue the close dialogue with OSSREA that Sweden had been able to sustain through the Regional Research Officer at the Swedish embassy in Addis Ababa. To honour the commitment already given, Denmark agreed at the end of 2014 to fund one final project that will be implemented by OSSREA with a number of additional safe-guards. The grant will run until October 2015 after which Danish support to OSSREA will terminate.

Technical Advisory Services participates actively in donor meetings of the three-African based organisations and assesses their development in close contact with like-minded donors, notably SIDA and Norad.

In 2014, UNU-WIDER launched its work programme for 2014-2018 covering the following research themes intended to address the post-2015 agenda: i). Economic transformation, including reduction of poverty and inequality; ii) Social and economic inclusion; and iii) Environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainability. Cutting across these themes, UNU-WIDER also undertakes research on: i) Africa's inclusive growth; ii) Gender equity; and iii) Aid effectiveness. UNU-WIDER maintains an ambition of increased emphasis on research that can reach national decision-makers in developing countries and donors. During 2014, Technical Advisory Services participated in the annual donor meeting held in Stockholm and observed that UNU-WIDER still has a challenge in clearly presenting its work programme and streamlining its progress reporting. In September 2014, Technical Advisory Services also participated in UNU-WIDER's international conference "Inequality- measurements, trends, impacts and policies". The conference highlight was an impressive key-note speech by the Brazilian Minister for Strategic Affairs. The speech focused on how the Brazilian governments had used research findings to formulate its redistribution policies to reduce inequality. Besides the Brazilian key-note speech, the conference had a strong academic bias in favour of econometrics and was less convincing in turning research results into policy recommendations which is otherwise UNU-WIDER's projected trademark.

## **5. Support to UniBRAIN (§ 06.32.01.23)**

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 DKK 130 million (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 2014 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 2014, UniBRAIN and its incubators reported to have facilitated the introduction of improved agri-curricula in 28 universities on the continent, b) supported 111 agribusiness Small- and Medium Size Enterprises, c) incubated 138 entrepreneurs, and d) overseen that 738 students received improved industry-related agribusiness courses.

In 2014, the programme began working on sustainability plans. The UniBRAIN Facility has commenced the process to institutionalize itself as an autonomous business Network - the African Agribusiness Incubation Network (AAIN) - to take over the functions of the Facility in its current form. By December 2014, AAIN had 58 members/business actors from 25 African countries. The AAIN first annual conference was held November 2014 (160 participants from across the continent). The Facility has developed funding proposals for review before submission in early 2015 to various funding agencies including Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, African Development Bank, and the Africa India Fund, among others. At incubator level, external funding options are being pursued while at the same time stepping up internal income generating streams. These internal streams are the key to long term sustainability. More details of the UniBRAIN programme and the six incubators are provided in annex 7.

Under the Minor Studies modality, the Technical Advisory Services has commissioned 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' experience 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 on an on-going basis contributing 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 2014 the budget frame for minor studies was DKK 7 million. Annex 5 contains a list of new studies initiated in 2014.

In 2014, it was decided to phase out the minor studies scheme from 2015. The administration of the scheme proved relatively heavy, and the embassies have possibilities to fund research studies through the country programme budget frame.

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

### **2015-2017**

Professor, Ph.D. Flemming Konradsen, University of Copenhagen (Chair)

Professor, Ph.D. Henrik Secher Marcussen, University of Roskilde (Vice-Chair)

Associate professor, Ph.D. Kåre Lehmann Nielsen, University of Aalborg

Professor, Ph.D. Stefano Ponte, Copenhagen Business School

Professor, Ph.D. Morten Bøås, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs

Professor, Ph.D. Nancy K.N. Karanja, University of Nairobi

Associate professor, Ph.D. Seema Arora-Jonsson, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Associate professor, Ph.D. Annette Skovsted Hansen, University of Aarhus

Head of Technical Advisory Services, Ph.D. Tove Degnbol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## ANNEX 2: APPROVED NORTH-DRIVEN RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2014

Applicant	Institution	Title
Anne S. Meyer	Technical University of Denmark	Seaweed Biorefinery in Ghana - SeaBioGha
Arne Henningsen	University of Copenhagen	Organic Cotton for Employment, Growth and Environment?
Christian Pilegaard Hansen	University of Copenhagen	Property, Access and eXclusion (AX)
Helene Maria Kyed	Danish Institute for International Studies	Everyday Justice and Security in the Myanmar Transition
Lars Buur	Roskilde University	Hierarchies of Rights: Land and Investments in Africa
Max Nielsen	University of Copenhagen	Upgrading pangas and tilapia value chains in Bangladesh
Peter Hasle	Aalborg University	Health, safety and productivity in garment in Bangladesh
Peter Stæhr	Aarhus University	Projections of climate change effects on Lake Tanganyika
Rasmus Lema	Aalborg University	Innovation and Renewable Electrification in Kenya

**ANNEX 3: APPROVED SOUTH-DRIVEN PROJECTS IN 2014 IN NEPAL, GHANA, AND TANZANIA**

Country	Applicant	Institution	Project title	Danish Partner
Nepal	Pramod Bhatta	Martin Chautari	Locating Public Finance Dynamics in Education in Nepal	Aarhus University
Ghana	Daniel Dodoo	University of Ghana	Functional Immunogenetics correlates of immunity to malaria	SSI University of Copenhagen,
Ghana	Sadow Mark Yidana	University of Ghana	Groundwater Development and Sustainable Agriculture	Aarhus University, University of Copenhagen, Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland
Tanzania	Julius Mwaiselage	Ocean Road Cancer Institute	Comprehensive cervical cancer prevention in Tanzania	University of Copenhagen, University of Southern Denmark
Tanzania	Robinson Hammerthon Mdegela	Sokoine University of Agriculture	Innovations and Markets for Lake Victoria Fisheries	Technical University of Denmark University of Copenhagen

**ANNEX 4: STATISTICS REGARDING NORTH-DRIVEN APPLICATIONS SCREENED BY FFU IN 2014**

**Distribution on each research area of North-driven applications: Number of applied (A) and granted (G) projects in each area calculated as percentage of total number applied for and granted, respectively, (rounded figures).**

	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G
Humanities	4	3	2	-	3	-	4	10	2	-	3	0
Agricultural Science*	28	34	29	40	22	7	24	10	38	67	28	11
Natural Science	14	14	20	20	10	-	12	10	9	8	10	22
Social Science	15	9	26	25	33	50	12	-	23	17	26	33
Health Science	30	34	15	5	16	-	34	60	7	-		
Technical Sciences	5	6	4	5	8	21	12	10	14	8	23	22
Interdisciplinary	3	-	4	5	8	21	1	-	7	-	10	11
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	99

\*) including forestry-related research.

**Total number of applications (North-driven) from each region of the partner institutions:**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Africa	79	88	86	66	32	22
Asia	22	24	30	10	17	12
Central- and Latin America	6	4	2	1	2	3
Middle East	1	3	1	2	2	2
Other	-	3	2	-	-	
Trans regional/International	5	6	6	3	4	
Total number	113	128	127	82	57	39

**Distribution by gender of the main applicants of North-driven applications: Number of male and female applicants for the applied (A) and granted (G) projects calculated as percentage of total number applied for and granted, respectively, (rounded figures).**

	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G
<b>Men</b>	64	49	59	60	71	57	73	70	79	58	85	78
<b>Women</b>	36	51	41	40	56	43	27	30	21	42	15	22
<b>Total %</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**Distribution of North-driven applications on applicant institution. (Number of applied (A) and granted (G) projects per institution calculated as percentage of total number applied for and granted, respectively, (rounded figures).**

	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G	A	G
University of Copenhagen	43	64	49	50	51	44	39	40	47	74	31	33
University of Aarhus	12	3	15	30	13	14	21	20	16	13	13	11
Roskilde University	6	6	3	-	2	-	5	-	7	13	8	0
Danish Inst. for Int. Studies	4	6	6	15	6	21	-	-	-	-	5	22
The Danish Inst. for Human Rights	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-		
Statens Serum Institut	4	6	2	-	1	-	4	-	-	-		
The Geological Survey for Denmark and Greenland	2	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	3	0
Technical University of Denmark	4	3	5	5	5	-	9	20	-	-	15	11
Aalborg University	6	-	9	-	5	-	5	-	12	-	15	22
University of Southern Denmark	2	3	-	-	6	-	2	10	5	-	3	0
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	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	0
Danish Meteorological Institute	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-		
Danish Hydraulic Institute	-	-	-		1	7	1	-	2	-		
Royal Danish Defence College											3	0
Other institutions	4	-	2	0	3	0	10	-	2			

## ANNEX 5: MINOR STUDIES INITIATED IN 2014

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Researcher or institution:</b>	<b>DKK:</b>
Illicit financial flow (increase of project from 2013)	Global Financial Integrity	111,000
Democratic dialogue in 140 characters: The role of social media in Indonesia's 2014 election	Press Council of Indonesia	600,000
South-South Cooperation to Open the Capability Trap	DIIS	900,000
Coherence in Conflict: Bringing humanitarian and development aid streams together	Policy 2 Practice Team (P2Pt)	500,000
Assessing National and Regional Capacities for Implementing the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) in Ghana and West Africa	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)	500,000
Inequality in countries transitioning from low-income to lower-middle income	ODI	750,000
Effects of green trade liberalisation on developing countries.	Copenhagen University	499,777
Conflict, Resilience and Transition in Somalia.	Sahan Research Ltd.	750,000
Development Policy Trends	DIIS	2,000,000
The use of country systems in countries affected by conflict and fragility: What can DK learn?	ODI	389,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,948,430</b>

**ANNEX 6: COMMITMENTS FOR ‘OTHER INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH’ IN 2012, 2013 AND 2014**

<b>ORGANISATION:</b>	<b>Commitments (million DKK) 2012</b>	<b>Commitments (million DKK) 2013</b>	<b>Commitments (million DKK) 2014</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>		2 (1year)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA)</li> </ul>		2 (1year)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)</li> </ul>	10 (2 years)		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>		1 (1 year)	2 (1 year)
<b>Health Science:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Partnership on Microbiocides (IPM)*)</li> </ul>		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 25 million</b>	<b>DKK 20 million</b>	<b>DKK 12 million</b>

\*) Support to IPM and IAVI is no longer part of the present Report on Support to Development Research, as the support to these two institutions is administered under the FFL 06.36.03: HIV, AIDS, befolknings- og sundhedsprogrammer, 14: FN's aidsbekæmpelsesprogram UNAIDS.

## **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.

This batch of 31 students who began their studies in September 2013, 5 students have successfully completed their one-year Master programmes.

Another 8 students began Master studies in September 2014. I.e. 39 students have been awarded a scholarship under this programme.

These 39 students are representing BSU-universities as follows:

- University of Ghana (Ghana) – 8 Master students;
- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (Ghana) – 9 Master students;
- Maseno University (Kenya) – 4 Master students;
- Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania) – 6 students;
- The State University of Zanzibar (Tanzania) – 2 Master students;
- University of Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania) – 1 Master student;
- Kilimanjo Christian Medical Centre (Tanzania) – 3 Master students;
- Tribhuvan University (Nepal) – 3 Master students;
- Gulu University (Uganda) – 3 Master students.

## ANNEX 9: ABBREVIATIONS

AAIN	African Agribusiness Incubation Network
AERC	African Economic Research Consortium
BSU	Building Stronger Universities
CGIAR	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research
CODESRIA	Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa
CRP	CGIAR Research Programme
DFC	Danida Fellowship Centre
DIIS	Danish Institute for International Studies
DKK	Danish Kroner
DSF	Det Strategiske Forskningsråd
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FFU	Forskningsfagligt Udvalg (Consult. Research Com. for Development Research)
IAVI	International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IPM	International Partnership on Microbiocides
NSM	National Screening Mechanism
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
OSSREA	Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa
PhD	Philosophy Doctor
ReCom	Research and Communication
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SSI	Statens Serum Institut
TAS	Technical Advisory Services (Department)
UNU-WIDER	United Nations University – World Institute for Development Economics Research