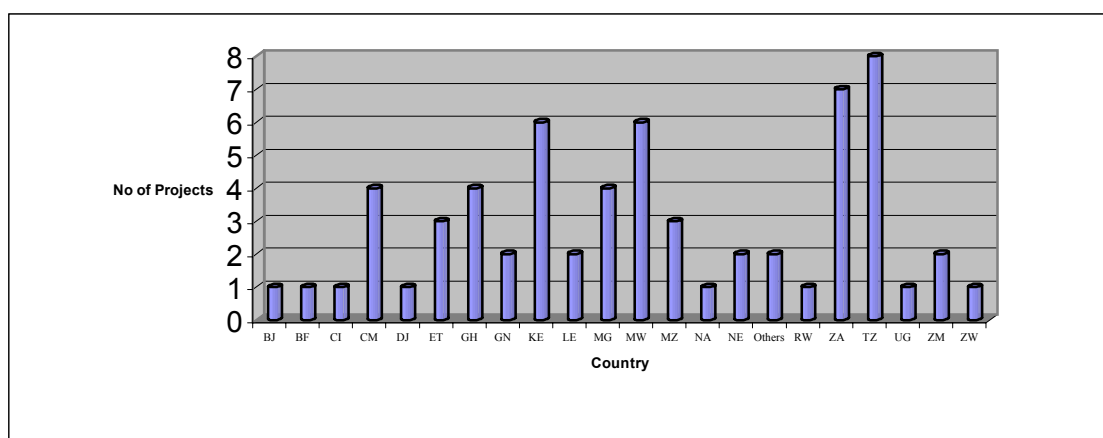


SNRD, AFRICA, IN BRIEF NOVEMBER 2002

OVERVIEW

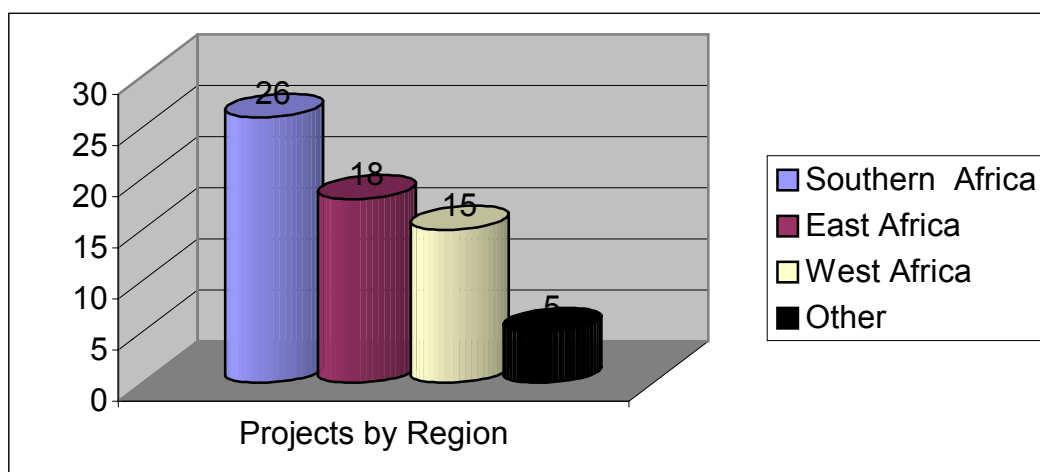
The Sector Network Rural Development (SNRD), Africa was launched in October 1995 during a meeting of GTZ project team leaders in Lesotho. A Sector Network (SN) is an organized form of information exchange and cooperation between projects with professional contacts to GTZ Head Office (HO), institutions of development cooperation, local and international consultants, universities, NGOs and donor organisations. The SN's activities are in line with GTZ's sector network policy that seeks to secure and enhance the quality of technical cooperation services. Currently, the SN's membership stands at 64 projects and over 120 members whose operations and objectives are guided by the network's constitution and resolutions reviewed annually by one of its strongest organs, the Steering Group (meeting of members). Below are graphical representations of projects distribution by region and country.

SNRD Projects by Country



BJ=Benin, BF=Burkina Faso, CI=Cote d'Ivoire, CM=Cameroon, DJ=Djibouti, ET=Ethiopia, GH=Ghana, KE=Kenya, LE=Lesotho, MG=Madagascar, MW=Malawi, MZ=Mozambique, NA=Namibia, NE=Niger, RW=Rwanda, ZA=South Africa, TZ=Tanzania, UG=Uganda, ZM=Zambia, ZW=Zimbabwe, Others: include Germany-based supra-regional projects

SNRD Projects by Region



MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

SN Members

The SN has several organs composed of project and field staff members, counterparts and the Regional Advisor for Rural Development who work with tandem partners at HO. The SN is headed by an elected chairperson and deputy whose role is to chair regular and extra ordinary meetings as well as coordinating and monitoring the activities of the SN as outlined in the constitution. The Secretariat, recently moved to Pretoria, SA, is headed by the Regional Advisor for Rural Development whose duties amongst others include 'networking' and coordinating both meetings and the SN regional training programme. Moreover, the Secretariat maintains direct link with the tandem partner in Division 45, Rural Development. This ensures that relations between projects and Head Office operate as smoothly as possible.

Workgroups

SNRD members have teamed into relevant workgroups which can be described as '*the heart and soul*' of the network. Each workgroup has an elected spokesperson and deputy and they design their own work programmes. Workgroups have tandem partners who help maintain links at Planning and Development Department (P&D). Their work includes dissemination of information, organization of topic days and the provision of technical backstopping for trainings coordinated by the secretariat with a lot of input from workgroups. SNRD's workgroup speakers meet annually to review workgroup progress and formulate strategies for the future. In this light, it is important to note that some workgroups have been dissolved, some redesigned and new workgroups have come into being in line with the needs of changing requirements within the rural development concept. Counterparts are most welcome to participate in workgroups

Currently, the six functional workgroups are:

1. Decentralisation and Rural Development:

Speaker: Katharina Huebner, Email: katharina@dso.pwv.gov.za, South Africa

Deputy: Hartmut Troeger, Email: ifspmulanje@malawi.net, Malawi

2. Innovation and Extension Services Systems:

Speaker: NN

Deputy: Mathias Braun, Email: icpacc@ghana.com, Ghana

3. Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM)

Speaker: Konrad Sandhofer, Email: sandhofer.gtz-kenia@ke.gtz.de, Kenya

Deputy: Ludwig Siege, Email: scp@africaonline.co.tz, Tanzania

4. Forestry Section

Speaker: Guido Besmer, Email: pdfivamb@dts.mg, Madagascar

Deputy: Martin Tampe, Email: martin.tampe@gtz.de, Germany

5. Sector Reforms in Rural Development:

Speaker: Werner von der Ohe, Email: vdohe@nbnet.co.ke, Kenya
Deputy: Johann Hesse, , Email: gtzmofa@ghana.com, Ghana

6. HIV/AIDS and Rural Development:

Speaker: Marlis Kees, Email: kees.gt-zimbabwe@zw.gt-z.de, Zimbabwe
Deputy: Reinhard Trenkle, Email: rtrenkle@gtzmlqrd.com.gh, Ghana

SN Partners

Besides the close links to Division 45, Rural Development, at HO, the SN cooperates with GTZ sectoral projects, NGOs, donor organisations, universities and development organisations notably FAO, IFAD, World Bank and UNCDF. SNRD has established relations with other sector networks especially those in the areas of food security, economic development and employment (TENEDEP) and health. Exchanges with other SNRD (covering Asia, LA, Mediterranean, MO-Europe) are taking place mainly through the tandem partner at HO, Albert Engel.

SNRD ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

The activities and services offered by SNRD aim, among other objectives, to boost advisory capacity of projects, raise the level of sectoral expertise of GTZ experts and local project staff, gather and evaluate expert knowledge and provide local knowledge and know-how within Sub-Saharan Africa. Some of the activities meant to achieve these objectives include:

- Workgroup activities, which include information dissemination, newsletters and topic days to mention just a few.
- Human resource development
- Professional consultancy services for projects
- Exchange of information and experiences on sector-specific and cross-sectoral topics, relevant instruments all done through relevant events like training workshops and annual steering group meetings.
- Exchange visits between projects
- Cooperation between SNRD/the workgroups and the tandem partners in P&D.
- Development, documentation, evaluation and revision of rural development concepts/strategies carried out by workgroups, secretariat and special task forces

Apart from the conceptual work, the SN provides members with services namely;

- Regional training programme
- Innovation exchange of 'best practices'
- Job vacancy information
- An SNRD website to update members on activities and events

SNRD REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

The SN has provided a training programme since 1998. To date, the SN has successfully hosted about 25 training workshops and regional fora, which have benefited over 450 participants from projects and partner institutions. Workgroups play a major part in developing and revising course contents as necessary. This open structure of courses guarantees that new projects' challenges and needs can be taken care of. Like in the case of existing workgroups at any given time, this has resulted in some courses scrapped, revised and some new ones introduced notably a course in 'Marketing and Trade of Agricultural Produce' and another on 'HIV/AIDS and Rural Development'.

Proposed courses for the year 2002 are:

- 1) Managing Change and New Challenges in the Delivery of District Agricultural Extension Services (December, SA)
- 2) Collaborative Wildlife Management as part of Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), (postponed)

- 3) Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for Rural Development (cancelled)
- 4) Regional Forum: Sector Reform Programmes (SIP, SWAP, etc.), (postponed to Kenya, February 2003)
- 5) HIV/AIDS impacts on Rural Development – what can be done through agricultural extension? (April, Zambia)
- 6) Organisational Development in Natural Resource Management (postponed to March/April 2003, SA)
- 7) Support to Decentralisation: Strategies and Tools (April, Kenya)
- 8) Going Global – Marketing and Trade of Agricultural Produce (October, Kenya)

The training programme is to be run on a cost-covering basis.

COSTS

SN costs comprise of:

- the personal emoluments of the SNRD secretary, who works at the same time as regional RD-adviser; approx. 2/3 of total costs are therefore borne by Div. 45, Rural Development, head office, Eschborn/Germany;
- the local staff costs: training assistant currently works on a 80% capacity;
- operational costs (office rent, materials, etc.);
- staff duty trips on behalf of SNRD;
- parts of costs of meetings (steering group, speakers' meeting, etc.)

All SNRD-related costs are shared, once a year, by member projects. Whereas the SNRD-Constitution allows for annual contributions of up to € 2.500.-, the actual contributions, though quite oscillating, so far never exceeded € 1.400.-. Currently, with more than 60 member projects, each member has to calculate with an annual amount of about € 750.- – 1.250.-.

A paper, having a closer look on economic aspects of SNRD's work, is available from the secretariat.

OUTLOOK

A number of weaknesses have recently been identified and should be addressed in the near future; these include:

- Full establishment of an impact monitoring system for SN activities
- More openness among members in dealing with misdirected developments
- Creation of a HRM file, particularly with regard to reimbursable technical cooperation
- Greater use of Internet based information gathering and evaluation
- Increased use and regular update of the SNRD website as a tool for information dissemination

SNRD, Africa, considers itself as **a strong and effective network**, whose members find it worthwhile to actively participate. They live up to the statement according to which "sector-networking forms an integral part of project implementation". However, with declining funds and strict concentration on selected focal sectors, the future of Rural Development (including Natural Resources Management, Forestry and Food Security) in the framework of development co-operation with Sub-Saharan African countries doesn't look as bright as it deserves to look.

CONTACT

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