



## Study on Sector-Wide Approaches for Agriculture and Rural Development

### Information Sheet

The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development Facility is supporting a study on **Sector-Wide Approaches for Agriculture and Rural Development** with funding from the European Commission.

The study is being carried out by the Investment Centre (IC) of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in cooperation with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) of the University of Sussex.

The purpose of the study is to examine past, present and future roles of Sector-Wide Approaches (SWAs) in Agriculture and Rural Development (A&RD) within the broader context of changes in development assistance. The objectives of the study are: (i) to establish whether, and in what ways, A&RD SWAs are delivering against their stated goals; and (ii) to identify critical lessons about the way in which development assistance currently supports the A&RD sector and what can be done differently to enhance the contribution of A&RD to long term growth and poverty reduction.

The study comprises 3 phases: Phase 1 is a desk review which scopes out the global context for a move to SWAs in A&RD, reviews issues from the existing literature on the challenges SWAs are seeking to address and their performance record, and elaborates a conceptual and methodological framework for guiding activities in the following phases. Phase 2 will involve selected country studies aimed at examining in detail the issues and challenges. Phase 3 will synthesize the main issues from the first and second phases.

Phase 1 has been completed, Phase 2 is planned to commence in June and July 2006, and Phase 3 will be completed by October 2006

This information sheet summarises Phase 1 and presents the conceptual framework and the approach and team involved in Phase 2.

#### Issues and Challenges

There are several core issues and challenges facing A&RD SWAs. These along with some leading questions are listed below and will be elaborated upon in Phase 2.

- Harmonisation and alignment: To what extent have SWAs identified clear and feasible mechanisms for

increasing harmonisation and alignment? To what extent have governments assumed effective leadership in the SWA processes? What are some of the implications of the growing trend towards General Budget Support (GBS)?

- Policy co-ordination and planning: Does the scope of the SWA determine how issues of policy coherence and coordination are tackled? Where do SWAs feature in relation to other public sector planning and management instruments such as Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) and Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEFs)?
- Institutional capacity and government leadership: Are Ministries of Agriculture the appropriate location for a SWA? How do SWAs address the roles and responsibilities of central and local institutions? Are SWAs and decentralisation processes complementary or conflicting? To what extent are institutional structures and technical capacity at the central and local levels a major focus of SWAs?
- Public financial management and service delivery: Are areas for public action in service delivery clearly defined? Is improving the quality (rather than quantity) of investments and recurrent expenditure a reasonable focus for the SWA? How does public financial management reform and managing for results across governments fit with the SWA? How do SWAs address the role of local governments, civil society organisations and private sector agencies in improving service delivery?
- Private sector interface: How do SWAs seek to build synergy with the resources and efforts of private sector actors and institutions? Are clear mechanisms for interaction and partnership with the private sector in place and put into practice? How do SWAs balance the need for more effective public action for the poor with the need to create an enabling environment for private sector investment?

#### Conceptual Framework

The SWA “logic model” is shown on the following page. It has been developed in Phase 1 and provides the conceptual framework for Phase 2 of the study.

The “outputs” in the logic model correspond with the issues and challenges presented above. The study will address the various questions posed: looking backward at processes involved in moving from initial conditions, inputs and activities to outputs; and looking forward at processes involved in moving from outputs to outcomes and impacts.



**Approach and Method**

The country studies will involve a combination of interviews with local stakeholders, document analysis, focus groups and in-country workshops.

The work will be conducted in four stages: (i) an introduction and scoping meeting; (ii) in-country data collection and key stakeholder interviews; (iii) preliminary data analysis; and (iv) feed back on preliminary findings through a workshop.

The introduction and scoping meeting will be carried out with the relevant donor and government counterparts prior to commencing the study. It will serve to inform donors and the government of the purpose and objectives of the study and to seek assistance in mapping out the key stakeholders and data sources. This will provide the basis for data collection, conducting stakeholder interviews and preliminary analysis. Prior to concluding the study a workshop will be held with the donor and government counterparts to discuss and where necessary elaborate the preliminary findings.

The overall study is being led by Dr. Alison Evans from IDS, and Dr. Michael Wales and Dr. Dan Vadjnal from FAO-IC.

Country studies will be carried out in Mozambique, Nicaragua, Tanzania, and Vietnam by a small team comprising 2-3 persons from IDS and IC-FAO along with 1 local expert from each country.

- The Mozambique team will be led by Ms. Lidia Cabral, an economist with a number of years working in Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Finance in Mozambique.
- The Nicaragua team will be led by Mr. Steven Wiggins, an agricultural economist with many years of experience working on different aspects of agricultural and rural sector policy.
- The Tanzania team will be led by Dr Martin Greeley, an economist with special interest in poverty, rural and agricultural development, and aid effectiveness.
- The Vietnam team led by Dr. Andrew Shepherd, a social scientist with special interests in agriculture and rural policy and environment, and Ms. Cecilia Lutterel, a forestry specialist.

Dr Alison Evans and Dr Michael Wales will each participate in at least one of the country studies.

**SWAP Logic Model**

