

Innovation Systems and Technology Development Aid: DFID RIU Programme

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Themes in Paper

1. Personal History

Innovation Systems growth/development

2. DFID Research into Use (RIU) Programme

Technology development aid SSA/SA

Use of Innovation systems ideas

Research into Use (RIU)

- Aid programme with learning aspect (science policy)
- Large complex one, many people involved and comprising many sub-programmes and projects
- Experimental and began with a strong “supply push” character (scale out of 30 projects)
- Has used concepts such as “innovation platforms”, “value chains”
- Poverty and gender focus

RIU Background (CRD/RED)

- RNRRS 1600 research projects (£220m)
- 10 programmes 1995-2005
- Problem putting research into use
- Structural issue on knowledge and technology development [VFM]



- RIU £37.5 million SSA & S Asia (2006-12)
[Output/Learning]

RNRRS Programmes

- **Animal Health**
- **Livestock Production**
- **Aquaculture and Fish Genetic Research**
- **Crop Post-harvest**
- **Crop Protection**
- **Fisheries**
- **Post-harvest Fisheries**
- **Forestry Research**
- **Natural Resources Systems**
- **Plant Sciences**

RIU Inception

- Put out to tender (£37.5 million)
- Four short-listed consortia
- Selection of NR International Ltd
- Mid term review (2008/2009)
- Shift to RIR Ltd (Edinburgh Univ.)
- Extension to December 2012

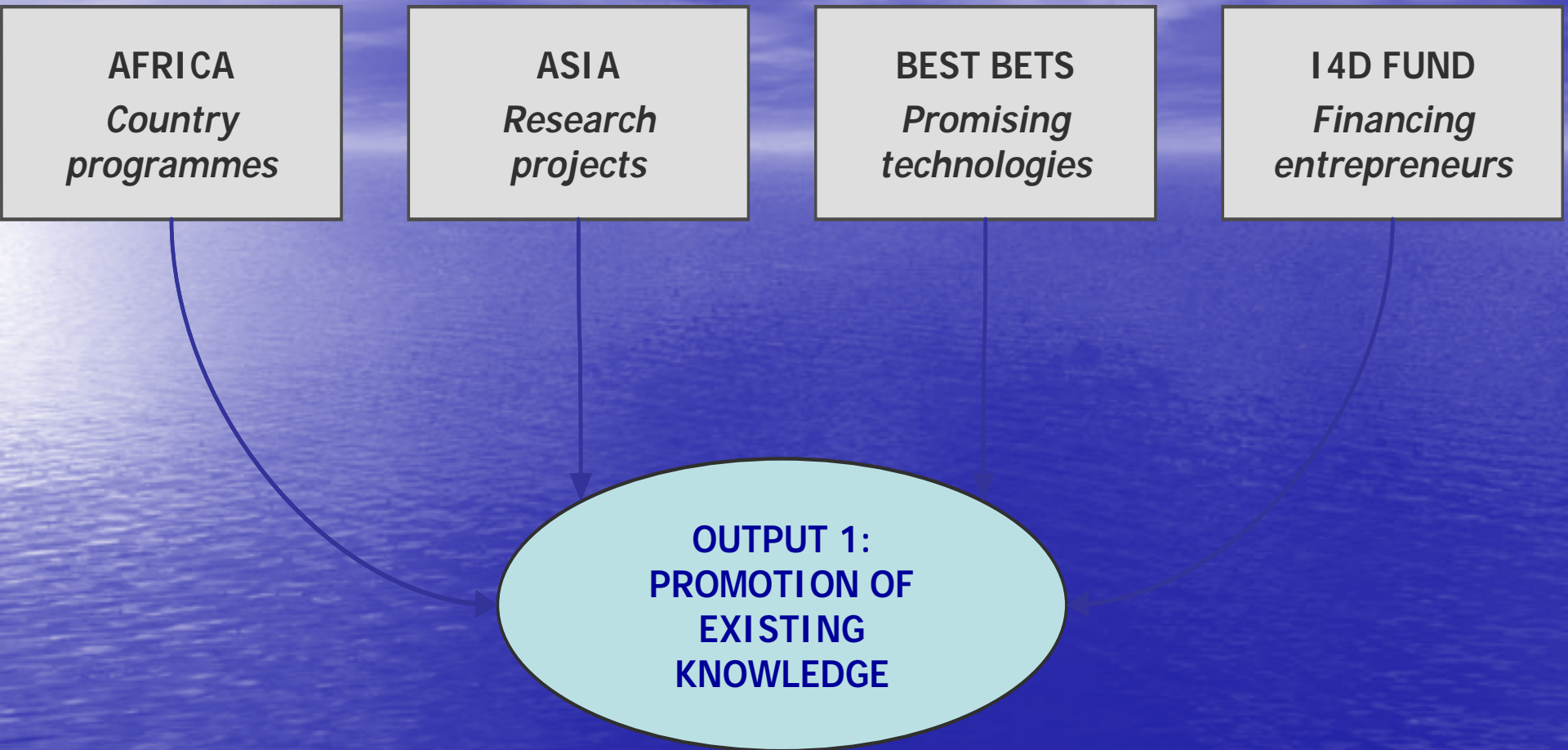
AFRICA
*Country
programmes*

ASIA
*Research
projects*

BEST BETS
*Promising
technologies*

I4D FUND
*Financing
entrepreneurs*

**OUTPUT 1:
PROMOTION OF
EXISTING
KNOWLEDGE**



Output 2 → Learning

- Researchers
- Working with projects
- Capacity building

Innovation System Practice [SSA]

- **Country assessments (diagnostic)**
- **Innovation coalitions (stakeholders)**
- **Country strategies**
- **Innovation platforms (product-based)**
- **Tech/econ constraints**
- **Project funding**
- **M&E**

Best Bets Programme (09-12)

- Mobilise private sector resources in consortia that would demonstrate RIU sustainability (exit strategy)
- Initially asked for a 2 page outline concept note
- Screening of concept notes (CEPA)
- Selection of short list
- Writing of business plan (\$2,500)
- "Dragon's Den" Panel (11/09)

Concept Notes (2 pages)

- **RNRRS research**
- **Scientist involvement**
- **Impact at Scale**
- **African led Consortia**
- **Private sector partner**
- **Private sector resource input**

Selection Process

- 125 applications ; Short list of 15 (9 chosen)
- "Dragons Den" event (November 2009)
- "Training" of applicants
- Decision and issuing of contracts (end of year)
- Total budget £5 million

Dragons Den Panel

- **Judi Wakhungu, Geophysicist, ACTS ED (K)**
- **Patrick Oketa, CIO African Agricultural Capital (Ug)**
- **Muchiri Wahome (Chair) MD of Deacons (K) Ltd. (retail chain)**
- **Ali A Mufuruki, Chairman and CEO of the Infotech Investment Group (Tz)**



Ultimate Aim

To generate knowledge about how best to put research into use in a *sustainable* way



Important role of the private sector → hence use of the “dragons den”

Projects

1. Armyworm forecasting and elimination (K & Tz)
2. Biocides (Kenya)
3. Biocides (Ghana)
4. Aquaculture (Kenya)
5. Seed Yam (Nigeria)
6. NERICA Rice (Uganda)
7. Farm Inputs (K & Tz)
8. "Shujaaz" Comic (Kenya)
9. Sleeping Sickness (Uganda)

Example FIPS

- Small packs
- Agronomy (fertiliser)
- VBAs
- Total technology model
- Fertiliser companies
- Impacts
- Other/market access

Some Preliminary Conclusions 1 [Best Bets]

- Problems soliciting projects [research driven]
- RNRRS used *"ex post"* [but not *"ex ante"*]
- Continuous science input [complexity of projects]
- Productive facilities created [but slow]
- Venture capital interest (3 from 9)

Some Preliminary Conclusions 2 [Best Bets]

- Tertiary education institutions mobilised
- Private sector impacts
 - New extension businesses (VBAs)
 - Agro-dealers
 - New outlets for established business
- Aid as pre-competitive subsidy
- Networked systems in all cases

Policy Agenda

Inefficient “knowledge market”



Policy question

How better to finance research to maximise “value for money”?

— Routledge Explorations in Development Studies —

TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR AGRICULTURE

Putting Research into use
in Low Income Countries

NORMAN CLARK,
ANDY FROST,
IAN MAUDLIN
AND ANDREW WARD

ROUTLEDGE



Other References

1. Gildemacher & Mur *Bringing new Ideas into Practice*, KIT Amsterdam
2. DFID *Research into Use: An Independent evaluation*
3. A Hall et al *RIU Discussion Paper Series (27)*
[www.researchintouse .com](http://www.researchintouse.com)



Questions/Comments

Personal History

- Causes of economic growth and change
- Knowledge [science and technology?]
- Innovation systems & institutional change
- "Long run" evolutionary economic models
- Practical programmes in SSA and SA

Current Position on IS

- Investment/S&T (small part of story)
- Innovation key action issue
- Innovation system as a metaphor/
heuristic but not a formal theory [context]
- General systems theory (but not yet)
- Formal science integration with
technology development [LICs] needed.