

A Summary

1. Title

European Research Cooperation for Development: the INCO-DEV programme

2. Duration

1998-2002

It is the follow-up of the INCO-DC programme (1994-1998) and previous STD programmes.

3. Objectives

INCO-DEV is a specific programme for S&T cooperation in Research for development with developing countries (<http://www.cordis.lu/inco2>), a part of the European Framework programme for RTD, which is the instrument for implementation of the European research policy.

The objectives of this programme are to:

1. tackle the challenges faced by DCs, and which derive from their particular conditions and adjustments to recent global trends.
2. mobilize the European S&T community jointly with DC research teams.
3. use RTD cooperation to support community development cooperation policy which fosters the sustainable economic and social development of the DCs, the smooth and gradual integration of the developing countries into the world economy, and the campaigns against poverty in DCs.

This will strengthen and add value to ongoing research in Europe and DC centres, reduce isolation of DC scientists and allow them to work at an international level while working in their own institutions, and provide training opportunities.

4. Activities

The programme is providing financial support, on a shared cost basis, for two kinds of activities:

- ***Joint research activities (97% of the budget) :***
Contracts are signed directly with research institutions after selecting proposals received in response to an international call launched each year on specific topics according to regional priorities defined through a dialogue with DC regions.
- ***Accompanying measures :***
The objectives are to facilitate, promote and co-ordinate research for development cooperation activities, as well as to disseminate results to conduct regional dialogue, and priority setting. Accompanying measures include workshops, seminars, studies, conference support and networking.

5. Area

The fields covered by INCO-DEV are broader than ARD since they include an important health component.

Projects can address the four domains identified by the GFAR Steering Committee, policy research as well as genetic resources management, natural resources management or commodity chains.

Because the programme will favour inter- and multidisciplinary approaches due to the complex issues of sustainable development, it envisages an international scheme with three levels of research: 1) policy research to determine the conditions for sustainable development - including gender issues - involving the state, market forces and civil society; 2) systems research on complex issues involving many interacting components, such as rehabilitation and management of renewable natural resources or health care; and 3) research on specific scientific and technological problems to generate tools for sustainable development, which can be used in a particular context of system management or policy development.

6. Regions

Asia-Pacific, Latin America & Caribbean, Sub Saharan African, West Asian and North African developing countries, as well as EU member states plus EU-associated countries are concerned by INCO-DEV.

B/ Stakeholders

1. Beneficiaries :

The "Five-year assessment report for 1996" (we are awaiting for the results of the current one) provides some data on the users of the output:

- Scientific communities:	36,1%,
- National administrations:	20,5%,
- Primary producers (e.g. farmers):	15,6%,
- Industries (services, manufacturing, suppliers):	14,4%,
- European policy makers:	13,4%.

The programme also offers opportunities for training (73% of the contracts incorporated postgraduate training).

These data are the results of questionnaires sent out to 340 co-ordinators of INCO-DC and STD3 projects, 176 of whom returned completed forms (response rate of 25%).

2. Research partners :

Between 1995 and 1998, 235 contracts out of 1814 proposals received (12,95% of selection) have been signed in Agriculture Research for Development, involving 1590 different research teams, 810 of which from DCs.

The large majority of the institutions involved were public research institutions (university departments: 50% and national research institutes: 34,55%). Private sector organisations and NGOs represent only a few percent.

Between DCs' regions, the distribution is 37% for ACP countries, 21% for LAC, 23% for Asia, and 19% for Mediterranean countries. Africa's ranking is diminishing from 48% (STD3) to 37% (INCO-DC). The IARCs could be involved in the research consortia created to implement these research contracts but, probably owing to the fact that they will not receive in general any special financial support, their participation is very limited.

Each contract involves participants from at least two different EU countries (or associated in the European RTD Framework Programme) and from two different DCs from the same region in order to reinforce regional scientific cooperation. The average size of consortia, in the contracts, is more than six participants.

3. **Donors and budgets :**

The budget committed on INCO-DC (94-98) to support ARD related activities was 135,2 million Euro.

Because it is mainly to promote and facilitate the linkages between institutions already active in these fields, the programme has a very strong leverage effect. It is based on the principle of shared costs, and the EC contribution is up to a maximum of 50% of the EU participants' costs. This means that, broadly speaking it could be considered that these 135,2 million € are mobilising at least the equivalent provided by other donors or "in kind" by participating organisations on their own budgets.

The budget for the INCO-DEV programme (1998-2002) for activities in ARD-related topics is again around 135 million Euro, which will be disbursed in three calls for proposals in 1999, 2000, and 2001.

C/ Results

For the moment, for the ongoing INCO-DEV programme, it is only possible to give the list of the expected deliverables for projects launched in 1999 and the first contracts signed in 2000.

The broad deliverables are:

Identification of policy options for RTD, for meeting basic needs and for use of renewable natural resources. Improved systems of renewable natural resource use in rural and urban areas. Cost-effective tools for improved agricultural and agro-industrial production and water management. Enhanced Europe-Developing Country and international policy dialogue. Strengthened Europe-Developing Country links, especially working partnerships among scientists and increased appreciation of commercial and other opportunities. Strengthened research base in Europe and Developing Countries, including training and institutional development.

However European research programmes for scientific cooperation with developing countries on their development exist since 1984 and these earlier results are available on the three key issues, cooperation, research and development.

1. **Cooperation**

- 1) Through the research contracts: It can be said that INCO-DEV increases the cooperation in three dimensions :
 - First, in Europe, between research institutions (there are often participants from more than 3 European countries in the contracts);
 - Second between Europe and DCs. This programme has enlarged the classical and historical bilateral cooperation between European Countries and their "targeted partners Countries" and at the same time diversified the possibilities of partnerships available for both European and DC scientists (there is an increasingly better balance between the different regions than at the beginning when Africa was dominant);
 - Third between DCs at a regional level and even between regions (one criteria for eligibility is the participation of institutions from at least two different countries from the same region with possibility of involvement of participants from another region if it brings a clear scientific added value).

To illustrate the level of partnerships in this programme, 99 countries were involved by the last INCO programme (1994-1998), through 912 different research institutions (65 from UK, 50 from Germany, 38 from France, but also 23 from Brazil, 20 from Argentina, 51 from China, 16 from Kenya etc...) in 235 research contracts involving 1590 different research teams.

- 2) Accompanying measures are also a key instrument for strengthening coordination and cooperation. BUROTROP; IPM Europe, which will be presented during the GFAR Dresden meeting have emerged as initiatives from the INCO-programme as well as ETRN (European Tropical Forest Research Network) or instruments such as EIARD Infosys.

2. Research

The first objective of research contracts is research results that can be published in international scientific journals, and all the contracts of the STD and INCO programmes follow this logic.

In the 1998 monitoring report it was mentioned that around 1600 scientific publications had resulted from STD3 (1991-1994) and already there are 320 from INCO-DC which was launched only in 1995.

3. Development

The impact of this programme on development can be seen in the use of research results in the development process and to the reinforcement of research capacity, in particular human resources, in DCs.

- On the first point tick borne disease research work is good example.

Since STD 2 in 1987, EC supports research cooperation projects on tick borne diseases of domestic livestock towards effective vaccines, more efficient therapeutic drugs and vector control measures.

In 1991, a breakthrough was achieved by one of the Commission supported projects (STD2) with the attenuation of Senegalese Cowdria isolate, followed by the identification of another strain with a much higher crossprotection potential. Further advances were made through STD3 and INCO-DC sponsored contracts, leading to the production in 1996 of a true vaccine against Cowdra, the ISA50 "first generation vaccine".

Jointly, the European and African partners have been able to come up with an effective vaccine and with the initial technology needed to produce it on a large scale. The time has come to initiate this production and test the vaccine under field conditions, using relevant domestic livestock species, under different farming systems. The concerted action "Integrated Control of Tick borne disease" involving more than 25 participants, has been instrumental in organising and Euro-African partnership to carry out these tasks in close collaboration with the relevant Research DG and Development DG services of the European Commission.

Others examples of success stories can be found in the booklet "Scientific partnership for development: 15 years of involving S&T cooperation for Development" published by EC in 1999.

- On the second point, 20 - 30% of the budget allocated to the DCs participants was used to buy scientific equipment. In the 1998 monitoring report, it was also mentioned that during the STD3 programme (1991-1994) around 300 PhDs and 120 MSc were supported and almost the same number during INCO-DC as the training component in the research contracts.

The dissemination of the results is made by the usual channel for scientific results, publications in scientific journals, but also to a larger audience through other means.

For example CTA, publishes the final summary reports of the STD contracts on CD Rom when the EC makes the paper version available.

Another very important way to disseminate results is workshops or conferences supported by accompanying measures which allows the involvement of other stakeholders than those directly engaged in research projects in the discussion of "products" presented as contract results.

Access to Web pages of INCO-DC projects is a more recent opportunity for dissemination of results (<http://www.dainet.de/eiard/infosys/>).

D/ Partnership

1. Respective role of the different stakeholders

The specific programme for S&T cooperation with Developing Countries for their development was launched by the EC as a response to the 1979 U.N. Conference on Science and Technology for Development (Vienna Programme).

At the Conference, the developing countries asked for new modalities of cooperation which, instead of "technology transfer" or "product delivery" would move to a real cooperation (joint work) which allow them to take part in defining the knowledge and technology necessary for their development.

How does the new kind of relationship find expression in the INCO-programme and its predecessors?

- In the programme design

The programme design results from permanent exchanges that EC officers have with DCs in the region to region dialogue, in the international fora and, of course, from the political decision of the European Council of Ministers. What is specific to this programme is the point that for each call the scientific topics presented are focussed on different regional priorities which take into account the specific needs of the different regions as they expressed in their strategic plans or in the dialogue that we have with them.

- In project design

- The proposal may be prepared and submitted either by European research institutions or by a DC institute; what is important is the number of participants from Europe and from DCs (at least two of each from different countries). Participants may be private or public research institutions.
- A good balance must be ensured in the tasks to be done between the European and DC teams in the project. INCO does not support technology transfer only.
- There must be clear relevance for developing countries.

- In project evaluation

The programme is implemented by an international call for proposals (in the current INCO, 3 calls are planned 1999, 2000 and 2001). The evaluation of the proposals in order to select those which will be supported, is done in 2 steps.

The first is to assess the scientific excellence of the proposal. The panels of experts who have to do this work include scientists from Europe and from Developing countries.

The second is for judging on regional basis the relevance for development, of the proposals that passed with success the first step. That means that a group of experts exclusively from DCs regions (groups for each of the 4 regions, ACP, Asia, Latin America and Mediterranean) carries out this exercise because we consider that they are best qualified for this part of the evaluation. DC scientists and research managers are fully involved in the evaluation and selection process of the European INCO-DEV programme.

2. Added value of the partnership

This programme, like other European research programmes, provides a clear added value to Member states research institutions by promoting and supporting partnerships between them.

On the specific matter of S&T cooperation for development, the added value derives in addition from the multi-lateral aspects of the programme since it is open to all developing countries.

Another aspect of added value, which applies to European countries and DCs, is the regional targeting of the programme; it facilitates DC-DC cooperation that is responding to a current trend initiated by the ROs or/and SROs. It is also a good complement to what the EU Member states are doing more at a national level and by that increases the efficiency of the ongoing research activities.

Conclusion

After 15 years of implementation of S&T cooperation with DCs for development we are in a position to draw certain conclusions:

- There is a clear need for this kind of competitive instrument to promote S&T cooperation between Europe and DCs, as demonstrated by the number of received proposals. The region-region target seems to be well justified.
- If we want to do the programme to be less supply and more demand driven, then the demand needs to be clearly defined and expressed which means strong ROs and SROs; and also improved dialogue with them.
- Despite the efforts to change this, the majority of proposals are still presented by European scientists. This is partly due to a deficit in information for DCs (the information is often channelled by the European research institutions, which provides them a dominant position). This is also the consequence of a lack of skill for DCs scientist in writing research proposals.
- The partnership is also still too unbalanced, even through this is gradually improving, and the cooperation is not fully equitable; NARS has to be strengthened to better participate.
- To formulate a proposal is costly and can be seen as an investment which often cannot be made by DC participants. The competitive grants that ASARECA and CORAF are planning to launch thanks to the EDF support could be a useful tool to solve this problem.
- Cooperation can be maintained and improved only if there is a political will and research capacity on both sides. Whilst the budget of this programme grew exponentially from the very beginning up until 1994, since 1994 there has seen a plateau and there are question marks over its future existence. Efforts have to be made to increase the visibility of the programme and its impacts to convince policy-makers of the value of such an instrument, in particular in the framework of the Global approach for ARD.