

Africa

- Significant developments in strategies and policies
- Programmes and policies effective in reducing rural poverty
- Empowerment of the poor, including women and indigenous people
- Capacity building of local governments, communities to manage resources effectively
- Mechanisms for equitable resource revenue sharing
Means of implementation (Capacity-building, Education, Finance, Science & Technology)
- Improvements in domestic resource mobilization
- Improvements in access to international capital markets, foreign direct investment
- Strengthening of domestic financial sector; improved access to finance of the poor
- Strengthening agricultural, other research centers, institutions and capabilities

New Danish Africa Policy

In August 2007 the Danish government presented Denmark's new Strategy for Africa for the period 2007-2011. The strategy is a result of a thorough analysis and an in-depth public debate of Danish development priorities in Africa. More development assistance is allocated towards Africa and attention is given to key challenges of development in Africa: Youth, employment, Climate changes and gender discrimination.

The Danish government wishes to see African countries participate in globalisation as an equal economic partner and hopes to strengthen the Danish engagement in Africa. Furthermore regional cooperation should be strengthened to facilitate trade and establish security.

Support to agricultural and rural development in Africa

Denmark's development assistance to Africa is primarily focused on ten "programme countries". Among these countries, seven receive programme support for agricultural development. A number of other countries in Africa also receive assistance though at a smaller scale.

The support is generally being aligned to national strategies and procedures, and harmonised with other donor support. Funds are allocated for joint funding mechanisms/sector budget support to the extent possible. Implementation of some components/activities is anchored with institutions outside government, explained by the private sector nature of this sector.

As a consequence of the increasing focus on economic development within national policy frameworks and of the ongoing process of sector concentrations in the Danida programme countries (following the development of 'Joint Assistance Strategies') it is expected that there will be a greater integration over the coming years between the agriculture sector support and transport and private sector/business sector support.

An example of a country where the Danish support is being transformed is Uganda where a new Danida programme linked with the 'growth objective' of the national policy framework is under preparation. The programme will be linking agriculture, rural roads and private sector development together.

In Tanzania the JAS process will lead to the phasing out of Danish support to the agriculture sector at the end of the current phase, i.e. in 2008, with elements of the agricultural sector programme being integrated in the business sector support programme. Finally, a programme linking agriculture and transport development in Benin is being considered.

In West Africa support to Agriculture is provided to Benin and to the three Sahelian countries Burkina Faso, Niger and more recently Mali. In Niger a new programme for agriculture/rural development support is being prepared, including among others support to the regionalization of the national plan for rural development (Strategie de Developpement Rural).

Support within the area of agricultural research

Following a new strategy introduced in 2007 the Danish support to international agricultural research (mainly to the CGIAR centres) is now focused on research with relevance to Africa.

- *Impacts on strengthening national governance and capacity building.*
- *Strategies for the investment of natural resource revenues in sustainable development.*
- *New initiatives to improve transparency in revenue management and allocation.*
- *Measures to strengthen participatory decision-making on the use of natural resource revenues*

Support to natural resources management

Of the ten “Danida programme countries” in Africa, five countries receive Environment Sector Programme Support. In addition, a number of other African countries e.g. Kenya and South Africa, are also targeted for Danida support within environment. In most cases the support includes aspects of natural resources management, and specifically governance of natural resources. The environment sector support is similar to the agricultural sector support being aligned to national strategies and procedures, and harmonised with other donor support.

An example of support to governance of natural resources is the Tanzanian Programme. The Tanzanian National Forest Policy, -Act, and -Programme is supported, in coordination with other donors, specifically with a view to roll-out the new participatory forest management mechanisms involving local people.

The support aims both at sustainable forestry and improved livelihoods, and the monitoring of progress focuses on various governance aspects, such as women participation in forest management groups, sharing of benefits from forestry etc. The support goes not only to the facilitation by the national Department of Forestry, but also to the decentralisation Ministry, and the local authorities. It thus entails governance aspects from top to bottom.

Another example of support to governance of natural resources is the Mozambique coastal zone support. In Mozambique support goes to coastal zone committees, which have been established with participation from the tourist business, as well as local fisheries and farming. Plans for development of the coastal areas were drafted, but the