

NIBIO - Centre for International Development (CID)

ROAD MAP



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NIBIO
NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE OF
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1 Introduction

Sustainable development is an important common denominator for international collaborative projects and specifically for those with Norwegian and EU funding support. Sustainability is also a cornerstone for research and development cooperation projects related to poverty reduction, food and nutrition security, climate change, clean energy, forest and biodiversity conservation. Addressing these global challenges integrated into the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs) especially in Africa, Asia and Latin America needs a sustainable approach, appropriate climate smart technologies, investments and stable partnerships between various stakeholders. Institutions such as NIBIO can play a key role in providing such technologies and partnerships and thereby contribute to the Norwegian government's commitment to the international development agenda and policy outreach that aims to address the global challenges.

This Roadmap shows how NIBIO's Centre for International Development (CID) will be able to contribute to the relevant SDGs, and achieve the ambitious goal of becoming one of the leading centers for international research and development in Norway. CID's focus will be in the fields of food and nutrition security, agriculture and agricultural economy, plant health and biotechnology, environment and natural resources, GIS and statistics, forest and climate change. The Roadmap also outlines CID's three strategic pillars: i) Building competence in international research and development projects within NIBIO; ii) Project planning, acquisition and implementation; and iii) Marketing and strengthening international networks for NIBIO. These three pillars will help NIBIO's researchers to strategically work internationally and secure funds in a sustainable way.

This Roadmap, however, does not provide a comprehensive breakdown or details of CID's planned activities in every region or detailed project activities to be carried out each year. Rather, it highlights the potential entry point, the opportunities and challenges that CID will focus upon in the three regions, namely, Africa, the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the South and SE Asia. It further illustrates the strategic and combined effort that is required to implement and sustain CID's stated goal and objectives.

The Roadmap provides insight into how NIBIO's international project portfolio can be doubled within the next 5 years (starting from 2018) as we work together to advance that common goal. CID will enable better coordination of international activities, complement ongoing international cooperation efforts at NIBIO, and be able to make use of NIBIO's capacity including scientific expertise, networks, research and development infrastructure as well as national and international networks.

CID will address SDGs contributing through sustainable technologies, and stable partnerships integrating science-stakeholder-policy

2 Centre for International Development – Goal and Objectives

Overall, CID will be NIBIO's centre to advance international cooperation, with focus on three geopolitical regions: Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the South and SE Asia. The goal of CID is in also in line with NIBIO's priorities to promote international cooperation and address global challenges/the SDGs. The latter is also a priority for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, the Research Council of Norway, and the European Union. Thus, CID will provide a potential platform for international cooperation for building strategic partnerships, strengthening market linkages and contributing to sustainable development in general. In the process, CID-generated projects will complement other ongoing international initiatives at NIBIO and will not compete with them. Rather it will help to build upon the efforts and support NIBIO researchers in further developing international cooperation.

2.1 Goal and objectives

The main goal of CID is to make NIBIO a competitive player in international R & D market. NIBIO is already present in the international R & D market with bilateral and multilateral networks in many countries. CID acknowledges the efforts of various divisions, departments and individuals within NIBIO working with international partners. CID will build upon the existing networks and develop new partnerships wherever necessary to address some of the grand global challenges including, poverty and food insecurity, environmental degradation and climate change. CID specific objectives are:

1. Develop new markets and professionalize NIBIO as an important actor in international R & D.
2. Develop bilateral and multilateral relations at country and institution level in priority countries for Norway's development assistance.
3. Develop and professionalize support to project planning and implementation.
4. Contribute to the development of sustainable technologies and policies that can create wider impact for addressing SDG goals (1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 13, 15).
5. Double the international project base within the next 5 years.
6. Promote sustainable development without compromising on the conservation of earth's natural resources.

CID will closely follow the Norwegian foreign policy on development assistance (i.e. concerning development support, climate and environment), the work of various national and international organizations (i.a. Norad, FAO, CGIAR institutions, etc.) and other public and private businesses.

NIBIO can provide the potential tools, climate smart technologies and practical solutions to address challenges in climate, agriculture, forestry and food security. We are uniquely positioned to drive results, because our partnerships combine three important elements:

- Experience in coordinating large international programs.
- A strong and diverse scientific competence (natural and social sciences/ including policy and business development) - A multidisciplinary engagement approach.
- Competence in stakeholder/multiple actor approach to improve governance, ownership and achieve desired impacts.

2.2 Addressing global challenges

SDGs provide the basis and a broader framework for including and addressing global challenges (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>). NIBIO's competence and work is highly relevant and able to contribute to the following SDGs.



SDGs in fact provide the basis for defining the goal and objectives in the ongoing international projects at NIBIO. Impacts from the projects are directly aligned with the SDGs, for e.g to improve food and nutrition security as in the EU H2020 InnovAfrica (www.innovafrica.eu) that NIBIO is coordinating. The 2018 review panel evaluating scientific institutions in Norway has also diligently advised NIBIO to follow up the SDGs.

(https://www.forskningsradet.no/no/Artikkel/Evaluering_av_primerneringsinstituttene/1254022054322?lang=no).

International cooperation on higher education and research

The Panorama strategy of the Government of Norway, specifically targeting countries such as India, South Africa and Brazil is relevant in this context (<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dokumenter/panorama/id2457714/>). Actively participating in this program can improve NIBIO's scientific competence, build international networks with centres of excellence and enable exchange of staff. The knowledge acquired through these cooperation initiatives can further help in addressing global challenges in a better way. CID will strengthen and continue engaging with some of top institutions in the target countries.

RCN – country specific programs (South Africa, India, Brazil etc)

Country specific programs promoted by the Research Council of Norway, for example SANCOOP (Norway-South Africa), and NORIND (Norway-India) have the potential to establish long-term research cooperation. Worth mentioning is the NIBIO cooperation with India through various programs (Climawater, Climarice 1 and 2, ClimaAdapt, RESILIENCE and other initiatives) during the last 10-12 years that has profiled NIBIO as one of the key partner for cooperation in Norway for Indian institutions in the field of Food Security, Bioenergy, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Agriculture and Water sectors.

Norwegian development cooperation/Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

NIBIO, (and earlier Bioforsk, Skog og Landskap and NILF) have had long cooperation and experience in acquiring, and successfully implementing large projects funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Norad and RCN. NIBIO-CID shall continue and expand this tradition with Norway's priority countries for development cooperation and priority global challenges relevant to SDGs, among others, food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, natural resources management and environmental protection.

Framework agreement with Norad

NIBIO has entered into a framework agreement with Norad on the 21st of September 2018. The Agreement is a major milestone for NIBIO and provides a comparative advantage over other agencies in Norway and opens doors for new opportunities to NIBIO in international development cooperation. It will make NIBIO's professional competence available to Norad for various international assignments. The agreement provides the general framework for the cooperation in specific areas including food and plant production, pest and disease management, environment, food safety and security, land use, forestry, statistics, remote sensing and forest monitoring, business development and economics. Specific tasks and financial resources will be agreed through annual activity plans and otherwise by separate orders. CID has identified a resource pool from NIBIO that can be engaged in various assignments under this Agreement.

3 Developing evidence-based research and knowledge

3.1 MoU with international partners

NIBIO/CID has entered into MoUs with several partners in the three strategic regions including national institutes, NGOs and CGIAR centres that will help to forge long-term collaboration and share scientific expertise in several areas. These MoUs will make it easier for NIBIO researchers to access potential partners in the respective countries while developing new project proposals.

3.2 Comparative advantage at NIBIO – relevance to international cooperation

NIBIO has dynamic research groups in several fields, including climate change adaptation in agriculture, soil, water and wastewater management, bioenergy, organic agriculture, National Forest Inventory, forest monitoring (including carbon and biomass), land use economics and policy, plant health/integrated pest management and other areas. Given NIBIO's strength in a range of science and technology areas, focused strategic alignments with key partners may enhance long-term international cooperation.

NIBIO is a potential driver of several tools and technology in many areas and already attracts several Norwegian customers e.g. Precision Agriculture tools, VIPS etc. Such tools are becoming more interesting not only to Norwegian, but also to international actors such as FAO and CGIAR centers.

CID will emphasize on developing evidence-based research and knowledge relevant for civil society and stakeholders

Our ability to coordinate large projects funded by the EU (e.g. H2020 InnovAfrica www.innovafrica.eu; and Norwegian sources (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/NORAD, the Norwegian Research Council) puts NIBIO and CID in an advantageous position to further use this experience and build capacity within NIBIO.

Our capacity to put together large multidisciplinary research programs and implement them in close and active cooperation with relevant stakeholder/multi-actor engagement is another important criterion that enables us to compete on the international arena.

Our capacity to provide evidence-based policy inputs and develop frameworks for scaling up good results.

3.3 Challenges working with international projects and partners

There are multiple challenges that needs to be tackled while working with international partners in developing countries. These include, differences in working cultures, expectations, administration and financial management standards, competence and working calendars. At the same time, meeting the demands and expectations of the funding agencies in the given context adds to the burden. More important than science is the need to understand the societal and policy context, thus adapt, and develop competence accordingly.

There is often lack of adequate resources for initial orientation, trust and a common understanding of the goal and objectives of the cooperation. This is more serious in new cooperation initiatives and difficult environments where infrastructure is not good enough.

Team work and sound project management needs to be in place to address these specific challenges that we often face in international development cooperation.

4 Strengthening the capacity within NIBIO

As the project base expands it is important for NIBIO to build capacity to address the above challenges and increase the resources that are interested and willing to work in international projects.

4.1 Capacity building

CID will help to further strengthen the capacity within NIBIO through organizing workshops, encourage short-term staff exchange, engaging more post graduate and Ph.D. students and junior researchers in ongoing projects. Some of the capacity building activities will be organized in cooperation with external partners.

4.2 Marketing and information dissemination

The CID team will organize meetings with relevant embassies in Norway's priority countries for development cooperation to market NIBIO and its abilities to address challenges in the respective countries. Besides, CID personnel will take part in the special events arranged by NORAD/MFA and other ministries in Norway, EU (target regions cooperation, e.g. EU-Africa partnerships) and represent NIBIO wherever it is relevant. CID would also promote its activities and other information through website, emails, attending workshops and conferences.

4.3 Improving project coordination skills

NIBIO would need more project coordinators to take lead in developing, acquiring and implementing projects in the three strategic regions (namely, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the South and SE Asia). Apart from the scientific expertise, specific skills to coordinate international projects will be supported by CID. It is already in the process of identifying such resources within NIBIO in cooperation with the five divisions and management. Regular capacity building workshops using external and internal resource persons will be organized.

Table 4.1: Projects approved, ongoing and in the pipeline (2017-2022)

Project	Funding agency	Role	NIBIO budget in MNOK*	Countries where the project will be implemented
InnovAfrica (June 2017-May 2021)	EU H2020	Project Coordinator	8.5	Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania
FARMS4 Biodiversity (Jan 2019-Dec 2021)	EU/NFR BiodivScen	Partner	3.3	Malawi
Forest Landscape Restoration Project	MFA-Ethiopia	Partner	8	Ethiopia
Improving livelihoods for small scale coffee farmers	NORAD	Resource partner	0.6	Colombia
RESILIENCE – Building climate resilience in India*	MFA/Embassy, Delhi	Project Coordinator	10	India (Odisha and Assam states)
National Carbon Monitoring Center for Tanzania	MFA-Tanzania	Partner	10	Tanzania
Improving Skills for Private Sector Development in Biofuel Value Chain in Kenya**	NORAD	Project Coordinator	15	Kenya
Combating Arthropod Pests for Better Health, Food and Resilience to CC (CAP-Africa)*	NORAD	Partner	4.8	Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania,
CSA Technologies for Improved Rural Livelihoods and Food Security in Niger and Mali**	Embassy, Bamako	Partner	8	Niger, Mali
Fall Armyworm Partnership for Africa**	NORAD	Partner	4	Africa
Total			72.2	

*Varies depending on currency conversion rate; ** Project in pipeline/Contract negotiations with funding agency ongoing

5 Conclusion

In a short time since its establishment, CID has proved that it is capable of generating new projects and funds and forge new strategic partnerships (e.g. the Norad framework agreement). The aim of CID is to become more visible both on the NIBIO's organization chart and outside as a leading centre for international development cooperation in Norway. Moreover, in the long-term it will strive to become self-sustainable, generate its own resources and expand project base in close cooperation with the various divisions. It will work to expand the personnel base involved in international project coordination, management and administration in NIBIO.

Project portfolio as shown in the table above demonstrates that CID has already started its work in the three regions. Funding opportunities will determine which way CID will follow in the coming years and thus change its focus accordingly, both in terms of geographical regions and thematic areas.

6 References/Links

Bistandsbudsjettet øker med 2,5 milliarder kroner (Oktober 2018)

https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/nyhet2_budsjett/id2614124/?utm_source=www.regjeringen.no&utm_medium=epost&utm_campaign=nyhetsvarsel%2008.10.2018&utm_content=Utviklingssamarbeid

FN Klimapanel ny rapport om muligheter for å nå 1, 5 graders målet (Oktober 2018)

<http://www.anpdm.com/newsletterweb/45465E43734847584278454B59/414550417544465C4A724747514471>

Kvinnemilliarden: Én milliard kroner til kvinners rettigheter og likestilling (Oktober 2018)

Klimatilpasset landbruk avgjørende i kampen mot underernæring (Oktober 2018)

The Panorama strategy of the Government of Norway (2017)

<https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dokumenter/panorama/id2457714/>

UN Sustainable Development Goals <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>