

Sida's disbursements to agriculture, forestry and food security

Sida's disbursements to agriculture, forestry, rural development and food security amounted to SEK 875 million in 2008, distributed over 128 contributions. This equalled 5.6 per cent of Sida's total disbursements in 2008. Disbursements fell by 11 per cent compared 2007, which is a result of changes in individual contributions and is not indicative of a trend.

Main areas of support

1. Agriculture.

Sida's contributions include support to agricultural policy and administration, technology development and agricultural extension services, land policy reforms and land administration, processing and commercialization, training and livestock/veterinary services as well as climate change, the links to agriculture resilience and environment. Support is provided both in the form of thematically and geographically delimited projects or as broad sector programme support. An example of the latter type of support from Mozambique is provided below.

National Programme for Agricultural Development in Mozambique (ProAgri)

Sida provides programme support to the agricultural sector in Mozambique since 2002 through ProAgri. The programme is a multi-donor mechanism for budget support to the Ministry of Agriculture based on the national development plan for the sector. For the period 2009–2011 Sida has committed SEK 47 million per annum. Other donors are Canada, Denmark, EC, Finland, Ireland, IFAD and Austria. ProAgri funds are used for strengthening the Ministry's administrative and institutional capacity as well as for core activities such as agricultural extension services to small-scale farmers to increase their access to technology and information, improve agriculture infrastructure, promote sustainable management of natural resources, and support delimitation and registration of community lands among other things.

2. Rural development. Sida's activities aim to stimulate growth in rural areas through increased and diversified production and strengthened capacities and rights of local populations through decentralisation of power and resources. The support encompasses land administration and management, economic diversification, based on agriculture and forestry infrastructure, social services and decentralization.

Land Management Programme in Tanzania (LAMP)

Through LAMP four Tanzanian district administrations were supported to build capacity and to provide business and technical assistance at the district and village levels, in addition to support for community empowerment and democratic development aiming at poverty alleviation and sustainable management of natural resources. The programme came to a halt in 2007 after 16 years of operations with Sida support. Sida is now engaged in follow-up activities to ensure that communities have reliable systems in place to manage the resources they have been entrusted with in a sustainable way. In addition, successful institutional innovations from the programme, such as the Village Community Bank model, are being disseminated to other parts of Tanzania.

3. Forestry¹. Sida's support to forestry focuses on sustainable forestry production and policy, administration, management and training as well as climate change and environment.

Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC)

RECOFTC is the only international not-for-profit organization in the Asia and Pacific region that specializes in capacity building in community forestry and decentralised forest management. In the early 1980s, Sida was one of the founders of RECOFTC and is presently providing SEK 12 million over a two year period (2008–2010). The support aims to strengthen the capacities of forest dependent communities and other relevant stakeholders, to effectively address challenges related to poverty and climate change. RECOFTC's activities focus on synthesizing lessons learned, training and dialogue.

Sidas disbursements

One third of the disbursements from Sida were destined to countries with which Sweden conducts long-term

¹ Forestry components that are part of bigger agricultural or rural development programmes are not included in the financial statistics on forestry

development cooperation and nearly one third to global and regional programmes. Almost one fifth of the disbursements went to countries for which Swedish development cooperation will be phased out. Sida will start new cooperation with DR Congo, Liberia and Rwanda in these areas.

Sida's support to agriculture, forestry and food security was distributed among three main areas: agriculture (59 per cent of the disbursements in 2008), rural develop-

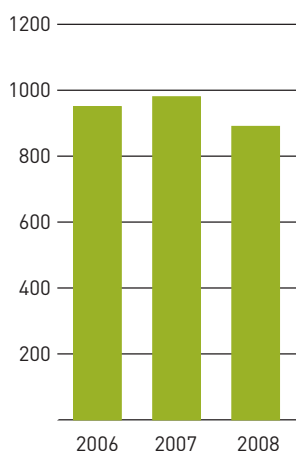
ment² (35 per cent) and forestry (7 per cent).

Within Sida's Portfolio of Research Cooperation, some SEK 110 million was used 2008 for support for research capacity development and for the creation and utilisation of new knowledge in the area of agriculture and agro policy and natural resource management.

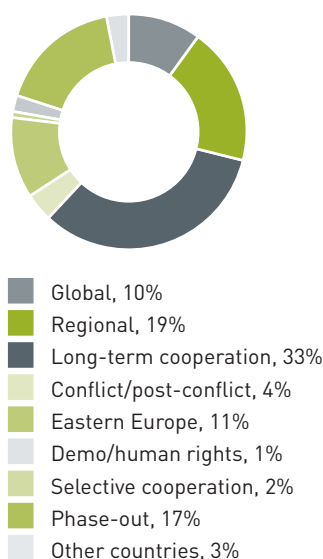
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² The used classification defines integrated rural development projects as regional development planning and the implementation thereof, including natural reserve management, land management, land use planning, land settlement as well as functional integration of rural and urban areas

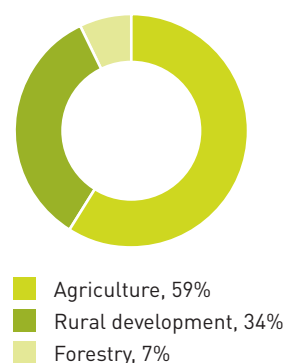
Disbursement total 2008, Million SEK



Disbursement per country category 2008, per cent



Disbursement per main sector 2008, per cent



Highlights

The World Bank's World Development Report 2008 'Agriculture for Development' marked a comeback of sorts for agriculture as a focus area for development cooperation after years of relative neglect.

This was timely considering the devastating effects of the on-going food crisis. Food prices peaked in early 2008 and have since been falling. Nevertheless, more than 968 million people are now estimated to be undernourished — the majority of them women and children in rural areas. Developing sustainable smallholder-based agriculture and rural development are fundamental for tackling the effects of the food crisis on hunger and poverty. It is also necessary to counter climate change and its effects on agriculture. The Swedish government has earmarked an additional SEK 100 million to deal with the food crisis.

Sida continues to support NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which involved among other things stepping up investment in agriculture, aligning donor contributions with the needs and demands of African governments, and promoting regional trade and food security. Supporting CAADP has become a major focus of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD), in

which Sida participates actively. Another, related, focus area of GDPRD is to develop the aid architecture of agriculture and rural development. In 2008, impetus to this effect was provided by the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. Based on the outcome of the Forum, GDPRD drafted and endorsed a set of Joint Principles for effective assistance in agriculture and rural development. GDPRD is also promoting programme-based and sector-wide approaches in agriculture and rural development. ProAgri in Mozambique is a case in point (see above).

Negotiations are on-going on how tropical forests will be included in global efforts to mitigate climate change as part of a new post-2012 climate regime under the UN framework convention on climate change. Sida is following the process closely and participates with a forest policy specialist in the Swedish delegation to the sessions leading up to the final negotiations in Copenhagen in December.

At a programme level, evaluations were launched of two of Sida's long-running support programmes; the Sida-Amhara Rural Development Programme (initiated in 1997) and the Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources (initiated in 1978).