



Agriculture and Rural Development Network

The SDC Agriculture and Rural Development Network ARD provides a knowledge exchange platform for all development practitioners with links to SDC related activities in the area of agriculture and rural development in a developing country context. The network is hosted by SDC's *Global Program Food Security* and is equally open to all interested SDC staff as well as to representatives of SDC partner institutions based in Switzerland and in its partner countries.

MISSION

The ARD network seeks to enhance the effectiveness of SDC operations in the field through the **availability and better use of knowledge specific** to agriculture and rural development. It promotes mutual exchange, learning and support among its members and facilitates the connection among them in different contexts. Drawing from a vast base of good practices and field-based experiences developed and shared by its members, it hopes to contribute to the global policy dialogue on food security.

PRIORITY AREAS

The ARD network shares information on basically any topic related to agriculture in a developing context. Nonetheless the network has defined the following areas as its priorities:

- **Rural Agricultural Advisory Services and Innovation Systems**
- **Access to land / land governance**
- **Climate Change Resilient Small Scale Agriculture**
- **Impact measurement in Agriculture & Rural Development**

These selected topics are discussed in a more formal way (i.e. through guided e-discussions) in the course of the next two years. Specific products may be elaborated and discussed (i.e. best practice discussion papers).

HOW WE WORK

The ARD network currently communicates using *dgroups* (www.dgroups.org), a list server for development practitioners. Any member, i.e. subscriber, can share his or her information by using the *dgroups* network address. The network runs its own website at www.sdc-ruraldevelopment.ch. In addition, the network regularly organizes events at SDC headquarters. Face to face meetings will be organized approximately every second year. Announcements of events and information sharing will be made through the *dgroup* and the website.

WHO

The Network has currently around 100 members, half of them based in the field. A core-group of thematic programme officers at SDC Headquarter together with the Focal Point are steering the Network objectives and activities.

BECOME A MEMBER

Becoming a member is easy. Send a short request to the following e-mail address: gdfs@deza.admin.ch to receive a *dgroup* invitation note.



SDC Agriculture and Rural Development Network



www.sdc-ruraldevelopment.ch