

Agri4D offers to finance, or co-finance, targeted multidisciplinary workshops.

Background:

Agri4D will organize different fora for multidisciplinary research cooperation and discussions on agricultural issues in a developmental context. These may be national workshops or seminars with different themes, directed workshops (like e.g. the PhD student workshop on Integrated Science in Uppsala in December). Another example is a two day seminar in September with the tentative title

Production and carbon dynamics in sustainable agriculture and forestry in Africa – Science deeds and needs. (co-organized with Focali, SIANI and Future Agriculture; tentative date: second half of September).

Multidisciplinary may seem overwhelming and complicated if it is interpreted that everything and everyone have to be included always. However, that is not the case. We believe that it may start small; not all research and developmental questions have to (or can) be solved by one research project. *Agri4D therefore invites members to organize small targeted multidisciplinary workshops at their home institutions where Agri4D can finance, or co-finance, logistics and costs for invited scientists.*

In the pipe line for coming spring and early autumn we have a series of such workshops being planned; more details on dates and contents will be announced on our web site (www.Agri4D.se):

1. Research on agricultural productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa (Gothenburg University)
2. Catchment modeling in support of Sustainable Land Management in East Africa (Gothenburg University, Environmental Economics)
3. Subsistence Agriculture (Lund University, the Afrint group)
4. Urban Agriculture (SLU, Alnarp)
5. Research Schools (SLU, Umeå)
6. Conservation Agriculture (SLU, Uppsala)
7. Formas-Sarec follow ups (SLU, Uppsala)

Please add to this list by applications to the coordinator: Gert.Nyberg@sek.slu.se

Purpose:

- To enable multidisciplinary research and research cooperation.
- To foster a multidisciplinary scientific discourse.

Format:

The workshops should be multidisciplinary, i.e. at least one scientist or research group from another discipline should be invited. The workshops may be open, but could also be for invited scientists only. Content is more important than size, the number of participants does not have to be very big (10-20 may be a good size; one scientist visiting one other does not suffice).

Output:

The workshops have to be documented in a small report to the coordinator, about one page. The ambition should be a scientific publication, popular science article, discussion paper, policy brief or an application for multidisciplinary research funding.

Finances:

Agri4D may contribute up to 10 000 SEK for the local logistics and possibly another 10 000 SEK to cover cost for invited participants. This may not cover all costs, but should mean a valuable contribution. We prefer co-organizing with home institutions/host research groups. Applications should be sent to the Agri4D coordinator (Gert.Nyberg@sek.slu.se) and agreed funding will be paid upon receipt of workshop report.

Agri4D is able to provide partial funding for selected studies or proposal preparations that can lead to the engagement of members in new and broader research or educational contexts. Seed money will be provided when broader opportunities of interest to several researchers are perceived, when the theme adheres to the network's themes, and preferably when new financial sources can be approached.

Agri4D can also commission studies outside the scope of regular activities. These studies must be based on sound scientific methodologies and evidence.