

<b>Institution:</b> University of Greenwich
<b>Unit of Assessment:</b> (UoA 24) - Anthropology and Development Studies
<p><b>a. Context</b></p> <p>The Natural Resources Institute's mission is to "discover, apply and share knowledge in support of global food security, sustainable development and poverty reduction". Much of the work involved in this unit is interdisciplinary in nature and undertaken in close collaboration with NRI's agricultural and food scientists (submitted to the REF under UoA6). NRI's social scientists work on projects along a continuum between research and consultancy.</p> <p>Within this context, NRI social scientists work for impact of different kinds: changes in farming practices and agricultural value chains; changes in the conduct of and management of agricultural research and extension; changes in the management of voluntary trade standards; and changes in national and international policy for rural development. We work with a great range of user groups: agricultural service providers; developing-country researchers in both the social and the agricultural sciences; community-based organisations, national and international NGOs; developing country governments; international organisations (World Bank, FAO, World Trade Organisation); international research organisations (The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research - CGIAR); DFID; ethical trading and standards organisations; private-sector actors, etc.</p> <p>Beneficiaries include: smallholder farmers, pastoralists, artisanal fisherfolk and wild harvesters and their communities; farmer organisations; small and medium businesses connected to commodity value chains and markets; and rural labourers within the farming and trading systems. Where possible, research and subsequent outcomes are designed to produce differentiated impacts on different social groups (by gender, wealth, livelihood strategy etc.) and in different landscapes and agro-ecological zones.</p>
<p><b>b. Approach to impact</b></p> <p>During the assessment period, our approach to impact has been through four overlapping channels: research projects, major donor-funded projects, consultancies, and advisory work.</p> <p><b>(i) Research projects</b> led by NRI social scientists are designed in close collaboration with research users such as international and regional agencies. Typical design features include dissemination through multiple media such as briefing papers, websites, workshops, e-discussions, and follow-up designed to bring about impact on policy and/or practice at the appropriate level.</p> <p>The ESRC-funded project on "Rural Territorial Dynamics in Bahia, Brazil", examining the drivers of inclusive and sustainable growth in rural areas, was conceived and implemented in close collaboration with RIMISP, the Latin American Center for Rural Development, as part of their 20-country research programme in Latin America. Project findings have been disseminated locally in Brazil through participation in international networks, and through RIMISP synthesis documents aimed at regional decision-makers. NRI is now researching the relevance and transferability of the findings to rural development in Africa.</p> <p>The research project on 'Climate Learning for African Agriculture' is disseminating key messages through workshops, e-discussions and the region-wide networks of NRI's partners, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa and the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services. The aim is both to directly influence the policy, management and practice of African agricultural research and advisory services, and to negotiate donor funding for an upscaled programme across Africa, which could be led by the African partners. In the "Farms for the Future" project, NRI works with the CGIAR to develop innovative ways – including exchange visits and participatory video – of communicating to farmers the likely impact of climate change in their areas, and the possibilities for adaptation: <a href="http://projects.nri.org/farmsofthefuture/">http://projects.nri.org/farmsofthefuture/</a>.</p> <p>Research on 'Commodity Based Trade: A Potential Route for Improving Developing Countries' Access to Trade in Livestock Products' commissioned by DFID has involved close liaison with the Office Internationale des Epizooties (the World Animal Health Organization) and the African Union's Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources, and briefing of them on final research findings, aimed at improving the policy acceptability of alternative systems for minimising disease-related</p>

risks of international livestock trade.

**(ii) NRI's major donor-funded projects** which directly seek development impact, involve NRI social scientists applying their previous research experience and findings in design, negotiation, management, implementation and monitoring. NRI was assigned a leading role by DFID in the SCARDA ("Strengthening Capacity for Agricultural Research and Development in Africa") Programme (<http://www.fara-africa.org/our-projects/scarda/>). NRI social scientists brought to bear findings and expertise developed in previous research on participatory research methodologies, gender, and performance measurement in agricultural research organisations (see for example outputs submitted by **Martin**, Pound and Sutherland to RAE2008) in training and capacity building of three sub-regional and 10 national agricultural research organisations. NRI's total funding under the project was in the region of £1.85 million.

NRI social scientists have applied expertise on socio-economic aspects of cassava production and marketing (see for example outputs submitted by Lamboll to RAE 2008) to the C:AVA ('Cassava: Adding Value for Africa') project funded by the Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation (<http://cava.nri.org/>), with total funding of over £7 million. C:AVA has significantly improved the income generation of 86,000 farmers, as well as processors and labourers in Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Malawi and Uganda, through development of value chains for High Quality Cassava Flour. The experience, and further findings from research components of C:AVA, are being applied to the design of further large-scale projects on cassava, sweet potato and yams.

**(iii) Consultancies:** We bring our research experience to bear in consultancies to design, advise and evaluate projects and programmes funded by a variety of bilateral and multi-lateral donors and NGOs. A series of consultancies on Fairtrade and similar standards, for the Fairtrade Foundation, FLO, ISEAL, Comic Relief and Irish Aid applied the findings of previous and current research projects for DFID (see outputs submitted by **Nelson**, **Martin** and **Stathers** to RAE2008 and the current REF) on appropriate methods and methodologies for assessing the impact of fair trade – see <http://www.nri.org/development-programmes/equitable-trade-and-responsible-business/overview>. Lessons from research in these areas will be further applied in the recently contracted NRI-led evaluation component of DFID's Trade and Global Value Chains Initiative.

NRI social scientists have been commissioned for several reviews of agricultural research programmes under the CGIAR, bringing to bear lessons from NRI's research on the conduct of agricultural research and approaches to its Monitoring and Evaluation. Most recently, **Martin** has been one of a team carrying out a meta-impact analysis and a process evaluation of the Irrigated Rice Research Consortium (IRRC).

**(iv) Advisory work:** Our research experience has informed our provision of high-level advisory work for international organisations and panels. **Morton** is serving as Co-ordinating Lead Author for the Chapter on Rural Areas of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which will appear in 2014 and become a reference point for national policy-makers, international organisations and others formulating climate adaptation policies for rural areas and designing rural development under climate change. **Martin** served as a Lead Author for the 2009 International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development.

Overall, NRI's corporate environment encourages creative synergy between research and consultancy in such a way as to facilitate impact. All staff are encouraged to create and maintain relationships with a broad range of partners and research users, and use these partnerships in creating research proposals. Relationships with key stakeholders, for example different sections of the European Commission, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the NEPAD Secretariat, and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, are fostered by designated members of NRI's senior management team.

Senior managers provide quality control, as well as substantive advice (eg on dissemination to non-academic users, uptake of research findings and impact) on research proposals, as part of a more general process of mentoring of more junior staff and strategic planning for NRI and its departments. Three staff members with expertise on M&E, impact assessment and Theories of Change (**Martin**, **Nelson** and Steve Newman) are able to advise on these issues.

NRI also employs a full-time Communications Specialist, an IT Systems Development Manager,

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and a Web Development Officer who are able to advise and assist staff on production of publications, use of social media and design of websites. The University of Greenwich publications service helps with user-focused outputs, such as the Working Papers on Climate Change, Agriculture and Natural Resources: [http://www.nri.org/projects/publications/climate\\_publications.htm](http://www.nri.org/projects/publications/climate_publications.htm)

**c. Strategy and plans**

NRI has recently established identified named 'Programmes' as a strategy to link research to practical impact in key strategic areas. The Programmes will foster innovative forms of engagement with users and clients, improved interdisciplinary interaction amongst research groups and external collaborators, and effective internal and external communication, all to amplify the uptake and impact of NRI's work. Members of staff can be affiliated with a number of Programmes, all of which involve synergies between research, advisory and consultancy work, and are interdisciplinary in nature.

The Programmes most relevant to research impact for NRI's social scientists are:

- Rural Institutions and Agricultural Policy
- Climate Change, Agriculture, and Natural Resources
- Equitable Trade and Responsible Business
- Value Chain Development.

The Programmes will be proactively managed and provided with resources in order to promote a multi-disciplinary approach to address significant developmental challenges and opportunities arising from current trends and emerging policy debates. This will encourage researchers to work more closely together across the natural and social sciences. The Programmes provide a vision of our future work in order to attract wider donor interest and support, and translation of research findings into impact. The process of developing and promoting the Programmes is overseen by the Director of Programme Development (**Martin**).

Within the context of the programmes, and using the communication resources mentioned in 'b' above, we intend to further widen our dissemination of research outputs (in addition to the traditional academic routes) through other channels and formats, such as reports to the private sector, NGOs, international organisations and donors (eg CONCERN, World Bank, FAO, DFID), bulletins, web pages, policy briefs, and training materials. We will also use our close association with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Agriculture and Food for Development, which aims to engender progressive and informed debate on agriculture, nutrition and wider food/water security in the developing world, to communicate with policy-makers.

**d. Relationship to case studies**

We have selected case studies from two different, long-running strands of NRI research that have resulted in very different 'research products', but nevertheless show common features in their long-term relationship with development partners and their use of synergies between research, consultancy and advisory work.

The case study on Warehouse Receipt Systems (WRS) concerns the development and promotion of an innovative method of providing credit to farmers, farmer organisations and agricultural traders. This method was developed on the basis of a detailed research-based understanding of value chains from farmers to national and international commodity markets, and promoted by careful working with private sector companies, trade associations, and commodity exchanges as well as governments, to encourage adoption.

The case study on land tenure and land policy concerns a body of policy-relevant knowledge on the interaction of customary and formal land rights and on equitable and cost-effective land administration. This knowledge was developed through research and promoted both by high-level commissions to write policy-relevant documents for eg the African Union Land Policy Initiative, and through consultancies advising on systems of land administration and complementary development initiatives in Ghana, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda and Guyana. The work described in the case study, alongside that reported above on rural territorial dynamics and on rural advisory services, provides the foundation for NRI's programme on Rural Institutions and Agricultural Policy.