Appendix 1 – Seminar and Workshop Outlines

Seminar: 3rd February 2004

Background and Objectives
Better utilization of research and evidence in development policy and practice can help save lives, reduce poverty and improve the quality of life. Ignoring research can sometimes have near disastrous impacts on the livelihoods of poor people. The key issues are: how can policy-makers best use research and move towards evidence-based policy-making; how can researcher’s best use their findings in order to influence policy; and how can the interaction between researchers and policy-makers be improved?

The aims of the seminar are to:
- Share experiences about research-policy processes in India
- Learn about the Context: Evidence: Links Framework for analysing research-policy processes
- Discuss approaches on how to strengthen research-policy links in India
- Learn about further sources of information

Workshop Outline
14.00-14.15 Opening and self Introductions by participants
14.15-15.00 Seminar Introduction – an overview of the literature, policy processes and key factors influencing research-policy links in India.
15.00-15.30 Tea
15.30-16.00 Bridging Research and Policy - a framework, lessons from case study research, and the key questions for the water sector in India at National, State and Project level
16.00-16.45 Discussion
16.45 - 17.00 Feedback and Closing

Workshop facilitators:
John Young (j.young@odi.org.uk) or Julius Court (j.court@odi.org.uk), Overseas Development Institute. Web: www.odi.org.uk/rapid

Further Information:
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Workshop: 4th February 2004

Background and Objectives
Building on the Seminar on the 3rd February, this workshop will provide an opportunity for researchers, policy makers and practitioners involved in the FRP R8171 project to consider how to improve the policy impact of the project.

The project is focused on the intersection between water, watershed and forestry policies in India. The three sectors have a historical legacy of lack of coordination at all levels which reflect on a poor implementation on the ground. Many of the policy measures in India are based on narratives with no science base, including the strong belief that planting trees protects water resources. Political considerations and vested interests provide resistance to the need to improve the management of land and water conservation measures on watershed projects.

The FRP R8171 project faces the challenge of generating and using evidence to overturn this narrative and overcome this resistance. This workshop will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to use the context: evidence: links framework to analyse the situation and develop a strategy to increase policy influence.

The aims of the workshop are for participants to:
- Share experiences about research-policy processes in the water and forest sector in India.
- Apply the Context: Evidence: Links Framework to this sector and the specific context of the FRP R8171 project.
- Learn about tools and approaches which have been used in similar environments.
- Develop a strategy to improve the policy impact of the project.

Workshop Outline
09.00-10.00  Clarifying Policy Objectives of the FRP R8171 project and update on partner’s work
10.00-10.30  Feedback of lessons from the Seminar and discussion.
10.30-11.00  The framework II – Specific questions for the FRP8171 project at National, State and Project Level.
11.00 - 11.30  Tea
11.30 - 12.30  Group work – finding some answers for FRP8171 at National, State and Project Level.
12.30 – 1.00  Feedback
1.00 - 2.00  Lunch
2.00-2.30  The tools of the trade - mechanisms to promote policy impact with examples from Kenya and Indonesia.
2.45-3.30  Group Work - action-planning: what FRP8171 needs to do at National, State and Project level to improve impact on policy and practice.
3.30 - 4.00  Tea
4.00-5.00  Feedback of action plans & discussion
5.00 - 5.30  Conclusions and evaluation.

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