

## New policy approaches for agriculture: DFID's consultation process

### Commitment to new Guidelines on Agriculture

DFID is committed to supporting agriculture as a means of reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. But we need to do more, and be more effective. This requires new approaches to agriculture in order to provide real benefits to poor people.

In its December 2003 Policy Paper 'Agriculture and poverty reduction: unlocking the potential', DFID committed to produce new Guidelines on its approach to agriculture by the end of 2004. These Guidelines are intended to inform DFID's programmes, and encourage decision makers to adopt policies and measures that can be practically integrated within broader development processes. The Guidelines must be based on a sound understanding of agriculture's role in growth, the context in which it operates, and the mechanisms through which it alleviates poverty.

### Products to inform the preparation of the Guidelines

- **Electronic forum on agriculture and poverty reduction** - involving over 550 subscribers, this ran from 14 April to 28 May and delivered a rich and active debate on key aspects of agriculture, growth and poverty. A summary of the debate is available at (<http://dfid-agriculture-consultation.nri.org/>).
- **New Working Paper series on agriculture and poverty reduction** - this will build on the outputs of the e-forum. These Working Papers will act as stand-alone 'primers' on key aspects of agriculture, growth and poverty, as well as providing essential material for the Guidelines:
  1. Agriculture, growth and poverty – understanding the links in a changing context of agriculture and rural development.
  2. Making markets work for the poor – what does it really mean?
  3. Making rural finance count for poor people.
  4. Technology and its contribution to pro-poor agricultural development.
  5. Increasing access to productive assets: rethinking the role of land administration.
  6. Incorporating risk and vulnerability into agricultural policy.
  7. Agriculture, hunger and food security.
  8. Making policy and public expenditure reforms support pro-poor agricultural development.

9. Official development assistance to agriculture: trends and issues.
10. Commodity dependency and the poor: new thinking on an old problem.
11. Agricultural trade.
12. Agricultural sustainability: what does it mean for the poor?
13. Supermarkets and concentration in food production and retail chains: impacts on the poor.
14. Institutions to raise the voice of the poor in agricultural policy.

These Papers will be posted on the web, and we invite comments (see process below). In addition, DFID will actively engage with NGO stakeholders in preparing each Working Paper, using the UK Food Group as the central point of coordination. NGO representatives, identified by the UK Food Group, will collate feedback on the first draft of each paper, to which the authors will respond in their final draft.

## Our process for producing the Guidelines

Key milestones in the consultation process are outlined below. In order to receive updates about the consultation and opportunities to feed into the process, get onto our mailing list by registering your details at <http://dfid-agriculture-consultation.nri.org/>.

- Electronic forum consultation ends 30 May.
- Summary of e-forum distributed electronically by 14 June.
- 14 Working Papers and 1 Summary Working Paper posted at <http://dfid-agriculture-consultation.nri.org/> by the end of July, and disseminated through direct mail.
- Electronic feedback on the Summary Working Paper should be sent to [agriculture@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:agriculture@dfid.gov.uk). Responses to key emerging themes and how these will be addressed in the Guidelines will be posted on the consultation website by end August.
- Consultation draft of the new Guidelines prepared and disseminated by end September. Electronic feedback the draft should be sent to [agriculture@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:agriculture@dfid.gov.uk).
- Two formal consultation events on the draft Guidelines to be held during October (specific dates and locations to be confirmed).
- Final Guidelines to be published by end of December.

### For further information, contact:

#### **Renewable Natural Resources & Agriculture team Policy Division, DFID, London**

This team belongs to the Growth and Investment Group in Policy Division and has drafted this note as part of a series of Factsheets, Briefings and Working Papers on new approaches to agriculture for poverty reduction. This series is intended to be of practical value to all those working on issues of agriculture, rural development, growth and poverty reduction.