



Lessons from the FP7 INCO-Net for Sub-Saharan Africa

Perspectives on research
cooperation with the ACP Region

Daan du Toit

South African Department of
Science and Technology

Network for the Coordination and Advancement of Sub-Saharan
Africa-Europe Science and Technology Cooperation
GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 212625
www.caast-net.org



Overview

- CAAST-Net
 - What is CAAST-Net
 - Achievements
 - Future prospects
- Guiding questions
 - How to foster research cooperation with ACP region?
 - What is mutual benefit of international cooperation?
 - How to improve existing programmes?
 - Are there synergies between research and education cooperation programmes?



Network for the Coordination and Advancement of Sub-Saharan
Africa-Europe Science and Technology Cooperation
GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 212625
www.caast-net.org



CAAST-Net overview

- FP7 “INCO-Net” for Sub-Saharan Africa (NB: covers 47 countries)
 - INCO-Nets are networking , dialogue and support platforms for international cooperation between EU and other regions
 - CAAST-Net objective to enhance S&T cooperation between Sub-Saharan Africa and EU under but not limited to FP7
- 4 year project, starting 01 January 2008 (possible extension)
- €3 million budget (possible top-up)
- Currently: 18 consortium partners: 10 in Africa, 8 in Europe (possibly two more from both Africa and Europe)



Network for the Coordination and Advancement of Sub-Saharan
Africa-Europe Science and Technology Cooperation
GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 212625
www.caast-net.org



CAAST-Net Partners

- Africa

- Cameroun
- Cape Verde
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Research Africa (Pty) Ltd.
- Rwanda
- South Africa
- Senegal
- Uganda



- Europe

- United Kingdom
- Finland
- Norway
- Portugal
- IRD France
- CIRAD France
- Germany
- Sweden



Network for the Coordination and Advancement of Sub-Saharan
Africa-Europe Science and Technology Cooperation
GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 212625
www.caast-net.org



Main CAAST-Net Activities

- Context: Close cooperation and coordination with African bodies such as AU Commission and NEPAD
- Monitor and analyse Africa-EU S&T cooperation trends in order to support policy advice and guide project implementation
- Foster synergy with other instruments for Africa-EU S&T cooperation, especially development cooperation
- Support Africa-EU S&T policy dialogue(s)
- Identify shared Africa-EU research priorities well-suited for international cooperation
- Promote and facilitate African participation in FP7 (awareness-raising, training, information services)



Network for the Coordination and Advancement of Sub-Saharan
Africa-Europe Science and Technology Cooperation
GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 212625
www.caast-net.org



CAAST-Net Highlights

- Analytical report of “barriers” to African FP7 participation
- Review of Africa-EU S&T policy dialogues
- Expert consultation and report on synergy research cooperation and development cooperation
- Mobilization of broader African and European research community stakeholders to consider policy challenges for cooperation
- Research priority identification in health, energy and socio-economic sciences and humanities
- FP7 awareness workshops and NCP training
- Dedicated and comprehensive information platform



Network for the Coordination and Advancement of Sub-Saharan
Africa-Europe Science and Technology Cooperation
GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 212625
www.caast-net.org



CAAST-Net Future Plans

- Greater focus on collaboration Africa's Regional Economic Communities, i.e. SADC, ECA, ECOWAS and ECCAS
- Support coordination platform for projects to be funded under FP7 Africa Call
- Support as required to future Africa-EU S&T policy dialogue platform
- Contributing to Joint Africa-EU Strategy



Network for the Coordination and Advancement of Sub-Saharan
Africa-Europe Science and Technology Cooperation
GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 212625
www.caast-net.org



How to foster research cooperation with ACP region in future?

- Premise should be that of true partnership:
 - Activities informed by shared priorities (African priorities for example articulated in Consolidated Plan of Action)
 - ***Reciprocal but not necessarily symmetric investment to promote cooperation***
 - Recognize shared global challenges and strategic significance importance of ACP inclusion in international science – in order to leverage political support
- Capacity-building important – achieve synergy between research and development cooperation instruments
 - Support human capital development, research infrastructures
- Raise awareness of opportunities for and potential of cooperation
 - Including marketing ACP S&T excellence,
- Invest in appropriate support platforms for cooperation, in both EU and ACP
 - Brokerage, (partner search) training



Network for the Coordination and Advancement of Sub-Saharan
Africa-Europe Science and Technology Cooperation
GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 212625
www.caast-net.org



What is mutual benefit of international cooperation?

- Significant interest in EU in cooperation with APC: EU research for development agenda and bodies
- Long-standing historical ties make EU important partner for ACP
- Common benefits for ACP and EU:
 - Access to unique skills, sharing of experience and expertise
 - Mutual access to scientific resources (data) and research infrastructures
 - Access to funding – especially for ACP to leverage return on own investments
 - Platform for training, human capital development; presents additional funding opportunity for EU parties
 - Internationalize R&D networks and especially for ACP supports retention of skills
 - Deliver research outputs enhancing sustainable development, economic competitiveness, etc.
 - Support political and economic cooperation agendas



Network for the Coordination and Advancement of Sub-Saharan
Africa-Europe Science and Technology Cooperation
GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 212625
www.caast-net.org



How to improve existing cooperation programmes?

- Learn lessons from past – legacy of old FP INCO programmes, success of FP7 Africa Call, ACP S&T Capacity-Building Programme, etc.
- Achieve greater synergy research and development cooperation
- Based on principles of shared ownership, and shared interest, consider respective policy environments
 - E.g. FP7 mobility instruments such as International Research Staff Exchange Scheme address brain drain concerns in ACP
- **Simplification** of instruments – but carefully considered, e.g. example of FP7 ICPC lump sum disadvantaging participants
- Consider how changing ERA landscape impacts on international cooperation, e.g. Joint Technology Initiatives, European Research Council, Joint Programming, Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme



What synergy is there between research and education cooperation programmes?

- In ideal world should be strong synergy – policy context of triple helix, etc. Human capital essential for research
- In practice little synergy – separate structures in both EU and ACP regions promote for example Erasmus Mundus and FP7 People programmes
- CAAST-Net has, thus far, had no engagement with education programmes – only FP7 mobility
- Demand from higher education institutions for greater synergy, since actors involved in both programmes often the same coordination would be valuable:
 - Avoid duplication and achieve synergy
 - But also need to maintain specific focus to deal with specificities





Thank you

Visit CAAST-Net's website:

www.caast-net.org

[Contact: daan.dutoit@dst.gov.za](mailto:daan.dutoit@dst.gov.za)



Network for the Coordination and Advancement of Sub-Saharan
Africa-Europe Science and Technology Cooperation
GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 212625
www.caast-net.org

