



INTEGRATED RURAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Integrated Rural and Regional Development (IRRD) is a multi-disciplinary research programme whose primary objective is to promote rural development in South and southern Africa, through user-driven policy, monitoring and evaluation and problem-oriented research. With poverty reduction as the unifying, overarching theme, the programme's objectives, orientation and activities are designed specifically to address key national, regional and Africa-wide policy priorities.

Four distinct, but interlocking sub-programmes operate:

- **Land and Agrarian Reform**, under Professor Simphiwe Mini (rotating to Dr Cheryl Walker in 2004/05) which investigates land tenure, land use, land redistribution and restitution, agricultural input and output markets, farm labour and employment, environmental and related issues.
- **Rural Non-farm Development**, under Dr David Hemson, which investigates rural livelihoods, rural infrastructure and service delivery, rural microenterprise support, eco-tourism and related issues.
- **Regional Resource Flows**, under Dr Pieter Kok (rotating to Ms Sanusha Naidu in 2004/05), which investigates human resource, trade and capital flows into, out of and within southern Africa, in part to assist regional integration.
- **Poverty Reduction**, under Dr Michael Aliber, which investigates a wide range of issues related to policy, strategy and practice to reduce poverty in South and southern Africa.

The activities of the four sub-programmes in 2003/04

responded primarily to the national priorities addressed by the South African Government's Social, Economic and International Relations Clusters. In the year ahead, IRRD will position itself to continue and strengthen its capacity to respond, in particular, to the key challenges for these clusters identified in the Presidency's Ten Year Review. These are: "to push back the frontiers of poverty" by bringing the benefits of growth and development to the "second economy" by expanding the size, content and reach of the "social wage", by better service delivery, by mitigating the effects of HIV/AIDS and migration, and by mobilising Africa to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Other impulses to which IRRD began to respond were recommendations made in the report of the panel of external reviewers appointed by the Minister of Science and Technology in 2003 to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the HSRC. Priorities identified – and accepted by the HSRC – include the need for fewer, larger projects; greater and more programmatic external collaboration, especially with historically disadvantaged universities; growing research and collaboration in and with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and other African countries in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); and increasing the policy and on-the-ground impact of the HSRC's research. These will continue to guide strategy for the Research Programme in 2004/05.

In keeping with this strategy, external collaboration has grown rapidly during the past year. External partnerships of various kinds – from individual to institutional – have involved,



among others, offshore and international bodies, such as the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the (British) Overseas Development Institute. They also included four Science Councils, namely the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the Agricultural Research Council (ARC), the Medical Research Council (MRC) and Mintek, 12 South African universities (including five historically disadvantaged), several universities in Europe, North America, Australasia and Africa, NGOs and private-sector firms and consultants. Almost every project, other than the smallest, now involves some form of external partnership. Internal collaboration continues at a high level, working with or for other HSRC research programmes, extending to six of the nine fellow programmes.

Clients in the South African Government – our major user-stakeholders – during 2003/04 included the Departments of Science and Technology, Agriculture, Land Affairs, Water Affairs and Forestry, Social Development, Health, Finance and the Presidency, at national level, as well as some at a provincial and parastatal level. Other clients included the British Department for International Development (Dfid), the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC), the European Union (EU), the World Bank,

the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations HIV/AIDS Programme (UNAIDS), the United Nations Programme for Women (UNIFEM), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Oxfam. Research and consulting have also been conducted for a number of other governments in southern Africa, including Lesotho and Namibia, and for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). Research in the region has spanned Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Full-time staff – all located in either Pretoria or Durban – numbered 18 researchers, two support staff and five contract employees (four researchers and one support staff member).

Major current and recently completed projects

Roughly 50 research projects directed by and registered in IRRD were completed during 2003/04 or were still in progress at the year-end. These include:

Several sections of the **Ten Year Review** for the Presidency, two components of the second phase of which were undertaken in collaboration with other research programmes, namely Surveys, Analyses, Modelling and Mapping (SAMM), Child,



Youth and Family Development (CYFD), Employment and Economic Policy Research (EEPR), Education Policy Research (EPR) and Democracy and Governance (D&G). The first used high level statistical indicators based on administrative data, on the one hand, to assess the impact of a range of public sector programmes on poverty and, on the other, to assess progress since 1994 at a national level using a number of key composite social, economic and political indicators. This posed a number of difficult methodological challenges. The second component complemented the first by conducting on-the-ground studies of the impact of these programmes in eight localities of varying types around the country. The research contributed to the review published by the Government in October 2003. Arrangements have been made to publish edited versions of the locality studies, and negotiations are in progress to publish other parts of the research. Project leaders were Ms Catherine Cross and Messrs Stephen Hanival and Mike de Klerk. The major funder was the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ).

The assessments of **three key rural development policy issues** for National Treasury in 2003 were designed to assist in the drawing up of government's Medium Term Expenditure Framework. The assessments focused respectively on food security, rural infrastructure and the Department of Land Affairs' Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development (LRAD) programme. The project leaders were Mr Mike de Klerk, Drs David Hemson and Michael Aliber, and Ms Catherine Cross.

The **Science and Technology for Poverty Reduction**

(SATPOR) project for the Department of Science and Technology (DST), was commissioned by DST as part of its implementation of the National Science and Technology Strategy. The survey and analysis of initiatives in the public and private sectors that involve the use of innovative technology for poverty reduction, to be completed in 2004, is led by Dr Michael Aliber. The project has brought together the HSRC, the CSIR and the University of Fort Hare as major partners, but also includes a wide range of other bodies, including the MRC, Mintek and the Universities of North-West, the North, the Western Cape, Venda and Cape Town. The budget for the research is R6 million.

The objective of the **Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping System (FIVIMS)** for the Department of Agriculture, is to lead the application of the FIVIMS concept in South Africa by designing and testing a pilot for Sekhukhuniland. The complexity of the tender specifications made it essential to form a broadly-based consortium, calling for a high level of planning, collaboration and project management skills. The foundations for delivery have been carefully laid and work on all sections of the project is expected to commence in earnest during May 2004. Close articulation with other FIVIMS in the region and with Cabinet's Social and Economic Clusters is envisaged. The project leader is Dr Scott Drimie.

The **social wage policy research**, for the Cabinet Social Cluster under the management of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, built on a preliminary report submitted by a team led by IRRD in May 2003. A more substantial project has been commissioned to assist in the strengthening of Government's Comprehensive Social Security Framework. High-level statistical analysis is to be complemented by in-depth indicative surveys in a small number of "recipient communities". The results and policy implications are due to be presented to the November 2004 Cabinet *lekgotla*. The project leader is Dr Michael Aliber.

IRRD was awarded a tender for a **Demographic and Health Survey** for the Department of Health to process and analyse the data for this important nation-wide, five-yearly survey, having played a key role in controlling the quality of data coming in from the field. The project, funded by Family Health International for approximately R1 million, is scheduled for completion in 2004. The project leader is Mr Johan van Zyl.

Three projects on **policy in Lesotho**, for UNECA, UNIFEM and the Lesotho Government, spanned the evaluation of the country's macroeconomic Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), gender policy and land policy. The last of these was commissioned to provide the basis for an extensive overhaul of land legislation and involved a range of specialist international and local consultants. It was funded by Dfid and the project leaders were Mr Ben Roberts and Drs David Hemson and Michael



Aliber. The total value of the contracts, completed in 2003, was approximately R970 000.

HIV/AIDS and food security projects in Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe covered a wide range, varying from a project with the Malawi Farmers Union to formulate policy to respond to the HIV/AIDS crisis in the country's rural areas to an assessment of the vulnerability of households in Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe to food insecurity. Others focused specifically on the impact of HIV/AIDS on food security in the region. IRRD is in discussion with the Department of Land Affairs to extend this research to South Africa. In related work in South Africa, IRRD partnered with Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health (SAHA) to conduct an investigation to inform the establishment of a village for AIDS orphans in Mamelodi, Pretoria. Project leaders were Drs Michael Aliberand Scott Drimie and Ms Khuli Tabela. The projects were funded respectively by RENEWAL, ActionAid, FAO, UNAIDS and SOS Villages, to a total value of approximately R810 000. Some components were completed in 2003, and others are due for completion in 2004.

Joint research with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) on **land restitution and environmentally protected areas** in South Africa will commence in 2004. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed and fund-raising is in progress to launch a joint research programme to examine how the constitutional commitment to the restitution of land rights to historically disadvantaged communities can be justly and effectively integrated with national and global commitments to the conservation of protected areas. Significant synergy is anticipated from the merging of the HSRC's strength as a research institution with the IUCN's strength as an advocacy and capacity-building body. IRRD's Dr Cheryl Walker is co-leader of the programme.

For the **Southern African Regional Poverty Network** (SARPN), under Acting-Director Mike de Klerk and co-ordinator Richard Humphries, 2003/04 has been a watershed year. SARPN has managed to keep its public profile high on skeleton staffing with events such as the briefing and debate on South Africa's policy on Zimbabwe, addressed by the Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Aziz Pahad; a two-day workshop on South African corporates' trade with and investment in Africa – which prompted Cabinet-level discussion; and with ever-rising usage of its website. In the meanwhile, based on the feedback from an intensive process of consultation around the region and detailed planning and with the support of the HSRC, SARPN has proceeded with plans to transform itself from an HSRC project into an independent NGO with a truly regional foundation. Guided by its Interim Governing Body, a constitution has now been drawn up and a regionally inclusive Board of Governors

has been appointed. SARPN is expected shortly to become a South African registered trust. Negotiations are at an advanced stage to appoint a director. All of this has been made possible by support from Dfid and SDC totalling R7,8 million over the next two years. While the process of becoming independent has been widely supported and welcomed around the region, stakeholders have made it clear that the network should continue to have a close association with the HSRC. It is confidently expected that both parties will gain substantially from the relationship and that SARPN will play an increasingly important role in helping accelerate poverty reduction in the region.

Future developments

It is pleasing to be able to report not only that the value of externally funded projects secured during 2003/04 met budget, but that it has continued to climb steadily in the current financial year. New contracts signed or being negotiated cover fields in which IRRD has already established its competence – such as evaluating land reform, HIV/AIDS and food security, household poverty, water delivery policy, sanitation, tourism and regional trade, capital and migration flows – as well as in new fields, such as land degradation, land and gender rights, disaster management and homelessness.

Another new contract – with Dfid to conduct a scoping study for their regional health and vulnerability programme – provides evidence of the strength of the ties between SARPN and IRRD. With the appointment of an indigenous knowledge systems specialist in July 2004, it is expected that research will also commence shortly in this important field.

A further new thrust is the relationships that are being developed with major research institutes in China and Canada, from which it is hoped that staff exchanges and joint research on issues of common concern will eventuate.

Together with the development of new corporate management support systems, IRRD's internal support services are being expanded and reconfigured to respond to the rapid increase in the number, size and complexity of new projects. Increasingly the role being played by the IRRD is one of architect, consortium-builder, manager, synthesiser and reporter with only a proportion of the research being undertaken internally – a role from which the client, the broader research community and the HSRC are all seen to gain. We are beginning to realise the enormous potential of inclusiveness.

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