

## Project Design and Evaluation

Agro Eco - Louis Bolk Institute has a vast experience with the design and evaluation of projects and programs in the field of agriculture and development cooperation. This is an important component of the projects we implement ourselves, but we also provide project design and evaluation services to other organisations.

**Project design** Successful projects start with a thorough design. Agro Eco Louis Bolk Institute provides program design services for clients who want to improve the quality of their project proposals. We carry out identification missions, stakeholder analysis and Logical Framework Analysis (LFA), using participatory methods. We also assist in designing internal monitoring mechanisms that allow project operators to measure progress easily.



*Matrix ranking exercise for impact survey in Sierra Leone*

**Evaluation as key for improvement** Development projects should be focused on results. During the inception phase, the right indicators need to be formulated in order to evaluate the project later on its promises. Are the indicators SMART and sensitive enough to reasonably expect a change within the project period? Did the overall knowledge or income level increase? What are the differentiations of benefits for different groups of beneficiaries within the target group? Thanks to evaluations, donors and beneficiaries exactly know how development projects performed. Evaluations, mid term and at the end of a project, are an effective tool for sustainable development in the long term.

From November 2008 to May 2009 Agro Eco Louis Bolk Institute carried out an independent programme evaluation: "Switzerland's Economic Development Cooperation in the field of trade promotion of organic agriculture products", with case studies in India, Romania and Ukraine, together with Wageningen International.



**Independent, competent and reliable** The evaluation services of Agro Eco-Louis Bolk Institute are highly appreciated by clients. First of all because of our extensive experience in agricultural and development projects in Africa. Secondly because of the consistency and thoroughness of our services. Moreover, we also give recommendations for improvements. We work in line with the evaluation policy of the commissioner, and respect the generic evaluation principles: partnership while safeguarding impartiality and independence, beneficiary and stakeholder participation, evidence based and constructive feedback to policy and implementers, and transparency. For most European organisations, we use the OECD/DAC evaluation guidelines, including the logical framework and key evaluation criteria (Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, Sustainability). Evaluation methods are interviews with key informants, focus group discussions, household surveys, and field observation. Our approach is participatory and gender sensitive.



Baseline survey in Ghana

In 2007 we carried out a mid-term review (ProFarm) and two final evaluations (RFS and NPRDI) for CARE Sierra Leone under the EU programme: "Linking Relief Rehabilitation and Development". Themes included: food security, local governance, refugees and host communities, conflict resolution, water and sanitation, and HIV/AIDS.

**Do you want to know more about our services?** Please contact

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