



Interdisciplinary Research and Education Fund (INREF) and SDGs

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Background

In September 2015, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals. Wageningen University & Research (WUR) contributes to many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through its research and education programmes. The interdisciplinary approach in research and education is one of the most appreciated aspects. The Executive Board of WUR stresses the importance of collaboration to tackle the challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and launched a new phase of internal research fund INREF: Interdisciplinary Research and Education Fund, focussing on the SDGs.



Objective

The main objectives of the INREF programme are:

- to contribute to excellent research by stimulating interdisciplinary collaboration and exploring new research subjects and approaches;
- to produce research results that really make a difference for the end-users envisaged (researchers, policy makers, NGOs, farmers, business, etc.);
- to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals;
- to conduct and trigger innovative, interdisciplinary and comparative Research for Development and Education within WUR and partner institutions;
- to strengthen interdisciplinary education programmes at Wageningen University and partner institutions.

Results

Since the start of INREF in 2000 16 integrated programmes and multiple seed money projects have been supported.



>100 PhD graduations



cooperation with over 85 institutions.



In 25 countries

Examples of integrated programmes



Towards environmentally sustainable and equitable palm oil' is a programme aiming at identifying sustainable pathways for the production, processing and governing of palm oil.



BESTTuna is a research programme aimed at contributing science to promote the sustainability of global tuna stocks.



The FOREFRONT programme focusses on agro-forest frontier areas, which are the particularly dynamic borders between forested and agricultural land. The research aim is to link the landscape-transforming strategies of the various actors with landscape changes and resulting ecosystem services.



EVOCA (Environmental Virtual Observatories For Connective Action) focusses on knowledge sharing platforms (known as Environmental Virtual Observatories, EVOs) and their potential to transform the development landscape in five case study areas in rural Africa.

More information see: www.wur.eu/inref

