



Centre for Development Innovation

Creating Capacities for Change



WAGENINGENUR
For quality of life

Our Focus

Innovation for sustainable and equitable development

At the Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) we focus on the global challenges of food and nutrition security, sustainable markets, adaptive agriculture, ecosystem governance and disaster, conflict and reconstruction. We link cutting-edge processes of innovation and learning with Wageningen UR's world-leading scientific and technical expertise.

Our work fosters collaboration between citizens, governments, businesses, NGOs and the scientific community. Our worldwide network of partners and clients connects with us to help facilitate innovation, create capacities for change and broker knowledge.

Beyond simple solutions – coping with a complex world

Charting over 20 years providing innovative agri-food, environmental, and international development services to clients with our partners around the world, we at CDI have an international reputation as one of the leading organisations bridging science and society in

our field. We understand that our partners and clients - both public sector and businesses - have to develop responses to cope with an increasingly complex and unpredictable world. We specialise in processes that link technological opportunities with social, economic and political understanding to create holistic ways of tackling 'wicked' problems.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

Our expertise in brokering multi-stakeholder partnerships increasingly includes building successful public-private partnerships (PPPs) to create and strengthen socially-responsible business relationships in the agri-food sector.

Help clients achieve better results

By helping our clients achieve better outcomes, we not only contribute to the sustainability of their organisations but also address broader global challenges, such as access to natural resources, protecting biodiversity, enhancing food security, developing new business opportunities and strengthening local communities.



Our work in practice

Improving agricultural education in Afghanistan

In Afghanistan CDI is responsible for the implementation of the Agricultural Technical Vocational Education & Training Project. This Dutch funded project aims to improve vocational agricultural education by introducing modern curricula, and the establishment of a training college for teachers of agricultural high schools.

Supporting Dutch Embassies food security programmes

CDI hosts a facility for all 14 Dutch embassies that have food security programmes as a priority in their multi-annual plans. It provides support missions to embassies as well as cross-embassy learning and exchange activities. This is done on request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Evaluation of Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)

CDI carried out an independent external evaluation of CTA with a threefold aim: to analyse CTA's results and performance during their Strategic Plan implementation period, to obtain up-to-date information on factors that facilitated or impeded the Centre's performance and growth during that period, and to obtain feedback for the effective implementation of CTA's new strategic plan.

Enhancing capacities for organisational change

Hivos, one of the major Dutch INGOs, is applying Theory of Change thinking in its programmes and support to partners. CDI has assisted Hivos to make Theory of Change thinking practical for partners in Africa and Latin America as well as other practitioners.

Our Programmes



Food & Nutrition Security

Enhancing food security and reducing hunger amidst the global challenges of achieving sustainable and healthy food for all.



Sustainable Markets

Creating the enabling environment, value-chain linkages and entrepreneurial capacity for pro-poor and environmentally friendly agri-food business development.



Adaptive Agriculture

Rethinking and redesigning agricultural systems in response to growing food demand, declining natural resources and climate change.



Ecosystem Governance

Facilitating the way decisions are made about the sustainable use, sharing and management of natural resources.



Conflict, Disaster & Reconstruction

Supporting CDI partners in responding to the complexities of enhancing development in areas affected by crisis.



Innovation & Change

Creating the processes and capacities for learning, conflict transformation, we deal with differences like gender, changing power relations, innovation and shared decision-making that underpin sustainable and equitable development. This is CDI's core expertise and is embedded in our other five programmes.

Our work in practice



[Restoring forest landscapes: a global learning network](#)

As part of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, a CDI team facilitates an active practitioners' network, which informs and involves policymakers on forest landscape restoration. Partners include IUCN, ITTO, Tropenbos International and Wageningen University.

[Strengthening the Africa Agribusiness Academy](#)

The AA Academy is a platform for entrepreneurs, seeking to foster innovation and growth of small and medium sized agri-food enterprises. The Academy sees strengthening entrepreneurship in agribusiness as the key to agricultural development and food security. CDI is supporting the implementation of the new strategy 'Scaling up – reaching out'. Core activities include member-to-member business development coaching services, partnerships and B2B networks and an online resource centre.



[Fisheries and aquaculture for food security in Indonesia](#)

Fish is the major source of animal protein in the Indonesian diet. However, Indonesians could benefit from higher fish consumption, in terms of protein, and also essential micronutrients. CDI is leading the formulation of an integrated programme for capture fisheries and aquaculture to enhance the availability of high quality fish and fish products, by reducing losses, enhancing quality and food safety, prolonging shelf-life through fish processing and improving local marketing and distribution.

Our Strengths

Process design & facilitation

We design and facilitate

Policy support

We support and advise

Action oriented research

We pave the way for informed change

Dialogue & debate

We foster critical thinking on key issues

Knowledge brokering

We generate locally and share globally

Training

We offer learning trajectories, courses and coaching

Monitoring & evaluation

We promote managing for impact

What clients say about us:

CDI has been instrumental in the development of strategic thinking and institutional transformation of the seed sector in Ethiopia (*Debebe Gashawbeza, Deputy Head Bureau of Agriculture, SNNPR, Ethiopia*).

CDI's support to Africa Agribusiness Academy is professional and is executed with passion by the seconded staff. In particular the entrepreneurial spirit, practical approach combined with in depth knowledge helped us to gain the trust of the stakeholders (*Piet Heemskerck, Board Member Africa Agribusiness Academy*).

What I appreciate about working with my contacts in CDI is that they have up-to-date knowledge of relevant developments which they are generous in sharing and also that they think with me in a constructive and critical way (*Marjan van Es, Senior Policy Officer, Hivos*).



Our work in practice

Wise use of water: working with Ramsar

One of the difficulties to use water wisely, are the often fragmented management responsibilities resulting in competitive approaches in the use of rivers, lakes and other wetlands. By working with the Ramsar Secretariat and National Focal Points, CDI is helping to develop capacity needed for stakeholders such as governments, fishermen and water companies to facilitate developing and implementing participatory planning processes leading to an integrated approach in the management of water resources.

From islands of success to seas of change

Large-scale inclusive approaches in agri-markets are necessary to guarantee food security for 10 billion people, while tackling the current 1 billion hungry. CDI is co-coordinator of the global Seas of Change initiative, which applies action-oriented research and innovative learning processes to answer the question "What works when scaling inclusive agri-markets?" The initiative focuses on commercial relationships and business, and draws in knowledge institutes, government, NGOs and producer organisations.

Food and nutrition security

CDI is linking agriculture, food security and nutrition, specifically for increased access to and demand for nutritious food products. CDI is a partner in the Amsterdam Initiative against Malnutrition (AIM); a public-private partnership in which the private sector (including DSM, AkzoNobel, RijkZwaan, Spar and Rabobank Foundation) collaborates with local partners and knowledge institutes contributing to the production and local distribution of nutritious foods.

Join one of our leading-edge courses

Innovation happens by professionals, for professionals

CDI is committed to working with organisations and individuals engaged in innovation and change processes who are seeking new inspiration and opportunities. By linking research policy and practice, we help to create new business models, new forms of governance and policy, and new partnerships for change that balance the needs of people, planet and profit.

Our courses are informed by this rich mixture of state-of-the-art insights from the worlds of policy, research and practice. Making active use of the experience of participants from government, business and civil society, our courses bring you up to date and help you develop new skills to apply in your work.

Our approach fosters exchange and collaboration in multidisciplinary teams, bringing together theory and practice. Besides gaining new inspiration, insights and skills, course participants also develop valuable new professional networks.

We offer an international programme of 40 different courses attended by participants from all parts of the world. Join one to expand your horizons, share with others working in similar fields, update yourself on current ideas and practices and become part of our 20,000 strong alumni network.

What our course participants say:

The vast experiences of CDI facilitators in training and in the field mean that they provide excellent insights, helping us to apply in our own work what we have learned in the course.

This course was far more than a normal training; it was an experience that changed me and how I approach my work.

The practical and interactive methods in the course made the experience richer and I learned a lot from sharing with my fellow participants.



Our work in practice

Capacities for climate change adaptation in East Africa

Knowing how to adapt agriculture and natural resource policy and practice to climate change is a key challenge for countries in Eastern Africa. In partnership with IUCN, ASARECA and RUFORUM, CDI and others at Wageningen UR initiated regional training courses on Climate Change Adaptation. The course originally partnered with HoAREC in Ethiopia and recently Makerere University, Uganda became another host institute for the course.

Integrated Seed Sector Development in Ethiopia

The ISSD programme aims to strengthen the development of a vibrant, commercial and pluralistic seed sector in Ethiopia. ISSD builds upon the strengths of informal and formal seed systems, supports local seed business development, strengthens regional and national seed companies, and develops links with international seed companies. The programme works on solving institutional and policy issues that hamper the development of an integrated seed sector. CDI coordinates the programme, in partnership with four Ethiopian universities and a regional seed enterprise.

Dealing with power issues in multi-stakeholder processes

CDI facilitates action-oriented research with Dutch development NGOs and their partners on how to deal strategically with power in MSPs. Many development issues are nowadays tackled in multi-stakeholder settings, and it is therefore critical for civil society to understand how to best position itself in these power arenas. CDI used a 'blended learning' approach in twelve cases in eight countries to generate insights and inspire action.

Partners and clients

CDI works with a wide range of partners and clients in more than 60 countries all over the world. These include the leading international agencies, national governments, ministries, national & international NGOs, education and research institutes and agribusinesses.

Publications and portals

Our services are backed up by a wealth of easily accessible resources. Our reports and guides can be downloaded from our website. Our web portals and learning platforms are interactive forums for learning, sharing experiences and meeting fellow practitioners.

CDI – a part of Wageningen UR

The Centre for Development Innovation is a part of the Social Sciences Group of Wageningen UR.

ISO 9001 certified

CDI is ISO 9001-2008 certified.

Photo credits

Cora van Oosten, Ingrid Gevers, Simone van Vugt, Paul Puister, Ted Schrader, Mirjam Schaap, Marja Thijssen, Guy Ackermans, IICD, Julien Harneis.

The Wageningen approach

Wageningen UR comprises specialised research institutes and Wageningen University. Its strength lies in the combined efforts of the various fields of natural and social sciences. This union of expertise leads to scientific breakthroughs that can be put into practice quickly and incorporated into education. A staff of 6,500 and 10,000 students from over 100 countries work around the world in the domain of healthy food and living environment

Staff

CDI has 60 professional and support staff who work closely with researchers and faculty staff across Wageningen UR.

Our professional staff are international development and change process specialists. They combine technical knowledge and expertise (in one or more of our programme areas) with excellent process management skills: facilitation, interactive training, policy development and organisational change.

We work in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Dutch. We match our skills to the specific requirements of clients and partners, putting together teams with the right mix of technical, process facilitation and project management expertise.



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