DGIS and Wageningen UR are implementing a 4-year Partnership Program ‘Globalization and Sustainable Development’ (2006-2010). In the context of conflicting local, national and global interests and drivers of change processes, the program aims, among other things, to generate science-based contributions in support of the design and implementation of policy options for the sustainable use of natural resources, pro-poor agro-supply chains and agro-biodiversity. These options need to result in improved rural livelihoods, poverty alleviation and economic development in the south. Farmers and other small-scale entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector form the primary target group. The program has a strong -but not exclusive- focus on countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Partnership Program has three themes: (i) Pro-poor agro-supply chains, (ii) Competing claims on natural resources and (iii) Sustainable use of agro-biodiversity. A cross-cutting issue throughout the program is Institutional development and capacity strengthening.

As per January 2009, the Program enters into its third year. A mid-term review is planned for March-April 2009. Program activities in each of the three themes, as planned for implementation in 2009, are summarized in the sections below. These summaries are based on the individual Work Plans that each of the projects in the program submitted to the secretariat. Budget 2009 and liquidity prognosis 2009 are provided in Annex 1.

**THEME 1: PRO-POOR AGRO-SUPPLY CHAINS**
*(Coordinators: Dr. S. Vellema, Dr. A de Jager)*

**Aims**

The ‘Agro-supply Chains’ sub-program of the Partnership aims to contribute, jointly with chain practitioners and policymakers, to the design of validated intervention strategies for pro-poor development in agro-based value chains. The sub-program adopts a practical approach with three interlinked components:

- Experimentation and innovation through the design and implementation of specific action researches;
- Capacity building and institutional development, primarily in selected countries (with a focus on Africa) and embedded in international networks of business, producer organizations and donor agencies;
- Learning through monitoring and evaluation, networking and an inventory of existing experiences.

The action researches are implemented in partnership with stakeholders in countries in the south (smallholders, retailers, processors, traders, and knowledge institutions) and the
research teams work together with producer and private sector organizations. Their transparent cooperation forms a delicate process of co-innovation, pilot studies, problem analysis, policy development and implementation. Key questions that are being addressed are:

- What are the main levers to influence value chain developments into the direction of sustainable development and poverty reduction?
- What are the conditions under which these levers work, for specific commodities or in specific contexts?
- What are the options for policy makers, producer organizations, (international) corporate business managers and development practitioners to plan and use these leveraging interventions in an effective and efficient manner?

**Activities and outputs planned for 2009**

Activities under the agro-supply chain sub-program include methodology development, pilot action researches and general program management.

**Methodology development**

The methodology development component of the agro-supply chain sub-program forms the scientific basis for the identification of strategic levers and experimental settings for pro-poor development within existing agro-supply chains. These will enable policymakers and practitioners to integrate validated sets of interventions and tools related to agro-supply chains in their policies and activities. Specific activities in 2009 include: (i) a literature review on action research methodologies, (ii) analyses, discussions and exchange of results and experiences in pilot studies (see below); (iii) peer-reviews of results, (iv) implementation of reflection, synthesis and analysis of experiences and results in pilots, (v) preparation and facilitation of strategic and iterative discussion and dialogue on results with DGIS, LNV, the AgriProFocus network and organizations in Africa and elsewhere, (vi) discussion, critical analysis and documentation on methodology of action research, (vii) documentation and communication of results and analysis through reports, policy briefs and web-based information sharing and dialogue, and (viii) raising and prioritizing issues with policy makers and networks based on program results. Outputs anticipated include 3 policy briefs, 2 methodological papers and a strategic conference.

**Pilot action research**

**Uganda**

Pilot action research in Uganda focuses on the oilseed subsector. The Uganda Oilseed Subsector Platform (OSSUP) is able both to catalyze innovative capacity with the aim to enhance the competitive position of locally sourced sunflower and processed edible oils and to introduce coordination mechanisms that create stable conditions for pro-poor development in the sunflower subsector in Uganda. Outputs for 2009 include (i) a selection of policy briefs tailored to the discussion in OSSUP based on WUR research, including overview of international experiences with sector platforms, and completed master theses (Makerere University and Van Hall/Larenstein), (ii) regional platform meetings (organised by UOSPA), (iii) a national strategic conference organized by OSSUP, (iii) a synthesis document supported strategic foresight in OSSUP, and (iv) a review article reflecting on the pro-poor development impact of installing a platform parallel to company specific chain arrangements. The research team will continue to do field work and analyse and publish results, support research capacity development at Makerere University, coordinate with OSSUP in profiling the platform at a national stakeholder meeting, organise an academic session with and at Makerere University on action and change oriented research, and conduct reflexive monitoring of the platform through interviews and participatory learning in OSSUP. OSSUP acts as Steering Committee of the research project. Other partners in Uganda include UOSPA (producer organization supported by Agriterra), Makerere University, SNV, and all members of OSSUP (including a variety of local firms).

**Ethiopia**
In Ethiopia pilot action research concentrates on the sesame value chain, and aims to foster added-value, higher revenue and improved livelihoods for all partners in the chain. This is being pursued by reducing transaction costs and risks and improving the competitiveness of the chain. Governance and institutional arrangements within the chain are being addressed as well as the building stronger external linkages, i.e. the institutional and policy environment. Outputs planned for 2009 include: (i) enhanced institutional and entrepreneurial capacities enabling chain partners to meet (inter-) national agro-food standards and to participate in, and manage, integrated supply chains anchored into national expertise, (ii) private-sector driven supply chain approaches and mechanisms (including market development) analyzed on their impact on economic development, value-added for small scale producers and livelihood improvement in general, (iii) pilot project implemented utilizing results of methodology development (see above) and co-innovation in solving supply chain related issues, (iv) problem analysis in selected regions and cross-site learning and shared strategizing, (v) a policy brief examining intervention strategies in other contexts or commodities, and (vi) tailor-made and case-based training with research teams from national and regional universities and EIAR institutes, (vii) a national conference to share lessons learned with stakeholders, policy makers, service providers, NGOs, donors etc.

**Rwanda**

Pilot action research in Rwanda will target farmer-led domestic food chains (potato). A detailed work plan will be developed, jointly with the action research partners in the period February – March 2009.

**Mozambique**

In Mozambique the pilot action research will address the ‘tandem’ of land reform and socially equitable rice chain configurations. A detailed work plan will be developed in period March – April 2009.

**Identification of two additional Action Research Pilots**

In the course of 2009, the Agro-supply Chains sub-program will start a process to select two additional action research pilots. As was done for the pilots in Ethiopia, Uganda, Mozambique and Rwanda, the selection will be based on the criteria developed in the Supply Chains Strategic Conference in July, 2008. Upon approval of the DGIS-Wag UR Steering Committee, pilot activities are aimed to start by June 2009.

**Sub-program management**

Management with regard to agro-supply chains sub-program will give specific attention to: (i) facilitation of the start of pilots in Rwanda and Mozambique, (ii) identification and facilitation two new action research pilots, (iii) implementation of the methodology development activities, (iv) documentation and communication of results and analysis through reports, policy briefs and web-based information sharing and dialogue, and (v) general subject-matter and administrative management and reporting.

**THEME 2: COMPETING CLAIMS ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

In 2008, four projects were started under Theme 2 of the Partnership Program, ‘Competing Claims on Natural Resources’. Each project addresses different claims on the use of natural resources in different societal and environmental settings, in Mozambique, Southern Africa (a cross-border project), Ghana and Ethiopia, respectively.

**Project 1: Competing claims, competing models**

*(Coordinators: Prof. Ken Giller; Dr. Maja Slingerland)*

**Aims**

Bio-fuels constitute a novel opportunity to provide new sources of income for poor rural communities involved in their production in developing countries. Current policy in Mozambique aims to stimulate production of energy crops for bio-fuel in order to stimulate
rural employment and rural development and to address local and national energy needs. Neither the export to third countries of biomass for bio-energy generation nor the relationship between bio-fuels and mitigation of global warming are Mozambican policy objectives yet. In the Netherlands, government policy revolves around the potential environmental benefits of bio-energy in terms of mitigation of global warming. It also aims at stimulating import of biomass for bio-energy conversion in our country.

This research project ‘Competing Claims Competing Models’ aims understand the impact of development interventions that are based on bio-fuel production. It seeks to analyse different bio-fuel production models, as well as their developmental impact -on rural livelihoods and resource competition- in areas of production expansion. The program focuses on southern Africa, and builds on a country case study of Mozambique, where various bio-fuel initiatives are being developed and promoted by both local and international agencies. These interventions and investments occur in absence of detailed assessments of their impacts, especially the differential ways in which they may either benefit or negatively affect the environment and livelihoods of the rural poor. The research aims to contribute to informed negotiation between stakeholders leading to sustainable management of natural resources, while contributing to poverty alleviation, food security, and economic development. The investment in biomass production for bio energy generation is a new and important claim on natural resources that is increasing competition for land and water. The overriding research question for this proposal is “Which local, national, regional and international bio-fuel production initiatives favour the inclusion of local stakeholders in the development process and under which conditions are they most likely to benefit the livelihoods of the local rural population?”.

Activities and outputs planned for 2009

Activities in the Competing Claims, Competing Models project are organised and implemented in a set of coherent and interdisciplinary MSc, PhD and PostDoc-level researches, including (i) an inventory of an area under natural area that is said to be earmarked for (large-scale) bio energy production in 2009. The study will provide data on foregone natural value in terms of biodiversity, timber, fuel wood, etc., as these are being replaced by Jatropha plantations, (ii) monitoring existing Jatropha plantations in terms of soil quality, growth performance, nursery practices, insect infestation, etc., to increase the scientific database on Jatropha plantations in support of informed decision making, (iii) the role of knowledge and science in enhancing societal negotiation about bio fuel production in the context of competing interests.

Project activities are initiated and implemented in close collaboration with national and regional organisations and initiatives, including the Universitas Eduardo Mondlane (UEM) and the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN) and the Centro de Pesquisas Meteorologicas e Climaticas Aplicadas a Agricultura (CEPAGRI) in Mozambique, the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Advisory Network (FANRPAN) of Southern Africa, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the Netherlands’ Embassy in Maputo. Close collaboration is –of course- also in place with the Competing Claims activities that are being implemented in southern Africa under the INREF Program of Wageningen University.

Project outputs will include policy- and stakeholder-level workshops and meetings, project workshops, policy briefs, interim project reports, scientific papers, MSc-theses and MSc-level students. The series of regular Competing Claims discussion sessions at Wageningen University will continue in 2009.

Project 2: Coping with competing claims on water in the Incomati Basin, Southern Africa.
(Coordinator: Dr Petra Hellegers)

Aims
In a globalizing world new claims on water are developing, enhancing the competition for water in river basins that are being shared among states such as the Incomati Basin in southern Africa (Mozambique, Swaziland and South Africa). Liberalisation of the world’s markets and international and national policies have triggered the production of biofuel crops in the Incomati River Basin, disregarding imminent issues as local water scarcity and its effect on livelihoods of local populations. Bio-fuel production from crops requires large quantities of water and competes directly with food production. There is a clear need to identify opportunities of local communities in the Incomati Basin to improve their livelihoods while sustaining water resources, and this requires the development of more-harmonised policies. As the Incomati Basin is situated in part of Africa that has experienced a dynamic and turbulent political history, a large part of the population is living in poverty and the water resource base is deteriorating. Prevention and avoidance of conflicts is therefore both a necessary precondition and a direct contribution to building improved livelihoods, poverty alleviation and food security. This calls for integrated and coherent responses that cut across the departmental structures of governmental administration, stakeholders’ individual interests, and disciplinary boundaries.

The Incomati Basin is strategically important to South Africa because Kruger Park is in the basin and the Incomati and its tributaries are a main source of the water needed to convert coal into electricity. The basin is important for Swaziland because hydropower is generated at Maguga Dam in the Komati River and irrigated agriculture forms the foundation of the local economy. The Mozambican part of the river basin lies in a semi-arid area that supports the population around the capital Maputo.

The main objective of this project is to support inter-sector and inter-state policy development and sustainable use of the Incomati Basin water resources through building capacity with respect to water valuation and innovative water monitoring. In order to be able to assess the implications of water re-allocations among activities, sectors and states insight is required in the relationship between land and water use and the benefits that water generates for land use activities in the basin. A discussion support tool will be developed, and tested, that can be used to assess the implications of various water re-allocation policies on stakeholders.

**Activities and outputs planned for 2009**

For 2009, the following activities and outputs are planned: Following the successful completion, in 2008, of the calculation of actual water consumption and associated biomass production in the entire basin, activities planned for 2009 include: (i) a hydrological system analysis and water balance for the basin, (ii) developing an integrated land and water model and a SWAT analysis thereof, based on negotiated consensus between stakeholders, (iii) calculating the economic production value of water and the social and environmental value of water for the various water use activities in the three countries concerned and (iv) developing alternatives for improved water management and their assessment in terms of economic, social and environmental returns. In addition, the implications of different water re-allocation scenarios on the performance land use, sectors and states will be assessed. These activities will be implemented in close collaboration with our institutional partners in the region, including the Water Research Commission and the Ministry of Water Affairs and Forestry in South Africa, the Department of Water Affairs in Swaziland and the Department of Water Affairs in Mozambique. In the Netherlands, the main partners in the project are the Agricultural Economics Research Institute (LEI) and Alterra/Environmental Sciences Group of Wageningen UR, and WaterWatch Wageningen.

**Project 3: Improving livelihoods and natural resource management in the Central Rift Valley, Ethiopia.** (Coordinator: Dr. Huib Hengsdijk)

**Aims**
The Central Rift Valley of Ethiopia is a closed river basin of some 1 million ha where poverty and natural resource degradation are firmly intertwined. The rapidly growing population increasingly over-exploits the scarce natural resources in their struggle for survival. Symptoms of this exploitation are falling water levels of lakes in the Rift valley, gradual erosion of wood stocks, over-grazing of communal pastures, decreasing land productivity and expansion of cultivation into marginal land. Current private investments in irrigated horticulture and floriculture for local and international markets respectively, stimulate economic growth and development but they do claim their share of the limited resource base, especially water.

As the Rift valley is a closed river basin -there is no in- and out-flow of freshwater- relatively small changes in water use have a great impact, in particular on the land downstream. Effects of climate change may further aggravate these problems. There is an urgent need for integrated resource planning and management at different levels in conjunction with the development of options for more-sustainable land use practices. Problem owners are all those with a stake in the Central Rift Valley, including the regional authorities (Investment Commission; Ministry of Water Resources; Ministry of Agriculture), district administrators (‘woredas’) and municipalities (the cities Ziway, Meki), the Multi-stakeholder Central Rift Valley Working Group, representing civil society organizations, environmentalists and academia and the private sector, including both smallholder farmers and large-scale farm enterprises as well as tour operators.

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of local authorities, development authorities, development organisations and the private sector in the field of natural resource management with the aim to mitigate competing claims for natural resources, and to improve resource management and the livelihoods of the rural population in the Central Rift Valley. This objective is being pursued by means of two sandwich PhD trajectories entitled: (i) Integrated regional analysis and exploration of resource management options: Central Rift Valley of Ethiopia and (ii) Multi-level analysis of sustainable land management in the Central Rift Valley of Ethiopia. More specific MSc-level studies will feed in to these overarching studies.

Activities and outputs planned for 2009

Upon finalisation of the two PhD research proposals (early 2009) actual activities that will be implemented in 2009 in the framework of these studies include: (i) a resource inventory of the Central Rift Valley including an agro-ecological evaluation and (ii) an inventory of relevant actors and stakeholders involved in land use activities and in land planning and resource allocation processes in the Central Rift Valley.

The objective of the PhD trajectory is to analyze and explore regional resource use and management options in the Central Rift Valley given the available resource base and prevailing policy objectives. This study provides quantitative insights in the technical production possibilities and their contribution to development objectives (e.g. poverty reduction) taking into account the available resource base under different climate scenarios. Trade-offs among different policy objectives (e.g. poverty reduction and nature conservation) will be quantified and options identified to alleviate such tensions in policy ambitions.

The second PhD study investigates the policy and institutional bottlenecks that constrain sustainable land management practices and aims at identifying requirements and opportunities for successful implementation of sustainable land management in the Central Rift Valley of Ethiopia. This study provides insight in the use of current policy instruments (and their possibly adverse effects), collaboration between different actors in the field of sustainable land management and opportunities to improve coherence in policies. As the Central Rift Valley encompasses two states (i.e. Oromia and Southern Nationalities and Peoples Region) assessments of different policy and institutional environments can be made.
The PhD trajectories are complementary: the first study focuses on the quantification of resource management options and their contribution to policy goals, whereas the one analyses the institutional framework and policy instruments required to realize the benefits of land management options in practice.

Building on the outcome the Multi-stakeholder Land Use Planning Workshop held in December 2008, a follow-up Workshop will be held by mid 2009 to discuss and design monitoring activities as well as out-scale mechanisms.

Land and water management measures and infrastructures for improved water conservation, water harvesting and water retention in the Central Rift Valley will be designed, in conjunction with the spatial identification of implementation domains. Output will be in the form of reports and maps. The latter will also identify areas most affected by, and most vulnerable to, erosion, water shortages, salinization and flooding.

The review and monitoring of climatic data will continue with the special aim to assess climatic changes. Output will be part of the larger natural resources database for the Central Rift Valley.

Further development of the methodology to assess income impacts of technological options is planned for 2009. This will be done using a propensity score matching survey framework and model. Output of this activity is a conference paper on the methodology developed, as well as on the results obtained during the first two years of this rolling baseline survey.

Information sharing with, and strengthening of, the Multi-stakeholder Central Rift Valley Working Group will continue by means of workshops, meetings and e-mail news facilitation.

Project 4: Illegal or Incompatible, Ghana
(Coordinators: Ir. Nico Rozemeijer, Prof. Bas Arts)

Aims
The conservation and wise use of tropical forest resources is of global concern. Recently, international debate has been focusing on the issue of illegal logging and the legality of timber as a contribution to sustainable management of forests. This is reflected in the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiative launched by the EU. Part of the initiative is the development of Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) with a number of important timber trade partner countries. Central to the VPA processes, and future VPA-based timber trade, is the use of -broadly accepted- Timber Legality Standards (TLS) in producer countries such as Ghana and Indonesia. Success of the VPAs requires a process of including wider social and environmental issues around forestry. An important question here is: how will the enforcement of agreed TLSs affect the lives of rural communities, especially those dependent on timber extraction and trade for their livelihoods?

The “Illegal or Incompatible?” project aims to strengthen livelihood considerations in forest policy development in order to enhance its effective implementation. A specific objective is to develop broadly-supported governance mechanisms that manage the consequences of VPA legal timber legality standards on local livelihoods and to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to (re-)negotiate institutional arrangements for sustainable resource use in Ghana and Indonesia.

The project proposes an action research contribution to current VPA negotiation and implementation and concurrent forest management reforms in Ghana and Indonesia. This will be done by developing mechanisms for improved policy dialogue and stakeholder participation in a number of pilots. In Ghana, the research will take place at national level and in eight communities in the High Forest Zone, as selected for the EU-funded project on chainsaw lumbering. To put the results from Ghana into a wider context, a comparative analysis will be carried out in Indonesia with studies both at the national level and in East Kalimantan Province.
Activities and outputs planned for 2009

Activities under the Illegal or Incompatible project are grouped into four work packages, as follows:

**WP1: New tools for valuing environmental goods and services, and scenario development**

This work package comprises MSc and PhD-level thesis research on (i) Impact of forestry and agrarian regimes on timber endowments and entitlements’, (ii) Livelihood dependence on ecosystem services in local communities in the Samreboi forest area of Ghana, (iii) Key driving forces accounting for current trends in forests and implications of scenarios for sustainable forest management.

**WP2: Improved governance mechanisms to manage VPA implications on livelihood.**

Activities within this work package include desk research and compilation of discussion paper in preparation of a stakeholder workshop in Ghana that is planned for mid-2009. The workshop will assess the consequences of the VPA and the implied legality standards on local livelihoods in Ghana. In addition, two MSc-level theses are being completed under this work package: (i) Governance and livelihoods from a communication perspective and (ii) Comparing VPA approaches in Ghana and Indonesia.

**WP3: Capacity building for improved multiple stakeholder dialogue**

As a follow-up to the tailor-made training course for facilitators that was held in Ghana in 2008, a coaching and action- learning trajectory will be implemented in 2009. The trajectory aims to further contribute to professional facilitation expertise in VPA-related policy discussions in Ghana. Also, and in close collaboration with the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana, a student platform will be organized on the impact of VPA. Next, a start will be made with designing a participatory project monitoring framework. The aim is to monitor impact of the project activities on governance in the forestry sector as well as on strengthened livelihood considerations in forest policy development.

**WP4: Communication and dissemination**

The main activities in this work package will focus on drawing the relevant high-level stakeholders -such as the policy makers- on board and sustaining their interests. This will be done by sharing of relevant project information through various communication interventions including meetings, newsletters and electronic info sheets. The high-level meetings with the major policy institutions and policy makers are planned, not only to introduce the project and provide updates on progress but also, and specifically, to take their impressions or concerns. A newspaper article and a radio program are planned to engage the general public on the initiative. The project website complements the various communication activities and keeps international stakeholders informed.

Lastly, a general project-level workshop will be held to discuss results and exchange information across the four work packages. This workshop will (re-)assess intended project impact and identify missing information.

**THEME 3: SUSTAINABLE USE OF AGRO-BIODIVERSITY**

**Aims**

Agro-biodiversity encompasses all components of biological diversity in agro-ecosystems that are of relevance to agriculture and fisheries. Agro-biodiversity provides essential components and functions in the livelihood of resource-poor farmers, including food security and nutritional variety as well as risk reduction through diversification of income sources and reduced vulnerability to crop failures. Agro-biodiversity contributes to the resilience, robustness and sustainability of agricultural production systems. Growing population
pressure, however, as well as globalization processes, outsourcing of food production, scarcity of fossil fuels and the resultant competition for land to produce biomass for energy purposes, as well as changing climatic conditions do all exert pressure on agro-biodiversity. Processes and policies that impact negatively on agro-biodiversity include the intensification of agricultural production, loss of traditional knowledge and conversion of non-agricultural habitats.

The loss of agro-biodiversity comes against the price of degenerating local production systems and associated knowledge which, in turn, have major impacts on local culture and local identity. Moreover, the effects of erosion and loss of agro-biodiversity play out at every level. Local farmers and communities are confronted with improved technology options to increase their income through higher yields. As a consequence, however, they face larger dependence on external inputs (seeds, fertilisers and pesticides) and the impact intensification has on the sustainability of production. Governments, on the other hand, wrestle with the right balance between the need for economic development and the need for environmental protection, including agro-ecosystems and biodiversity. National governments also face the challenge of having to implement international agreements in a context of national jurisprudence and local cultures. Lastly, the international community has to deal with the upcoming effects of climate change and those of the growing attention for, and investments in, bio-fuel production on food security. Strong interactions –if not competition- between all these levels occur.

The objectives of the theme ‘Sustainable Use of Agro-biodiversity’ are to: (i) gain better understanding of the (possible) contribution of agro-biodiversity to poverty alleviation and improved livelihoods, (ii) develop novel options for the sustainable use and management of agro-biodiversity, (iii) strengthen local communities in improving the use, processing and marketing of genetic resources, (iv) strengthen local capacity and institutions for the out-scaling of viable approaches to community support, (v) support the development of pro-poor biotechnology applications and (vi) contribute to policy development on agro-biodiversity and genetic resources in a national and international policy contexts.

Activities and outputs planned for 2009

By January 2009 a targeted Call for Proposals will be launched under this theme. The Call solicits Concept Notes on research that addresses problems underlying the sustainable use of agro-biodiversity. Simultaneously, the research proposed should seek to develop solutions and options for policy formulation, as well as interventions to improve local livelihoods on basis of safe use and management of agro-biodiversity. Institutional development and capacity strengthening form crosscutting issues in the theme. Responses to this call need to be submitted by mid-February for initial evaluation. Promising concept notes will be selected and facilitated for development into full proposals that are due by March 27, 2009. An external committee will evaluate these full proposals and advise the Steering Committee of the Partnership Program on final approval. A maximum of 4 full proposals will be accommodated. It is planned that by mid 2009 the approved projects will start.

CROSS-CUTTING THEME: INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

Aims

Institutional development and capacity strengthening has emerged as a key area in sustainable development. Institutional development involves establishing an enabling environment that, for example, supports the empowerment of economically disadvantaged groups, encourages self reliance, creates conditions for equitable private sector participation in development and establishes mechanisms for sustainable natural resources management. 'Institutions' in this context not only refers to government agencies and organisations, but also to the policy and legal framework, mechanisms for good governance, market mechanisms, incentive
frameworks, networks and other mechanisms for co-ordinating the actions of different stakeholders and even the values and attitudes of different groups.

For government agencies and the mechanisms of governance, the implications of trends such as globalisation, decentralisation, privatisation, greater private sector involvement in development, government taking a facilitation role, use of market opportunities to drive poverty reduction and sector wide approaches are immense. A huge capacity development effort is required to reorient government institutions towards this new environment. Particularly important is the capacity of government to establish effective public, private and NGO sector partnerships for rural development initiatives and to create a supportive and enabling institutional framework. This requires, for example, new skills for interactive, multi-stakeholder and system wide decision and policy making. It also requires the capacity for institutional analysis, design and adaptation.

Capacity development can be defined as the process by which individuals, organisations, institutions and societies develop abilities (individually and collectively) to perform functions, solve problems and set and achieve objectives. Traditionally, capacity development has focused on simply the training of individuals. While this remains important, capacity development for strengthening institutions requires support for long-term processes of organisational change and development. Such capacity development needs to focus how government can become more effective in establishing an institutional environment supportive of rural development, poverty reduction and food security.

Activities and outputs planned for 2009

Institutional development and capacity strengthening processes are being implemented within the framework of the various activities described in the previous sections of this work plan. These take the form of tailor-made courses, regular MSc-level education including theses, PhD-level trajectories and theses, interdisciplinary working groups and participatory multiple stakeholder negotiation platforms. Next to development of interdisciplinary skills –learning and operating across disciplines- the development of ‘soft skills’ is deemed crucially important in order to enhance societal relevance of the research, communication abilities, research management, etc.

In 2009 an inventory will be made of activities and lessons learned on the subject within the various sub activities that are being implemented in the Partnership Program. These will then be matched with experiences gained and approaches developed elsewhere. These experiences include in particular the state of the art learning-, knowledge circulation- and innovation-systems practiced and described within Wageningen UR (e.g. the CD&IC Program of Wageningen International, the Chairgroup Knowledge & Innovation Systems and the Convergence of Sciences project) and beyond (e.g. ICRA, CTA).

CALANDER OF ACTIVITIES 2009

January-December:
- General Programme Management (Secretariat)
- Continuation of pilot action research in Theme 1 ‘Agro-supply Chains’ in Uganda, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Rwanda (Chains Consortium)
- Continuation of activities in 4 projects under Theme 2 ‘Competing Claims’ in Mozambique, Southern Africa (cross-border project), Ghana/Indonesia and Ethiopia (Project Teams).

January:
- Launching of Call for Proposals on Theme 3 ‘Agro-Biodiversity’ (Secretariat).
- Drafting Terms of Reference Mid-term Review of Partnership Program (Secretariat).
- Endorsement by Management Team (Management Team).

February:
• Evaluation of Concept Notes submitted in response to Call for Proposals under Theme 3 ‘Agro-biodiversity’ (Evaluation Team); Endorsement by Management Team (Management Team).
• Starting-up of new pilot in ‘Agro-supply Chains’: Mozambique (Chains Consortium).
• Starting-up Instit. Development and Cap. Strengthening matching study (Study Team).
• Elaboration of Full Project Proposals on ‘Agro-biodiversity’ (Writing Teams)
• Compilation of Mid-term Review Team (Secretariat; Daily Management Team).
• Identification and selection of two additional pilots in ‘Agro-supply chains’ (Chains Consortium).

March:
• Starting-up of new pilot in ‘Agro-supply Chains’: Rwanda (Chains Consortium).
• Evaluation of Full Project Proposals on Agro-biodiversity (Evaluation Team).
• Mid-term Review of Partnership Program (Review Team).
• Annual thematic and financial reporting 2007 (Secretariat).
• Luncheon presentation at DGIS Theme 2 (Competing Claims), Project 1 (Competing Claims, Competing Models-Mozambique; Project Team).

April:
• Steering Committee Meeting (Steering Committee):
  o Discussion/Endorsement of new pilots in ‘Agro-supply Chains’.
  o Discussion/Endorsement of Mid-term Review.
  o Discussion/Endorsement of results evaluation proposals ‘Agro-biodiversity’.
  o Discussion/Endorsement annual thematic and financial reporting 2009.
• Joint workshop of all four Competing Claims projects (Secretariat, Project Teams).
• Luncheon presentation at DGIS, Theme 2 (Competing Claims) Project 4 (Illegal or Incompatible, Ghana/Indonesia, Project Team).

May:
• Kick-off meeting and start of activities in Theme 3 ‘Agro-biodiversity’. (Secretariat, Management team, Project Teams).
• Completion Instit. Development and Cap. Strengthening matching study (Study Team).

June-July:
• Starting-up of new pilots in ‘Agro-supply Chains’ (Chains Consortium).
• Luncheon presentation at DGIS, Theme 1 ‘Agro-supply Chains’(Project team) Incompatible, Ghana/Indonesia, Project Team).
• Multi-stakeholder Land Use Planning Workshop, Central Rift Valley, Ethiopia (‘Competing Claims’ Project 4; Project Team).

August-October
• Various project activities to continue (Project Teams).
• Luncheon meetings at DGIS (to be decided; Secretariat).

November-December
• Annual work planning and budgeting 2009 (Secretariat).
• Steering Committee Meeting (Secretariat, Steering Committee).