2. Links between research and development

M Christian Huyghe, R Sylvia Burssens

How research is related to development of activities in various countries to achieve a diversity of goals, global challenges, SDGs?

- What is development? Concept of development, relates to a diversity of things, all points below
- Development ’60s developing and developed countries, related to aid
- SDG universal: not a divide anymore between developing and developed, aiming all at the same goals internationally
- Science and development: bottleneck for many scientists, how to implement, practicalities?
- UK : encourage interactions of scientists with developing countries (alignment needed between different dpt or ministries, research and aid)
- What are the incentives for the researchers and the research organisation?
- SDGs at national and international level, start at home, how succesful?
- Involvement private sector? Employment, growth, opportunities needed

Contribute to public policies, governance

- Role scientist is different than policymakers, should be negotiations but policymakers decide
- Participatory decision-making, participate in the debate
- Highly contextual level for different types of innovation (eg organisatorial innovation or technological innovation)
- Need to strenghten cooperation between science and governance and improve interaction
- Tensions and controversies: scientists have to prove that they are unbiased (independence?)

Scaling up, local conditions

- Need for local governance structures, ecosystems
- Communication with local actors important, eg ministeries, local authorities…
- Scaling up does not start at the local level, innovative concepts that are sustainable can be adapted at the local level (scaling up can work in some cases eg vaccines but sometimes concepts cannot be reproduced at local level)
- Multitude of entry points and diversity of governance
- Local governance = policy oriented

Knowledge dissemination and innovation

- Education and training is important (link with SDG), long term, also at primary and secondary school level, for taking up knowledge
- Communication is often missing during a project and/or between different actors
- Strong need for vocational training

How to work with diversity of beneficiaries

- Systems approach
- Multi-actor approach: involve the different actors from the start
- Stimulate scientists to work at the practical level (impact!!) Start from tacit knowledge (what the endusers knows and the scientist does not know)
- Multiactor approach makes it also complex – take into account different (economic) interests, viewpoints
- Germany eg national sustainability science platform with different actors (citizens, NGOs, private sector, ministeries, scientists…) = informed decision-making based on knowledge
- Learning process is important (learn from mistakes) reflexivity, ex post analysis, ex ante programming, internal capacity to reflect on a process
- Impact case studies (impact assessment framework relevant to SDGs)

How to work with diversity of beneficiaries

- Change of mindset (impact oriented)
- How to make causality between institutional innovation and impact?
- Not allways possible for scientists to engage (no fix position, no time, no budget…)
- Multidisciplinarity, involve social scientists, economists