

## **Call for Papers**

### ***Knowledge Management for Development Journal***

#### **Special Issue on ‘The unusual suspect? The private sector in knowledge partnerships for agricultural and rural development’**

The *Knowledge Management for Development Journal* (KM4D Journal) is a open access, peer-reviewed community-based journal on knowledge management for development – for and by development practitioners, researchers and policymakers. The journal is closely related to the KM4Dev community of practice [www.km4dev.org](http://www.km4dev.org). The KM4D Journal is currently inviting papers for an upcoming special issue on the private sector in knowledge for development, to be published in **September 2020**. The Guest Editors for this issue are Jorge Chavez-Tafur, Sarah Cummings, Domenico Dentoni, Suzanne Kiwanuka, Jana Körner, Anastasia Seferiadis, and Simone Staiger.

#### **Rationale**

In September 2015, the member states of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly agreed on Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a transformational agenda to address the problems facing the global community, including poverty, gender inequality, and climate change (UN, 2015). For the first time, global development efforts in the economic, social and environmental spheres for both developed and developing countries are being integrated (Cummings, 2015). To achieve this ambitious agenda, global efforts will need to make the most of the role of the private sector.

The private sector is receiving increasing prominence in agricultural and rural development. Not only small businesses in the global South but also multinationals are being courted by bilateral and multilateral development agencies, like the US Agency for International Development and the Department for International Development, as a way to increase the impact of public funds. The CGIAR, ‘the world’s largest global agricultural innovation network’ , considers that partnership with the private sector represents a strategic opportunity for impact at scale and to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Appropriate efforts and mechanisms to work in concert with private enterprise are critical.

The way in which development initiatives incorporate the private sector is a particularly important issue because sustainable development will require transformation using all the practical means at the disposal of the international community, going beyond ‘business as usual’ (Spangenberg, 2013). However, the role of the private sector in **knowledge brokering and knowledge partnerships** has not received much attention from researchers (Kiwanuka et al, Under submission). Given the huge diversity of private sector actors, we are looking, in particular, for contributions which make it possible to learn about how the

private sector contributes to agricultural and rural development, including analytical frameworks, typologies of partnerships, benchmarking practices and mapping of the intellectual assets of the private sector. This Special Issue focuses on the *for-profit* private sector, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs), multinational companies, financial institutions, foundations and others.

We are looking for different types of contribution: ranging from academic articles to less formal types of submissions (case studies, thought pieces, reviews etc) for which an overview is provided at the end of this Call. We are also calling for these less formal types of contributions because we would like to tap into on-going experiences of working with the private sector. The academic articles will be subject to double-blind peer review while the other types of contributions will be reviewed by the editorial team. If necessary, we will cluster accepted papers into two issues of the journal with a maximum of 10 papers each.

We welcome submissions on the following topics although this list is not exhaustive and we also welcome cross-fertilization between topics, as well as novel perspectives:

- **Diversity of private sector actors and partnerships**

Given the huge diversity of private sector actors, we are specifically looking for contributions which find useful ways of categorizing different types of actors and partnerships, based on their sustainability and developmental relevance. In particular, we are interested in perspectives shedding light on how different discourses on private sector actors and partnerships are constructed and modified.

- **Operational challenges in generating and co-constructing knowledge**

What are the operational challenges of working with the private sector in terms of differing timelines, priorities, approaches to co-design, and intellectual property rights. What implications do these operational challenges have for legal frameworks?

- **Perspectives from the private sector**

We would particularly like to hear from the private sector actors involved in multi-stakeholder partnerships with the public sector as their voices are rarely heard. What are the perspectives of private sector actors involved in multi-stakeholder partnerships? What is their experience of working with the public sector?

- **Social inclusion**

We are interested in how the involvement of the private sector relates to social inclusion, particularly focusing on the participation of women and youth in agricultural and rural development.

- **Critical perspectives**

Given that the involvement of the private sector in development is a hotly debated topic, we also invite papers giving critical perspectives. For example, some members of civil society and some academics take a critical position on private sector actors, arguing that the private sector's aims appear to be contrary to and mutually exclusive with development efforts. In particular, intellectual property rights is often cited to be one problem when working with the private sector. To what extent are the perceived trade offs in terms of the objectives of sustainable development hindering cooperation with the private sector? What other perceptions of the private sector may hinder cooperation?

- **Policies**

What are the policy processes encouraging or crowding out the involvement of the private sector in agricultural and rural development? How to deal with these? What is their impact in terms of facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships? For example, many donors and research councils encourage research teams to collaborate with the private sector in their funding calls. How effective is this? How effective is blending as a policy framework to encourage private sector involvement in multi-stakeholder partnerships?

- **Knowledge integration and brokering**

What are your experiences of knowledge integration and brokering with the private sector? How does the private sector perform as a knowledge broker? How does the private sector contribute to decolonization of science by brokering local knowledge from the South?

- **Benchmarking and measurement exercises**

There are a number of benchmarking exercises focused on the private sector which assess the value of working with the development sector, such as the Access to Seeds Index<sup>1</sup> and the Access to Nutrition Index (ATNI)<sup>2</sup>. In a recent article, however, Stuart Gillespie and Nick Nisbett argue that the ATNI values commitments and that actual implementation lags behind. They argue for a more dynamic approach in which companies would need to show pro-nutrition actions over a reasonable length of time before discussions on partnerships could start. Do you have experience with benchmarking exercises? Do you have experience of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) exercises when cooperating with the private sector?

- **Innovative modalities and business models**

There are many different modalities in which the private sector is involved in agricultural

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<sup>1</sup><https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/private-sector-in-agricultural-innovation-and-development/discussions/access-seeds-index>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.accesstonutrition.org/>

and rural development: corporate social responsibility, micro-credit, social entrepreneurship, incubators, as well as different business models. How do these models innovate novel modes of actions but also alternative discourses on the role of the private sector? How are particular innovations developed in the South?

- **Scaling and private sector**

There is a lively discussion over the precise definition of scaling. According to Seerp Wigboldus and Jan Brouwers, it can be defined as ‘strategies and approaches relating to the objective of seeing that the potential of relatively isolated inventions, innovations and developments benefits situations and people more widely’ (2016: 16). What are the implications of involving the private sector in scaling as partners in innovations and knowledge processes?

### **Your contribution**

We particularly encourage submissions from researchers, practitioners, policymakers and activists from the Global South as well as from agricultural innovation networks, such as the CGIAR and its partners. We also encourage submissions from all disciplines, as long as they focus on knowledge or knowledge processes. Submissions are welcome in English, French and Spanish. We can offer ‘peer support’ to authors who are inexperienced writers.

### **Submission guidelines**

If you would like to submit a paper or another type of contribution, please send a short proposal, including the title of your proposed contribution, the type of contribution (paper, case study etc.) and an abstract (minimum one paragraph – maximum one page) by email to:

[KM4deditors@dgroups.org](mailto:KM4deditors@dgroups.org)

Submission deadline for title and abstract	31 December 2019
Acceptance/rejection of abstract	15 January 2019
Submission of full paper	2 April 2020
Completion of peer-review	1 May 2020
Submission of final version of paper	15 July 2020
Publication date	1 September 2020

For further information about the journal, kindly consult the journal website at:

[km4djournal.org](http://km4djournal.org)

### **About the Guest Editors**

*Jorge Chavez-Tafur* is a Senior Editor at the *Knowledge Management for Development Journal*. As Knowledge Management Officer at the Centre for Technical Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA), the Netherlands, in the Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Unit, he is the coordinator of its experience capitalization project. He was previously Editor of *LEISA Revista de Agroecología* and Editor-in-Chief of *Farming Matters*.

*Sarah Cummings* is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Knowledge Management for Development Journal* which she founded with 2005. She is currently working as Researcher, Public-Private Partnerships at the Knowledge, Technology and Innovation group at Wageningen University and Research (WUR), The Netherlands.

*Domenico Dentoni* is Associate Professor at the Business Management & Organization Group, WUR. His research focuses on new forms of organization that trigger (or constrain) learning and change at individual and collective levels and thus address (or worsen) wicked problems around food and agriculture.

*Suzanne Kiwanuka* is Senior Lecturer in Health Policy Planning and Management at Makerere University School of Public Health, Uganda. She has a passion and vast experience in health systems strengthening and evidence based policy making through strengthening of implementation research and production of evidence products, including policy briefs, newspaper articles and position papers.

*Jana Körner* is working as Scaling Officer for the CGIAR Research Program “Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, CCAFS”. She is also part of the GIZ-seconded, cross-CGIAR Task Force on Scaling.

*Anastasia Seferiadis* is post-doc researcher at the Institute of Research for Development (IRD), France, focusing on action research related to gender and inequality, including alternative business models for development.

*Simone Staiger* works at the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), a CGIAR institute. She leads Communications, Monitoring-Evaluation-Learning of the Programme SERVIR-Amazonia, undertaking research in communication and media. She is a long-term member of the journal’s editorial board and has previously been a Guest Editor on numerous issues.

### **References:**

- Cummings, S. (2015) Policy coherence in the post-2015 development agenda. ROSA News No. 48, 2-7 [http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/file/08/07/2015\\_-\\_1658/rosa-news-48-july2015-english.pdf](http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/file/08/07/2015_-_1658/rosa-news-48-july2015-english.pdf) (Accessed 10 March 2016)
- Kiwanuka, S., S. Cummings and B.J. Regeer (Under submission) The private sector as the ‘unusual suspect’ in knowledge brokering for international development: a critical review.
- Gillespie, S. and N. Nisbett (2019) Principles, practice, and the private sector’s role in malnutrition: time to review red lines? <https://a4nh.cgiar.org/2019/05/29/principles->

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(Accessed 3 September 2019)

Spangenberg, J. H. (2013) Pick Simply the Best: Sustainable Development is About Radical Analysis and Selective Synthesis, not About Old Wine in New Bottles. *Sust. Dev.*, 21: 101-111.

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Wigboldus, S. and J. Brouwers (2016) Using a theory of scaling to guide decision making. Towards a structured approach to support sensible scaling of innovations in the context of agrifood systems. Wageningen: Wageningen University & Research

## Types of contributions

**Articles** are refereed through a peer support process. Each submission is limited to a maximum of 6000 words (including notes and references), plus a summarising abstract no longer than 200 words, a short biographical summary of the authors and contact details.

Articles can include:

- Theory-focused articles which introduce, or advance or question scientific concepts, models and approaches in knowledge management for development.
- Review articles which review approaches and advance the field.
- Practice-based articles which are based on the application of knowledge management for development. Although they may be focused on practice, they need to have a theoretical basis in the literature of knowledge management and development, and take the theory a step further. Articles may use case examples to illustrate a point, but a theory or premise is at the forefront.

**Case studies** are generally slightly shorter than papers, with a case example at the forefront serving as a basis for the author's theories. The case studies should not exceed 4000 words and are subject to peer review by the editorial team.

**Thought pieces** are an outlet for expressing opinions, sharing new ideas, or presenting philosophical discourses. They should comprise a maximum of 2000 words and are not subject to peer review, although they should be revised in line with the comments of the Editors.

**Short stories** are short contributions (maximum of 2000 words), with a more personal take than an article or a case study. A short story can address either personal experiences or a newsworthy topic.

**KM4Dev Community Notes** comprise summaries of discussions which have taken place on the KM4Dev community of practice online discussion forum, or a conference or workshop report which has taken place under the auspices of KM4Dev [www.km4dev.org/journal](http://www.km4dev.org/journal).

**Life stories** are portraits of figures from the knowledge management for development field, tracing back their crucial moments in the field, lessons learned and trends/observations for the future. These articles should not exceed 4000 words.

**Debates** are controversial exchanges between two persons about a specific topic in the field of knowledge management for development – for which the two persons disagree. Debates consist of a series of answers to one another, around issues introduced by a neutral voice. These articles should not exceed 3000 words. The summary and details of both authors should be shared. These articles require more preparation time.

**Letters** are open letters to either the editors or any person (as a reaction to a discussion, document or otherwise). These should not exceed 1000 words.

**Annotated bibliographies** are collections of publications (books, papers, articles and other written items) that deal with one specific topic. These articles should not exceed 4000 words or 30 references. Each reference should contain full author, access, publisher and publication details.