

Sweden

Priorities and approaches

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) strives to reduce poverty and oppression around the world. In cooperation with organisations, government agencies and the private sector, Sida invests in sustainable development for all people with a focus on economic development that is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and gender equal. It aims to strengthen the conditions of people that are living in poverty, especially those in conflict areas. Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian assistance is guided by government strategies that set the objectives for Swedish development cooperation. The strategies are usually valid for a period of five years and have either a geographic or thematic focus, such as human rights or climate change. The Strategy for [Sweden's Development Cooperation in Research for Research for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development 2022-2028](#) – approved in July 2022 – recognizes the long term feature of research.

Swedish development cooperation supports research and research-driven innovations of relevance to poverty alleviation and sustainable development and strengthening research to impact as outlined in the strategy. This includes strengthening research capacity and research and innovation systems in low-income countries. A considerable share of Swedish support to research goes to ARD (see [Openaid](#)). Sweden will continue to prioritise research cooperation at all levels throughout and beyond what is outlined in the strategy document.

Organisation of ARD

[Sida](#) under the Swedish [Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#) is Sweden's primary executing agency for Swedish development cooperation. Within Sida, the Unit for Research Cooperation (FORSK) has the overall responsibility for the implementation of the research cooperation strategy. As outlined in the new strategy, Sweden's support and coordination covers all scientific areas, contributing to (i) multilateral research programs at international organisations; (ii) regional and national research programs in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East, and Latin America; and (iii) research programs at universities in partner countries. Swedish researchers and resources will remain strong partners for needs-led research. Within ARD, Sida supports the CGIAR and its research portfolio, icipe, and a multitude of projects within Sida's bilateral research cooperation.

Swedish supports the CGIAR to develop knowledge and skills about biodiversity and how it changes in agricultural landscapes, forests and water systems. With new knowledge of biodiversity in agriculture, the scientific basis is built for a better understanding of the agricultural ecosystem and the best solutions to keep and protect biodiversity.

The [Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development \(Formas\)](#) promotes and supports basic research within the areas of environment, agricultural sciences, and spatial planning. Formas allocates funds from the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation. Formas mainly targets Swedish universities, but has international cooperation on global, European and Nordic level where programs contribute to the SDGs and (economic) development. However, Formas has supported only a few ARD projects in recent years, the majority focusing on (agro)forestry. A number of other projects have a global focus with its research outputs beneficial to the Global South.

The [Swedish Research Council \(VR\)](#) supports research in all scientific fields and provides considerable funding to ARD, including projects implemented by Swedish Universities in cooperation with CGIAR centres.

Various Swedish universities implement ARD projects with partners in the Global South of which the [Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences \(SLU\)](#) is the most prominent one. SLU receives its funding from Sida, Formas, VR, and various other organisations. SLU focuses its efforts in global development on six priority areas of which three are relevant for ARD: Climate change, food security, and biodiversity. The university collaborates with many universities in low-income countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, aiming to strengthen their institutional capacities as well training PhD students. SLU is an important implementing partner in Sweden's bilateral support for research capacity development in Bolivia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

Key ARD programmes and beneficiaries 2021

- Most of the financial support to the CGIAR was – and continues to be – in the form of “core” funding to the CGIAR Trust Fund (SEK 115m).
 - Additional funding to the CGIAR for the *Biosciences for Eastern and Central Africa (Beca)-ILRI Hub*. BecA aims, through strategic partnerships, to increased food production and security in Africa in environmental and climate sustainable ways by using advanced biotechnology training, research and application (SEK 10m).
- Core support to the *International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe)* (SEK 43m).
 - Additional funding to icipe for the Bio-resources Innovations Network for Eastern Africa Development (BIO-INNOVATE) is a multidisciplinary research and innovation competitive funding mechanism that focuses on applications of bio-resources innovations to support sustainable growth and adaptability to climate and product-oriented innovation activities in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Ethiopia. (SEK 22m).
- Funding to the *Western Indian Ocean Marina Science Association (WIOMSA)*, which aims to support (i) research and research training in marine sciences; (ii) strengthening governance and maintenance of coastal areas and marine protected areas; (iii) the dialogue between scientists and society and the implementation of research results; and (iv) communication and dissemination of research results for a sustainable development. This also includes a special initiative "Cities and Coasts", which looks at the influence of large coastal cities on coasts and oceans (SEK 28m).

- Various Swedish embassies also support ARD related projects, but these are often small in terms of funding
 - The embassy of Sweden in Bangkok provided funding for the project *Developing Research Capacity of Universities in Southeast Asia on Forest Landscape Governance: Strengthening Rights, Reducing Poverty and Inequalities, and Supporting Sustainable Development*. The project will develop a network of individual researchers and universities and is being implemented by the Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) and CIFOR (SEK 6m).
- The *Regional Research School in Forest Sciences (REFOREST)*, hosted by Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), partners with the Swedish University of Agricultural Science and five Eastern and Southern African universities. Swedish supports PhD training of 20 students in cooperation between their home university and SUA (SEK 10m).
- *Bilateral funding* is provided to Bolivia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Tanzania to strengthen their national research systems and capacities, produce relevant knowledge and achieve impact. This includes support PhD-programs, research projects and infrastructure. Considerable effort focuses on agriculture research, nutrition, food systems and innovations, but this is often placed under subject areas such as biology, medicine etc.
- Many other Sida-supported projects have activities related to ARD, but information on the exact nature of these are difficult to track down.
- The Swedish Research Council has funded 16 ARD projects, almost all implemented by SLU (budget of around SEK 4m each).
- Formas funded three projects, implemented by Swedish Universities, focusing on ecologically/economically sustainable crop production, sustainable forest management, and farmer decision-making efficiencies (SEK 20m).

This country profile has been prepared by EIARD with contributions from staff of Sida, complemented by information collected from internal and online databases and websites. The findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed in this profile do not necessarily reflect the views of the Swedish organisations involved in ARD.