

What concrete actions can we take to increase the interaction between research and practice?

employ researchers within agencies and organisations working with development collaboration

Perhaps ask practitioners what questions they want answered and have researchers be responsive and flexible

Involve researchers in the development of Sweden's strategies for development cooperation.

Researchers need to connect via strategic communications. Not enough just to write papers that have little impact.

Set aside funds early in the process of a project or activity

Joint project funding. More focus on research communication both in universities and organizations.

Engage in common Communities of practice where practitioners and researchers can share practice and evidence.

Set the goals and purpose to include research

Work in knowledge hubs with representatives from academia, development actors to identify challenges, cases etc. This helps bridge the gap between academia and practitioners.

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Turn the question around before getting concrete: what are the issues/challenges in the development practice that we need research to address?

Practitioners and policy makers often need synthesized research findings, not individual publications. Need of "knowledge hubs" capable of doing this, such as EBA, NAI and others. And why not at Sida?

Dialogues

Involvements of local practitioners from the very beginning of the research and little incentives to them

Sida has partnerships with some universities through Sida helpdesks, such as the one with SLU and GMV. The helpdesks could develop a roster of academics with different expertise who can be contacted for advice and reviewing the helpdesk reports

In the very early stage of the research process involve practitioners, stakeholders and locals that are relevant for the research and in this way involve them so that they actually can affect the research and what is relevant.

Translating (technical) scientific knowledge into shorter but concrete and digestible non-technical outputs (1-2 pager briefs/newsletters) could possibly enhance update/engagement.

Establish an annual forum where learning from research is shared and discussed between researchers, policy makers and practitioners, with concrete actions to take forward as an outcome for each of the actors participating after the forum.

Put greater value on networks working on bridging this gap (such as SweDev) by participating in the created spaces for dialogue.

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More close exchange with applied researchers/practitioners based abroad/working in development, Sida (as donor and influencer) and links with UN agencies (strategies).

Annual research days inviting practitioners . Ex: SEI annual event

Try to influence the incentives in the research community so that popularizing the research can be a merit and push your career forward. Ask research funders to include requirements of policy briefs in the research that they fund.

Promote connections between practitioners and research/researchers further, research results to be part of the application process/project design process. Research results then need to be shared in (policy) briefs, for practitioners to be able to make use

1. Encourage integrated research in development programming. 2. Ministry of Foreign should but demands on Sida (and other government agencies) to base MDPA, input to strategies etc. on research knowledge. Change culture related to research/learning.

Involve master students both from Sweden and the low-middle income country in the university co-operation

Researchers should pay attention to the Swedish government strategies to identify priorities and potential research needs.

Researcher to involve practitioners/policy makes in design of research