



Seed Research and Learning  
Channel is coordinated by:



## Agenda - Update

### Partnerships for Sustainable Development: Linking Research and Practice in Search of More Usable Knowledge

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**Date:** April 14th, 2005  
11 am – 6pm

**Venue:** UNDP Conference Room  
The Chrysler Building (4th floor)  
405 Lexington Avenue (@ 42nd St)  
New York, NY 10174

#### **11:00 – 11:30 Opening**

Personal Introductions  
Purpose of Workshop  
Review of Agenda  
Plans for Workshop Products and Follow-up  
*(Please bring any materials you wish to share for us to place on a table in the conference room)*

#### **11:30-1:00 Focus on Research. Session chair Liliana Andonova**

Representatives from academic and applied research programs will give 5-minute presentations summarizing their answers to the following core questions.

1. What research questions concerning sustainable development partnerships have you or your organization devoted the most attention to over the past several years?
2. For which of these questions do you think you have arrived at the most robust answers? How would you characterize these answers in summary form?
3. What have been the most important factors limiting your ability to generate robust answers to core research questions? Please comment on the relative importance of data and information availability; useful analytical frameworks; critical mass of case studies; mechanisms for sharing findings and information; or any other factors that you think matter.
4. Over the next 2-5 years, what research questions do you envision yourself and your organizational home devoting the most attention to, in the area of sustainable development partnerships?
5. Looking to the future, what changes from business-as-usual do you think would most improve the ability of the partnership research community?

#### **1:00-1:30 Break**

During this break you may obtain your lunch, which will be provided in the meeting venue. You may eat your lunch at your seat as we resume discussions at 1:30.

### **1:30-3:30      Focus on Practice. Session chair Julia Steets**

We will structure this discussion around a set of core questions that are of high importance to practitioners actively engaged in creating and operating sustainable development partnerships and are also potentially answerable by the research community. We invite feedback on these questions and will include additional ones as requested.

1. Capacity Building. What forms of partnership generate the most effective capacity building? Are there certain critical ingredients or strategies that are especially vital for success in this regard?
2. Monitoring and Evaluation. What is the menu of approaches that have been tried? What approaches have been considered by not tried? Do we know enough about what makes monitoring and evaluation more effective?
3. Target setting. What approach to target setting is most effective? What has been tried? Do we know under what conditions “hard” targets are preferable to “soft” ones and *vice versa*?
4. Financing. What modes of financing have been tried? Do we know what mechanisms are most effective, under different conditions? Which partnerships have been able to generate the greatest financial resources, and why?
5. Multi-sectoral integration. Which types of interaction – governmental and non-governmental; private and public sector; north and south; environment and development; and so on – have demonstrated especially promising strategies at integration and joint problem-solving? Which have proven the most difficult? What factors seem to make multi-sectoral integration more or less effective?
6. Scaling-up. What are the most prominent examples in which an effective small-scale effort has been scaled up to make a major difference across an entire region, country or continent? What is the state of our knowledge about how the scaling-up challenge ought to be approached most effectively?
7. Accountability. What mechanisms are used to hold partnerships accountable? Is greater accountability a key requirement for the long-term success of the partnership approach?
8. External support. What approaches exist to support and facilitate partnership processes? What works, what doesn't?
9. Formats and activities. What is the most useful way to present research results? Formal research papers, detailed case studies, facilitated knowledge exchange among practitioners and policy-makers, how-to guides and tool-boxes ... ?

### **3:30-3:45      Break**

Coffee, Tea, Juice and Snacks will be provided.

**3:45-5:30 Conclusions and Next Steps. Session Chairs Marc Levy and Minu Hemmati**

We will proceed in four steps.

1. Summary of main points from our earlier discussions concerning the research and practitioner communities. How can we most succinctly crystallize the problems and opportunities that have drawn us together for this workshop.
2. Brainstorm responses. How can we better integrate research and practitioner communities? How can we better articulate research needs? How can we better communicate research findings? How can we better identify joint activities?
3. Prioritization. How can we sequence the results of our brainstorming in order of importance and feasibility?
4. Sequencing and next steps. What practical, immediate things can we implement that will move us in the desired direction, consistent with outcomes identified in the earlier steps? Are there short-term, practical steps that may bring results of immediate use?

**5:30 - ? Preparing Workshop Summary Document**

The workshop organizers will prepare a short document summarizing our main findings for circulating to CSD participants and for distribution to interested parties, including the many people who were interested in attending but unable to do so.

Seed Initiative

Core Partners



Channel Coordinators



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