

Annex 5. Data Collection Protocols

1. Protocol for Interviews with Lead Advisers and Other DFID Stakeholders

Nature of involvement and history: How long have they been involved with the RNRRS? With which programmes? In what capacity?

For Lead Advisers: what is their role (prompt for description of the linkage between the programme and DFID)?

What do they perceive as the strengths and weaknesses of the specific programme(s) (prompt for science quality, management, and impact – on policy, other research institutions and ultimate beneficiaries)? Can they describe any of the important outputs of the RNRRS or the programme? Have they made use of any outputs? How?

What are the respective roles of the Lead Adviser and the PAC? What is the balance of power between them? If the Lead Adviser plays a directive role, why is this? And how does it operate?

What do they perceive as the strengths and weaknesses of the RNRRS as a whole: Was/is the concept valid? How has it worked in practice? How has it evolved over time? How connected is it to DFID's needs or interests?

Their assessment of DFID's governance and management of the RNRRS: Strategic guidance? Coordination? Communications? Monitoring, evaluation and feedback? Dissemination of outputs?

Based on the lessons from the RNRRS, how should the new research funding framework be implemented – contracted managers? consortium? other models?

2. Protocol for PMs and Lead Advisers Briefing Meeting, 18th October 2004

Objectives

The objectives of the briefing meeting are to:

- Meet the PMs and Lead Advisers and introduce the Core Team.
- Introduce the evaluation process and plan.
- Explore PMs' and Lead Advisers' expectations of the evaluation, and explore key dimensions which should underpin the analysis.
- Identify priority issues for the content and process of the evaluation.
- Review logistics and arrange interview and meeting dates.

Focussed Group Discussions:

Should be organised around:

- Key dimensions against which to evaluate the programmes
- Priority issues for the PMs and Lead Advisers
- Balancing the evaluation of the past and recommendations for the future
- Sampling (countries, stakeholders)

Questions for Overseas Stakeholder discussions

- What is your involvement with the RNRRS, how long lasting is it, and with what programmes?
- Have you any UK collaborators, and, if so, whom?
- Have you at any time been the lead agency for a project funded under RNRRS?

Identification of Demand

- How was the project that you have been involved in initiated? Were you approached by a UK institution, directly by the PM?
- Were you involved in determining research needs, objectives, or researchable problems?
- Were you involved in any stakeholder workshops to determine a research agenda, or the feasibility of a specific research project?
- Do the research projects you have been involved in correspond to national research priorities, as identified in sectoral or PSP strategies?

Efficiency of Project Cycle Management

- How did you find the reporting requirements under the project – adequate, too demanding?
- How good was communication between yourselves and any UK collaborators, the PM?
- Did any problems arise during project implementation? Were they speedily addressed?
- Did the project finish on time?
- Did you get any feedback on the project completion report?
- Were you encouraged to publish the project results?

Project Impact, Actual and Potential

- Was there any external evaluation of any of the projects you were involved in? Or did you yourself undertake any self-assessment?
- What uptake and dissemination was there of your findings? Were you yourselves involved in this?
- What would you assess was the main impact of your project? On poor people, on your fellow researchers, on policy makers?
- Which were the main areas in which impact did, or could occur? Increased incomes, environmental sustainability?
- Did your projects take any account of gender relations, HIV/AIDS?
- Have you been able to follow-up on the project impact?

Way Forward

- Has there been any further research work arising from the projects that RNRRS funded? With RNRRS? Other funders?
- How would you sum up your experience with the RNRRS? Successful? Frustrating?
- What could have improved it?
- If you collaborated with a UK institution, did you feel that the experience improved the quality of the research? Improved your capacity to undertake research in the future?