

SAccess

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South African participation in the Framework Programmes

Side event to SA-EU Summit

Brussels, 19 September 2012

Daan du Toit

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science
& technology

Department
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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SA in FP health research

- Traditionally strongest area: FP4-FP6 INCO; rare thematic participation in FP5
- Historical focus poverty related communicable diseases: EDCTP
- Success stories: e.g. microbicides
- Strong policy relevance: access to medicines; supply healthcare professionals: nurses, primary healthcare; inequalities
- Capacity-building, e.g. blood transfusion services
- Biomedical knowledge sources: genetic variation databases



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SA in FP health research(2)

- Capacity-building for research: training and coordination (e.g. malaria)
- Emerging health threats: Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever
- Reproductive health
- Increased focus non-communicable diseases



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SA in FP agriculture and related research

- Strong focus area of successive INCO programmes
- Food security: sustainable nutrition, seed health, impact of climate change
- Food safety: GMO risk assessment and communication; reduce mycotoxins
- Innovation systems in agriculture, e.g. conversion of bio-waste, precision livestock farming for SMEs
- Capacity-building for research; e.g. fisheries management



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SA in FP agriculture and related research (2)

- Major focus: animal health, e.g. vaccine development; control; eradication bovine tuberculosis; African swine fever
- Link with health: micronutrients; plant food supplements
- Plant production of vaccines
- Leveraging biodiversity: e.g. marine bio-discovery pipeline
- Plant produced compounds: agrochemical and cosmetic interest



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SA in FP in agriculture and related research (3)

- Recent success stories: African food tradition revisited; Breeding efficient fruit trees; DNA barcoding to support plant health; increase food production and irrigation



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SA in FP energy research

- Not a major area of cooperation: limited renewable energy focus in INCO
- Potential biofuels: alternative energy crops, e.g. sweet sorghum
- Clean coal technologies: carbon capture and storage
- Recent success: energy efficient aluminium production
- EURATOM: radioactive waste management; process heat applications with innovative reactors; negotiations for dedicated Agreement



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SA in FP transport research

- Only activity since FP6 – intelligent transport systems – demonstration project at 2010 World Cup; rail research
- Focused international cooperation projects SIMBA (road transport) and AeroAfrica-EU (aeronautics and air transport)
- Success in aeronautics: flutter-free turbo-machinery blades; aero-elastic simulation technologies; novel air vehicles configuration: fluttering wings to morphing flight
- Alternative fuels and biofuels for air transport
- Road transport: highway construction and management



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SA in FP social sciences orientated research

- INCO projects with strong societal focus
- FP7 success:
 - Tackling poverty in development context
 - Multilateralism, globalisation and global re-ordering
 - Financial system and economic, social and environment objectives
 - Cities and sustainable development
- IST projects aimed narrowing digital divider
- Small involvement in FP7 security research
- Science in society: environmental justice; ethics - e.g. nanotechnology



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SA in climate change, resource efficiency and raw materials research

- Environment research one of major focus areas since FP4
- Climate change major focus:
 - Predictions, quantifications of impact and assessment of adaptation
 - Carbon uptake and emissions by oceans; marine ecosystem dynamics
 - Specific impact: e.g. flood management; drought forecasting and warning; water-related vector-borne diseases; forest fires; desertification; weather and health; urban vulnerability
 - Uptake of research results



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SA in climate change, resource efficiency and raw materials research (2)

- Natural resource management: e.g. biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods
 - Specific Africa focus: Water supply and sanitation; water harvesting technologies; integrated waste management
- Earth observation (GEOSS):
 - Capacity-building / applications for developing countries (e.g. agriculture and forestry)
 - Modelling for mitigation of health risks
 - Global mercury observation system
 - Mineral exploration and exploitation
 - African geo-resources information system
 - Biodiversity network (e.g. plankton database)