How can science advice to governments help unlock research for development in the Global South

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Panamá
Canada’s IDRC: Investing in solutions

Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC) invests in knowledge, innovation, and solutions to improve the lives of people in the developing world.
IDRC Context

Agriculture and Environment
• Agriculture and food security
• Climate change
• Food, environment, and health

Inclusive Economies
• Employment and growth
• Governance and justice
• Maternal and child health
• Think Tank Initiative

Technology and Innovation
• Foundations for innovation
• Networked economies
Key themes

• Government science advice as a key piece of a larger goal of strengthening science systems

• Focusing on specific organizational and individual capacities for resilient national and regional networks

• Implications for IDRC-INGSA partnership and government science advice initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean
Challenges for national/regional research systems (examples)

- Research **funding levels** and **numbers of researchers**

- Setting **national research agendas** to address priorities

- **Science careers** and **multisectoral** links: mobility, diversity, recognition

- **Science advocacy** and **literacy**
Focusing on the “niche” of government science advice

- Research **funding levels** and **numbers of researchers**

- Setting **national research agendas** to address priorities

- **Science careers** and **multisectoral** links: mobility, diversity, recognition

- **Science advocacy** and **literacy**

- **Formal institutions and structures** in dedicated to national science advice

- **Awareness** of science advice issues among researchers and policymakers

- **Individual skills** for science advice

- **Networks and fora** devoted to science advice and bridging science-policy gap

- Evidence to inform **regional or global policy issues**
... and understanding links between the two

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Science advice capabilities as a key piece of the science system

• Can enhance visibility and relevance of national research funders and performers

• Can inform national STI policies and engagement of a broader range of actors

• Can facilitate regional science collaboration

• Can promote science education and new career pathways for graduates and researchers
Organizational and individual capacity-building for science systems

Academic / non-academic partnerships

- Promoting diversity and inclusion in research and innovation
- Providing opportunities for engagement in policy
- Joint calls for regional priorities
- Supporting international research consortia at the science-policy interface
- Supporting non-partisan think tanks
- Strengthening and linking science academies

Focusing on early-career researchers

INDIVIDUALS  ORGANIZATIONS
IDRC-INGSA collaboration: supply and demand for government science advice in the Global South

• Regional chapters as a key resource and active player

• Research associates to advance our knowledge of key issues

• Capacity-building workshops for researchers and policymakers

Mr Miguel Vera, Bolivia

Project:
The role of research centers in the generation and promotion of knowledge for the SDGs
Summary

• Focus on the specificities of government science advice, while considering how it can help “unlock” potential for national and regional science

• A range of tools to build capacity, both on the supply and demand side of science advice, through organizations and individuals

• Many ways to become active in science advice at a national, regional and global level!