

## INTERCOOPERATION

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## Poverty reduction as priority focus in Intercooperation

Poverty reduction is a continuing concern for Intercooperation and its main clients, SDC and seco. The *Millennium Development Goals*, the growing world instability and the call for better aid harmonization throw a new light on this old concern. Bilateral projects are expected to become more effective and to clearly focus on the poor. IC as implementing agency permanently learns from good and less successful practices and promotes new approaches to poverty reduction.

Intercooperation has in 2005 started an internal exercise, including head office and field, to stimulate sharing on what works and what not, to have a fresh look at the poverty theme and to demonstrate more clearly the effectiveness of reducing poverty.

Every year in August, Intercooperation organises a forum discussion. This is part of a week in which IC assembles head office and field staff in Switzerland to discuss development issues and institutional questions. The FORUM INTERCOOPERATION deals with topics of specific interest to development practitioners, including staff from SDC, IC's foundation members, other NGO's and consultants active in international cooperation.

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## Local answers to Global Challenges

The contribution of rural projects in meeting the Millennium Development Goals



## FORUM INTERCOOPERATION

Wednesday, August 17, 2005  
Hotel Bern  
Zeughausgasse 9, Bern

INTERCOOPERATION  
PO Box 6724  
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Stamp

## MDGs and local processes

The Millennium Development Goals aim at a series of ambitious targets ranging from halving the number of people suffering from hunger, to halting the spread of HIV/Aids and to ensuring environmental sustainability, all by 2015. In September 2005 the implementation of the Millennium Declaration (2000) will be reviewed in New York at a summit of Head of States. The main questions asked will be: How much or how little has been achieved on the way to meet the targets? What needs to be done for better performance?

Meeting the MDGs at national or global level requires political will and policy changes. But policy changes have to build on local processes and capacities and to be complemented by local actions.

What are local answers to global challenges? Intercooperation's projects and programmes address directly or indirectly poverty issues and have experiences with the difficult task of monitoring poverty reduction.

The IC Forum provides a good opportunity to share these experiences and to reflect on the role of development cooperation in supporting local change processes that contribute to reach the MDGs.

## PROGRAMME

- 9.15** Welcome and Introduction  
*(Felix von Sury, IC)*
- 9.30** SDC's contribution to the MDGs; implications of MDGs on SDC  
*(Gabriella Spirli, SDC)*
- 10.00** MDGs and local processes  
*(Kate Bird, ODI)*
- 10.30** Poverty focus in IC projects: experiences and outcomes  
SAHA-Madagascar *(Estelle Raharinaivosoa)*  
LEAF-Bangladesh *(Alain Cuvelier, Azmul Huda)*  
MASAL-Peru *(Marco Sotomayor, Robert Berlin)*
- 12.30** Panel discussion (Representatives from SDC, IC, keynote speaker)
- 13.15** Closing
- Standing lunch

## Registration Form FORUM INTERCOOPERATION Wednesday, August 17, 2005

Please confirm **before August 12, 2005**  
your participation by email to  
[mnydegger@intercooperation.ch](mailto:mnydegger@intercooperation.ch)  
or post this form

**Last name**

**First name**

**Organisation**

**E-mail address**

I will participate in the FORUM INTERCOOPERATION

I am not able to participate this year, but would like to be invited in the future

