Green Growth, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

The Danida Fellowship Centre learning programme will take place in Denmark from 9 to 20 April, 2018.
Why this learning programme?
In many developing and middle income countries growth is gaining pace. Cities are growing, new industries are mushrooming, energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions are increasing dramatically and the need for agricultural produce is as high as ever. Huge investments in different types of development are made in the coming years by governments, private companies, citizens and donors. To avoid wasting investments on outdated and unsustainable technologies and practices, it is urgent to promote a more sustainable approach in both the private and the public sectors in order for developing countries to leapfrog into a more sustainable future wherever possible.

The Green Growth approach can support this process. It is a development paradigm that aims at decoupling economic growth from growth in resource use and increase in emissions of green houses gases. Green Growth is partly based on a belief that technological development will enable us to keep growing because new technologies will be much more resource efficient, and because the development and deployment of those technologies will provide us with new business opportunities and more jobs.

With a global population of more than 7 billion people and growing, Green Growth with a pro-poor focus becomes more than just a business idea; it is a most needed survival strategy, aimed at satisfying the need for growth and development while ensuring a sustainable use of natural resources. As expressed by the World Bank, Green Growth is about making growth processes resource-efficient, cleaner and more resilient – without necessarily slowing them, i.e. growing in a smarter way towards inclusive, climate resilient, low-carbon, zero-waste societies! Growing in a smart way requires a holistic approach and a constant focus on creating synergies among activities and sectors.

The programme will provide the participants with:
• Understanding of the concept of and the rationale behind Green Growth and its links to climate change and environmental sustainability;
• An improved ability to identify good practices for climate change adaptation and mitigation through case studies;
• A better understanding of the benefits of integrated approaches and environmental mainstreaming in the planning and implementation of development engagements;
• An improved ability to identify and critically analyse environmental problems and opportunities in relation to sustainability;
• Concrete knowledge about green solutions to environmental challenges;
• A strengthened knowledge about planning and educating for sustainability and how to involve the public and private sector, as well as civil society, in the process;
• A network and a knowledge platform for promoting green policies and strategies in the public system.
Learning approach
The learning programme aims at inspiring participants to focus more on Green Growth, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability in their daily work and in policy and business development. The programme will show that consideration for climate and environment is not just a requirement from authorities; it holds opportunities for new businesses to develop and prosper, it can lead to saving opportunities in the production processes and it is fundamental to the development of a country.

This will be achieved through a blend of training approaches, including compulsory e-learning activities before coming to Denmark, as well as the implementation of an Action Plan after the return. The participants will develop the Action Plan during the learning programme; it will focus on supporting a green change process in the home organisation. Participants are required to consider ideas for their Action Plan and to complete a short e-learning course in action-planning before coming to Denmark.

During the stay in Denmark, the programme will include a limited number of keynote presentations. The major part of the programme will, however, involve visits to public authorities, utilities, and private companies where green approaches can be experienced first-hand. Working in groups the participants will prepare for the visits by discussing and agreeing on learning goals. Following the visits they will reflect on lessons learned and draw conclusions regarding the potential for implementing the ideas, concepts and technologies in their home organisations.

Structure and content of the learning programme
The learning programme is divided in three main phases:

1. March 1st – April 7th: E-learning activities relating to Action Planning and to Green Growth, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability: Those activities will take place before the stay in Denmark. Participation is compulsory and a pre-requisite for participating in phase 2 in Denmark.
2. April 9th – 20th: Two weeks with face-to-face instructions, case-based learning and outings in Denmark. Includes presentations and site visits related to Green Growth, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability.
3. May – October 2018: Implementation of the Action Plan in the home organisation. The implementation will be the responsibility of the participants in close partnership with their home organisation.

Target group and application criteria
The target group includes policy and decision-makers and staff from government, civil society and private sector working within green growth, climate change and environment. Selection of participants will be carried out by DFC and NIRAS based on incoming applications. It is a requirement that the applicants’ organisations are involved in or affiliated with a Danish supported development programme/project/organisation in Africa, Asia and South America; further, the applicants must be supported by the responsible Programme Coordinator and endorsed by the Royal Danish Embassy. If possible, we welcome two or more participants from each organisation, as it facilitates the work with the action plan and strengthens the learning process during the work in the home office. Good working knowledge of English is required.

Application procedure
Application procedures must follow the procedures stipulated in “Guidelines for Danida Fellowships”. The guidelines are available at DFC’s website (www.dfcentre.com). Applicants must fill in the application form ‘Fellowship Application Form’ which may be downloaded from DFC’s website. The filled-in Fellowship Application Form must be sent by mail directly to the responsible desk officer at the Royal Danish Embassy. The final selection of candidates will be carried out by DFC and the study place.

Deadline for submitting the Fellowship Application form to the Royal Danish Embassy is 20 December, 2017.

Learning programme fee
The learning programme is co-funded by Danida Fellowship Centre. Participants’ organizations will be charged DKK 7,000 per study week in Denmark. The funding needed for this learning programme is DKK 14,000 per participant. This covers study fee, e-learning course, accommodation, allowances and international travel and insurances.
Further information
For questions regarding the content and implementation of the learning programme please contact the Manager of this learning programme, Mr Henrik Borgtoft Pedersen: hbp@niras.dk

Programme management & tutors
Mr. Henrik Borgtoft Pedersen (Ph.D. Biology) from NIRAS Denmark has been involved in training activities throughout his professional career. His positions at Danish and Ecuadorian universities and as a consultant have included general capacity building, course organisation and teaching. He has 25 years of experience working with environment, development, green growth and climate change issues in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Ms Sine Skov (M.Sc. Geography) has wide knowledge on general climate change mitigation and adaptation issues. With more than 10 years’ work experience she has proven skills as a trainer and facilitator from previous DFC learning programmes and as invited climate change trainer on other occasions. She has acted as a facilitator on study tours and training activities since 2005 and she is the HRD director for the International Department in NIRAS.

Danida Fellowship Centre and NIRAS in brief
Danida Fellowship Centre has contracted NIRAS to develop and implement the learning programme.

What is Danida Fellowship Centre?
Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) manages and implements supplies support of capacity development in Danida’s programmes and projects worldwide. DFC is responsible for the educational, administrative and practical aspects of the training. Further information at www.dfcentre.com.

What is NIRAS?
NIRAS is one of the largest consulting engineering companies in Denmark and has 2,100 employees. The company provides services within the fields of agriculture, forestry, environment, renewable energy, energy efficiency, climate change adaptation, building and industry, civil works, social sciences and transport. NIRAS operates worldwide and has subsidiaries in a number of countries in Africa, Asia and Europe. Further information at www.niras.com.