

NEW APPROACHES TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



# London International Development Centre





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Development Centre

## LIDC WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2007

as a collaboration between the six specialist  
Bloomsbury Colleges of the University of London:

- Birkbeck
- Institute of Education
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Royal Veterinary College
- School of Oriental and African Studies
- The School of Pharmacy

LIDC is supported financially by its Colleges and operates as a membership organisation. Our 1,500 members comprise staff, students and alumni from all six Colleges, and they collaborate through workshops, seminars and joint initiatives. Start-up funding for LIDC was provided by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Our headquarters at 36 Gordon Square, London, hosts research groups and Centres from our six Colleges, including the SOAS Centre for Development, Environment and Policy, the IoE Development Education Research Centre, and the cross-College Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health. We also host offices of the Royal African Society, Policy Cures, the International Pharmaceutical Federation, and the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, with whom we collaborate.

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# New approaches towards international development



**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT** poses complex challenges which require working across sectors and disciplines. Therefore, for universities to contribute effectively to international development they must break down academic silos and develop new, more integrated approaches to research and teaching.

As a consortium of specialist Colleges within the University of London, LIDC brings together social and natural scientists from health, agriculture, environment and other sectors to tackle complex development challenges in new ways.

Our vision is a world made more equitable and secure, through a reduction in poverty and the more sustainable use of resources. Our mission is to empower development professionals and programmes with more effective tools and better skills, knowledge and understanding.

## LIDC OBJECTIVES

### Research

- Develop high-quality interdisciplinary research between member Colleges and with their research partners

### Training

- Develop new and innovative teaching programmes to support development goals

### Policy Support

- Inform national and international policies on development through linking research, policy and practice

### Capacity Strengthening

- Help our partners in low- and middle-income countries to strengthen capacity to address the needs of higher education and research institutions, NGOs and governments

# How LIDC works

## LIDC IMPROVES THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES OF ITS COLLEGES AND THEIR PARTNERS.

In particular, we help them work together across sectors and disciplines to generate innovative research and training. We do this by organising dialogues and workshops on particular development challenges which draw together our diverse members. Where workshops generate new ideas, we help members to turn these into collaborative research programmes and publications, and assist with programme coordination.

With training initiatives, we focus on interdisciplinary courses for tomorrow's development professionals and on capacity strengthening with partners.

Finally, we organise seminars and events which help our staff, students and the international development community generally to think about development challenges in a more integrated manner.

Partnership is key to LIDC, and extends beyond our members and their institutions. In 2008, our Colleges had 182 active research and teaching partnerships with 207 institutions in 53 low- and middle-income countries.

LIDC has helped to build a diverse portfolio of projects worth a total of over £10m. These projects are managed by cross-College consortia and are funded by agencies including The Leverhulme Trust, Wellcome Trust, Rockefeller Foundation, and DFID.



## DRUGS, VACCINES, SEEDS AND FERTILISERS

New medicines for neglected diseases have enormous potential to improve health in low-income countries, but delivery systems that bring them to the rural poor are not adequate. Similar problems of local delivery have been encountered in other sectors – in agriculture with respect to seeds and chemical inputs, and in veterinary medicine with animal treatments and vaccines.

To explore ideas for improving local access to medicines, LIDC brought together natural and social scientists from the public health, veterinary and agricultural sectors, drawn from our Colleges and their external partners. We discovered that sectors had different and informative experiences with approaches like community empowerment, product subsidy and training local sellers. Ideas from this workshop are now being developed further as part of an LIDC “access to medicines” research platform.

# LIDC's institutional members: A diverse source of strength and expertise

EACH OF OUR COLLEGES BRINGS TO LIDC DISTINCTIVE ACADEMIC EXPERTISE RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.



## **Birkbeck** [www.bbk.ac.uk](http://www.bbk.ac.uk)

undertakes research on globalisation and development in its Department of Geography, Environment and Development Studies, ranging from work on geographical information systems to international childhood studies, while its international law and corporate governance and ethics programmes also address development challenges. Birkbeck has a particular reputation for flexible, part-time learning which appeals to development professionals.



## **The Institute of Education**

[www.ioe.ac.uk](http://www.ioe.ac.uk)

is the UK's specialist education research institution. IoE has a department dedicated to education in international development, as well as a range of other education research programmes addressing gender, child health, and information technology for development. IoE's Development Education Research Centre is based at LIDC and works with us to encourage students to be global citizens.



## **The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine**

[www.lshtm.ac.uk](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk)

has a strong mix of natural and social science distributed across Faculties of Public Health and Policy, Epidemiology and Population Health, and Infectious and Tropical Diseases. Winner of the 2009 Gates Award for Global Health, LSHTM has an extensive programme of international public health research supported by staff based with partners in Asia and Africa.



## **The Royal Veterinary College**

[www.rvc.ac.uk](http://www.rvc.ac.uk)

has a strong research programme in the biology and control of diseases that threaten animal health and production in poor countries, including Avian Influenza and Peste des Petits Ruminants, which is complemented by expertise in livestock economics and community empowerment. RVC's new Centre for Emerging, Endemic and Exotic Diseases has a particular focus in zoonotic disease risk.



## **The School of Oriental and African Studies**

[www.soas.ac.uk](http://www.soas.ac.uk)

is the UK's only higher educational institution specialising in the study of Africa, Asia and the Near East. It has a strong and distinctive development research focus across the Departments of Economics, Development Studies, Law, Anthropology, Politics and Financial and Management Studies. SOAS's Centre for Development, Environment, and Policy is based at LIDC.



## **The School of Pharmacy**

[www.pharmacy.ac.uk](http://www.pharmacy.ac.uk)

undertakes research ranging from drug discovery to pharmaceutical policy. Research topics include medicines for neglected diseases and formulations appropriate for use in poor countries. SoP has recently established with the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) a Collaborating Centre based at LIDC. The new Centre focuses on improving education for the pharmacy workforce in low-income countries.



LIDC'S HEADQUARTERS hosts development research groups from our Colleges as well as other international development organisations. The offices are a hub for networking between development professionals and serve as a popular venue for joint meetings and seminars.

Partner institutions based in the building include

the **Royal African Society** – [www.royalafriansociety.org](http://www.royalafriansociety.org) – the **International Initiative for Impact Evaluation** – [www.3ieimpact.org](http://www.3ieimpact.org) – and **Policy Cures**, an independent research group focused on policy solutions to develop and deliver new medicines for neglected diseases.

# Bringing together



# human and animal health research to address emerging diseases

**T**HE MAJORITY of new and emerging infectious diseases of humans are of animal origin, including global threats like HIV/AIDS, SARS, bird and swine flu. Many of these zoonotic diseases now threaten both commercial production of livestock and public health. This challenge is particularly important in low- and middle-income countries, where most zoonotic diseases arise and where limited surveillance and conditions like urban livestock production increase risks. But tackling these development problems requires the integration of animal and human health expertise and research, which faces strong sectoral barriers.

Through LIDC, the Royal Veterinary College and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine work with partner institutions to build capacity to reduce zoonotic disease risks. Some of this work is scientific, including the development of better integrated diagnostic tools, some research focuses on improving policy integration, while other studies focus on education. For example, the Royal Veterinary College is working with the Institute of Education, SACIDS (see box below) and other African consortia to develop mobile phone-based disease surveillance systems which will also train community human and animal health workers in disease diagnosis and treatment.

## DISEASE SURVEILLANCE IN AFRICA

**THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CENTRE FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE SURVEILLANCE (SACIDS)** was established with the endorsement of the African Union in 2007 “to harness innovation in science and technology in order to improve Southern Africa’s capacity to detect, identify and monitor infectious diseases of humans, animals and plants and their interactions in order to better manage the risk posed by them”. SACIDS involves



universities and research institutes representing both human and animal health sectors in five collaborating countries: Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Mozambique and South Africa, SACIDS works in “smart partnership” with LIDC. Staff in our Colleges, particularly LSHTM, RVC and IoE provide research expertise, research management and training support to SACIDS’s members, and co-supervise African-based postdocs and PhD students in both lab-based and policy research. The Colleges are also assisting with the development of Master’s-level “one health” courses in Analytical Epidemiology and Molecular Biology, to be delivered by the University of Zambia and Tanzania’s Sokoine University of Agriculture respectively.



# Addressing global challenges by



**A**GRICULTURE AND HEALTH RESEARCH have a common objective in ensuring the well-being of a growing human population. Despite recent advances in both sectors, about one billion people remain undernourished, while two billion have diets lacking in important micronutrients. At the same time, changes in diet are occurring worldwide that are increasing obesity and heart disease. Low- and middle-income countries shoulder a “double burden” of diet-related disease. Solving

these problems will require greater cooperation between health and agricultural research, but this will require breaking down longstanding institutional silos that isolate these academic research communities.

LIDC has made a start with this challenge by bringing together its Colleges and external partners in an agri-health research consortium focused particularly on development issues in low- and middle-income countries. With funding

from the Leverhulme Trust, the Colleges have now established the Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH). This Centre will explore how an intersectoral and interdisciplinary approach

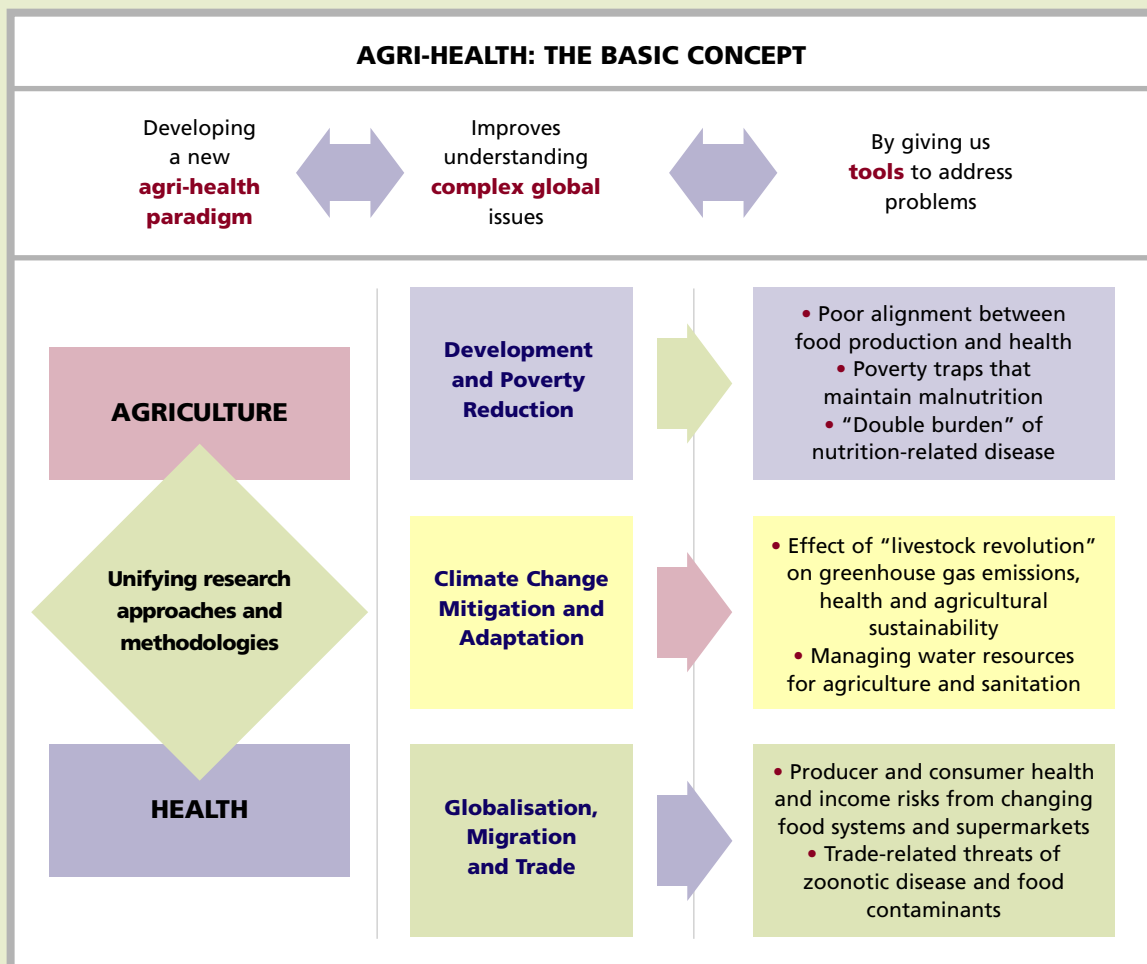
can better address complex problems of poverty, environmental change and globalisation where agriculture and health are intimately linked.

# integrating agriculture and health research

## LEVERHULME CENTRE FOR INTEGRATIVE RESEARCH ON AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH

LCIRAH was established in 2010 with a five-year £3.5m start-up grant from The Leverhulme Trust. It will build a new platform for integrating research on agriculture and health, with a focus on international development goals. New staff appointed to four LIDC Colleges will be based

together to create a dynamic intersectoral and interdisciplinary community. PhD studentships will focus on integrative research and developing new metrics and methods for an agri-health paradigm. The figure below explains our approach:



**L** IDC'S COLLEGES provide a range of postgraduate degree programmes relevant to all aspects of international development. Recognising that tomorrow's development professionals will need to understand issues in a range of sectors, LIDC has created across its Colleges a portal for short course training by distance learning, at [www.dl4d.ac.uk](http://www.dl4d.ac.uk). Over 100 courses are offered in:

- HEALTH AND HEALTH PROMOTION
- FOOD PRODUCTION AND SECURITY

- ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY
- RURAL DEVELOPMENT
- WATER AND SANITATION
- EDUCATION
- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Our focus on distance learning has a particular motive: in an international development context, distance learning has advantages for students from low- and middle-income countries in terms of access, cost, in-job training and potential for sharing material and capacity strengthening.

# Training for tomorrow's development professionals



## THE BLOOMSBURY PHD PROGRAMME

Every year, our six Colleges fund 12 new, competitive, interdisciplinary PhD projects, supervised by researchers from different Colleges. LIDC supports this programme with funding for fieldwork overseas and provides an environment where students can meet across disciplinary cultures. Some recent PhD topics include an

assessment of the role of structural drivers in the HIV/AIDS pandemic, linking socio-economic indicators and disease prevalence patterns in Tanzania, land and law in war-to-peace transitions in Africa, and China's emerging role in global health governance.

# LIDC's events and resources

**L** IDC HOSTS CONFERENCES and seminars about a wide variety of international development issues at its own premises and at venues across the six Bloomsbury Colleges. Past events have focused on the Millennium Development Goals, the social science of infectious diseases, water and development, China's relations with Africa, and education in developing countries. These presentations and discussions attract academics, students, journalists and staff from non-governmental organisations. Many events are open to the general public.



## NO GOALS AT HALF-TIME: WHAT NEXT FOR THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

LIDC's first major conference in 2008 highlighted the significant benefits of bringing together social and natural scientists to forge more nuanced approaches towards development. It created such a stimulating debate about the future of the MDGs and the merits of sharing different sectoral perspectives that it has led to a multi-authored report on cross-cutting issues related to the MDGs and their future. Authors include experts drawn from our different Colleges, and their research partners from Africa and Asia. The study found that very different MDGs have shared similar challenges in execution. The study concluded that future goal-setting may best focus on subjective well-being and should better integrate social, human and environmental elements, reaching beyond the current narrow goals.



**Website**

[www.lidc.org.uk](http://www.lidc.org.uk)



**YouTube Channel**

[www.youtube.com/user/LIDCUK](http://www.youtube.com/user/LIDCUK)



**Twitter**

[www.twitter.com/LIDC\\_UK](http://www.twitter.com/LIDC_UK)

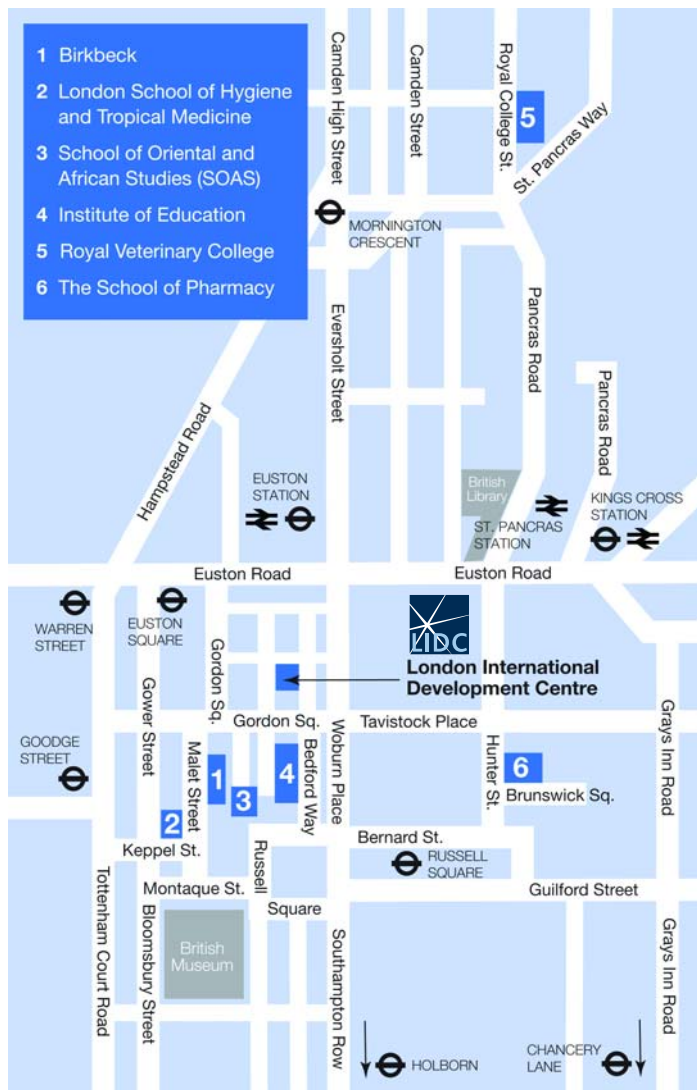


**Podcasts**

[www.lidc.org.uk/pages.php?page=36](http://www.lidc.org.uk/pages.php?page=36)

**L** IDC'S EASY-TO-USE AND ATTRACTIVE WEBSITE provides information about LIDC's themes, projects and events. It includes audio and video content covering the full range of LIDC's disciplinary and sectoral interests – from education in India to mobile phone disease surveillance in East Africa. LIDC's resources include a monthly 20-minute podcast called *Development Matters* – an in-depth interview with a development expert – and a YouTube Channel which features edited presentations from LIDC's major events. The website also refers to international development research and events hosted by the six Bloomsbury Colleges.

Every month LIDC produces *News and Views* – a newsletter containing news, events and vacancies related to international development.



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LIDC facilitates interdisciplinary research and training to tackle complex problems in international development by bringing together social and natural scientists.

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