

SUMMARY

1. Innovative idea to be carried out?

This project uses a systematic approach to support an innovation trajectory that involves Oxfam Novib, its Brazilian counterpart Capina, and NGOs working on economic development. The approach is based on learning from evaluations, consolidating knowledge, and knowledge based capacity building strategies. Oxfam Novib and Capina take forward the lessons learnt that were identified in a 2006 IOB evaluation on economic development in Brazil. The evaluation identified the need for capacity building on market access and the resistance among some counterparts to deal with issues linked to markets and economic viability. It also confirmed Capina's methodology as being innovative and suited to the needs, culture, and characteristics of small producers' collective enterprises.

Based on many years of learning from experience of collective enterprises and the NGOs that support them, Capina has developed a unique methodology of capacity building for economic viability studies. It links economic viability to democratic management to enhance sustainability of the collective enterprises, and there is evidence that good results are being achieved. Over the years, Capina has moved from directly training collective enterprises, to capacity building of the NGO staff who work with them.

This project is about consolidating Capina's experiential field based knowledge and disseminating it through capacity building strategies in order to strengthen the economy of collective enterprises. Specifically, this project aims to develop further and consolidate Capina's methodology with the participation of other NGOs, and at the same time increase Capina's outreach. It will build the capacity of NGO field staff to conduct economic viability studies with collective enterprises and for the first time also build capacity of NGOs to train their own staff, so that they can incorporate the issue of economic viability in their interventions.

2. Insights and results given regarding innovation

For Capina, the main results will be further consolidation and qualification of its methodology, and strengthening of its strategic position. The NGOs involved will be enabled to incorporate issues linked to economic viability and markets, a much needed area to be developed. The collective enterprises involved will benefit from enhanced sustainability through participatory economic viability studies. And Oxfam Novib will benefit from learning on economic viability and market access strategies as input for both policy development and its KIC Project (Knowledge Infrastructure with and between Counterparts).

This project is expected to build capacity of approximately 60 staff members of NGOs, each of which works with one or more collective enterprises. Apart from these, through the end of project dissemination seminar, publications, and use of internet, other stakeholders such as research institutes and producers' organisations may be reached as well. KIC will be actively involved in the accompaniment of this project and in the dissemination of its results.

PSO Members may access information via internet and if interested, contact the project holders for further information or co-operation. ICCO and Cordaid will be contacted as their counterparts were also involved in the IOB evaluation.

The innovative aspects of this project, its expected results and Capina's methodology itself are further detailed in the annexed project proposal.

