



INTERNATIONAL
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SCIENCE

IFS and the changing research landscape in developing countries

Presenter: Michael Ståhl
Director, IFS

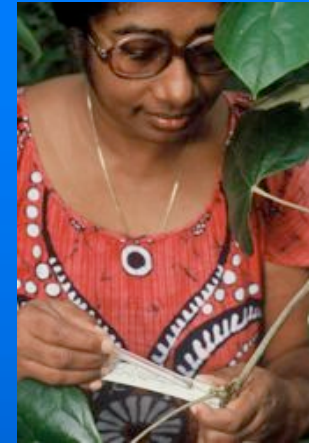
Bern, Switzerland, November 2009



International Foundation for Science



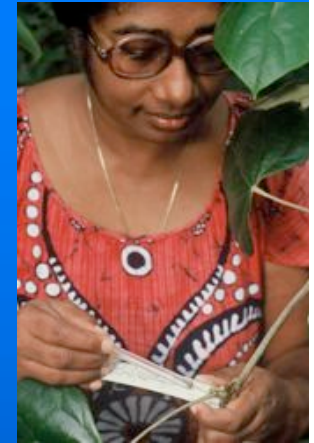
- International research council (NGO) founded 1972
- Mission: strengthen research capacity in developing countries
- International Board of Trustees
- Close to 7,000 grants in more than 100 developing countries
- Secretariat in Stockholm



IFS (cont.)



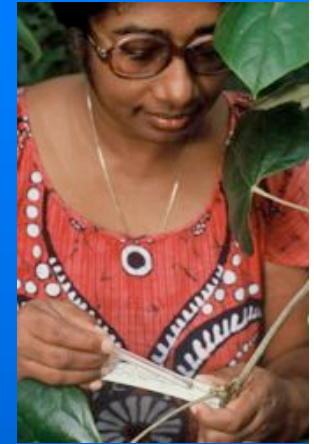
- Support to research projects addressing the sustainable management of biological and water resources
- 1,000 scientific advisers
- 130 affiliated organisations including science academies



The IFS strategy



- Identify young promising researchers
- Competitive research grants
- Careful assessment process
- Support researchers' early career
- Support them at home



The research grant



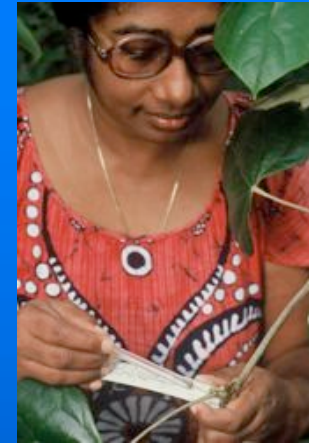
- Maximum USD 12,000
- Scientific equipment, supplies, literature, fieldwork
- Salary not included
- Supporting services
 - - purchasing sc. equipment
 - - workshops, networking, mentorship
- Research project 1-3 years
- Grant can be renewed twice



Results of IFS Support



- Raises self-confidence
- Grantees have a career their own country
- Grantees publish more frequently and more often in mainstream journals
- Internationalisation of many grantees' careers
- Increased collaboration with other scientists
- Success accessing further funding

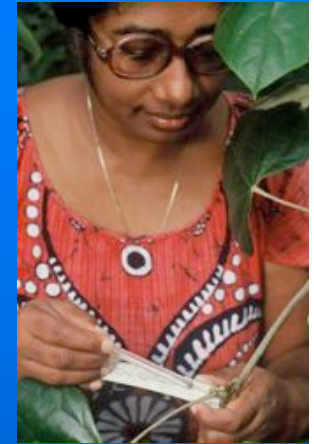


Sustainable Development



W E H A B

- Water
- Environment
- Health
- Agriculture
- Biodiversity



Five Year Programme 2006 - 2010



- Focus on vulnerable research environments:
- A grant alone is not enough
- Grant + value adding package = research success
- Collaborate with regional partners
- Organizational presence in priority regions

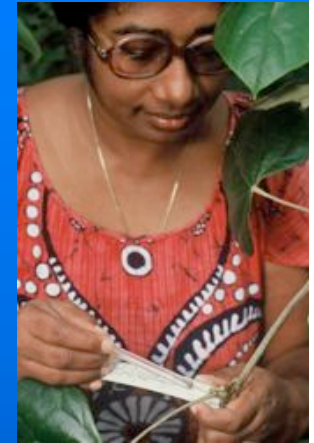


IFS tools (in addition to the research grant)



TRAINING WORKSHOPS

- Conceptualization and preparation of a research proposal
- Generation of quality data
 - Good Sampling Practice
 - Good Laboratory Practice
- Statistical Methods & Experimental Design
- Preparing Scientific Presentations
- Access to Scientific Literature
- Writing and Publishing Scientific Papers

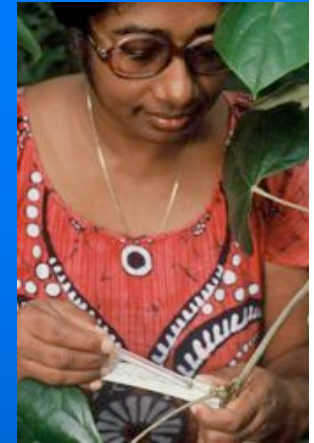


IFS tools (cont.)



THEMATIC WORKSHOPS
Specific Issues in Science

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT
Attendance at scientific meetings
Mentorship
Visit to advanced laboratories



The challenge

- How to encourage the new generation of academics to choose a scientific career?
- How to transform academic degree holders to creative scientists?

Research landscape in less developed countries

- Generation change in national scientific communities
- Old guard retires
- 1990's a lost decade
- Few recruitments
- A missing generation

Res.landscape today

- Positive attitude to science
- Expansion of universities
- Post graduate programmes
- Regional research networks
- Large cohorts of M.Sc., M.A.

Donor options for support

- University department
- Research institute
- Faculty
- University
- Regional research network
- International consortium
- Individual scientist

IFS in the landscape

- Small actor which must navigate among multitude of:
- Post graduate training programs
- research networks
- other granting schemes

IFS in the landscape

- No longer unique (?)
- Copy cats everywhere
- Competitors for funding

- BUT

- Brand name
- Good reputation
- Good track record
-

The predicament of young scientists

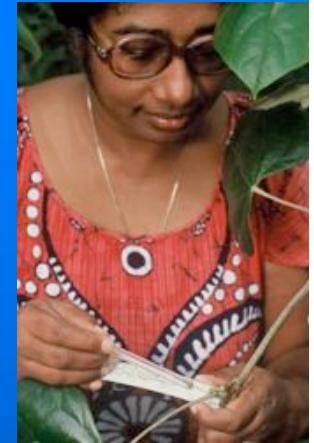
- Universities concentrate on teaching
- Research tradition is short
- Slow and insufficient access to scientific information
- Lack of research funds
- Limited encouragement by superiors

The predicament (cont.)

- Insecure career path
- Unattractive salary
- Women academics especially vulnerable

What kind of support is needed?

- **Competitive** grants and targeted support can make the transition from a degree holder to a fully fledged scientist
- Acquiring a grant on competitive terms boosts research drive and morale
- IFS fills a function here!

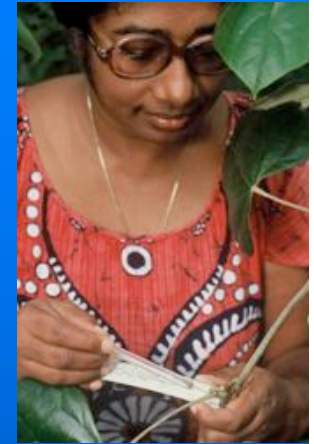


The Role of IFS



IFS helps institutions to transform their degree holders to scientists who are:

- competent
- creative
- innovative
- independent



IFS Grantees in Africa

Grants to be closed

Run Selection

Show Figures

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To change the scaling, click the figure (10) below "Number". Rightclick to decrease, leftclick to increase.

Number

10

50

100

- Grantees
- Female Gr
- 2000 - today
- 4 - 10 years
- 2004
- Grants
- Open grants



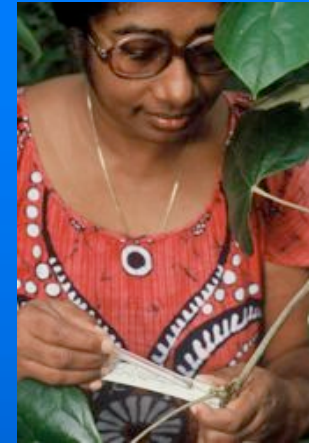
Problems facing young scientists

- Formulate a scientific hypothesis
- Link hypothesis to methodology and research plan
- Relate project to current research frontier
- Peer review during research
- Write a scientific paper

IFS capacity enhancing support (in addition to the grant)

- Conceptualization of the research proposal
- Hands-on support during implementation (thematic & methodology workshops, mentorship)
- Science communication (writing a scientific paper)

IFS



Collaboration

- IFS network of scientific advisers
- Affiliated and other partner organizations
- LA and Asia: draw on capacity in advanced countries
- Africa: link up with sectoral networks
- Establish organizational presence in regions with large grantee populations

Which way IFS?

- Eligibility: countries, institutions
- Eligibility: individuals, teams
- Thematic profile: open or focused
- Partnerships: North, South
- Organization: staff, advisers, decentralization, cost-effectiveness
- Funding: who will pay?
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Thank you for your attention

michael.stahl@ifs.se

International Foundation for Science

Karlavägen 108, 5th floor,
SE-115 26 Stockholm,
Sweden

web: www.ifs.se

