

## Multiple knowledges, multiple realities

IKM Emergent is a **research and communication programme** founded on a critical analysis of current practice in the creation, handling and use of all forms of knowledge, including formal research, within the international development sector.

IKM Emergent believes that historically the development sector has adopted a too linear and simplistic understanding of how development takes place and therefore of how it needs to act to try and make change happen. As a result, the sector has generally based its work on too limited a range of knowledges from too limited a range of sources. IKM's philosophy is based on the conception of multiple knowledges, multiple realities:

Understanding relevant multiple knowledges and having the capacity to identify, express, handle, use and share them are central to any effective development practice

Multiple knowledges arise in any situation where the people involved bring different types of knowledge and differing perceptions to bear. They provide both conceptual and practical information-handling challenges to any type of cross-cutting, multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary endeavour. They offer a particular challenge for the development sector, given the need to communicate – and often the desire to build consensus – across boundaries of culture, gender, space and status in an historical context of highly unequal power relationships.



## What is IKM?

IKM Emergent is an evolving group of development researchers and practitioners who network with others:

- exploring the concept of multiple knowledges and its relevance to development policy and practice
- researching issues raised by the programme and ways of addressing them
- making IKM's work, and related work by others, available in order to offer a more holistic and accessible body of knowledge
- identifying and responding to opportunities for communicating with development actors and organisations in order to stimulate and learn from innovation in this area

**IKM Emergent** is organised around three working groups and a communications programme.

### Discourses, Dialogue and Translation

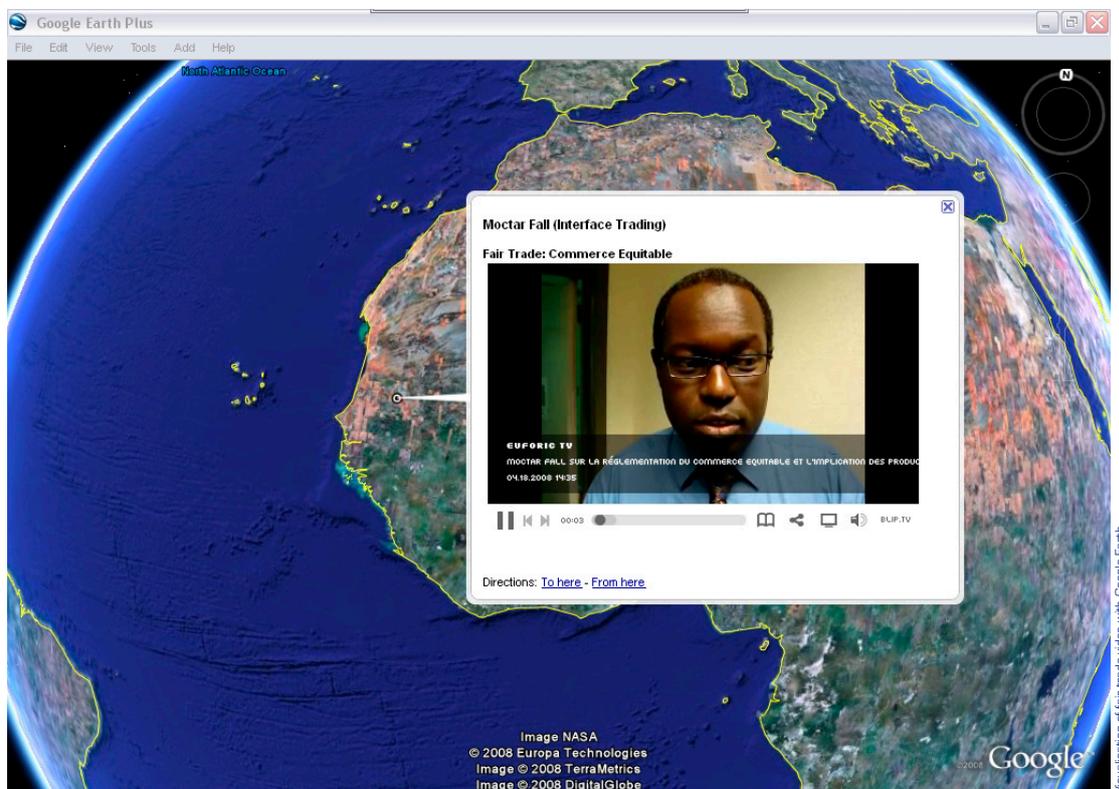
Working Group 1 is exploring links, mediation and translation between local voices (both intellectual and grass roots) and wider development discourse and practice. It is also seeking to identify appropriate methodologies for supporting autonomous knowledge processes at local level.

### IKM Labs

Working Group 2 is concerned with how development knowledges are expressed, including alternatives to the written word, and also how they can be found and used within development organisations.

### Management of knowledge

Working Group 3 is critically examining past and present information and knowledge management practice within development organisations.



## Contact

IKM Emergent is a five year programme which started in 2007, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It has been developed under the auspices of the Information Management Working Group (IMWG) of the European Association for Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI), and is administered by the EADI Secretariat, Bonn.

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