

John Cunningham

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Programme management/advisor/consultant including budget preparation and financial planning, monitoring and evaluation. Good communicator at all levels Government national/district, projects and beneficiaries. Substantial experience in agricultural development for sustainable livelihoods. Understanding of rural societies and rural markets. Twelve years living in 4 different countries Asia/Africa including India. Wide experience of development issues food/livelihood security and orientated economic development including micro enterprise, skills development, formation of groups, savings & credit, market assessment for value addition and small-scale investment. Policy linked to promotion of sustainable environments.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2007 – current. Food security/food sovereignty consultative study and workshops - India. Team Leader. Recommendations for strategic programme planning. EED Germany.

2006. (April/June) Engagement Strategy for Nepal. Team Leader.

Research and production of IFAD Nepal Engagement Strategy Report. IFAD, Rome.

2001 – 2006 (April) DFID Rural Access Programme, Nepal, Helvetas. Livelihoods Advisor. Working in 6 remote districts, responsible for developing strategic plan for 'more sustainable livelihoods' for programme targeted on the poorest people (50,000+ families)

1991 – 2001& 2006 – current. Development Alternatives. Managing Director/Team Leader.

Formed consultancy group and conducted over 40 appraisals, reviews, evaluation missions mainly in Asia. Project co-ordination and financial management, India /Nepal.

1989-1991.Oxfam Hong Kong. International Programmes Director/Dep. Director General.

Responsible for International Programme Strategy -identification and management – including finance - country programmes agriculture. (Bangladesh, China, Eritrea, India, Nepal, Philippines, Vietnam) Led joint funding bids, DFID, EU, etc. Also for change management re independence of OXFAMHK from OXFAM UK&I

1987-1989 War on Want. – Campaign against world poverty. Head of Programmes

Directing global policy and programmes, budget preparation and control £8m/annum. (16 professional staff) Forming/maintaining Consortium Representative to many committees, DEC, DFID, EU, etc. Serving Council of management, Corporate Management Team.

1979-1987.War on Want – Campaign against world poverty. Programme Director (Asia)

Policy, project identification, budget preparation and financial control, reporting.

1972-1975 .Christian Aid/ Oxfam South India, Agriculture/Rural Livelihoods Advisor.

Working in 9 villages, soil and water conservation/water-shed development for poorest farmers. Demonstration with Christian Aid ICRISAT. GoM, UNICEF, OXFAM, ,etc.

1971 VSO volunteer Natural Resource Management. (Zambia).Technical Studies, Agricultural representative,

EXPERIENCE

Programme management/budgets/financial planning. Sound experience gained through living and working in varying situations. Including:-

- Oxfam South and East India.
- War on Want **Head Asia/International Programmes.** Programmes and Campaigns in Africa, Asia Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Oxfam, **Director of Programmes / Deputy Director.** Programme policy development and project assessment criteria. Development of consortium and joint (venture) funding. Budget preparation and financial control. Project identification, assessment, operation.
- **Consultant/Advisor** Development Alternatives including 40+ short term Team Leader positions including DFID 'Getting research into Policy and Practice' (GRIPP) India. Kulika Trust – Uganda. Advisor on organic agric and transfer of programme from UK to Uganda.
- **EU TA Co-ordinator/Co-Director** for 'Transfer of sustainable technologies' – India
- **International Programme Manager** Working for Health (consortium of 6 UK universities). Including DFID 'Getting research into policy and practice'.
- **Course Director.** Sustainable Livelihoods, University of Reading.
- **Associate.** IRDD University of Reading, ODG UEA, Humanities and Social Science Portsmouth, LMU International.
- **Trustee/Director.** Frere des Homme - Paris, Grassroots International – Boston MA, Transnational Institute – Netherlands. Land Institute, Agricultural Renewal in India, Pacific Connections.

Sustainable Development – Agricultural/Livelihoods Programmes

- VSO Natural Resources, Zambia, Kafue National Park. Fauna and Flora conservation, physical development and infrastructure, tourism.
- North Notts. Farmers Cooperative, representative, grain certification/buyer seller, agricultural commodities, contract services, etc.
- Town Thorns School, Warwickshire Agricultural demonstrator/instructor.
- India. Agriculturalist. Rural (social) Development – poverty/vulnerability reduction. Conservation Agriculture and watershed development 9 villages. Board Member AFARM, BIAF– cross-breeding AI, ICRISAT – farming systems.
- Water-shed development, contour cultivations, conservation agriculture.
- Design, manufacture, improved agricultural implements, solar/bio-gas plants.
- Trees in agriculture, promotion of contour bund and field bund trees+ agave/castor.
- India OXFAM Agricultural Advisor –5 States, South India. Poverty reduction.
- India OXFAM Acting Field Director. East India. Bihar. Orissa and West Bengal .

Micro-enterprise/Energy

- Value addition, collection juice extraction. Women's groups handicrafts, rural industry.
- Biogas plants, design/manufacture – Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation
- Solar cookers/ parabolic reflector
- Land Institute – land shaping for conservation farming in areas of low rainfall
- Animal traction and transportation.

Sustainable Livelihoods development policy/training

- Course Director. University of Reading. AERDD/IIRD. Six courses sustainable livelihoods/development. Rural Livelihoods Advisor, Rural Access Programme Nepal 4.5 years. Kafue National Park, Sustainable development Advisor Kulika Trust – Uganda/UK.

Project/programme start-up

- Wide experience of identification and promotion of projects and campaigns.
- Project identification, proposal, assessment and start-up. India – MAM, AFARM, Land Institute, War on Want – Head of Asia Programme, start –up Philippines and Vietnam/ Head of Programmes – start-up and continuous assessment of medium term development projects and response to disasters. Representative to Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) . Oxfam Hong Kong responsible for development of autonomous project/programme development in Cambodia, China, India, Philippines and Vietnam. Assessment of project proposals for many NGOs and bilateral funders including DFID, EU, Royal Netherlands Embassy, etc. Tools for Self-Reliance – Reading. Kulika Trust Organic farmer training. Marketing and project proposal development for consortia funding and campaigns.

Proposals, Plans & Reports Writing,

Strategic plans, Proposals (including log Frames) report writing including financial. Identification, analysis, assessments, reviews, M&E/final evaluation, exit strategies.

Facilitation, negotiation and influencing

Self starter. Experienced negotiator and manager of conflict situations. Ability to think laterally and multi-task.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION

Social Aspects of Science and Technology, MSc University of Aston -Birmingham 1978.
Social and Economic Development Diploma. Ruskin/St Peters, College, Oxford 1977.
Agricultural Extension and Rural Social Development Post Graduate Diploma: 1st Class (Distinction). University of Reading, 1976.(External examiner Prof. Neils Roling Wagenien).
Full Technological Certificate in Agriculture, Stages I/II Notts. College of Agriculture.
Agriculture Stage III 2.1. Farm Organisation and Management – 2.1
Agricultural Mechanisation – 2.1 Lindsey College of Agriculture, Lincoln

AFFILIATIONS

Approved Contractor Scheme – Consultant NZAID. ©
Associate Fellow - University of Reading, International Rural Development Dept. (C)
Associate, University of Portsmouth. Faculty of Humanities and Social Science.(C)
Associate, Overseas Development Group, University of East Anglia (C)
Director/Trustee - Grassroots International, Boston, MA, USA
Advisor - Asia Committee QPS, London (C)
Programme Adviser Asia - Frères des Hommes, France
Pacific Connections ©
Founding member and Co-ordinator. Tools for Self Reliance (TFSR -Reading) ©

Referees

John Best – Graduate Institute of International Development and Applied Economics, University of Reading. <j.r.best@reading.ac.uk>
Prof. Dr David Seddon. Professor of Development Studies at UEA <criticalfaculty@hotmail.com>
Dorothy McIntosh– ex Director of Just World Partners, Edinburgh. <dmcIntosh@uk.mercycorps.org>

John Cunnington.

John Cunnington first went to live and work India in 1972-1975 with his wife Dianne under the auspices of Christian Aid, London.

As an agriculturalist, with substantive experience in practical farming, farm management and with volunteer experience in Africa he worked for three years on two fledgling community health programmes in Maharashtra. His main tasks were to enable farmers living in poverty to improve farming systems on rain-fed areas and to improve food and livelihood security especially for subsistence producers. The drought conditions 1972-1974 also prompted early work in 9 villages in what was to become known as water-shed management. John also established a dry-land demonstration in Haveli Taluka, Maharashtra which was later used by ICRISAT as an 'outreach programme'. He was also invited by OXFAM to work as agricultural advisor with them in South India.

After a 3 year spell back in the UK – Reading, Oxford and Birmingham following post graduate studies and completing a dissertation '*The disadvantage of poor farmers in India through technology and extension : the need for change*' - John again returned to live and work in India in 1978 to take on the mantle of directing agriculture and other policy with Oxfam (East India) based in Ranchi and travelling extensively in Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal to establish and monitor development programme activities.

He returned to England and for the next 10 years worked with the British charity 'War on Want – Campaign Against World Poverty' first as Programme Director for Asia and later as Head of International Programmes. This was followed by a transfer to take on the International Director/ Deputy Director General with Oxfam Hong Kong. In both positions John made extensive and frequent visits to South Asia especially India to carry out programme identification and monitoring missions.

In 1991 John established Development Alternatives UK with a global brief for carrying out project and programme appraisals, reviews and evaluations – usually as team leader -many of which were in India. He has conducted over 40 such missions in South Asia and predominantly India for Action Aid; AFARM; BAIF, Bilance, British Council; Caritas – Nederland; CEC; Christian Aid; Community Aid Abroad (Australia); Danchurchaid, DFID; Dutch Inter-Church Aid; EEC; EED; Frere des Homme; Helvetas; IFAD; Just World Partners; Misereor; Novib; ODA; OXFAM (UK-I); Quaker Peace and Service; Royal Netherlands Embassy; SNV; University of Reading; War on Want; Working for Health (Consortium of 5 UK universities). In addition to carrying out assignments in Asia and Africa John established and directed a series of short courses at the University of Reading on Sustainable Agriculture and Livelihoods.

From 2001 – 2006 John was based in Nepal where he worked as Livelihoods Advisor for the DFID funded 'Rural Access Programme', working in 6 remote districts.

In addition to report writing John has authored two publications 'Social Volcano' and 'Gaining Ground- Agrarian Reform in the Philippines' and has produced two documentary films on development, he also works for a number of charitable and church related organizations in UK.

He is currently completing a study for EED Germany on Food Security and Food Sovereignty with 34 Project Partners throughout India.

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