

Norwegian Association for Development Research (NFU)

Annual Report

November 2001 – November 2002

The NFU Board has, during the period under review, focused on maintaining the principal activities of the association: consultations with the organisers of the Annual Conference in Trondheim; publication of the association's newsletter (NFU-nytt); involvement in the publication of the Forum for Development Studies; representation within the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) and the NUFU Programme Board.

The composition of the NFU board

NFU's annual meeting 2001 was held at the University of Tromsø on November 14. Minutes from the meeting were distributed in NFU-nytt no. 1, 2002 and on NFU's internet site (www.nfuf.no). The annual meeting elected the following representatives:

NFU Board

Kristian Stokke, UiO (chair)
Tor Arve Benjaminsen, Noragric
Stein Sundstøl Eriksen, NUPI
Lise Rakner, CMI
Håkon Fottland, SEMUT, UiTø (acting chair, January-June)
Håkon Lein, NTNU (new)
Berit Rostad, NTNU (new)
Bertil Tungodden, NHH/CMI (new)
Trond Vedeld, NIBR (new).

Alternate members:

Siri Gloppen, CMI (new)
Ingrid Nyborg, Noragric
Rune Skarstein, NTNU
Christine Smith-Simonsen, UiTø (new)

Auditor:

Guri Stegali, CMI

Election committee:

Kjersti Larsen, UiO (chair)
Axel Borchgrevink, NUPI
Are Knudsen, CMI

NFU's representative in EADI (European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes):

Desmond McNeill, SUM, UiO

The Board elected Stein Sundstøl Eriksen as treasurer, Berit Rostad as editor of NFU-nytt and Håkon Fottland as editor of NFU's internet site. Håkon Fottland functioned as chair of the board during the period January-June 2002. The Board has had three meetings during the period, one in Tromsø in conjunction with the Annual Conference 2001 and two in Oslo.

Membership

NFU presently has 260 registered members.

NFU-nytt

One issue of NFU-nytt has been distributed to all registered members. Issue no. 2-2002 is scheduled to be published in November/December.

EADI

Desmond McNeill, SUM, University of Oslo has served as Norway's representative on the Executive Committee of EADI. The Norwegian representative's expenses are covered by the Norwegian Research Council. McNeill will report on the work within EADI at the Annual Meeting.

Economic situation

A separate report on NFU's economic situation will be presented to the annual meeting by the treasurer.

Forum for Development Studies

NUPI in co-operation with NFU, and with financial support from the Norwegian Research Council, publishes Forum for Development Studies. FDS is distributed to all NFU-members and other subscribers. The FDS editor Olav Stokke is invited to participate in NFU Board meeting.

The NFU Board and the FDS editor have agreed to maintain the practice where papers presented at the annual conference are considered for publication in FDS. The organisers of the annual conference may also choose to publish a separate conference report with reprints of the presented papers.

Annual Conference 2001 and 2002

The NFU Annual Conference 2001 was organised by the Centre for Environment and Development Studies (SEMUT), University of Tromsø on November 13-14. The title for the conference was: “*Diversity in Development - Universal and Local Discourses*”.

The NFU Annual Conference 2002 is organised by Arena (the Development Studies and Collaboration Initiative), Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). The title for the 2002 conference on November 14-15 is: “*Developing Countries and the Network Revolution: Leapfrogging or Marginalization?*” The organizers at NTNU have full economic and administrative responsibility for the conference, but there have been consultations between the NFU board and the organisers in the preparation of the conference.

A proposal for a topic and organiser for the NFU Annual Conference 2003 will be presented at the annual meeting.

The NFU annual conferences are financially supported by the Norwegian Research Council.

NFU Award 2002

As part of the effort to increase the quality of Norwegian development research, the Norwegian Association of Development Research has created a prize for the best scientific article within the area of development research. The prize is handed out biannually. The NFU Award 2001 was announced in NFU-nytt no. 2, 2001 but no articles were submitted. Thus, the Annual Meeting 2001 decided to announce an award for 2002. This award was announced in NFU-nytt no. 1, 2002. Two articles were submitted. The award committee, consisting of the editorial board of Forum for Development Studies, has concluded that none of the submitted manuscripts should be granted the NFU Award.

Research policy

The NFU Board has appointed a research policy sub-committee, chaired by Trond Vedeld (NIBR). This committee has discussed issues of development research policy and held consultations with the section for “Environment and Development” within the Norwegian Research Council.

Håkon Fottland has served as NFU’s observer in NUFU and has participated in the meetings of their Programme Board.