

Discussion meeting – 25 July 2006

Determining natural resource impacts of African horticultural exports

DFID/IIED/NRI project:
'Supermarkets, smallholders and
standards' project

This research has developed from the DFID/IIED/NRI project “agrifood standards and small-scale producers”

It addresses one indicator of climate change, *food miles (FM)*.

The FM concept has resonance with the public, it encapsulates (and is at the vanguard) of the CC debate

But it remains chiefly an environmental concern.

There is a risk that environmental arguments that are not grounded in solid analysis will endanger DFID’s objectives of ‘trade-not-aid’ and ‘making markets work for the poor’.

This research aims to develop/refine the FM concept to mainstream the social element (development, equity, etc).

This research has been designed to deliver specific information and data on the environmental impact of production and transportation of horticulture from Africa, relative to (a) other sources of produce, (b) other transportation impacts, e.g. sea freighting agricultural exports and UK leisure flights, and (c) ecological ‘space’ of exporting countries

Data is key. Origins (what who when), modelling, reliability, private. E.g. Co2/Co2E, customs data.

Today’s task: decide on which products are most relevant to drive this research and to identify some killer facts that we can develop and/ or work towards