

# FFU Fruits, Frustrations & Unity

in South-North research and  
PhD collaboration

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# Lessons from two FFU financed projects

Fruits – positive outcomes



Frustrations –  
North, South,  
mine

Unity – emerging  
research  
networks



# Fruits – positive outcomes

Graduated PhD students continuing their journey

New research networks – S/N, N/N, S/S

Capacity building

Research!



# Frustrations – North and South

**N:**

Good people are busy - High turnover rates in S

Setting up co-supervision schemes S/N

Lack of project ownership in S

**S:**

Lack of transparency wrt. budget management

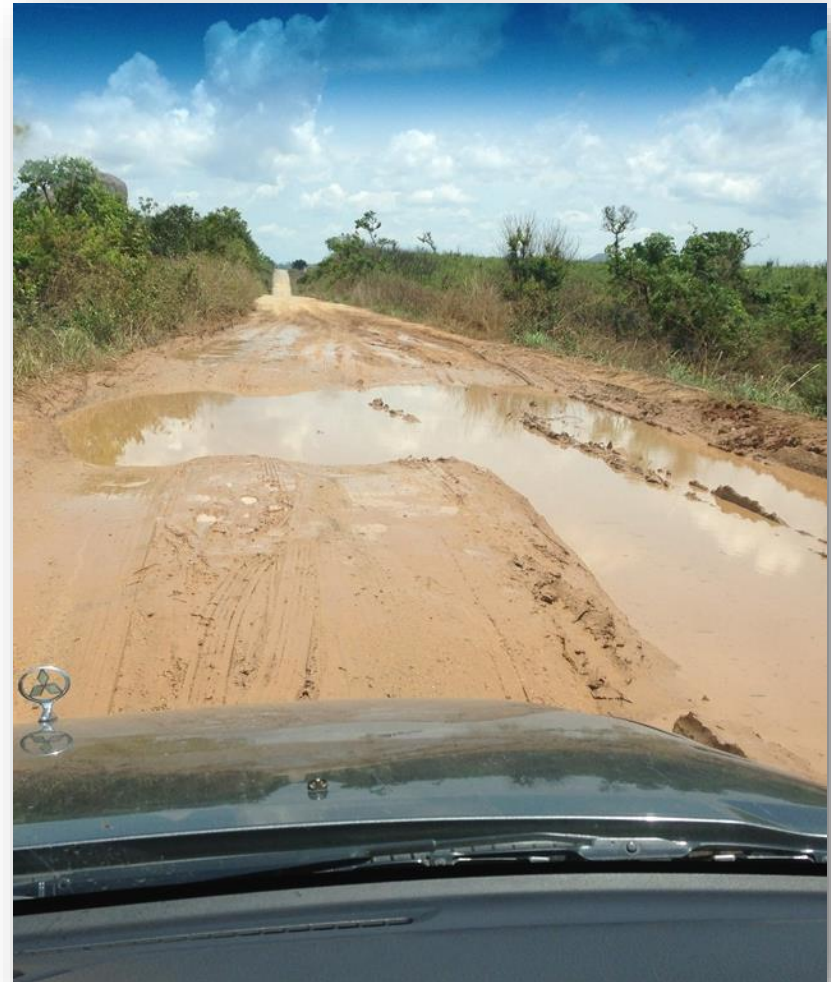
Lack of project ownership



# Frustrations – Mine

PhD supervision across continents – troublesome coordination of efforts and expectations

Large 'TNRC's – good on paper, excellent individuals, giants to dance with



# Unity

Forming new 'researchships'

Experiencing common interests  
in topics and objectives...

...forming sub-research groups...

...leading to new research  
networks beyond the project



# Summing up with lessons learned

## Fruits

PhDs, research,  
networks, capacities

## Frustrations

Budget, replacements,  
project ownership,  
supervision

## Unity

'Researchships'

Lessons learned

Do an extensive call  
for PhD applicants,  
a thorough  
screening and  
thorough  
interviews

Transparency,  
participation and setting  
expectations is key

Keeping new  
networks alive  
through smaller  
collaborations

WP (and possibly task) leadership  
should be balanced

Early agreement on arrangements  
concerning roles, expectations,  
communication platforms etc. surrounding the  
S/N PhD supervision

Must be clear to the PhD students also.