

## **Promoting poverty aware procurement on campus**

### Abstract

The workshop will enable participants to learn about the on-going project "Promoting poverty aware procurement on campus" and to make suggestions about what should be done during the last six months of the project.

### **Description of project**

The project is run by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges funded from DFID's Development Awareness Fund and will be run until 31st of March 2010.

The aim of the project is to make universities and colleges (and the organisations that procure on their behalf) more aware of the impacts of their procurement decisions on poverty and explore what procurement processes can be used to make the impacts as beneficial as possible. The outcomes that may result from this will include:

- Knowing how to source the right goods
- Knowing where to source them
- Knowing what to avoid and what to specify
- Knowing what procurement processes can be used to take account of poverty

The project is intended to have a long term impact through the massive purchasing power of universities and colleges, and through the life-long impact that further and higher education has on its students.

The project is working closely with a dozen "partner" colleges and universities in Scotland and northern England and a number of associated organisations that have an interest in the poverty agenda.

Looking in detail at different categories of goods that have poverty implications is a key part of the project. Information about each of these categories is being summarised in datasheets -- one to each category. These will help procurement people and others to learn about poverty and will provide information to enable more poverty-aware procurement decisions to be made.

Categories have been chosen that are relevant to FHE institutions (including their curricula) and that demonstrate a range of different poverty issues and procurement solutions. The list of categories is:

- IT and electronics,
- Timber for furniture and construction
- Paper – growing, harvesting, processing
- Clothing (workware and fashion etc)
- Steel
- Banking/financial services/investment
- Carbon offsetting /Biofuels
- Beverages – Growing and processing
- Beauty products – especially palm oil and shea butter
- Seafood - growing/harvesting/processing
- Fresh Fruits and vegetables

Material in each datasheet includes:

- Product description conditions of extraction, manufacturing, production or cultivation
- Alternative sources e.g. temperate or recycled.
- Significance to local economy
- Poverty and, other social impacts e.g. child labour - ,

- Environment and sustainability issues. and
- Labelling, and certification schemes

Examples of the impacts from procuring these goods and the procurement processes that might be used to manage impacts will be given.

### **Workshop process**

It is intended that the workshop will be organised so as to enable participants to engage with the key issues of poverty and procurement and to make suggestions about how staff and students in their institutions might get involved.