



# SIANI and the Swedish Resource Base



# Introduction

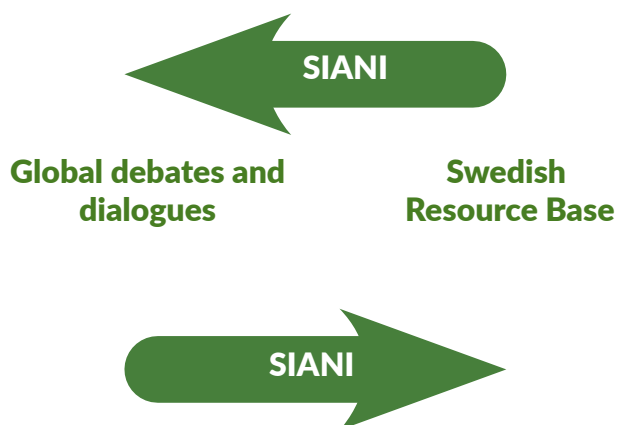
## Our motivation and purpose

The Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative (SIANI) was established within the Swedish Policy for Global Development (PGU) to enhance policy coherence among sectors linked to sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition. In line with the 2030 Agenda, SIANI contributes to multisector dialogues concerning the different Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on SDG 2: Zero Hunger.

Since its inception, SIANI has become a recognised multisector platform within a global system of international knowledge management, where the network feeds information back to its members. SIANI has a mandate to catalyse the dissemination of knowledge generated internationally and in Sweden (see Figure 1). The process allows the SIANI Secretariat to report with new perspectives, knowledge, and resources from international arenas to the Swedish Resource Base<sup>1</sup>(SRB).

The platform operates as a nexus for Swedish network members and partners to engage with the global debate on Agenda 2030, focusing on sustainable agriculture, food security, and nutrition in low-income countries.

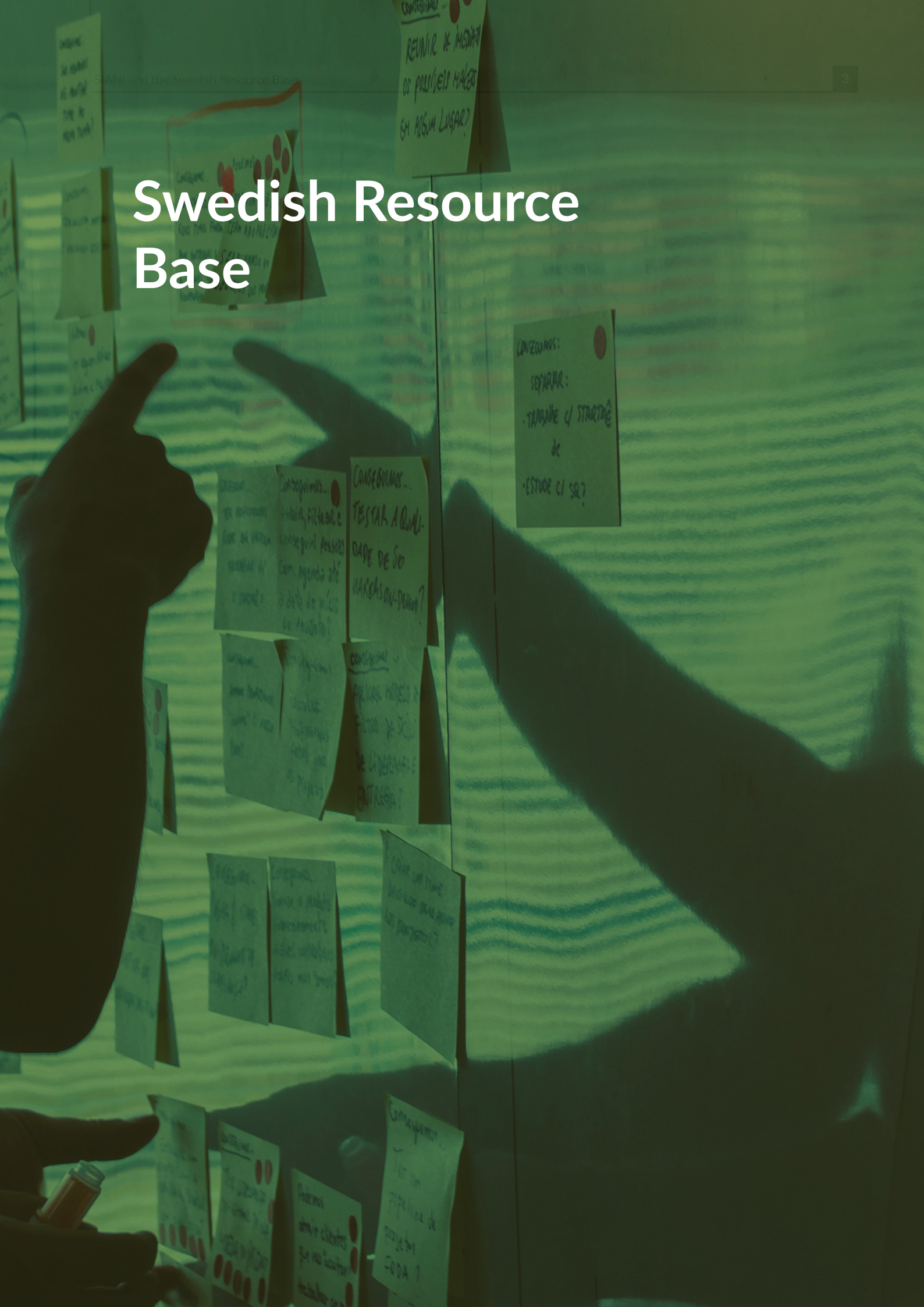
Collaborating with SRB's multiple sectors enables SIANI to support Agenda 2030 implementation on several fronts. This approach can enhance the work of Swedish international development actors and their sustainable development efforts in low-income countries. One recommendation from the Mid-term Review of SIANI Phase 3, conducted in 2018, suggested that the network present more information on its achievements in supporting and stimulating capacity development of the SRB. This target group has not been highlighted in previous annual reports to Sida as it is not part of the network's current theory of change. Therefore, this report's aim is to highlight for Sida some of SIANI's contributions and achievements in supporting and stimulating capacity development of the SRB.



The process allows the SIANI Secretariat to report with new perspectives, knowledge, and resources from international arenas to the Swedish Resource Base

1. The Swedish Resource Base (SRB) is defined in this report, and SIANI's overall work as individuals who currently have or previously connected to Sweden and/or Swedish actors.

# Swedish Resource Base



# SIANI's contribution to different sectors of the Swedish Resource Base

SIANI's past events and dialogues have been held in Sweden, directly linking them to the SRB. Over time, this has strengthened SIANI's networking and capacity-building regarding the 2030 Agenda in Sweden (Mid-term Review Phase 3). SIANI has also participated in dialogues and collaborated with actors in the international arena. The network has been described as "very skillful in bringing not only Swedish but also international stakeholders together in conferences and seminars" (Evaluation Phase 2, p.32). Such efforts have increased the awareness, collaboration, and capacity within the SRB related to sustainable agriculture, food security, and nutrition in low-income countries (Mid-term Review Phase 3). SIANI has enabled knowledgeable actors from the SRB to contribute to high-level international policy dialogues such as the Secretariat of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the UN's High-Level Political Forum in New York, and the Global Landscape Forum. SIANI has been described as unique, contributing to new collaborations, and that previously "different actors in this field were

not at all cooperating to the same extent as now through SIANI" (Evaluation phase two, p.32).

**"[SIANI] has lifted Sweden's ability to play a role in addressing policy issues related to the achievement of SDG 2", according to high-level officials in Government Ministries, researchers, and private sector actors (Mid-term Review Phase 3, p.8).**

**"[SIANI] has fulfilled their role as a platform (...) and for increasing the knowledge of the importance of agriculture and forestry in food security and thereby in development cooperation," according to core contacts of SIANI (Evaluation Phase 2).**

Some of SIANI's contributions to different sectors of the SRB are as follows.

## Academia

SIANI has an established institutional agreement with SLU Global at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and the Forest, Climate and Livelihood research network (Focali) managed by the Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development (GMV), part of Gothenburg University and Chalmers. These institutions have been collaborating with SIANI since 2013 and are represented in the Secretariat, enabling close cooperation between SIANI, SLU and Gothenburg University. These connections have also facilitated outreach and collaboration with other research institutes and universities.



SIANI almedalen 2017. Photo: SIANI.

Since 2009, SIANI, SLU Global, and other Swedish academic institutions, have jointly arranged the biennial Agricultural Research for Development Conference (Agri4D).

This Conference has involved and engaged several hundred senior and early-career researchers in multidisciplinary panels and workshops to discuss emerging topics regarding sustainable food production, nutrition, and food security.

Another recurring event since 2014 is the biennial workshop for young researchers, arranged by SIANI and SLU Global. It has provided an opportunity for early career researchers to meet and discuss their ongoing work with peers, senior researchers, and practitioners.

**“Participating in the workshop was a great opportunity to discuss the progress of my doctoral research, obtain relevant feedback and learn from the different perspectives other participants were following in their research,”**  
according to Jennifer Castañeda Navarrete, a participant of the [2018 workshop](#) from Mexico.

**“The workshop gave me exposure and insights on how to link my work to policy. In fact, the feedback I got from the workshop helped reshape my research paper, and the paper was recently accepted for publication by Frontier in sustainable food system,”**  
according to Ogbonnaya Ukeh Oteh, a participant of the [2020 workshop](#) from Nigeria.

Read more about the young researchers’ workshop in this [impact story](#).

SIANI and SLU Global have also cooperated on various smaller workshops and seminars on different themes related to sustainable food production, organized for researchers and actors from the private sector, civil society, and policymakers. These events included but were not limited to the following.



Participants at the March 2019 Partnerships workshop. Photo: SIANI.

- In March 2019, the workshop ‘How to effectively initiate, facilitate and engage in Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships’ gathered representatives from the private sector, civil society, and policymakers to discuss challenges to progress in working with multi-stakeholder partnerships (Annual Report 2019).
- Exploring the Whys and the Hows of epidemiology: Integrating social sciences with veterinary research for better understanding and action towards improved animal health in the Global South? Well-attended seminar in 2018. It focused on combining veterinary epidemiology and social science aspects to facilitate decision-making concerning disease control. Integration of social sciences into epidemiology had been limited, and social

science competence also remained at the periphery of disease outbreak management. The seminar inspired researchers and practitioners from different disciplines and sectors to collaborate and develop joint research proposals (Annual Report 2018).

The evaluation of SIANI Phase 2 describes several spin-off effects derived from the cooperation between SIANI and SLU Global. For example, through Lennart Salomonsson, SLU Global was included as a member of the SIANI Expert Group 'Agriculture Transformation in Low-Income Countries Under Environmental Change'. Through several workshops and two policy briefs (also shared on [FAO's website](#)), the group highlighted and shared information on the issue of agroecology. Collaboration between SIANI and SLU on agroecology has continued, for example, at the annual Agroecology Day at SLU Alnarp, led by students and supported by SIANI. Furthermore, Erik Sten Jenssen and researchers at SLU Alnarp presented a policy brief on becoming an agroecologist at the CFS in 2019, which was also the first year that the thematic of agroecology was part of the Agri4D Conference.

The collaboration between SIANI and SLU has strengthened their contribution to the SRB. As described by Maria Schultz, currently with Sida and former Director of Vi Agroforestry, during an interview in 2020:

**“SIANI and SLU are in the forefront for agricultural issues amongst Swedish actors”.**

Over the years, SIANI has also collaborated closely with Focali (read more in the section SIANI's contribution to introducing thematic areas to the Swedish Resource Base) and the Royal Academy for Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA). As part of the latter, several joint seminars, roundtable dialogues, and actions have been conducted. For example,

KSLA and SIANI jointly organized a roundtable dialogue at the Academy to discuss options for supporting the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' development of international strategies (Mid-term Review Phase 3). Furthermore, SIANI and KSLA jointly organized three seminars on carbon in soils, including one with prominent internationally known experts, such as Rattan Lal, Mary Scholes, and David Montgomery.

This 2015 seminar in Malmö raised the importance of productive soils for global food security and the potential of carbon sequestration in mitigating the negative impacts of climate change. Following the seminar on SIANI's suggestion, Anders Malmer, director of SLU Global, was invited to speak about conserving agricultural soils globally at a training session for the Skåne County Board (Länsstyrelse) and all municipality planning directors in the region. The Swedish FAO Committee then invited Malmer to speak about current developments for agriculture at an analysis day for departments of Sida and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs working with Africa. He was also invited to participate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' reference group on 'Inclusive and sustainable development' that prepared the new policy framework for Swedish development assistance (Evaluation Phase 2). Furthermore, Malmer participated in a panel at



SIANI at the Global Landscape Forum (GLF) in 2018. Photo: SIANI.

a seminar arranged by KSLA on the International Day of Soils about the importance of productive soils and their role in carbon sequestration. One of the other panellists, Anders Wijkman, pledged to include soils in assessing environmental goals ('Miljömålsberedning', ongoing at the time).

### Civil society

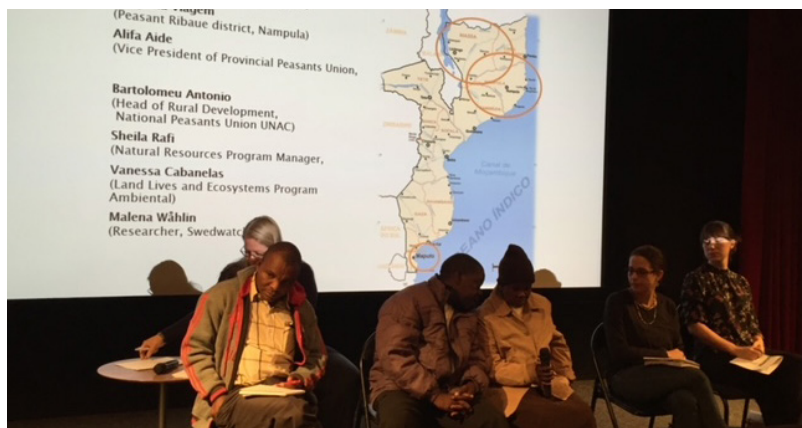
SIANI has consistently supported civil society organizations (CSOs) as part of the SRB to broaden its networks, arrange dialogues and generate new knowledge.

**“SIANI contributes with networking, knowledge, and bringing forward urgent issues. I would say that SIANI is one of the most important actors in Sweden regarding agriculture and development,” said Maria Schultz, former Director of Vi Agroforestry, during an interview in March 2020.**

SIANI has generated knowledge within CSO sections of the SRB regarding different approaches and methods for sustainable food production and livelihoods, for example, agroecology and agroforestry. The network's contribution to agroecology-related knowledge is exemplified in the 2020 SIANI Annual Survey, where an SRB member working at a CSO in Eastern Africa and receipt of funding from WeEffect and Sida, mentioned that:

**“I was able to learn about the agroecological practices through the SIANI Newsletter, which has helped me in the facilitation of capacity-building initiatives to almost 410 farmers' groups in [my region in Eastern Africa].”**

SIANI has also promoted agroforestry as an agricultural system with multiple benefits, such



Tenure facility. Photo: SIANI.

as carbon storage. The network-enabled Vi Agroforestry to present its positive collaboration with the World Bank in developing SALM tools to measure carbon storage.

Several seminars and activities have taken place to highlight agroforestry. For example, at Almedalen 2017, SIANI arranged a seminar on agroforestry with State Secretary Ulrika Modéer as one of the speakers. This resulted in agroforestry being raised as a resilient farming system in a proposal from the Swedish government regarding the Swedish global strategy for environment and climate (Annual Report 2017).

SIANI's work on agroforestry has also inspired and provided input to the Agroforestry Congress held in Gothenburg in 2015. The Congress had more than 170 participants and was arranged by the City of Gothenburg in collaboration with SIANI, Focali, Vi Agroforestry, Mistra Urban Futures, and a range of other local and national actors. At the opening session, Dan Melander, one of the organisers, clearly stated that the SIANI-Focali workshop on agroforestry and climate had greatly inspired the Congress, which led to the establishment of a Nordic/National platform for agroforestry and regional platform for agroforestry in Gothenburg, supported by the City of Gothenburg

and Västra Götaland Region. Inspired by the Congress in Gothenburg, the Agroforestry Network was founded in February 2016 and has since become an important Swedish-based forum to facilitate collaboration among different actors. In a May 2020 interview with SIANI, Lena Martens Karmelid, Regional Director of Vi Agroforestry in Eastern Africa, said:

**“The Agroforestry Network has made it easier for us to share the work we are doing in Eastern Africa. It also allows us to highlight research areas with knowledge gaps and input to future briefs and position papers. Furthermore, the network provides publications about agroforestry that we can lean on in our partnerships and dialogues.”**

SIANI has supported the Agroforestry Network from its inception and is today part of its steering committee, as well as supporting the development of the network’s publications and seminars. These supported activities include but are not limited to the Almedalen Forum, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York, and the CFS in Rome (Annual Report 2019).

### Private sector

Over the years, SIANI has engaged several private sector actors to participate in seminars and dialogues focusing on sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and food security.

These actors include, but are not limited to: Löfbergs Lila, Nestle, Sveaskog, Kaahls, Stora Enso, DANONE, Tetra Laval, Lantmännen, Ica, Frosch, LRF, Skogsägarna, Axfood and Nordisk Råvara. The evaluation of Phase 1 described how private sector members of the SRB “noted that there is no other network or platform drawing together such a wide variety of stakeholders (including the government,

academia, private sector, and civil society) and that they would not have had this possibility to expand their network if not for SIANI”. (Evaluation Phase 1, p.31). This was also praised by Katarina Eriksson, Project and Partnership Development Director at Tetra Laval Food for Development, during an interview in March 2020:

**“SIANI has been great for finding partners working with food systems and sustainable agriculture. SIANI knows what is happening, has a good network, shares information, and arranges events of very high quality. I don’t know where else I would find such qualitative information; out of my knowledge no other Swedish actor has such a wide coverage as SIANI.”**

Facilitating a consultation workshop to support the development of the Rainforest Alliance’s new certification standard is one example where SIANI has contributed to including private sector actors in multi-stakeholder dialogues. On February 5, 2019, SIANI hosted a workshop with Rainforest Alliance to discuss the first draft of the new framework for its certification criteria. Representatives from different sectors, including private actors, were invited to the discussions.

**“SIANI is a good platform for getting input from different stakeholders. As it takes a lot of research and knowledge to develop certification standards it is good to cooperate with SIANI as there is no other actor in Sweden with the same focus and gathering of researchers,” said Marcus Schäfer, communications consultant with Rainforest Alliance, during an interview in March 2020 when talking about SIANI’s contribution to developing the organization’s new certification standard.**



SIANI also aims to include the perspective of private sector actors in larger policy arenas to facilitate their taking a more active role in the global debate and process towards the SDGs. For example, all SIANI-led CFS events have had a representative from the private sector.

SIANI has also supported knowledge development of involving the private sector in achieving the SDGs, as seen in this [news story](#) on developing trustful public-private partnerships.

SIANI also prepared a Swedish summary of the 'Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security' as part of the preparations for the Land Rights events of 2017. The brief was shared widely across all sectors, including Sida's network for private sector actors, and is available at the Swedish FAO Committee's [website](#).

### Public sector

Swedish public actors frequently invite SIANI to provide support and advice on policies and to move sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and food security up the agenda.

Over the years, the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Swedish government departments have asked SIANI to contribute to roundtable dialogues and hearings, for example to discuss the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' development of international strategies and Swedish forest policy. SIANI was also invited to participate in consultative hearings at the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation to prepare several Swedish position papers, including one on Agroecology. SIANI has also co-hosted the launch of the International Fund for Agricultural Development's (IFAD) 'Rural Poverty Report: The Direct Connection between Agricultural Development and Poverty Alleviation' with the

Foreign Ministry in 2011 (Evaluation Phase 1).

SIANI is also a member of the Swedish FAO Committee and has helped organise the annual Swedish observance of World Food Day since 2013. Following the commemoration in 2020, Per Callenberg, State Secretary for the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, sent a special thank you to the SIANI Director for her engagement in developing and coordinating the event. SIANI was also explicitly thanked for sharing information about the event with its network, both in Sweden and abroad. Furthermore, SIANI supported the preparation of the Swedish policy for the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations for 2018-21, as well as the Swedish strategy for Climate and Environment. In the latter, SIANI itself was brought forward as an example of collaborating to achieve the 2030 Agenda commitments, exemplifying how a multisector platform can enable knowledge exchange and encourage action (Annual Report 2017). The network was also asked to prepare the Swedish government's brief [Life on Land](#) for the United Nation's High-Level Political Forum in July 2018 (Annual Report 2018). For example, SIANI's collaboration with the Swedish public sector through the Swedish FAO Committee, has allowed SIANI to contribute to "many changes in Swedish policy" and favourably position Sweden (Evaluation Phase 2, p.32).

SIANI has also supported the work and capacity development of Sida. The agency's officials frequently attend SIANI's events and dialogues, and the network has supported the agency's connection to thematic experts in agriculture-related issues (Evaluation Phase 1). The network has, for example, contributed advisers to Sida planning seminars on ProPoor Strategies in Agriculture, Gender in Agriculture, and a review of Sida's paper on 'Agriculture and Food Security in Development – A Review of Selected Issues' (Evaluation Phase 1). Key stakeholders have described SIANI as "very instrumental in ensuring that agriculture and food security has remained an element within Sida" (Mid-term Review Phase 3, p.22).

These and other activities offered by the network have resulted in an enhanced capacity in sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition at Sida, the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Evaluation Phase 2, p.6).

SIANI also collaborates with other public actors in Sweden, for example, supporting the organization of an International Training Programme on 'Genetic Resources and intellectual property together with the Swedish Patent and Registration Office (PRV) (Annual Report 2018).



SIANI at the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Summit in Åland. Photo: SIANI.



FAO committee's Roundtable discussion. Photo: SIANI.



SIANI celebrating the Climate day. Photo: SIANI.

# SIANI's contribution to linking Sweden with international arenas

SIANI has contributed to linking Swedish actors and members of the SRB with international arenas and dialogues in the following ways. Representatives and voices from low-income countries were invited to dialogues with SRB members food security and nutrition. Internationally renowned experts were invited to participate in events and dialogues organized in Sweden and/or by members of the SRB. SIANI has also strengthened awareness and knowledge among international actors of the expertise available within the SRB. For example, the invited speaker to the 2019 Swedish World Food Day event, Ahmed Raza, Nutrition and Food Systems Officer at the FAO, mentioned how before the meeting he had not realised the knowledge and capacity of Sweden about nutrition and global food security (Annual Report 2019). Helena Sivard Aksvik, from the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation and part of the Swedish FAO Committee, said that [SIANI reporting](#) following the event could be used “when we write a reply to the FAO. We have an incoming request from the General Director of FAO to shed light on World Food Day”. This is one of many examples where the network contributes to the dialogue and collaboration between the SRB and international actors.

SIANI also supports SRB contributions to the global policy arena through participation in Swedish delegations to the CFS. Since 2014, SIANI has taken the lead in organizing several Swedish side-events at the CFS, for example, ‘Collaboration-Led Waste Reduction: From Producer to Consumer’; ‘Let’s Get Down to Business’ with Stora Enso and Tetra Pak among others; and ‘Forestry and feminism’ (Annual

Report 2018). Thus, SIANI contributes to making Swedish knowledge and competence visible at international conferences and raising Sweden’s profile (Evaluation Phase 2).

SIANI closely collaborates with IFAD and has facilitated several meetings between SRB members and IFAD during visits from IFAD’s President and Vice President. Among others, SIANI supported the launch of two Rural Development Reports in coordination with Sida, IFAD and MFA. SIANI has facilitated an informal network called ‘Friends of IFAD’ in Sweden. In spring 2020, SIANI conducted a study of the needs and wishes among members of the Friends of IFAD and will continue developing the network based on these results.

Being a SIANI member and/or follower also strengthens access to the latest research and communication material on a particular topic. For example, Maria Teresa Bejarano, Global Health Advisor at UNFPA, said that SIANI’s news stories and publications supported her role as main author and coordinator of the UN report ‘Population, Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Development’: “It is sufficient to say that I looked at many documents from SIANI to write the report”. Similarly, Elisabeth Simelton at World Agroforestry (ICRAF) told the Secretariat that she often uses [SIANI’s reports](#) during meetings with Swedish representatives. This report has also inspired the recently launched Swedish Development Research Network ([SweDev](#)).

SIANI Expert Groups are also powerful tools for engaging the SRB in international activities (Evaluation Phase 2). For example, the Expert Group ‘International Swedish Agricultural

Resource Base' focused on broadening and strengthening the connections between SRB members within the CGIAR Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers and development researchers at Swedish universities. The work of this group contributed to changes in Swedish research grants that have enhanced the collaboration with CGIAR.

The 'African Biochar' Expert Group has also provided extra value for the SRB. A spin-off from this group, the Association for Researchers and Practitioners of the Biochar Technology, was formed in Sweden and has provided a valuable platform for Swedish and African researchers to collaborate and share knowledge (Evaluation Phase 2).

A third example is the Expert Group 'Agriculture at a Crossroads – Agriculture Transformation in Low-Income Countries under Environmental Change', which has intensified dialogues about agroecology in Sweden and internationally. Through policy dialogues with international experts from FAO and Latin America, the Group the group increased political interest in agroecological production systems and the potential for scaling up (Evaluation Phase 2). Their work contributed to increasing universities' interest in agroecology and action research to facilitate collaboration between CSOs and universities. Through policy dialogues with international experts from FAO and Latin America, the group managed to increase political interest in agroecological production systems and the potential for scaling up (Evaluation Phase 2). Read more about how SIANI has contributed to bridging the connections between the SRB and international actors working with agroforestry in the section *SIANI's contribution to introducing thematic areas to the Swedish Resource Base*.



Tenure facility Photo: SIANI.



SIANI at the World Water Week. Photo: SIANI.



SIANI's expert group, Inclusive Business Sweden (IBS). Photo: SIANI.

# SIANI's contribution to youth in the Swedish Resource Base

Youth is an important focus for SIANI, and the network's function has been adapted to enable contribution to youth-led and/or targeted activities within the SRB. 'SIANI Youth' was established in 2015 by students at SLU and has since arranged or jointly arranged several activities led by and/or targeting youth. The aim is to strengthen youth's interest in and engagement with the SDGs, specifically Goal 2, and facilitate multisector collaborations with other youth. For example, SIANI Youth cooperated with 15 other youth organizations from Sweden, Finland, and Denmark in the Sustainable Development Solutions Network to strengthen partnership, collaboration, and empowerment of regional youth actors in contributing to SDG implementation. SIANI Youth and Trase organised an interactive role-playing workshop focused on supply chain transparency to educate youth about common challenges and solutions for reaching SDG 12.

Furthermore, SIANI Youth hosted an [Almedalen event](#) in 2017, including Sida's Director-General Carin Jämtin, about the role of youth in achieving the SDGs. Another example is SIANI Youth

supporting KSLA and actively organising a youth competition about sustainable consumption and production. The work of SIANI Youth continues, and in October 2020, SIANI employed a coordinator to further develop the youth strategy and strengthen this focus of the network.

In addition to SIANI Youth, the network has supported the activities of other organizations that target the youth section of the SRB, for example, SLU Market Days, Bolin's Climate Festival and Järva Week.

SIANI has also frequently collaborated with and supported the Swedish Development Forum (FuF) on information exchange and organizing activities. SIANI is a regular participant in FuF's internship programme and has recruited several interns with an agricultural background through FuF, as well as inspiring partners at GMV and SLU to recruit interns via FuF (read more in [Annex 1](#)). Also, SIANI strengthened collaborations between FuF and SLU by organizing international careers events with SLU's student organizations. FuF representatives were invited to speak, for the first time at SLU, about their internship programme.

SIANI has also collaborated with SLU to support youth' group in achieving the SDGs. SIANI commissioned a [report](#) from agronomy students at SLU about the university's work with the SDGs, which has inspired much of SLU's work for the 2030 Agenda. The report was also used by the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation at the European Union as an example of how Sweden involves youth in working towards the SDGs.

SIANI has also inspired Swedish-affiliated researchers to enhance youth in their work. For example, Magnus



Afghan cooking. Photo: SIANI.

Jirstrom of Lund University said that the SIANI annual meeting 2019 made him realize that household surveys seldom include direct questions to youth and that assumptions about the realities of youth are often made based on other data. The meeting made him consider the advantages of interviewing youth directly to understand generational differences better. In collaboration with SLU Global and other Swedish Universities, SIANI has also jointly arranged [workshops for young researchers](#). These workshops provided a platform for early-career researchers from the SRB and other parts of the world to interact and obtain feedback from senior researchers.

SIANI's youth-focused activities have also supported members connected to the SRB outside Sweden. In the 2020 Annual Survey, when responding to what thematic area SIANI has contributed, an SRB affiliate in the 24- to 34-year-old age group and working in the private sector in Sub-Saharan Africa wrote:

**“SIANI has satisfactorily succeeded in creating a platform for youth-led or young professionals-led discussions providing a pathway for them to influence decision-making.”**

SIANI has also ensured youth representation in crucial seminars, for example, securing the participation of Simon Wancke, representing the youth league of the Swedish Farmers Association, at the launch of IFAD's 'Rural Development Report on Youth'. Another example is the 'Antimicrobial Resistance' seminar at World Water Week 2019 where SIANI, ensured that a group of students from the Biotic Blue Project, iGem could participate and present their novel and prize-winning research idea on the topic. SIANI has also supported younger researchers in presenting their work during the speed talks of the Agri4D Conference and through sharing their research on SIANI's communication channels.



Young Researchers Seminar. Photo: SIANI.



AGRI4D conference, organised by SLU and SIANI. Photo: SIANI.



Agroecology day at SLU 2019 in Alnarp. Photo: SIANI.

# SIANI's contribution to introducing thematic areas to the Swedish Resource Base

By participating in dialogues in the international arena and collaborating with FAO, IFAD, CGIAR, and other leading actors in the sector, SIANI has contributed to the introduction of new thematic areas in the Swedish arena and SRB. Some examples of such areas that SIANI has imported from international fora to the SRB are follows.

## Landscape management

SIANI has contributed to introducing the thematic of landscape management to the SRB and the Swedish policy arena. In Gothenburg in 2013, SIANI and Focali organized the first scientific workshop on the landscape approach in Sweden, gathering several researchers and practitioners from different disciplines. The concept of landscape management was new for the Swedish research community but gained immediate traction. SIANI and Focali continued to develop this concept and jointly participated in the annual Global Landscape Forum organized in connection with COPs. In 2017 research members of the SRB were also allowed to [present their research](#) during the Forum.

In 2017 SIWI established a new multi-stakeholder cluster group focusing on water and landscape management issues. SIANI supported the group in organizing multisector events and identifying speakers from the agricultural sector at Almedalen and World Water Week.

## Migration and agroforestry

Migration and agricultural development were among SIANI's thematic focuses in 2019. SIANI aimed to promote a more constructive discourse of migration as a positive force for landing communities and the societies left behind, and the possibilities for agroforestry. As part of this work, SIANI and the Swedish Agroforestry Network developed a policy brief on migration and agroforestry, including positive aspects. The brief was presented at an Almedalen seminar in 2019, 'Migration as a positive driver for rural development'. It focused attention on the potential of migration as a positive force for sustainable rural development and local economies. The seminar was moderated by the Chair of SIANI's Steering Committee with speakers such as Sida's Director General and representatives from the World Food Programme, Vi Agroforestry, and



Agroforestry at SLU Seminar Photo: SIANI.

IFAD. The seminar resulted in initial dialogues and cooperation between IFAD and Kenya's regional Vi Agroforestry office. The seminar also contributed to the SIANI Chair and the IFAD representative being interviewed by FuF for an article on how European Union policy for Agriculture Development affects agricultural development in low-income countries. The seminar also led to UNDP inviting SIANI and the Swedish Agroforestry Network to organize a side event and present the brief during the UN's High-Level Political Forum in New York in July 2019.

**“SIANI is good at bringing relevant topics to the table, and it was SIANI that suggested having a brief with a focus on migration and agroforestry. Additionally, the brief was so widely shared at the High-Level Political Forum thanks to SIANI and their communication,”**

**said Maria Schultz, former Director of Vi Agroforestry, during an interview in 2020.**

Read more about how SIANI has contributed to highlighting agroforestry and migration in this [impact story](#).

Furthermore, SIANI enabled the Swedish Agroforestry Network, Swedish Government, Vi Agroforestry, World Agroforestry, FAO, CIFOR, and other actors to jointly organize a [side event](#) at the CFS about agroforestry as a pathway to Sustainable Development Goal 2. The event enabled an interactive multi-stakeholder discussion about opportunities and challenges to scale up agroforestry, after which SIANI and Vi Agroforestry were invited to meet with

Ewald Rametsteiner, Deputy Director for the Forest Department of FAO. The meeting initiated collaboration between the Vi Agroforestry office

in Uganda, FAO and the, World Bank, focusing on displaced people and the use of agroforestry to mitigate [natural resource degradation](#) in refugee-hosting areas of northern Uganda.

## Antimicrobial resistance

Together with partners at SLU and the Federation of Swedish Farmers (LRF), SIANI explored what the SRB could contribute to the global policy dialogue in connection with the UN's CFS High-Level Political Forum report on 'Livestock and Food Security and Nutrition'. They agreed that much could be learned from the SRB and the Swedish veterinary medicine experience both in research and practice, including LRF's experience and decision in 1986 not to use antibiotics as a growth promoter, making it a pioneer in animal health care.

Throughout 2015 SIANI, together with SLU, mobilized actors from the SRB and highlighted Swedish experiences of managing livestock healthily and productively with minimal use of antibiotics. SIANI and SLU organized an event on the topic at [Almedalen](#) 2015. Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, former General Director of Sida, stated



Almedalen. Photo: SIANI.



that although there was one initiative connected to antimicrobial resistance, there was not much knowledge about the use of antibiotics and animal welfare within the agency. Antimicrobial resistance was therefore not a high priority on Sida's agenda at the time. The agency thus became aware of the neglect of the topic. The following year, they organised a [Development Talk](#) about antimicrobial resistance to which SIANI contributed to animal husbandry.

Ola Möller also emphasised SIANI's support to Sida in relation to this topic, former Senior Policy Expert on Rural Development and Food Security at Sida, during an interview in April 2020:

**“SIANI was my main support when working to raise the importance of antimicrobial resistance in animal husbandry on Sida's agenda. Meanwhile, in the Swedish FAO Committee, with the help of SIANI, I managed to strengthen the importance of this issue in the Swedish global perspectives.”**

Furthermore, SIANI and SLU [were first to highlight the issue](#) of antimicrobial resistance at the 2015 World Water Week. SIANI and SLU have continued to jointly organise events on this topic during World Water Week with actors such as SIWI, Sida, and Nordea. The former Swedish Minister of Environment, Karolina Skog, requested to speak at the [event](#) conducted in 2016, and the Swedish Crown Princess Victoria asked to attend the event.

During 2015 SIANI and SLU also jointly organised a seminar on antimicrobial resistance at the UN's CFS meeting in Rome. Elisabeth Backteman, the Swedish State Secretary for Rural Development, was one of the speakers. The Swedish government continued to highlight the topic at several international dialogues for which SIANI and SLU produced a policy brief on

antimicrobial resistance in low-income countries, the first and only [policy brief](#) on this topic at the time. This brief has been used as educational material for the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco, and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF) representatives in Eastern Africa.

SIANI's contribution to mobilizing the SRB and raising awareness regarding antimicrobial resistance was also mentioned by Ola Möller, Sida's former Senior Policy Expert on Rural Development and Food Security, during an interview in April 2020:

“As a facilitator, SIANI managed to create networks, bringing together the Swedish actors working with antimicrobial resistance within animal husbandry and those working with antimicrobial resistance within human health, which helped to develop a joint vision and better understanding of the One Health approach.”

SIANI's contribution to raising the subject of antimicrobial resistance in the Swedish arena and among Swedish stakeholders was also emphasized by Gunilla Eklund, Deputy Director for the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, former Antimicrobial Resistance Expert at the FAO, during an interview in March 2020:

**“SIANI was groundbreaking and amongst the first to speak with Swedish stakeholders about antimicrobial resistance in agriculture of low- and middle-income countries. This increased the understanding that producers should receive support to change their antimicrobial inputs, rather than only imposing restrictions.”**

Read more about how SIANI contributed to introducing the topic of antimicrobial resistance to the SRB in this [impact story](#).

## Summary

SIANI has consistently over the years contributed to capacity development, activities, and cross-sector collaborations that aim to strengthen knowledge and communication of sustainable agriculture, food security, and nutrition within the SRB. By supporting the work of academia, private sector actors, CSOs, and the public sector, SIANI has contributed to the SRB's knowledge and implementation of the 2030 Agenda on multiple fronts.

SIANI has participated in dialogues and collaborated with actors in the international arena, allowing the network to bring back knowledge and expertise from the international arena to the SRB. The network has also enabled knowledgeable actors from the SRB to contribute to high-level international policy dialogues and collaborate with international actors, raising global leading organizations' awareness of the expertise available within the SRB.

Being connected to SIANI has also facilitated researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to the latest research and communication material on sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and food security in low-income countries. The network's news stories and publications have inspired and fed into UN reports and high-level panels and dialogues, and new networks and initiatives.

SIANI has contributed to increased interest and engagement regarding sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and food security among the SRB's youth section. The network has also inspired experienced research members of the SRB to enhance the inclusion of youth in their projects, and support the development and distribution of

early-career researchers and their work.

SIANI has become a well-known and appreciated network within the SRB as well as internationally. This has allowed the network to facilitate and strengthen the work of the SRB concerning sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition, and introduce new thematic areas.

Being a supportive and flexible actor has enabled SIANI to facilitate multisector partnerships and generate knowledge that ultimately strengthens the work of the SRB and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

# Annex 1: SIANI interns

## An overview

SIANI proactively provides internship opportunities for students in agriculture, rural development, anthropology, or natural resource management. SIANI's internship programme aims to:

Support and strengthen the Swedish Resource Base by facilitating the inclusion of more young talent within rural development, sustainable agriculture, food security, and natural resource management. This fulfils an expressed demand for a qualified workforce within Sida, consultancy companies, the private sector, and civil society in the short term and ensures there is enough experience and resilience in these sectors if people leave for other duties or retirement.

Promote and prepare motivated students with an agriculture/natural science background for opportunities within an international career path. Currently, many of these students are quickly absorbed by the Swedish labour market without being aware of the international opportunities and actual demand for their expertise within Sida, the UN, and the MFA.

Ensure a continuous rejuvenation of content developed for the SIANI platform and that part of the SIANI content is packaged so that it appeals to a younger audience and attracts interest for SIANI's key content areas.

Continuously develop and improve communication and content for SIANI Youth, an area where interns at SIANI continue to be instrumental.

There was no formal system for applying for internships during the first and early second phases of SIANI. Students had to approach the Secretariat for work opportunities of their own volition. This was challenging due to erratic contact from interested students. In addition, most of the students came from Stockholm University, where very few had an agricultural background and were not covered by insurance. With these issues in mind, SIANI initiated a collaboration with FuF's (Föreningen för Utvecklingsfrågor) internship programme, financed by Sida to support the development of the Swedish Resource Base.

## Management and implementation

The collaboration has delivered clear benefits for all parties involved.

### SIANI



FuF manages the recruitment and selection process, ensures that the interns are insured and offers high-quality applicants to help SIANI reach the stated objectives; FuF also provides professional training to supervisors

### Students



FuF provides a training programme, guidance, introduction to the international labour market, and access to professional networks.

### FuF



SIANI has provided their internship programme with opportunities for students with backgrounds other than social and political science to find a stimulating workplace. The collaboration has also allowed FuF to connect with SLU and other actors they haven't previously contacted, thus widening, and expanding their network. In addition, SIANI has extended the geographical diversity of FuF's interns in terms of place of origin, like the German intern Laura von Ketteler, and also making internships available outside of Stockholm, like Linda Hansson's internship at Focali (GMV) in Gothenburg.

Finally, both the students and FuF appreciate SIANI as a workplace, which is evident in [this presentation](#) by SIANI intern David Falk in a FuF podcast about their internship programme.

The FuF collaboration has been so successful that it is now an integral part of the SIANI 3 programme document (SIANI, 2016). It has also resulted in a formalization of the internship procedures, with SIANI adjusting to SEI's policy of reducing the number of interns from two or three per semester to just one, properly recruited through FuF. SIANI has also stopped receiving interns from the Swedish Public Employment Service and aligned the FuF interns with SEI's internal internship programme.

## Internal review

In terms of communication outreach, the interns at SIANI are instrumental in providing content that helps attract youth to the website. As the following chart shows, the percentage of cohorts belonging to youth (18-24) and young adults (25-34) makes up the majority of website users, compared to the older demographics.

SIANI website usage by age:

Age	Users
18-24	591
25-34	2203
35-44	1390
45-54	725
55-64	591
65+	450
<b>Total</b>	<b>5950</b>

(Source: Google Analytics)

This content comprises published events and news stories, in addition to the Instagram account and podcast episodes that are, in essence, managed by the interns.

Finally, in preparing students for international jobs, SIANI can demonstrate a good track record (see the following table).

List of SIANI Interns and their current occupation:

Name	Year at SIANI	Current occupation	Method of application
Terese Niklasson	2010	Swedish Agency for Chemicals	Arbetsförmedlingen
Chibesa Pensulo	2010	Adaptation specialist at Green Climate Fund	
Maurice Portilla	2011	Service Designer/Sustainability Strategist, PWC Sweden	
Denis Silveti	2011	Project leader, Municipality of Stockholm	
Petter Nordqvist	2012	Project Manager at NIRAS Int. Consulting	
Anneli Sundin	2012	Communication SEI, AgriFoSe	
Ekaterina Bessonova	2012	Communications SIANI/SEI, Coordinator Agriculture Research Ryan Institute	
Patricia Villarubia	2013	PhD Stockholm Resilience Centre	
Karolin Andersson	2014	SEI now PhD SLU Gender and Cassava	
Josefin Smeds	2014	Environmental strategist Municipality of Flen	Arbetsförmedlingen
Jaqueline Ernerot	2014	Helpdesk Sida/SLU Environment and Climate Change	
Lovisa Neikter		Project coordinator project leader County of Uppsala	SLU shortterm
Axel Bovin	2016	Church of Sweden International work program officer, Haiti	
Miron Arljung	2016	IFAD SIANI/SEI, Hand in Hand	FuF informally
Johannes Ernstberger	2016	Programme Officer, Swedish Water House, Journalist Sörmlands media	FuF
Hassiel Rios	2016	Return & Warranty Manager Daniel Wellington	
Ebba Ulfbecker	2016	Project Coordinator Uppsala County	SLU shortterm
Linda Hansson	2017	Project Coordinator Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development	FuF
Ninel Sukowich	2017	Land developer at Nynäshamn municipality	FuF
Laura von Ketteler	2017	Freelance communicator/ Berlin	FuF
David Falk	2018	Swedish Forest Agency	FuF
Christopher Westman	2018	GIS consultant Golder	FuF
Leonie Prevel	2019	SLU HR administration	FuF
Caroline Augustsson	2019	Rural Development, SLU	FuF
Jorunn Hellman	2020	Coordinator Climate mobilization Church of Sweden	FuF
Magdalena Knobel	2020	Communication consultant, Berlin	FuF

## External review

In the mid-term review of SIANI Phase 3 conducted during autumn 2018 (Mid-term Review Phase 3), SIANI's work with interns was highlighted in several ways. Feedback from interviews included: "The internships were regarded as mutually beneficial for SIANI and students. Back up and supervision was reported as fully satisfactory" (p.17).

Synergies were also found between the internship programme and other aspects of SIANI's work. For example, in terms of capacity-building and youth engagement, the review deemed the internship work timely and aligned with SIANI's work with Agenda 2030: "Most respondents regard the indirect work for capacity-building in Sweden for Swedish actors to be able to contribute to relevant aspects of Agenda 2030 as the most important result sphere. Promotion of, for example, Swedish students' and young researchers' interest in international and global matters has a clear potential to generate sustainable results for a long time to come" (p.22).

Lastly, the review also saw the potential for the internship programme to open up for new funding opportunities, namely the Government's strategy for capacity-building, partnership, and methods for sustainable development (Government Offices of Sweden, 2018). This strategy valid from 2018–22, a prominent recognition of work that enables Sweden to play a more professional role in international processes, particularly for Agenda 2030. The internship programme is, by extension, a part of supporting the Swedish Resource Base to facilitate this goal.

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