



KICS Journey & the Year Ahead

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31st March 2007

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Contents

- Revisiting KICS objectives
- KICS journey through its institutions
- What KICS means?
- What is KICS?
- What can KICS do?
- Plan for 2007
- Administrative and management issues
- Any other

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GBM 1: Science and Civil Society

- Civil society as 'public sphere' for articulation of alternate viewpoints, dissenting imaginations
- Critique of science (STS) becomes academic
- Practicing science in civil society – reflections (what worked, what did not, newer problems and possibilities)
- How can a social scientist influence S&T policy? How can CSO's create policy dialogue and reform institutions? Etc...

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A few thoughts on the dialogue

- Are there cross learning opportunities among sectors especially on policy processes and dialogue.
- Is science studies better situated to do this?
- Does it have the trust of CSOs for such a task?
- What can we learn from policy processes in other countries (Netherlands, South Africa?)
- Are there newer opportunities today for older ideas?
- How do we get the younger generation to engage with these issues?
- Can we reflect and share works in progress in such a community?

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Science Studies as a Mirror

- To help create a people's science and technology policy ...
- To make civil society (and CVO's) engage more directly in science and technology (for) development
- Therefore, to build stronger relations and interactions between CVO's and science & technology development, possibly with the help of STS 'academics'

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Bijker's perception of KICS's goal

To make small but solid and consecutive steps:

- To get to know each other ✓
- To learn from each other ✓ (sharing forum)
- To cross-fertilize across different domains, experiences, and institutions (possible future work)
- To build up momentum to continue — **towards a "People's Knowledge Commission"?** *Sastry*
- (To make a difference, **to reforge the chains that hold the people**)

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Suggestions for future action in the August meeting

- Rename it as 'Knowledge in Civil Society'
- *Peoples Knowledge compendium*
- *Pedagogic aspects – refresher courses, students and young minds.*
- *Review of paradigms*
- *Support structure for alternative agricultural policy.*
- *A policy statement by March 2006!!!!*

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January 22 meeting

- Process of writing manuals – Sreekumar's primer on power, can we write a hand book for policy-makers. (Bijker)
- Ramoo on reprioritising research priorities and the dryland agriculture formulation process.
- Wiebe Bijker on RTD study

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Activities of the forum

- **Sharing of articles – by members and others**
- **Facilitating Informal and bi/multi lateral exchanges amongst members – state of Indian farmer, textiles, SRI, water etc. Eldis Development reader**
- **Greater use of civil society archives in pedagogy and curriculum**
- **Conversations leading to themes – responses to donors**
 - Can the KICS space provide us operating principles for similar cross cutting concerns, can we learn from examples of past, can an unintended outcome of the forum be to prepare or equip ourselves to dialogue with bank on the everydayness of development?

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KICS Institutions

1. **Discussion forum** One main and a subgroup
2. **GBMs** once in 6 months or so (4th)
3. **Sharing sessions** - 6 talks in a year!
4. **Workshops** – contemporary concerns (Indo US KIA), internal learning (RTD), Joint work, participation in others activities
5. **Research studies** – dissent in Indian agriculture

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KICS more than a googlegroup

6. **Compendium** leading to a website – logo etc.
7. **Thematic discussions** – science and democracy – kavitha article
8. **Using others material**, understandings etc in one's own work
9. **Cross learning workshops**
10. **Student support**

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What does KICS mean?

- Connecting – people, sectors, civil society and academics (use in teaching), science and people
 - learning, comparing notes, introspection, helps to think more on areas of work, common processes
 - possibility of networking
- Forum or space**
- open minded enquiry
 - Integrated approach
 - Debates that cannot find voice
 - articulation of non-conventional views
 - alternatives and dissent, pro-people
 - Opening up spaces

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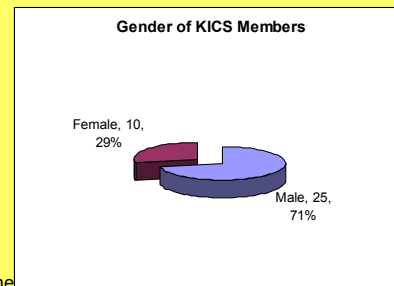
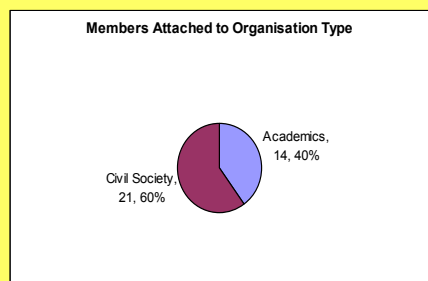
What does KICS mean?

- Ability to keep only those genuinely interested, seriousness of purpose, excellent resource persons
- Potential to grow and get noticed
- Democratic functioning
- Makes NGOs fun..... etc.

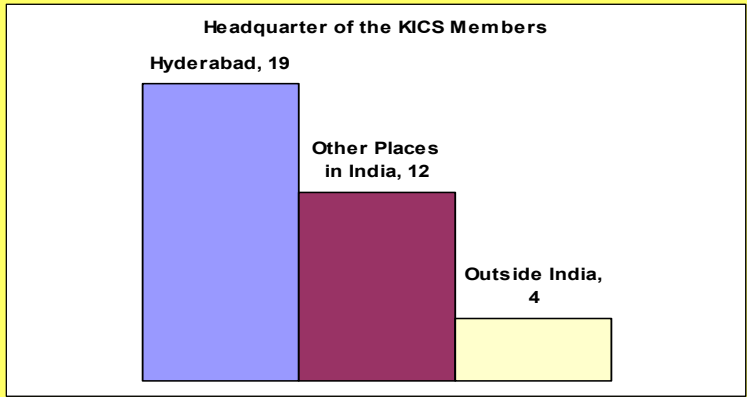
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What is KICS? Analysis of Googlegroup

- The KICS Google Group was Created on 7th April 2006.
- Total No. of Members is 35.
- Greater number of members from CSOs and men



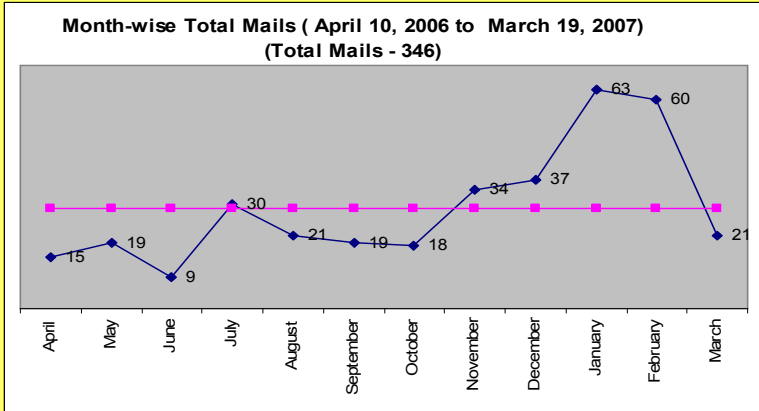
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Most members are based at Hyderabad, 4 outside India

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KICS Group Postings

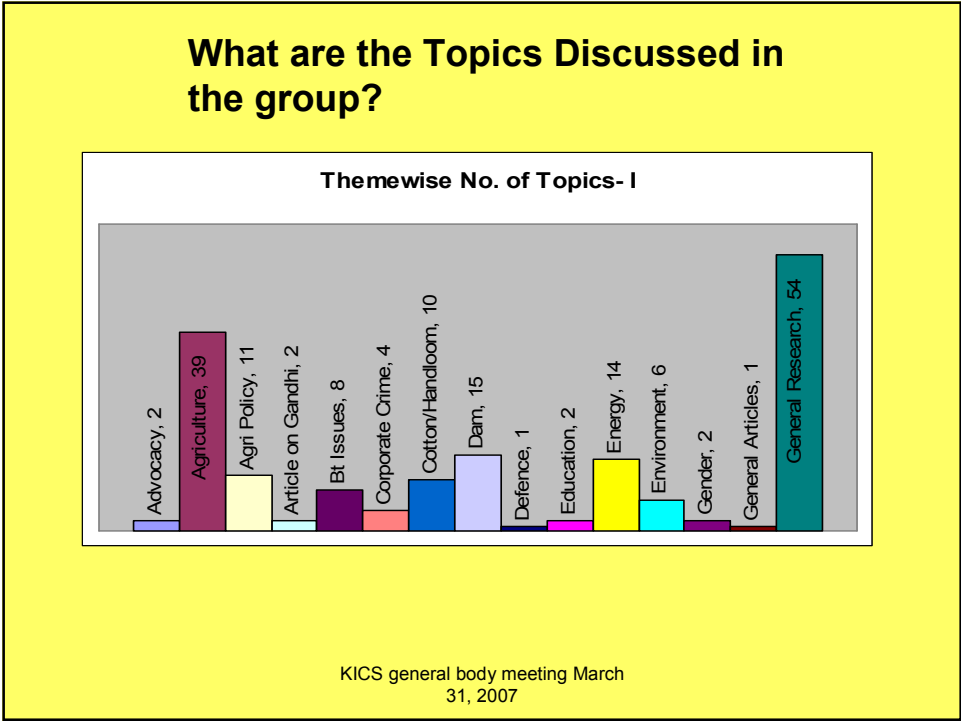
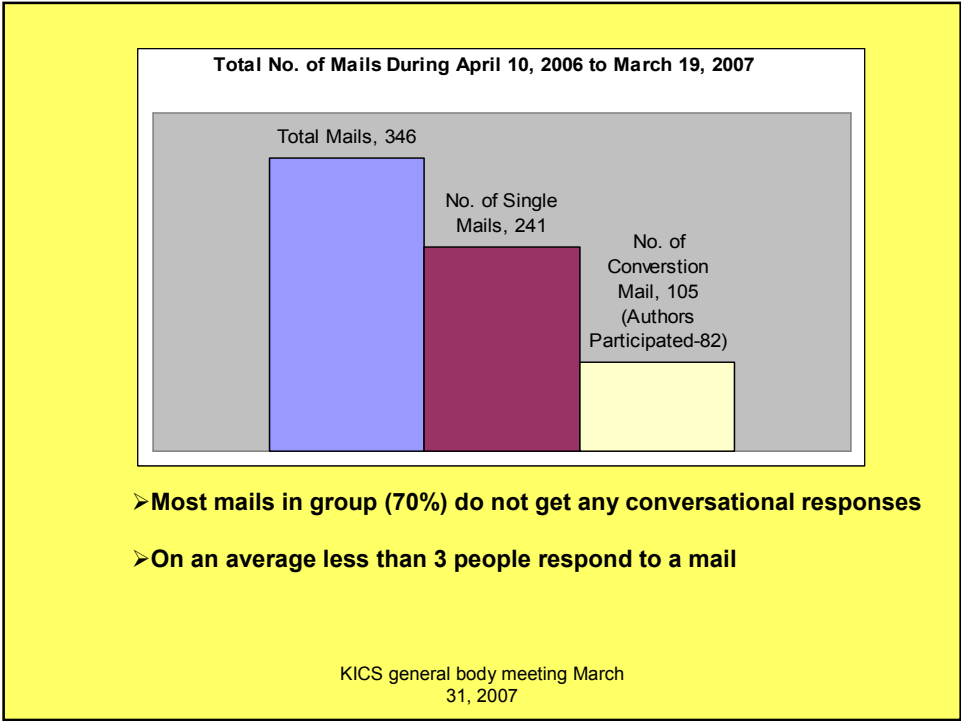


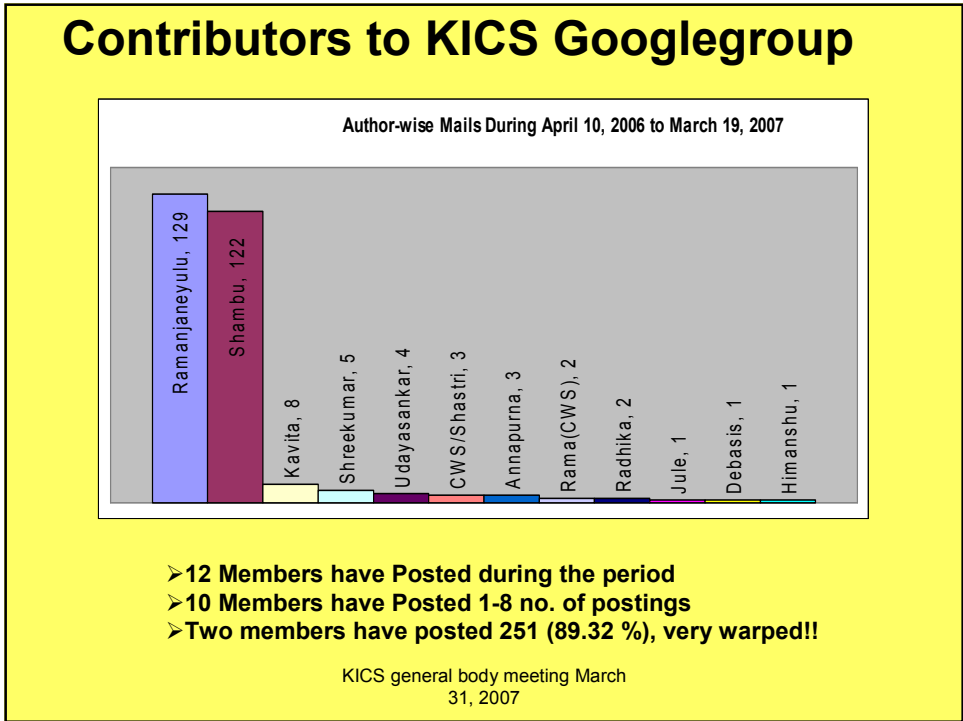
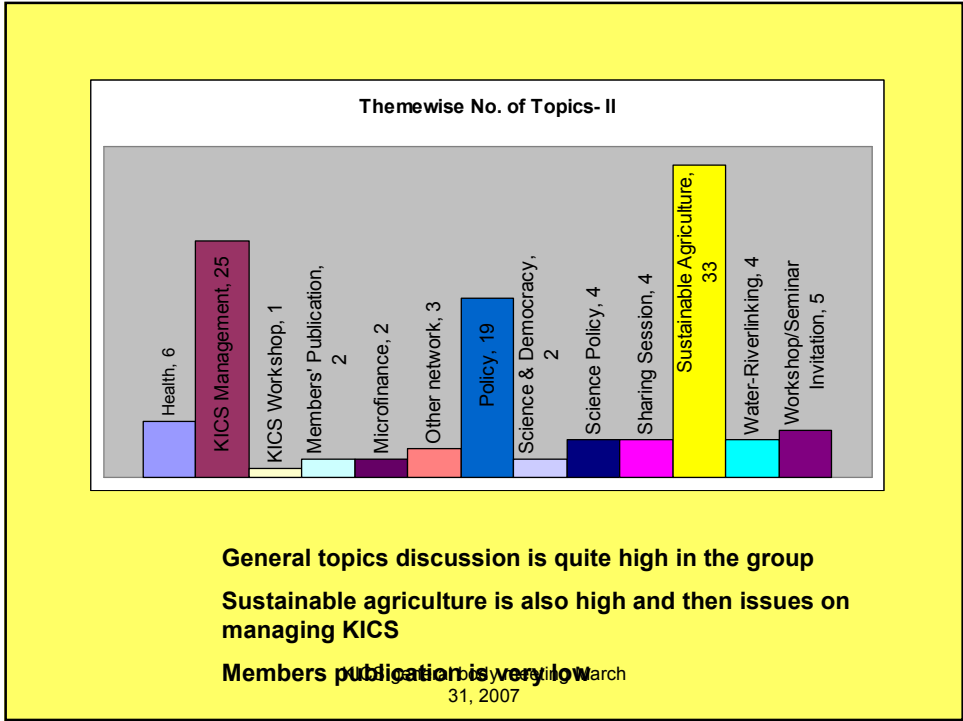
➤ **The Average No. of Topics per Month is 28.83, almost one/day (low activity)**

➤ **peaked this January (63)**

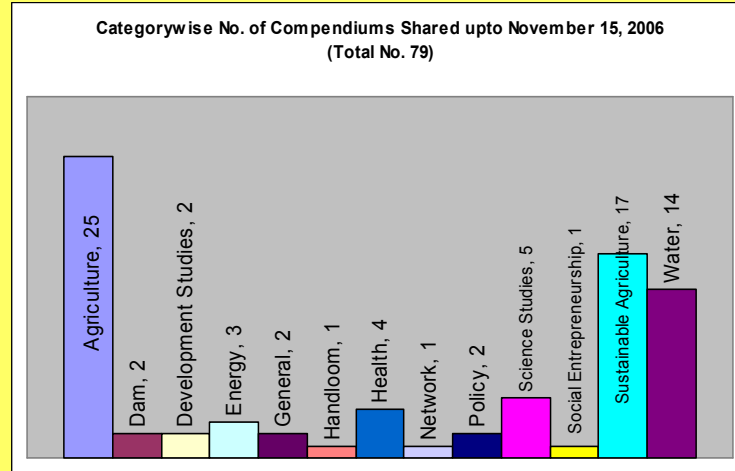
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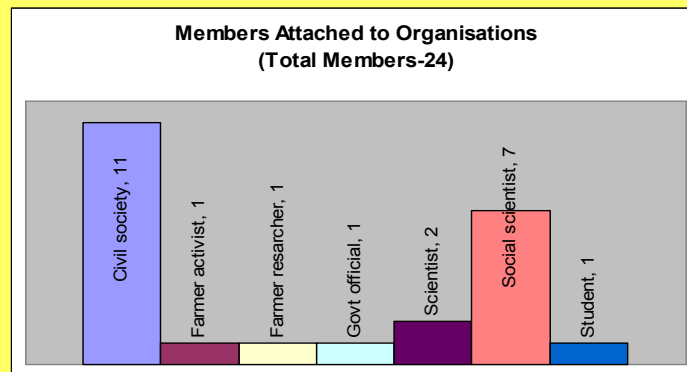


KICS Compendium – Biased towards Sustainable Agriculture



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Sustainable Agriculture subgroup



- **The KICS Sustainable Agriculture Subgroup was Created on 9th June 2006.**

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Implications of KICS googlegroup analysis

- Little sharing and direct conversation among group members – low comfort levels / little to share
- Passive readership
- Conversations happens outside the group
- Clear implications for new members – what is in it for them? Odd bits of info from 1-2 people!! How can new members contribute to the goal of KICS

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Other Activities of the KICS Forum: Sharing Forum

Five talks in 8 months, opportunity based, visits of resource people

Future Plan of action based on the discussions

Short Articles on Sharing Sessions

Any Joint work (Agriculture – Power)

Sharing Session Slate

- a. Gender and Policy (Rukmini)
- b. Alternate education (Vinish/ Pawan Gupta)
- b. Micro Credit (BASIX – Mahajan)
- c. Critique of Integrated Energy Policy
- d. Critique of 11th Plan Approach Paper
- e. Indo-US Nuclear Deal (MV Ramana)

One in 3 months On Saturday or Evening Hour

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Other activities contd

- Workshops – KIA workshop (contribution to debate), RTD workshop (preparing for newer engagements)
- Student programme emerging – important link between academia and civil society, the generation next.
- Flow of students from Netherlands – Claudia (visited in Aug), Julia (here soon), Koen (august-december) Indian students yet to capitalise on opportunities.

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What KICS should do?

- Formulate a science policy for people
- prepare counter research base
- Involve more people, increase constituency
- Greater participation from members and ownership
- Focused sessions with mainstream organisations
- Test ideas with civil society partners
- Sit in intensive workshop mode and plan future work –
- Consolidation as an anthology and commons
- start small group activity across sectors
- Pro-actively explore how academia-grassroot level relation should evolve

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Idea bank / future plans

- RTD study on sustainable agriculture in Orissa – Shambu + ORC +.....
- Institutional analysis of CWC, peoples monograph on tank irrigation – Chitra
- Cross learning workshop – *How do we engage with policy/ 11th Plan approach paper: civil society perspective?* – Shambu +.....
- Workshop on markets – Annapurna
- Local knowledge systems and local markets – Walter Mendoza
- Managing website and helping KICS with its documentation – Walter and CED
 -Any other ideas

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How is KICS managed?

- Tremendous hospitality from CWS and funding
- LOI between CWS and XIM, 16 days of time!
- Two moderators of googlegroup, entry currently restricted.
- Few formal structures – consensus and transparency in decision making
- Need for an executive committee

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Membership thoughts

- Potential newer members not included – Suryakumari, Ram (Samanvaya), Padma Prakash (esocialsciences), John, M V Ramana, Esha Shah
- Views of KICS from outside – civil society groups keen on information and outputs of KICS, strategic space for dialogue with other groups, helps get greater exposure for ideas from other networks
- How to separate information distribution (open), discussion participation (restricted) and management involvement? (*Wiebe Bijker*)

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Criteria for membership - Sastry

- Chosen members should have a role in deciding what goes into the public domain through our instrumentality. *how do students fit in?*
- They should be knowledgeable in some aspects and be willing to give time for this work.
- Since KICS is itself an emerging group, anyone making a request to be a member should be made member, and should be retained as a member for two years. We could also be proactive in developing membership (*what about conflicting roles earlier, can't we look at other ways of participating in KICS activities?*)

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Some thoughts on membership - Shambu

- Nomination from participating members a criteria
- How can the member contribute to KICS objectives or processes?
- Confusing situations – some in subgroup some not (students)
- Misuse or misunderstanding – Mihir Shah episode
- Why do we want to see googlegroup participation as only means of being and learning from KICS?
- Information can be got from website, CDs, participation in projects, workshops, student programmes...
- GBMs / sharing forum can be a way for some to see if they feel they want to be part of open ended processes.

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KICS and CWS – Sastry note

- Bring together civil society groups and in contributing to its health
- Help such groups understand the politics of knowledge and question the establishment's science and technology stances
- Project pro-peoples policies
- It has got to be a long term, close, watch on the establishment by a well-knit network of concerned groups of civil society whose own perspectives would also sharpen through the KICS dialogues.
– *KICS – Supportive or Pro-active role?*

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Way ahead for the dialogue

- Process and dialogue very well – what about products?
- Joint work, policy statements (should we try and outline a few themes) or should that be done later?
- Should KICS be supportive or pro-active?
- What are KICS strengths and blind spots? what additionality does KICS bring to the agenda and my work?
- Sector specific focus
- Editorial team

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