

Knowledge for Development

Observatory on Science, Technology and Innovation for ACP Agricultural and Rural Development

"K4D lets scientists and policymakers express themselves"

May/June 2012 newsletter

Highlighting the latest additions to the site

[Knowledge for Development](#)

Follow us also on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

Stay up-to-date with the [K4D RSS feeds](#)

Don't forget to [register online](#)

[New feature articles](#)

[CTA and S&T](#)

[Developments / Publications](#)

[Events](#)

[Grants & Competitions](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Web resources](#)

New feature articles

Cassava Stem Multiplication Technology: a Viable Option for Industry Development?

By Ekwe Kenneth Chikwado, Research Scientist, National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI) Umudike, Nigeria



The strategic position of cassava in the food and farming systems of millions of rural households, especially in Africa, is highlighted in this article by Ekwe Chikwado, NRCRI, Nigeria. Key issues in cassava agronomy, especially regarding planting materials and productivity per unit area are discussed. The development of improved varieties as well as status and constraints in the cassava seed distribution system in Nigeria are emphasised. Also, development of the technology of rapid multiplication of improved cassava varieties is discussed with special regard to reasons for and processes of the technology's used by farmers.

A case study of the adoption and competence of use among farmers in a cassava-growing location in Southern Nigeria is reported. Essentially, the opportunities and constraints associated with the technology in the agricultural innovation processes of cassava are examined and questions raised as to its suitability for up-scaling, given the challenges in obtaining substantial quantities of roots.

[Click to read the article.](#)

Empowering Biotechnology in Africa through Effective Technology Transfer: the Success Story of Cassava Biotechnology

By Hervé Vanderschuren, Plant Biotechnology Laboratory, Biology Department, ETH Zurich, Switzerland



Average cassava yields in the tropics, barely reach 20% that which can be obtained under optimal crop management systems. Despite the generation of good cassava cultivars and elite lines, introgression of improved traits has remained a tedious and time-consuming task. In this context, genetic transformation emerged as a powerful tool to produce improved cassava in a time-efficient manner. However, production was achieved at low rates of efficiency and only with a cassava cultivar amenable to genetic transformation in well-equipped laboratories.

Transfer of the technology to countries where transgenic cassava will be of practical interest was therefore an important but challenging objective.

Vanderschuren notes that to make transgenic cassava available for Africa, two not mutually exclusive options, are possible: (a) production in laboratories outside Africa and importation of transgenic lines where legislation for genetically modified crops has been implemented; and (b) implementation of the cassava transformation technology in African laboratories. However, promotion and acceptance of transgenic crops will also require local capacity to develop transgenic crops and this is essential for self-determination. Training of local scientists in Africa and education and training of African scientists in laboratories where cassava transformation is routinely performed are therefore essential. He also proposes coupling the implementation of genetic transformation technologies and capacity building with careful selection of public-private R&D partnerships and development of a legal biosafety framework as well as genetically modified (GM) crop regulation. Vanderschuren concludes that sustainable development and adoption of transgenic cassava in Africa cannot occur if these parameters are neglected.

[Click to read the article.](#)

[Back To Top](#)

CTA and S&T

Update on 3rd CTA/FARA/IFS/ANAFE/RUFORUM/NEPAD/AGRA Africa Wide-Women and Young Professionals in Science Competitions

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15617

The 3rd edition Africa-Wide Women and Young Professionals in Science Competitions received an overwhelming number of abstracts which covered a cross section of thematic issues. A total of 316 extended abstracts were received for both competitions; 131 for the Women in Science Competition and 185 for the Young professionals in Science Competition respectively. A comprehensive break down by competition, country, sub region, gender, top countries and language of the extended abstracts received can be downloaded [here](#).

Preliminary screening was done to select abstracts which met the set guide lines of the competitions. At the end of the pre-screening process, 187 abstracts (72 for Women in Science and 115 for Young professionals in Science) were retained for technical evaluation by the expert committee using the established criteria. The panel members are comprising of Judith Ann Francis, CTA; Myra Wopereis-Pura, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA); Prof. Mary Oyiela Abukutsa-Onyango, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology; Dr Maurice Ochieng Bolo, The Scinnovent Centre; Dr Sebastian Chakeredza, ANAFE; Ms Chimwemwe Chamdimba, NEPAD Agency; Dr Wellington Ekaya, RUFORUM; Dr Aster Gebrekirstos Afwork, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg; Dr Nighisty Ghezae, International Foundation for Science (IFS), Prof. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, Centre for Phytotherapy and Research (CEPHYR); Dr Margaret M. Kroma, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). The top fifty semi-finalists will be selected when the expert panel meets at FARA Headquarters, Ghana, 12 -14 July 2012.

The extended abstracts are currently being accessed by the experts and the final decision will be taken on the top 40-50 semi-finalists at the 2nd Expert Meeting which will take place from 12-14 July 2012 at the FARA Headquarters in Ghana. Results on the state of their applications will be communicated to all entrants and semi-finalists on 20 July. We are also monitoring the overall processes to report on the lessons learned and this is being supported by Mrs. Zaina Maimu, Gender Specialist (CTA consultant). We will continue to keep you updated.

Success wishes to those who participated in this edition of the competitions.

Call for Tender and ToR – Limited Market Consultation – Smallholder Dairy Consultancy: Deadline 27 July, 2012

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15681

CTA is seeking a consultant or consultants for undertaking a project which is divided into two lots. **Lot A**, focuses on the *Opportunities to improve the reproductive performance of smallholder dairy cows in Africa*. The primary objective of the project is to undertake a detailed literature review of established practices to assess opportunities to improve the reproductive performance of smallholder dairy cows in the context of sub-Saharan Africa and propose technical options on the feasibility of artificial insemination for development of the smallholder dairy sector. **Lot B** focuses on the *Technical and Economic Evaluation of Oestrus synchronization in Ethiopia*. The primary objective of the project is to undertake a field assignment of not more than two weeks to assess the technical and economic feasibility of oestrus synchronization in smallholder dairy cows kept under Ethiopian conditions to provide guidance for policy and practice. The detailed Terms of Reference and related forms are available [here](#).

Calls for Expression of Interest – Knowledge for Development Website: Deadline 30 August 2012

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15627

The CTA web portal "Knowledge for Development" seeks to put information on science, technology and innovation (ST&I) issues at the fingertips of ACP and EU scientists, policy makers and stakeholders and their international colleagues. It also provides them with a platform to publish lead opinions on critical issues as well as dialogue on relevant ST&I issues in support of agricultural and rural development.

The website is fully operational and bilingual offering content in both English and French. It includes RSS feeds and new social media (Twitter, Facebook). K4D currently operates on the Ezpublish platform and will move to either a Wordpress or Joomla! Platform latest mid-2013. This call for expression of interest is to identify a shortlist of companies/organizations who will be invited to submit a full tender to provide services for **Lot A** – the content management or **Lot B** – the compilation of new folders. The migration to and (re)design in function of this new open source platform is not part of the current request for service, nor is the technical infrastructure or maintenance. Read the full details of the call [here](#).

Upcoming CTA and Partners' Value Chain Conference: Making the Connection

Registration is now open for the 2012 International conference 'Making the connection – value chains for transforming smallholder agriculture'

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15599

Bringing together a 'Who's Who' of the private and public sector agricultural value chain world, this event is not to be missed. Join the impressive line-up of experts in Addis as we discuss how best to incorporate smallholders into value chains and help foster entrepreneurship. Don't miss out! Avail of our special Early Bird Discount.

Register before 31 July and save €100 on the conference price.

For more information, visit <http://makingtheconnection.cta.int/earlybird>.

[Back To Top](#)

Selected developments and publications | [RSS](#)

Transforming innovation for sustainable development and poverty reduction

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15629

New research by the STEPS Centre, the Stockholm Resilience Centre and the Tellus Institute argues that sustainable development goals (SDGs) that keep human societies within a 'safe operating space' requires an approach to innovation that

gives far greater recognition and power to grassroots actors and processes, involving them within an inclusive, multi-scale innovation politics. In this jointly-authored paper, current development goals focussing on one-track scientific solutions to global challenges are seen as failing to respond effectively to the uncertainty and shifting dynamics of today's world, and to the diverse needs of the poor. Research and experiences across the world, in areas like agriculture, water, energy and health, illustrate what the paper suggests are a set of underlying principles that need to guide innovation for sustainability and poverty reduction. Three interlinked dimensions need to be assessed together: Direction, Diversity, and Distribution. ([IDS](#), 13/6/2012)

A sustainability challenge: Food security for all – Report of two workshops

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15633

This is a report of two workshops hosted in 2011 by the National Research Council's Science and Technology for Sustainability Programme (US). The first workshop, Measuring Food Insecurity and Assessing the Sustainability of Global Food Systems, explored the availability and quality of commonly used indicators for food security and malnutrition; poverty; and natural resources and agricultural productivity. It reviewed the existing data to encourage action and identify knowledge gaps. The second workshop, Exploring Sustainable Solutions for Increasing Global Food Supplies, focused specifically on assuring the availability of adequate food supplies. Workshop objectives included identifying the major challenges and opportunities associated with achieving sustainable food security and identifying needed policy, science, and governance interventions.

([NAP](#), 5/2012)

Agricultural Research in Africa: Why CAADP should follow IAASTD

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15635

A [new briefing paper](#) from APRODEV and PELUM Association analyses the agricultural research policies of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the extent to which they address the needs of marginalised smallholder farmers. CAADP has a huge opportunity to promote good agricultural research by following the findings of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD). However, CAADP is largely not following the IAASTD roadmap. The paper highlights five key problems with CAADP's policies and practices namely; (1) African governments are ignoring their CAADP commitment set in 2003, (2) Women are largely ignored in CAADP country programmes' and other agriculture strategies, (3) CAADP is promoting a farming model which comes at the expense of promoting sustainable agriculture approaches which are likely to benefit poor farmers much more, (4) CAADP's lead partner in agricultural research, The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), has taken a lopsided stance on GMOs and advocates strong IPR regimes that threaten farmers' rights to retain and exchange their traditional seeds, (5) Smallholder farmers, especially women, are being insufficiently consulted in the design of agricultural research policies.

([PAEPARD](#), 9/6/2012)

A new alliance for food security, or a two-track Africa?

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15638

In his blog, Ian Scoones of the Future Agriculture Consortium asks: will the initiative really deal with the underlying political economic conditions that keep people poor? Or will the alliance create a two-track Africa instead, dividing those able to benefit from private investment and neoliberal policy from those who lose out? Scoones argues that the alliance 'fails to address the wider political and institutional questions and the needs and priorities of many of the region's people'.

([FAC](#) via [IDS](#), 24/5/2012)

Research4Life greatly expands peer reviewed research available to developing world

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15641

Over 7 000 Elsevier books are now accessible through HINARI, AGORA, OARE, and ARDI. Research4Life partners announced that the content available through its collaborative public-private partnership has increased since 2011 to reach 17 000 peer reviewed scientific journals, books and databases. Research4Life provides over 6 000 institutions in more than 100 developing countries with free or low cost access to peer-reviewed online content from the world's leading scientific, technical and medical publishers. The inclusion of Elsevier's entire SciVerse ScienceDirect ebook collection follows the publisher's incremental contributions of 1 700 clinical and science and technology books in 2011. Elsevier also makes available over 2,000 electronic journals and SciVerse Scopus, an abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature with over 19,500 titles from 5,000 publishers. ([R4L](#), 16/5/2012)

ASARECA stakeholders call for new agricultural universities

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15644

Countries under the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), should establish a new generation of innovation-oriented agricultural universities to help integrate research, training and extension services. This was one of the key recommendations at the close of the first General Assembly of the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), held in Entebbe, Uganda from 14-16 December, 2011. The General Assembly agreed to foster partnerships within individual countries and across the region, including closer collaboration between research, training and extension service providers, and more private sector engagement in commercialising research outputs. According to the recommendations, the new universities should be anchored in ministries of agriculture and linked with other ministries such as education, environment, water and transport. It is perceived that this could eradicate the disconnection between National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs) and training in various faculties

of agriculture at existing universities. ([ASARECA](#), 5/2012)

Global council aims to coordinate science

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15647

International research collaborations are multiplying fast, but not all national funding agencies manage their science in the same way which can hamper projects that span borders. To tackle the problem, a voluntary forum, the Global Research Council (GRC), has been formed to share best practice and encourage common principles. Early May 2012, the leaders of about 50 national research-funding agencies met at the headquarters of the US National Science Foundation (NSF) to discuss the GRC's agenda: issues such as peer review, data sharing, research integrity, open access, career development and ethical conduct in research on humans. ([Nature News](#), 21/5/2012)

Discipline-Based Education Research: Understanding and Improving Learning in Undergraduate Science and Engineering

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15650

The National Science Foundation funded a synthesis study on the status, contributions, and future direction of discipline-based education research (DBER) in physics, biological sciences, geosciences, and chemistry. DBER combines knowledge of teaching and learning with deep knowledge of discipline-specific science content. It describes the discipline-specific difficulties learners face and the specialized intellectual and instructional resources that can facilitate student understanding. Discipline-Based Education Research is based on a 30-month study built on two workshops held in 2008 to explore evidence on promising practices in undergraduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. [This book](#) asks questions that are essential to advancing DBER and broadening its impact on undergraduate science teaching and learning. The book provides empirical research on undergraduate teaching and learning in the sciences, explores the extent to which this research currently influences undergraduate instruction, and identifies the intellectual and material resources required to further develop DBER.

On being a scientist: A guide to responsible conduct in research (3rd edition)

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15653

The scientific research enterprise is built on a foundation of trust. Scientists trust that the results reported by others are valid. Society trusts that the results of research reflect an honest attempt by scientists to describe the world accurately and without bias. But this trust will endure only if the scientific community devotes itself to exemplifying and transmitting the values associated with ethical scientific conduct. [This book](#) was designed to supplement the informal lessons in ethics provided by research supervisors and mentors. It describes the ethical foundations of scientific practices and some of the personal and professional issues that researchers encounter in their work. It applies to all forms of research – whether in academic, industrial, or governmental settings – and to all scientific disciplines. A continuing feature of this edition is the inclusion of a number of hypothetical scenarios offering guidance in thinking about and discussing these scenarios.

African MSc students' work published in the *African Crop Science Journal*

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15656

African MSc students funded through the SCARDA project, with assistance from RUFORUM, have had fifteen research papers published in a Special Issue of the *African Crop Science Journal*. SCARDA (Strengthening Capacity for Agricultural Research and Development in Africa) was a 4-year project that ended in December 2010. ([NRI](#), 25/5/2012)

CIRAD/INRA Ethical guidelines for partnerships

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15662

Partnerships, which are a founding principle for many institutional research centres, are covered by a recent statement by the CIRAD-INRA Joint Consultative Committee on Ethics in Agricultural Research. The statement presents a partnership approach centring on reflexion and debate, and encourages the development of an ethical frame of mind by providing guidelines. It also makes recommendations for the different stakeholders in partnerships. ([CIRAD](#), 14/6/2012)

Agricultural Research Service Scientists Forum signs the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15664

The Agricultural Research Service Scientists Forum (ARSSF) had signed the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities on 18th May 2012 in response to the call to action given by the Berlin 10 conference. The ARSSF is the first association of agricultural scientists in the world to sign the Declaration and it stands third in India after the Indian National Science Academy and the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Association of India who had signed the Declaration during earlier conferences. An example to follow. For those institutes in the world which don't have any online institutional repository for sharing their research outputs, the ([OpenDepot.org](#) established by The University of Edinburgh comes highly recommended. ([AIMS](#), 6/6/2012)

Higher education in Southern Africa: trends, challenges and recommendations

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15667

This article is part of a paper, 'Higher Education in the Southern African Region: Current trends, challenges, and recommendations', presented at an extraordinary meeting of education ministers held in Johannesburg June 2012 as a

contribution to the development of a regional strategic plan for revitalising and strengthening higher education in SADC. Conducted by the Southern African Regional Universities Association, SARUA, the research and consultations held with higher education leaders and policy-makers throughout the region have produced a number of findings, insights and recommendations for revitalising and strengthening higher education in SADC countries. These were crystallised into 10 strategies for expanding and transforming higher education, along with recommendations for education ministers. Some of which include (1) Scale up and modernise the higher education system through ICT infrastructure (2) Increase the effectiveness of higher education planning (3) Increase mobility of staff and students across the region. More of these can be read via the link below. ([University World News](#), 10/6/2012)

New regional research centre develops courses on climate change

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15670

The newly established Namibia-based Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Use, SASSCAL, is working with higher education institutions across the region to develop new postgraduate courses in the field of climate change. Peter Erb, one of two SASSCAL national programme directors, told *University World News* that the courses, to be offered at master's level, would boost efforts to build the capacity of Southern African countries to mitigate or adapt to the impacts of climate change. SASSCAL works with institutions in Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia. It was initiated by the German government, and is one of two regional science service centres funded by Germany in Africa, the other one being in West Africa. ([University World News](#), 14/6/2012)

[Back To Top](#)

Releasing the Pressure: Water Resource Efficiencies and Gains for Ecosystem Services

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15673

This report by UNEP and SEI discusses the need to balance short-term water productivity gains, particularly in agriculture, with water flows' long-term role in maintaining sustainable landscape ecosystem services and supporting human well-being. The report outlines 10 key messages on the nexus of water productivity, water flows in landscapes and ecosystem services, and illustrates them with case studies. It is geared to practitioners in the areas of planning and management of agriculture, planning of land-use, forestry, biofuels, and water, and natural resource management. The goal is to encourage practitioners to begin exploring what types of ecosystem services gains and trade-offs exist in their local context, such as watersheds, landscapes, countries, or basins, and how they may be linked to the allocation of water. ([SEI](#) via [EcoAgriculture Blog](#), 28/5/2012)

Good news on using recycled sewage treatment plant water for irrigating crops

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15678

A new study eases concerns that irrigating crops with water released from sewage treatment plants – an increasingly common practice in arid areas of the world – fosters emergence of the antibiotic-resistant bacteria that cause thousands of serious infections each year. Arid and semi-arid areas of the world are plagued by severe water shortages, which are expected to increase as a result of growing population and global climate change. As a result, more areas are turning to treated wastewater (TWW) to irrigate croplands. In Israel, for instance, TWW provides more than half of the water used for irrigation. The researchers wanted to find out if long-term irrigation with treated wastewater enhances antibiotic resistance in soil microbial communities, which could potentially be transferred through agricultural produce to clinically relevant bacteria. The authors found that levels of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and genes for antibiotic resistance in fields and orchards irrigated with freshwater and TWW were essentially identical, suggesting that antibiotic-resistant bacteria that enter soil by irrigation are not able to survive or compete in that environment. The authors say there is 'cause for cautious optimism' that irrigating with TWW is not increasing the prevalence of bacteria resistant to the antibiotics they studied. ([EurekAlert](#), 13/6/2012)

Fisheries science falls foul of privacy rules

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15682

EU Scientists warn that European restrictions on personal data endanger marine research and sustainability. A little-noticed tweak to one of the EU's many rules and regulations is leaving fisheries scientists struggling to access vital data. The rule change means that raw data from devices used to monitor fishing vessels are no longer available to some scientists. This information is vital for proper, scientifically based management of Europe's troubled fish stocks. At the heart of the problem is information from devices called Vessel Monitoring Systems, which are attached to many fishing boats to record their position, direction and speed. From these data, the boats' fishing patterns can be reconstructed, allowing researchers to assess fishing activity and, for example, examine the environmental impact on specific areas. In 2009 a new EC rule was brought in, restricting who could access what data within the EU. This rule took some time to filter through but it is now becoming apparent that the very detailed fisheries data needed by some academics are no longer available. ([Nature News](#), 6/6/2012)

The potential of nutrient-rich small fish species in aquaculture to improve human nutrition and health

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15685

This paper from the WorldFish Centre examines the potential of small fish in fighting hidden hunger. Small fish are a common food and an integral part of the everyday diets of many population groups in poor countries. These populations also suffer from undernutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies (the hidden hunger). Studies in rural Bangladesh and Cambodia showed that small fish made up 50-80% of total fish intake in the peak fish production season. Small fish are a preferred food, supplying multiple essential nutrients and with positive perceptions for nutrition, health and well-being. As many small fish species are eaten whole, they are particularly rich in calcium, and some are also rich in vitamin A, iron and zinc. In areas with fisheries resources and habitual fish intake, there is good scope to include micronutrient-rich small fish in agricultural policy and programmes, thereby increasing intakes which can lead to improved nutrition and health. ([WorldFish Centre](#), 5/2012)

Opportunities for the development of the Pacific islands' mariculture sector: report to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15689

This overview report, compiled in November 2011 for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, addresses opportunities for the development of the Pacific Islands' mariculture sector in general terms. More specific analysis of opportunity in particular countries is presented in the five accompanying country reports (Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Solomon Islands). One conclusion states: 'Despite substantial efforts and large injections of research and development (R&D) finance, mariculture development in Pacific Island nations has been very limited. This is explained by the nature of mariculture, the manner in which mariculture has been promoted, and a range of more specific practical and economic constraints. Lessons have not been learned. In particular some R&D organisations and government fisheries departments have repeatedly promoted development trials without undertaking the most basic analysis of production and marketing costs. Risks have not been assessed, and there has been a failure to compare objectively mariculture with existing and other potential income generating activities. As a result many small communities have served as guinea pigs for the testing of ambitious, technically driven and in many cases naïve projects.' ([SPC](#), 3/2012)

A rebound for 6 fish populations in US waters

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15691

Six populations of fish returned to healthy levels in 2011, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported early May. NOAA's Fisheries Service said the count showed that controversial and often unpopular catch limits imposed by the government have been working. Among the rebuilt populations are the Bering Sea snow crab, the summer flounder on the mid-Atlantic coast, the haddock in the Gulf of Maine, the Chinook salmon along the Northern California coast, the coho salmon off Washington State and the Pacific widow rockfish. NOAA must report annually on the state of fish stocks in waters within 200 miles of the coast, and depleted stocks must be rebuilt to healthy levels. Scores of fish species have been in serious decline since the 1980s, largely because of overfishing. Altogether, 27 fish stocks have been returned to health in the last 11 years, the agency said. The recovery is proof that catch limits and stocks monitoring can tone down overfishing and help replenish fish populations. ([NYT](#) via [e360](#), 14/5/2012)

Fisheries forensics to tackle seafood fraud

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15693

Media attention to mislabelled seafood is helping bring the scale of illegal and unregulated fishing to consumers' attention. Bangor University and University of Salford scientists explain how genetic tools can promote sustainability and make sure the fish we buy is what it says on the label. The authors also look at so-called IUU fishing (illegal, unreported and unregulated), which is not included in stock assessment and examine the consequence of unidentifiable marketed fish (that leads to fraud or mislabelling). The illegal substitution of one species for another is best tackled by a method known as 'COI barcoding', a process that works by analysing the 600 base-pair sequence of the mitochondrial DNA cytochrome c oxidase I gene. DNA results from fish samples can be matched against the Barcode of Life Data system (www.boldsystems.org) which currently contains the DNA sequences of nearly a third of known fish species. The method is cost-effective and reliable. Virtually any product advertised or sold as a particular species, anywhere in the world, can be verified unequivocally using a COI barcoding test. ([NERC Planet Earth Online](#), 1/6/2012)

International standards for trade in nano-coated produce?

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15696

This in-depth article from the Institute for agriculture and trade policy (IATP, US) looks at the use of nanotechnology-based food products and food packing materials in international agricultural commodity trade. It specifically focuses on the regulation of the use of agri-nanotechnology in the marketplace. The author, Dr Steve Suppan, gives extensive overviews of recent advancement, definition debates and regulation voids, among others. For example, he explains the debate surrounding the definition and use Engineered Nanoscale Materials (ENMs). Here, an abstract: 'The manipulation of atomic-to molecular-sized nanoparticles (NPs) has many commercially attractive properties for manufacturers of consumer and industrial products. For example, more than a decade of research on the incorporation of ENMs into packaging for food has identified a number of applications to extend the shelf-life of packaged foods, and even detect contamination of packaged food. Food nanocoatings are just one of several food packaging applications of nanotechnology in research and development.' ([IATP](#), 8/5/2012)

First GM tropical maize in Africa; how far, how soon?

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15699

The announcement at the close of 2011 of the successful transformation of nine transgenic maize lines by scientists funded and coordinated by ASARECA has generated excitement across the continent. Plants transformed with drought tolerance genes show more tolerance to water deficiency, and some of the genes once incorporated into the maize genome are capable of helping maize to return to full recovery after completely drying up. The plants can wither but can get back to life on rehydration by rain or irrigation after 24-72 hours. The nine lines; two Ethiopian lines, three Kenyan lines, two Sudanese lines, and two Tanzanian lines, are due to undergo further scientific testing before they start the journey into the uptake pathways to the ultimate destination – the farmers plate. ([ASARECA](#), 5/2012)

High-tech tools may help small grains breeders 'see' valuable plant traits faster

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15703

Two tools from industry are being applied to the small grains breeding programme by a Texas AgriLife Research team to help identify valuable drought-resistance traits in wheat faster and less intrusively than with normal practices. The study is looking at below- and above-ground traits using high-throughput phenotyping or characterization technologies. The goal is to differentiate types of plants with the aim of identifying traits that give the breeding line an advantage when it comes to drought resistance. Thompson's project is using both ground-penetrating radar and terrestrial laser-scanning tools to look at traits never before examined. This remote-sensing technology has been used to look at crop-water availability, but not to look directly at agricultural plant populations. The team believes they can adapt it so that for the first time, they will be able to look at the roots of wheat as it is growing in the field. ([EurekAlert](#), 1/6/2012)

The Global Forest Disturbance Alert System (GloF-DAS)

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15706

GloF-DAS is based on a new product derived from satellite data from NASA's Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS). The product, developed at NASA Ames Research Centre by the Carnegie-Ames-Stanford Approach (CASA) ecosystem modelling team, is based on comparison of MODIS global vegetation index images at the exact same time period each year in consecutive years. It registers change when more than 40 % of a five-by-five km forest area has lost greenness over the previous 12 months. Seasonal variation is generally mitigated through the product's quarterly baseline. GloF-DAS could help users detect deforestation shortly after it occurs, offering the potential to take measures to investigate clearing before it expands. ([Mongabay](#) via [Agro.biodiver.se](#), 31/5/2012)

Innovative greenhouse for Western Kenya launched

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15710

The Kenya Horticultural Competitive Programme (KHCP) has partnered with Good Neighbours Initiative to come up with locally improvised greenhouse in Western Kenya region. The partnership heralds what could be a major paradigm shift from open pollinated farming to hybrid high-yielding technique for improved income generation, crop production and self reliance in food security. The Kenya Horticultural Competitive Programme field officer Henry Nyamato says controlled climate in the greenhouse (ranging from 21-29) for tropical crops records high yield and uniform maturity with over 90% yield assured. ([ASNS](#), 5/6/2012)

Fit for business: African Organic Agriculture Training Manual

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15713

Switzerland's Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) has published the African Organic Agriculture Training Manual. FiBL and partners from the African organic movement have created an illustrated training manual and a comprehensive online directory of organic agriculture in Africa to support smallholder farmers in implementing organic farming techniques, improving sustainability of agricultural production and increasing market opportunities. The partners include the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), the African National Organic Agriculture Movement (NOAMs) and agricultural experts from across Africa. ([FiBL](#), 16/2/2012)

European project OrganicDataNetwork to improve organic market data

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15715

Key figures about the development of the organic sector are decisive for policy maker and market actors and as a basis for new investment decisions into the organic industry. In the past, most European countries have suffered from insufficient good quality data about the organic market. To create a new basis for consistent market figures, the EU has granted funds for a new research project called 'Data network for better European organic market information' (OrganicDataNetwork). ([FiBL](#), 4/2012)

Herbicide-resistant weeds: current challenges, new tools

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15718

The ongoing evolution of herbicide-resistant weeds is a source of worry in the US, said University of Illinois professor of molecular weed science Patrick Tranel. Recent examples in the state of Illinois include biotypes of waterhemp (*Amaranthus tuberculatus*), Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*), and horseweed (also known as marestail or *Conyza canadensis*) resistant to glyphosate; a waterhemp biotype resistant to HPPD inhibitors; and waterhemp populations/biotypes that display multiple resistance to herbicides spanning several site-of-action groups. Survey data suggest that the majority of waterhemp populations now exhibit multiple-herbicide resistance. When glyphosate-resistant crops were introduced, their initial success caused many weed-management practitioners to stop worrying about herbicide-resistant weeds. Now the increasing occurrence of glyphosate resistance has caused those concerns to be revived and research to find new weed-management tools to be revitalized. ([UoI Dept. of Crop Science](#), 12/6/2012)

New technique used to discover new viruses in poultry

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15721

In a search to find better ways to control viral enteric diseases in birds, US Department of Agriculture (USDA) scientists have unearthed a treasure trove of previously known and unknown viruses in poultry by using a powerful new molecular tool called metagenomics. Each year, disorders like poult enteritis mortality syndrome, poult enteritis complex, and runting-stunting syndrome cause diarrhoea in turkeys and chickens, resulting in decreased weight, mortality and increased production costs. Metagenomics detects the nucleic acid of thousands of organisms in an entire community. Using this technique, researchers at USDA Agricultural Research Service discovered a new virus that might have future antimicrobial applications. ([AllAboutFeed](#), 5/6/2012)

Alternatives to antibiotics in animal health

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15725

Avian immunologist Hyun Lillehoj, at the ARS Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Centre (BARC, Maryland, US), has devoted her career to developing alternative-to-antibiotics strategies to control infectious diseases in poultry. Through partnerships with industry, international scientists, and colleagues in the BARC Animal Parasitic Diseases Laboratory, Lillehoj has demonstrated the effectiveness of using food supplements and probiotics, molecules produced by cells of the immune system, and phytonutrients to fight poultry diseases like *coccidiosis* – a parasitic disease that causes annual losses of more than US\$ 600 million in the United States and US\$ 3.2 billion worldwide. Lillehoj is now applying similar technology to develop alternatives to treat enteric (intestinal) bacterial infections caused by *clostridium*, a pathogen associated with necrotic enteritis in poultry. ([AllAboutFeed](#), 5/6/2012)

Study highlights food risk hotspots

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15729

The poorest societies may be more able to adapt to the threat climate change poses to food supplies than their slightly richer peers, a new study suggests. We might assume getting richer would always make a country safer from drought and famine, but that turns out not to be the case. Instead, the very poorest countries seem to become more vulnerable in the early stages of a transition to modern agriculture. There's a crucial period before the benefits of modernisation start to kick in, during which they are more vulnerable to problems like drought than when they started. For example, switching from pastoral farming to settled agriculture can bring benefits to local people in the long-term, once they can introduce new techniques like higher-yielding, drought-resistant crops and modern machinery. But these need investment to work, and it takes time for poor farmers to build up the necessary capital. In the meantime, most land has been parcelled up into private plots and is now crisscrossed by fences, so people can no longer respond to drought as their pastoralist ancestors would have – by simply moving their herds somewhere with more water. ([NERC Planet Earth Online](#), 1/6/2012)

Learning and Innovation in Agri-Export Industries

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15734

In many developing countries, the contribution of small scale farmers to the high value cut flower export business has been minimal and on the decline. In [this book](#), Dr Maurice Bolo examines the role of partnerships between farmers and exporters in building farmers' innovation capabilities. The book applies the lenses of innovation systems and value chain analysis to examine how institutions, power dynamics and governance patterns influence the opportunities for interactions, learning and innovation within these partnerships.

New upland rice variety now available to growers in the highlands of Madagascar

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15737

The new rice variety is the fruit of a partnership between FOFIFA (The Island's national centre for rural development) and CIRAD, and is tailored to the agro-climatic conditions in the region. In particular, it is tolerant of the cold temperatures over 1200 m above sea level. Varietal creation needs to continue, to support this development and broaden the range of available varieties so as to ensure the sustainability of high-altitude upland rice production by taking on board several objectives such as resistance to rice blast fungus, nitrogen uptake efficiency, diversification of grain quality, cold tolerance and adaptation to farming systems developed as part of a conservation agriculture strategy. ([CIRAD](#), 13/06/2012)

Food quality changes and implications: Evidence from the rice value chain of Bangladesh

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15740

In Bangladesh, where rice accounts for almost 70% of consumers' caloric intake, the share of the less expensive coarse rice is shown to be rapidly decreasing in rice markets and the quality premium for the fine rice has been consistently on the rise in the last decades. It thus seems that the role of rice as only a cheap staple food is being redefined. The increasing demand for the more expensive varieties is seemingly associated with a more important off-farm food sector – in particular, milling, retailing, and branding – as well as a transformed milling industry. Research further found that the labour rewards for growing different rice varieties are not significantly different and that farmers do not benefit directly from consumers' increased willingness to pay for rice. (From the [2012 Conference of the International Association of Agricultural Economists](#).)

The political economy of cereal seed systems in Africa's green revolution

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15816

Drawing on lessons from case studies from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Zimbabwe conducted by the Future Agricultures Consortium during 2009-11, this [Policy Brief](#) assesses the political economy of cereal seed system research and development programmes and processes across Sub-Saharan Africa. By examining the contrasting politics and different configurations of interests affecting the way cereal seeds are produced and delivered in these countries, it identifies opportunities for reshaping the terms of the debate and opening up alternative pathways towards more sustainable and socially just seed systems. An [IDS bulletin](#) has also featured [FAC work on the political economy of seed systems in Africa](#). (FAC, 3/2012)

New tool generates future weather data crop and climate planning

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15742

The CGIAR Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security has been improving on the MarkSimGCM stochastic weather generator tool. MarkSim GCM lets the user generate plausible weather data for future climates, using models and scenarios from the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report. The new tool, Marksim_Standalone, is a development of the MarkSimGCM web application. It is designed for computer users who need to process a lot of data without the need for a user interface. The tool can generate multiple realisations of years of daily data: rainfall, maximum and minimum temperatures and solar radiation. It produces weather files that are fully compatible with the Decision Support System for Agrotechnology Transfer (DSSAT) crop modelling system. ([CCAFS](#), 5//2012)

The Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA)

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15745

The Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation ([PROVIA](#)) is a global initiative by UNEP, UNESCO and WMO which aims to provide direction and coherence at the international level for research on vulnerability, impacts and adaptation (VIA). Launched with the support of leading scientists and decision-makers, PROVIA responds to the urgent call by the scientific community for a more cohesive and coordinated approach, and the critical need to harmonize, mobilize, and communicate the growing knowledge-base on VIA. To this end, PROVIA will act as a new and growing network of scientists, practitioners and decision-makers working towards identifying research gaps and meeting policy needs in climate change vulnerability, impact and adaptation research. Acknowledging emerging policy strategies, new scientific developments and lessons learnt from past programmes, PROVIA promises to deliver, in collaboration with its implementing partners, improved coordination of international research on the impacts of and responses to climate change, and provide the credible scientific information that is being increasingly requested by the world's decision makers.

The political economy of funding agricultural R&D in Papua New Guinea: A case study

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15747

Adequate and reliable funding of agricultural R&D is critical for sustaining research activities. A breakdown in funding arrangements can be detrimental to the long-term existence of R&D organisation/systems. Presented at the 2002 Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society Conference, [this paper](#) first reviews the trends in funding arrangements for agricultural R&D in Papua New Guinea (PNG) in the late 1990s. Second, the paper explores the extent to which political influence affects funding arrangements for agricultural R&D in PNG in terms of a case study. Third, with insights from the case study, which are alleged to reflect the general nature of the way agricultural R&D has been funded in PNG, implications are assessed and suggestions are made about the need to diversify funding sources away from avenues that are dependent directly on political influence.

Agricultural aid and tech breakthroughs: pull funding for smallholder productivity

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15749

'Pull mechanisms' are not a silver bullet, but some donors see them as a tool to address this particular intersection of problems – stimulating innovation, pulling in the private sector, and making aid delivery more effective by paying for outcomes rather than inputs. An earlier paper (Elliott 2010) reviewed the market failures that inhibit socially optimal levels of research and development – in developing countries in general and in developing-country agriculture specifically – and the factors involved in choosing between push and pull mechanisms. The focus here is on factors to be considered when choosing among pull mechanisms and on what the limited experience with pull mechanisms can tell us about the potential utility of these instruments. The experience so far suggests that donors remain more comfortable with traditional ways of funding research and development from the top down and are still cautious about using new mechanisms that provide more space for innovation from the bottom up. ([CGD](#), 4/6/2012)

Phytosanitary Resources website

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15751

The Phytosanitary Resources website is hosted and provided by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). At [Phytosanitary.info](#), practitioners can find and contribute phytosanitary technical resources from and to the world's plant protection community. The IPPC Secretariat encourages contributions in any language from anyone in the world working in the field of plant protection including IPPC Contracting Parties, Regional Plant Protection Organisations and other relevant organisations.

Traditional crop varietal diversity used to reduce pest and disease damage

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15753

Much of the world's annual harvest loss to pests and diseases occurs as a consequence of crops grown in monocultures, or cultivated varieties with uniform resistance. This uniform resistance is met by the continuing evolution of new races of pests and pathogens that are able to overcome resistance genes introduced by modern breeding, creating the phenomenon of boom and bust cycles. One of the few assets available to small-scale farmers in developing countries to reduce pests and disease damage is their local crop varietal diversity, together with the knowledge to manage and deploy this diversity appropriately. By performing cross-site on-farm experiments, it was possible to identify traditional varieties with higher resistance to pest and diseases when grown outside their home sites. Increased diversity of crop varieties, measured by number of varieties (richness) and their evenness of distribution, corresponded to a decrease in the average damage levels across sites and to a reduction of variance of disease damage. In sites with higher disease incidence, households with higher levels of diversity in their production systems had less damage to their standing crop in the field compared to sites with lower disease incidence. The results support what might be expected of a risk-minimizing strategy for use of diversity to reduce pest and disease damage. ([ScienceDirect](#), 19/3/2012)

Samoan breadfruit makes a splash in the Caribbean

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15757

IPS reports on an effort by nonprofits and NGOs aimed at introducing the Samoan breadfruit variety to the Caribbean. Breadfruit, a staple in the Pacific Islands for thousands of years, has been popular in the Caribbean for over 200 years. What's different about the trees being introduced this time around is that they are a Samoan variety called Ma'afala, previously unknown in this part of the world. Ma'afala was selected as optimal for mass propagation and distribution because it has the highest protein and mineral nutrition (iron, potassium, zinc) of 94 varieties studied, and is widely considered one of the tastiest of varieties. All the Ma'afala grown and distributed in the Caribbean today originates from the collection at the Breadfruit Institute, part of the Hawaii-based National Tropical Botanical Garden. ([IPS](#), 7/6/2012)

[Back To Top](#)

Events | [RSS](#)

Science and Technology Policy Research Conference

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15621

Dates: 5 – 10 August 2012

Venue: Waterville Valley Resort, Waterville Valley, New Hampshire, USA

The 2012 Gordon Research Conference on Science and Technology Policy will delve deeply into how the questions and answers of science and technology policy need to change in response to international developments. The 2012 GRC on Science and Technology Policy will also offer for the first time a Gordon Research Seminar organized along the theme of the symposium, which will be held immediately preceding the GRC on Science and Technology Policy. Junior investigators, such as students, post-docs, and trainees, are encouraged to attend.

The Caribbean Youth Science Forum (CYSF)

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15620

Date: 5 – 12 August 2012

Venue: UWI St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad

The Caribbean Youth Science Forum (CYSF) is a regional event that brings together over 200 sixth form science students from the Caribbean for a full week of educational, social and cultural activities. The Forum seeks to: develop innovative informal approaches and strategies to strengthen Science & Technology education in the region; foster cooperation among Caribbean countries in Science & Technology popularisation; encourage the pursuit of careers in Science and Technology; promote interaction with regional and international scientists; develop lasting friendships with students in other countries.

Training Course on Value Chain Research on Neglected and Underutilized species

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15601

Date: 24 – 28 September 2012

Venue: Ghana

A Training Course on Value Chain Research on Neglected and Underutilized species, will be held in Ghana on 24-28 September, 2012. This is organized by Bioversity International, the Plant Genetic Resources Research Institute, Ghana and the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM). The course targets young scientists from Benin, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal.

Second international conference on Biotechnology in Africa: Science and regulation

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15618

Date: May 2013

Venue: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The goal of this conference is to foster technological transfer in Africa, initiate and facilitate scholars and scientist exchange and short term trainings programme – between African scientists and the rest of the world – and to create a platform for agricultural dialogue and partnership between Sub-saharan universities/institutes and US universities/institutes; and to provide policy advice aimed at supporting policy and institutional reforms at the national and regional levels. Organizing partners include the African Union, FARA, RUFORUM and ASARECA. Jeffrey Sachs and Calestous Juma are among the invited speakers. Also, opportunities for sponsorship.

11th African Crop Science Society conference 2013

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15619

Date: 14 – 17 October 2013

Venue: : Yaounde, Cameroon

The theme of the 11th ACSS conference is 'Sowing innovation for sustainable African crops production to meet food security under climate change'. The conference will have a four-day programme of events, which will include several scientific and technical sessions. There will also be special sessions, such as (urban and peri-urban agriculture) which may include workshops, symposia, short courses, and round table discussions. The conference will emphasize the role of research and indigenous African crops on providing for new and improved livelihood opportunities for farmers in Africa, which will impact on their income generation and food security.

Grants, Competitions and Calls | [RSS](#)

New Science Master programme in food and agro-processing technology at the University of the West Indies

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15579

Application deadline: 31 July 2012

The Master of Science in Food and Agro-Processing Technology (M.Sc. FAPT) is a professional programme designed to produce highly skilled technical graduates who are on the cutting edge of innovation in the food and agro-processing sectors. With the support of internationally recognized faculty, graduates will gain a competitive advantage for employment in both the private and public sectors. Special emphasis has been placed on the Processed Food Value Chain in the design of this programme and the integration of the core courses therein. The programme is hosted by the Department of Chemistry, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica.

Call for Proposals: Land grabs and food sovereignty in Africa

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15580

Deadline: 31 August 2012

The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) is launching a call for proposal for all interested researchers and academics in its Multinational Working Group (MWG) on a theme titled: 'Land grabs and food sovereignty in Africa'. Sub-themes include: Remaking the maps of food production and distribution in Africa; Transnational agricultural investments and the human rights to food in Africa; and Biofuel production, global warming and climate change in Africa.

Exxaro-University of Pretoria Programme for Business and Biodiversity Leadership: master's and PhD bursaries / fellowships

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15582

Deadline: 30 August 2012

The Albert Luthuli Centre for Responsible Leadership in the Department of Business Management at the University of Pretoria seeks to recruit master's and PhD candidates to enrol for studies funded through bursaries provided by the Exxaro-University of Pretoria Programme for Business and Biodiversity Leadership. The candidates joining the Programme will be expected to carry out research and generate evidence and knowledge on the nexus between business and biodiversity in Africa and how best to address the challenges evident in this nexus.

ICRA course announcement InterActive Learning Competency for Rural Innovation in Higher Education

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15622

Dates: 3 – 24 April 2013

Fellowships available: deadline for the application to ICRA: 15 September 2012

The International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture (ICRA) strengthens innovative capacity by providing training and coaching to professionals and to inter-organisational and multidisciplinary teams of staff from education, research and development organisations, in the following 4 areas: Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D); Agricultural Advisory Services and Innovation; Agribusiness coaching; Higher Education outreach and action research.

The course '*Developing Interactive Learning Competency for Rural Innovation in Higher Education*' (IAL-HE2013) is meant for lecturers and researchers working in higher agricultural and rural education organisations.

Deadline for the application to ICRA: 15 September 2012. Fellowships are available for this course from the Netherlands Fellowship Programme for certain countries. Deadline for NFP application: 1 October 2012. Guidelines on how to apply for the fellowships are available from ICRA. Please click the above link for more information.

Jobs | [RSS](#)

Post-doc researcher at WUR: Farming Systems Analysis

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15774

Deadline: 15 July 2012

The Wageningen UR Biological Farming chair group offers a challenging position as a postdoc researcher to lead the project 'System trajectories, diversity and cross-scale trade-offs: targeting innovations for the sustainable intensification of maize-based agro-ecosystems' financed by the CGIAR research programme MAIZE (CIMMYT). The objective is to develop, adapt and put in practice an analytical framework for local to regional and global scale studies of trajectories of change in maize-based agroecosystems, as determined by intrinsic properties (diversity, heterogeneity and dynamics) and external drivers (demography, markets, climate and global change) of smallholder farming systems, in order to inform policies and strategies for efficient targeting of agricultural innovations. Key attributes pertaining to the dynamics of smallholder systems, namely stability, vulnerability and resilience will be characterised by means of a common framework to allow for comparative and prospective studies across the target regions of the project in Mexico, Kenya, Ethiopia and Nepal.

Value chain and private sector development specialist, South Sudan

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15775

Deadline: mid-July 2012

ACDI/VOCA is seeking a long-term Value Chain and Private Sector Development Specialist for a current five-year, USAID-

funded project in South Sudan. The project's goal is to sustainably increase agricultural productivity and food production in the three Equatoria states of South Sudan, with a value chain focus on smallholder production of staple crops. The anticipated start date for this position is mid-July 2012.

[Back To Top](#)

Web resources and S&T organisations | [RSS](#)

Centre for Agroecology and Food Security (CAFS)

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15760

The aim of the Centre for Agroecology and Food Security [CAFS](#) is to conduct critical, rigorous and relevant research which will contribute to the development of agricultural and food production practices, which are economically sound, socially just and promote long-term protection of natural resources. CAFS brings together social and natural scientists whose collective research expertise in the fields of agriculture and food spans several decades. The centre is hosted by Coventry University, UK.

Open Access Policy Mandates

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15766

The FAO AIMS team has compiled a list of [Open Access mandates](#) in agriculture derived from the Registry of Open Access Repository Mandates Archiving Policies (ROARMAP). It presents agricultural organizations with various types of institutional mandates – Institutional, Sub-institutional, Funders and Thesis mandates. The list is prepared as a reference point for Agricultural communities who are interested in coming up with an institutional mandate, or simply for those with an appreciation for mandates within the agricultural community.

West African Food Composition Table

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15769

This edition of the West African Food Composition Table is a revised version of the Food composition table 'Composition of Selected foods from West Africa', which was published in September 2010. It extends and updates the number of foods and values of components through data derived from the Mali Food Composition Table 2004, Nigeria, as well as analytical data from scientific articles. ([Bioversity](#) and [FAO INFOODS](#), 2012)

New website for CIRAD's agrifood technology platform

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/15771

CIRAD's agrifood technology platform specialises in agrifood processing technologies, of pertinence to developing countries. It has three main types of activities: research, training and business partnerships. The platform's website presents the infrastructure and its resources, describing its installations and equipment. It reports on the platform's operations through news items and a work schedule. The platform is open to: researchers; training establishments; firms wishing to outsource a research topic; project leaders seeking to apply their skills or develop a product. ([CIRAD](#), 14/5/2012)

[Back To Top](#)

To unsubscribe, send a blank email to leave-knowledge-en@lists.cta.int

If you have been forwarded this newsletter and would like to receive it, please visit the [Knowledge for Development](#) website and register for the email newsletter; or send a blank email to join-knowledge-en@lists.cta.int

Publisher: CTA

Coordinating editors: Judith Francis, CTA and Rutger Engelhard, Contactivity bv.

Research: Cédric Jeanneret-Grosjean, Contactivity bv.



CTA is an institution of the ACP Group of States (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) and the EU (European Union), in the framework of the Cotonou Agreement and is financed by the EU.