



**Expert Meeting**  
**CTA Top 20 agricultural innovations for ACP smallholder farming systems**

**PROGRAMME OVERVIEW**

*CTA Headquarters, Wageningen, the Netherlands*  
*28-30 April 2014*

**Background**

Smallholder production systems in ACP countries are performing far below the levels required to sustain livelihoods, reduce poverty and contribute to the attainment of food and nutrition security and ecological sustainability goals. Research results and technologies that have been developed in universities and research institutes are said to “remain on the shelf”. Farmer “innovations” are sometimes ignored and generally not valued or promoted.

While it is recognized that, a complex package of inputs, support systems and management practices would be required to achieve the desired results. It is generally accepted that a combination of technological, social, policy and institutional (including market and financial) innovations are necessary. There is need to unleash the innovation potential of ACP scientists, engineers and farmers and make visible the knowledge that remains out of reach of the majority of farmers in most ACP countries.

This project aims to boost the awareness of the many technological and other innovations “low-hanging fruits” that ACP research organizations, universities, extension services and farmers have developed and are being used in ACP countries. By documenting and publicizing these ‘high-potential innovations’ that do not require complicated new management practices, that are endorsed by other experts and farmers themselves, are easy to adopt and can be further adapted, the project expects to raise the profile among policy makers of extension, research and education organizations, and furthermore, establish a convincing evidence base for allocating sufficient budget support to these organizations.

In December 2013, CTA launched the call for the “CTA Top-20 innovations for smallholder farmers” and received 251 submissions. An initial screening of the submissions was undertaken by CTA in consultation with an independent consultant which resulted in a shortlist of approximately 75 which will be evaluated using an established scorecard. An expert meeting is being convened to select 30-40 innovations which will be further evaluated by farmers from across the ACP region. The final Top 20 will be endorsed by a high-level panel of international experts (scientists/academicians, extension agents and farmers) and published in various formats for wide-scale dissemination.

**Objective**

The 1<sup>st</sup> CTA Top 20 expert meeting has been convened to review the submissions received and prepare a shortlist of at least 30-40 innovations which will then advance to the next stage of the evaluation process.

## Expected Results

- (1) Shortlist of at least 30-40 innovations;
- (2) Mechanism for evaluation of 30-40 innovations by farmers across the ACP region;
- (3) Template for documenting the innovations, identification of the peer reviewers and deadlines for submissions of first draft;
- (4) Outline for the write-shop to prepare a guidebook and other resource material and in October 2014.

## Programme Overview

<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014</b>	Chair: Judith Ann Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator, Science and Technology Policy, CTA, The Netherlands
8:40	Hotel Pick-up
9:00 – 9:10	<i>Welcome Remarks</i> – Lamon Rutten, Programme Manager, PMI, CTA, The Netherlands
9:10 – 9:30	<i>Programme Overview, Introductions &amp; Expectations</i> – Judith Ann Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator, Science & Technology Policies, CTA, The Netherlands
9:30 – 9:50	<i>Report on Screening of Submissions &amp; General Observations: Call for CTA Top 20</i> – Wim Andriesse, CTA Consultant, The Netherlands
9:50 – 10:00	Discussion / Clarifications
10:00 – 10:30	Review and Finalization of Evaluation Score Card
10:30 – 11:00	Tea/Coffee Break (Group Photo)
11:00 – 13:00	Review & Evaluation of proposals (15)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 14:30	Discussion
14:30 – 15:30	Review & Evaluation of proposals (5)
15:30 – 16:00	Tea/Coffee break
16:00 – 17:00	Review Evaluation of proposals (10)
17:00 – 17:30	Discussion/Wrap-up

<b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014</b>	Chair: Judith Ann Francis, CTA
8:40	Hotel Pick-up

9:00 – 9:30	Recap of Day 1 – Progress made & Process Observations
9:30 – 10:30	Review & Evaluation of proposals (15)
10:30 – 11:00	Tea/Coffee break
11:00 – 11:30	Discussion
11:30 – 13:00	Review & Evaluation of proposals (10)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 14:30	Discussion
14:30 – 15:30	Review & Evaluation of proposals (5)
15:30 – 16:00	Tea/Coffee break
16:00 – 17:00	Review & Evaluation of proposals (10)
17:00 – 17:30	Discussion/Wrap-up

<b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014</b>	Chair: Judith Ann Francis, CTA
8:40	Hotel Pick-up
9:00 – 10:30	Discussion of outcomes of evaluation & Finalization of Shortlist
10:30 – 11:00	Tea/Coffee break
11:00 – 12:00	Planning for Farmer Evaluation – Synthesis of Submissions, Procedure to be adopted & Deadline
12:00 – 13:00	Development of Outlines for Documenting Innovations & Deadline for Submission
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 14:30	<i>Media &amp; Communication Strategy</i> – Minielle Tall, Media and Communications Programme Coordinator Associate, CTA, The Netherlands
14:30 – 15:30	Finalizing Writeshop & Publication of Outcomes & Media Campaign
15:30 – 16:00	Tea/Coffee break
16:00 – 17:00	Review of major decisions & next steps
17:00 – 17:30	Wrap-up