



June 2007

CIRAD Newsletter no. 19

NEWS

Oil palm seeds: CIRAD links up with a Thai company



CIRAD will be at the European Research and Innovation Exhibition in Paris from 7–9 June 2007. It will be introducing the Siam Elite Palm company, which it set up recently with a Thai company to produce and distribute oil palm seeds.

Close-up of cricket pests



The scientific documentary "Le mystère des criquets", directed by Thierry Ragobert with support from CIRAD, will be shown on Canal+ on Sunday 24 June 2007. It takes us to Niger and Mauritania on the trail of the swarms of these destructive insects, beside Antoine Foucart, an entomologist with CIRAD.

Family agriculture in the Maghreb: improving water management through better organization



Water, which is rare, unequally distributed and coveted, is a major issue for agriculture in the Maghreb. Yet how can we reconcile the social demands of small-scale family agriculture (which is predominant in the large irrigated areas) with the performance of this type of agriculture? The solution lies partly in the development of strong institutions.

West Africa: farmers, creators of agricultural biodiversity



An international conference has been held that revealed the role that African farmers play in the conservation of food plant genetic resources. Interview with Didier Bazile, the CIRAD researcher who organized the conference in Mali, from 15 to 18 May 2007.

Rhizobia boost acacia



For people in the dry zones of Africa, gum arabic production by *Acacia senegal* is a major source of income. Researchers from CIRAD and their partners have shown that output can be boosted by a quarter on average by inoculating the trees with bacteria called rhizobia, at the start of the rainy season.

Just published: Gardens of Oceania

A guide to the cultivated or wild edible plant species in Vanuatu, now available in English.

Just published: Bois et forêts des tropiques No. 292

A special issue on biodiversity.

Just published: CIRAD VIP, the technology transfer and development newsletter: issue 9

A special issue on planting material.

Web: Plants of the rice fields of Camargue

An online description of the major plants in the rice-growing systems of Camargue.

Web: The Cotton Farming Systems-Quality in Cotton Production Research Unit website

Information about the unit's teams and research operations.

PRESS RELEASES

ODEADOM, CIRAD and professionals in the banana sector will be debating the banana market on 6 and 7 June in Montpellier

CIRAD signs a partnership agreement for agroforestry systems in Costa Rica

Global Horticulture Initiative: CIRAD's Rémi Kahane is appointed Executive Secretary of GlobalHort

EVENTS

Accès à l'eau potable et à l'assainissement : l'Afrique peut-elle atteindre les Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement ?

The 7th international forum on prospects in Africa, organized by the Agence française pour le développement in partnership with the OECD Development Centre and the African Development Bank.

<http://www.afd.fr/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/users/administrateur/public/Documents/invite-ocde.pdf>

5 June 2007, Paris, France

European Research and Innovation Exhibition

With the participation of CIRAD, on the French Ministry of Research stand, plus job interviews.

<http://www.cirad.fr/en/actualite/communiqu.php?id=717>

7 to 9 June 2007, Paris, France

— **Towards Food Security, Health and Protection of the Environment in Africa: the Role of Insect Sciences**

A seminar organized by the African Association of Insect Scientists. To be attended by CIRAD.

<http://www.ucad.sn/spip.php?article892>

11 to 15 June 2007, Dakar, Senegal

— **Avancées de la recherche dans le domaine de la gestion des ressources en eau**

A summer school organized by the CEMAGREF/CIRAD/ENGREF/IRD Joint Research Unit on Water Management, Stakeholders and Uses.

<http://www.g-eau.net>

27 and 28 June 2007, Montpellier, France

— **Agricultural Research for Development in Europe: Towards a Shared Vision**

An international conference organized by the ERA-ARD network, coordinated by CIRAD.

<http://conference.era-ard.org/>

28 and 29 June 2007, Brussels, Belgium

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