



**8th Meeting of the
Advisory Committee on S&T for ACP Agricultural & Rural Development**

**Montpellier, France
16 - 20 November, 2009**

Draft Programme

***“ICTs Transforming Agricultural Science and Innovation – Implications for
ACP Agriculture”***

Background:

The ACP agricultural sector faces numerous challenges in effectively satisfying the food and nutrition needs of its growing population and the requirements for competing in global markets in addition to fulfilling its role as a driver of economic growth and social development. These challenges are compounded by (i) under investments in agriculture, science, research, tertiary education and inadequate physical infrastructure, (ii) dwindling natural resource base – land and water, climate change and soil degradation, (iii) declining human resource base with the necessary competencies and skills to generate, access, contextualize and optimize knowledge and technologies, (iv) inadequate recognition of local / traditional knowledge and (v) the global economic meltdown and energy crisis.

ICTs defined as “a wide range of elements that include hardware and software, content generation, knowledge management as well as institutional and management processes” are advancing at a dizzying pace. It is predicted that by 2030, devices will be smaller, faster and smarter; computing and communication systems will evolve into “cognitive globally aware networks” which will collect and organize information and knowledge from sources across the world; and that information will be easier to find as software and services become even more global.

The ACP region must tap the full potential of science and technology to address the “real-world problems” of poverty, climate change, environmental degradation and achieve economic growth and development. Participatory knowledge production and inter and trans-disciplinary approaches must be encouraged for spurring innovation. ICTs hold the potential but there is need to overcome the barriers to making optimum use of science and technological innovations if the

ACP region is to fully participate in the global knowledge system for improving ACP agricultural performance. Investments in physical infrastructure and human resource development must increase.

Objectives:

(i) To discuss meso and mega trends in agricultural science and innovation in the ACP region and globally and determine how the ACP region should position itself so that agricultural science and innovation can respond to the pressing needs and priorities of the region. What are the priorities and options for policy intervention?

(ii) To identify and discuss windows of opportunities within the emerging evolution in the field of ICTs which can support the ACP region in improving the environment for agricultural science and innovation? What are the priorities and options for policy intervention?

(iii) To identify and discuss investments that are needed in infrastructure to realize the potential of ICTs in transforming agricultural science and innovation for meeting present and future needs.

(iv) To reflect on the Advisory Committee on S&T for ACP Agricultural and Rural Development and the CTA ST&I Strategies Programme 2010 - 2012.

Expected Outcomes

- Consensus reached on the status and future trends in agricultural science and innovation and priorities and policy options identified for repositioning the ACP region in the global knowledge system to provide effective responses to the pressing challenges facing the agricultural sector.
- Policy options and priority interventions and strategies identified so that the ACP region can take advantage of the rapid evolution in ICTs to improve the quality of research, teaching and learning and increase the impact of knowledge, science, technology and innovation on ACP agricultural and rural development.
- CTA's proposals for its ST&I Strategies programme for 2010 – 2012, reviewed and endorsed by ACP & EU partners.

Day 1 - Monday November 16, 2009

8:00 Bus departs Hotel for Agropolis

**9:00 – 12:30 Focus: Future Trends in Agriculture, Higher Education,
Research, Innovation & ICTs in Development**

Chairperson – Dr. Hansjörg Neun, Director, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA), The Netherlands

9:00 – 9:10	Welcome Remarks – <i>Dr. Etienne Hainzelim</i> , Deputy Director General & Director Research and Strategy, CIRAD, France
9:10 – 9:20	Remarks – <i>Dr. Hansjörg Neun</i> , Director, CTA
9:20 – 9:40	Introductions – Workshop Participants
9:40 – 10:10	Workshop Overview & Report of the 2009 Advisory Committee E-Consultation - <i>Judith Ann Francis</i> , Senior Programme Coordinator, Science and Technology Strategies, Planning and Strategic Services Department, CTA, The Netherlands
10:10 – 10:30	Coffee Break (including Group Photo shoot)
10:30 – 11:00	Future of Agriculture: Technical Potential for World Production of Biomass for Food, Feed and Other Uses – <i>Professor Kees Van Diepen</i> , Wageningen International University and Research Centre, The Netherlands
11:00 – 11:30	Future of Higher Education, Research and Innovation - <i>Dr. Mary Louise Kearney</i> , Consultant for Global Higher Education to the Institutional Management of Higher Education Programme, OECD, France
11:30 – 12:00	The Future of Agricultural Research for Development: New Perspectives – <i>Dr. Jean-Luc Khalfaoui</i> , Director, European & International Relations, CIRAD, France
12:00 – 12:15	Discussion
12:15 – 12:45	ICT: Its role in Fostering Learning, Knowledge Generation through Research and Dissemination / Current Status, Lessons and Future Implications - <i>Dr Towela Nyirenda-Jere</i> , Programme Manager, NEPAD e-Africa Commission, South Africa
12:45 – 13:00	Discussion
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 17:45	Focus: Status and Perspectives for Agricultural Research, Science and Innovation in the ACP Region

Chairperson – Dr. Jean Daniel Ngou Ngoupayou, Director Scientific and Technical Information Services, Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, Cameroon

- 14:30 – 14:50 Centres of Excellence for Bioscience Research in Africa - *Prof. Aggrey Ambali*, Advisor, NEPAD Office of Science and Technology, South Africa
- 14:50 – 15:10 Transforming the Agricultural Research Landscape in Nigeria – *Dr. Damian Chikwendu*, Director Extension Services, Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN), Nigeria
- 15:10 – 15:30 Caribbean Agricultural Research Systems at a Crossroads – Dr. H. Arlington D. Chesney, Executive Director, CARDI, Trinidad & Tobago
- 15:30 – 16:00 Discussion
- 16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break
- 16:30 – 18:00 **Working Group Session 1 – ICT Based Decision Making:** Repositioning the ACP Region in the Global Agricultural Knowledge Science and Technology System – Options and Priorities
- 18:00 – 19:30 Cocktail Reception hosted by CIRAD
- 19:45 Bus departs for Hotel

Day 2 - Tuesday November 17, 2009

- 8:30** Bus departs Hotel for CIRAD
- 9:00 – 12:30 **Focus: ICTs and Agricultural and Rural Development: Lessons from the Field**
- Chairperson** – Professor Dyer Narinesingh, Dean Faculty of Science and Agriculture, University of the West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago
- 9:00 – 9:20 ICTs and Agricultural and Rural Development in the ACP Region: Experiences of CTA – *Mrs. Oumy Ndiaye*, Manager, Communication Services Department, CTA, The Netherlands
- 9:20 – 9:40 Tele-medicines: Decreasing the Mortality rate of Rural Farmers – *Mr. Zelalem W. Mengistu*, Graduate Student,

Department of Information Systems & Technology, Strayer University, United States

9:40 – 10:00 Opportunities, Priorities and Possible Investments for ICTs in Agricultural and Rural Development: Lessons from India and Finland – *Dr. Sylvia Galvani*, Research Fellow, University of Joensuu, Finland

10:00 – 10:30 Discussion

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 13:00 **Focus: ICTs Promoting Innovation in Agricultural Research and Tertiary Education**

Chairperson – Dr. Rufaro Madakadze, Programme Officer for Education and Training, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Kenya

11:00 – 11:30 Networking for Improving Data Management, Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing in Agricultural Research: Experiences from CIRAD - *Dr. Joel Sor*, Head, Department of Information Systems, CIRAD, France

11:30 – 12:00 ICT as a Driver of Innovation in Tertiary Education in Nigeria: *Professor Julius Okojie*, Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission, Nigeria

12:00 – 12:30 Fostering Cooperation in ICT Research: Lessons from WINDS Caribe Project – *Mr. Fabio Nascimbeni*, Director MENON, Belgium

12:30 – 13:00 Discussion

13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch**

14:30 – 16:30 **Working Group Session 2 - ICT Based Decision Making:** Windows of Opportunities for ICTs – Improving the Environment for Agricultural Science and Innovation for ACP Agricultural and Rural Development

16:30 – 17:00 Coffee Break

17:00 Visit to SupAgro Facilities & Wine Tasting

Day 3 - Wednesday November 18, 2009

8:00 Bus departs hotel for Agropolis

9:00 – 12:30	Focus: Realizing the Potential of Agricultural Science and Innovation
	Chairperson – Professor Lindela R. Ndlovu, Vice Chancellor, National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe
9:00 - 9:20	ICT Research and Education in the Caribbean: Status and Perspectives – <i>Mr Roderick Sanatan</i> , Senior Lecturer, Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication, UWI, Mona, Jamaica
9:20 – 9:30	Discussion
9:30 - 9:50	Status and Future of Agricultural Science in the Pacific and the Role of ICTs – <i>Mr. Aleki Sisifa</i> , Director Land Resources Division, Secretariat of the South Pacific Community, Fiji
9:50 – 10:10	Tertiary Education and Research at University of South Pacific: New Directions – <i>Mr. Mohammed Umar</i> , Director, Institute for Research Education and Training in Agriculture, University of South Pacific, Fiji
10:10 – 10:30	Discussion
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 11:20	Youth Engagement in Agricultural Research for Development – Ms. Froukje Kruijssen, Young Professionals Platform for Agricultural Research for Development,
11:20 – 11:40	ANAFE Capacity Building Initiatives for Agricultural Research and Innovation: Status and Future Perspectives – <i>Dr Aissétou Dramé Yayé</i> , Executive Secretary, ANAFE, Kenya
11:40 – 12:00	Networking Universities for Excellence: Experiences and Future Perspectives – <i>Professor Adipala Ekwamu</i> , Executive Secretary, RUFORUM, Uganda
12:00 – 12:30	Discussion
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 17:30	Working Group Session 3 – ICT Based Decision Making:

Realizing the Potential of ICTs for Transforming Agricultural Science and Innovation – Policy Options and Priorities for Investment

Day 4 – Thursday November 19, 2009

8:30 Bus departs Hotel

9:00 - 12:30 **Focus: CTA S&T Programme and the Advisory Committee - 2010 - 2012**

Chairperson: Dr. Ibrahim Khadar, Manager Planning and Strategic Services Department, CTA, The Netherlands

9:00 – 9:30 CTA and S&T 2010 – 2012 - *Judith Ann Francis*, CTA

9:30 – 10:30 Plenary Discussion

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 11:30 Advisory Committee on S&T - *Judith Ann Francis*, CTA

11:30 – 12:30 Plenary Discussion

12:30 – 14:30 **Lunch**

14:30 – 17:30 **Focus: ICTs Transforming Agricultural Science and Innovation: Implications for ACP Agriculture – The Way Forward**

Chairperson – Dr. George Achu Muluh, Planning Officer, CORAF/WECARD, Senegal

14:30 – 16:00 **Plenary** – Discussion of Working Group Reports

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 - 17:30 **Closing Ceremony**

Presentation of Draft Communiqué

Remarks - AC Member, CIRAD and CTA Representatives

17:45 Bus departs for Hotel

Day 5 Friday, November 20, 2009

9:00 - 17:30 **Field Trip**