

January 2011 newsletter

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CTA and S&T

Communiqué on "Science, Indigenous Knowledge and Innovation: Implications for ACP Agriculture", Advisory Committee on S&T for ACP Agricultural and Rural Development



The Advisory Committee (AC) on Science and Technology for ACP Agricultural and Rural Development issued a communiqué at the end of their 9th meeting in South Africa from 22 – 26

November 2010 on "Science, Indigenous Knowledge and Innovation: Implications for ACP Agriculture".

The AC acknowledged the value of indigenous knowledge as a richly diverse resource for directing the future of science and innovation and upheld the principle that holders of this knowledge must be able to share in any benefits derived through scientific pursuits. The AC learned valuable lessons for advancing the integration of IK in the science and innovation agenda in ACP countries and recognized the need for shared understanding and ethical standards to govern the documentation and scientific validation of IK. The following are their recommendations:

1. ACP countries should invest in IK as an integral part of their science and innovation agendas.
2. Ethical standards must be developed and adhered to for the integration of IK into formal science.
3. ACP countries should continue to lobby for increased funding for R&D. Partnerships with the private sector are crucial for up-scaling and commercializing promising IK leads.
4. ACP countries should institute relevant policies and legislative frameworks to support harnessing of IK and to protect the rights of all stakeholders including IK holder(s) and communities.
5. ACP countries should focus on strengthening research, training and extension and mainstream indigenous knowledge into these programmes for sustainable development.
6. CTA should take steps to:
 - i. involve IK holders in agricultural science technology and innovation platforms;
 - ii. support capacity building of research and higher education organizations on the legal issues governing IK;
 - iii. support a publication series of case studies on IK; convene an international symposium on IK systems in 2012.

The communiqué is available at <http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13147>
The 9th AC Meeting's addresses and presentations are [here](#).

Validating traditional medicines: Adding value to indigenous resources

Ermias Dagne, African Laboratory for Natural Products (ALANP), Department of Chemistry, Addis Ababa University



In his article, Prof. Dagne argues that indigenous knowledge based on the use of endemic biological resources can effectively serve as the starting point for modern systematic scientific investigation, with the added reward of novel discoveries which can yield significant economic returns as is the case for coffee and coca cola.

The results of a scientific investigation of six important natural plants or compounds that are widely used in Ethiopia as traditional medicine are presented. The author describes the various traditional uses of coffee, khat, civetone, 'Kebericho' (*Echinops kebericho*), 'Dingetegna' (*Taverniera abyssinica*) and black cumin (*Nigella sativa*) and details the main active compound including the molecular structure of each of these natural products. The traditional uses and common ills these plants cure and an overview of scientific developments of the compounds and their use in modern medical and other

commercial applications are summarized.

The article is available at <http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13150>

This paper was presented at the 9th Meeting of the AC on S&T for ACP ARD in South Africa, 22-26 Nov. 2010.

From Maastricht to Montpellier: Lessons from the CTA Capacity Building Programme on Analyzing the Agricultural, Science, Technology and Innovation (ASTI) Systems (2004 – 2009)



Since 2004, CTA has contributed to building ACP capacity on understanding, analyzing and strengthening agricultural, science, technology and innovation (ASTI) systems. CTA has supported the conduct of numerous ASTI case studies focusing on various agricultural commodities of importance to ACP countries using the

innovation system approach.

The criterion for choosing the commodities, was based on either their contribution to food security, export earnings, export diversification or under threat from loss of preferential markets. The motive was clear: to build capacity of ACP professionals to better understand and apply the innovation systems approach in analyzing the performance of the agricultural sector in their countries and develop a network of experts. The means to achieve that motive was through training followed by the application of the approach to undertaking a national case study.

CTA provided the opportunity for the ACP professionals to implement/apply the skills by availing both financial resources and technical support to enable them and their organizations to understand innovation processes. The case studies were implemented by following a methodological framework designed by the technical teams (CTA/UNU-INTECH/KIT) with additional input from the ACP senior level experts and professionals. In 2010, CTA convened an Expert workshop which had a two-fold purpose:

- i. to take stock of the work done so far; consolidate lessons, challenges and successes from the programme and;
- ii. to deliberate on ways of furthering the capacity building efforts and mainstream innovation systems approach in the ACP region.

This expert meeting was intended to add to the process of reflection, make connections and prepare for further testing. To that extent, the expert meeting highlighted a number of areas that require further insight and more in-depth analysis and dialogue. The recommendations are geared towards informing and improving future work on innovation systems as well as mainstreaming the innovation systems approach in the ACP region. The report summarizes the outputs of the deliberations.

The report is available at <http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13153>

Featured dossiers

Intellectual Property

Sourcebook offers practical guidance on property rights and collective action for resource management

CGIAR Program on Collective Action and Property Rights (CAPRI)



Published by the CGIAR Program on Collective Action and Property Rights (CAPRI), the sourcebook is based directly on the experiences and lessons of CAPRI research from around the world. It is based on sound underlying research, but the presentation is simple, straightforward, and accessible.

The objective of the book is to build capacity of research and development organizations to recognize the importance and relevance of CAPRI concepts and to apply the lessons and methods from CAPRI research to their work with communities, policymakers, and other stakeholders. It is hoped that it will serve not only as a relevant and practical guide for development practitioners, trainers, and policymakers, but will also be used in universities and other institutions of higher learning.

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13092>

New legal instrument on genetic resources



The Nagoya Protocol was adopted on 29 October 2010 and builds on the Convention on Biological Diversity. It will provide greater legal certainty and transparency for providers and users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge by facilitating both access to the resources and support for fair and equitable sharing of benefits with the provider country and indigenous and local communities.

The Nagoya Protocol enters into force 90 days after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession which must be submitted no later than 10 July 2012. Specific obligations to support compliance with contractual obligations reflected in mutually agreed terms are a significant innovation of the Nagoya Protocol. The compliance provisions as well as the provisions enabling more predictable conditions for access to genetic resources leave a Party providing genetic resources.

The expected result is that the Protocol will create incentives to conserve biodiversity, sustainably use its components, and further enhance the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development. The Conference of the Parties and the United Nations Assembly have called upon the Convention's 193 Parties to sign the Protocol.

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13167>

EU and S&T

EU fostering innovation and increasing R & D investment



Plans have been unveiled to revamp EU research funding to spur more innovation, increase its economic impact, make it easier for researchers to get involved and deliver better value for taxpayers.

The EU is spending about €143bn in the 2007-2013 period to fund research and innovation projects. Now the Commission is preparing the ground for the next round of funding - based on the priorities for Innovation Union, part of the EU's Europe 2020 strategy to boost growth and jobs.

Initial proposals would refocus funding toward projects that tackle current challenges, such as health and an aging population, climate change, food security, and diminishing natural resources. Funding would also be better coordinated along the innovation chain - from basic research down to launching new products and services on the market. Simplified procedures and rules would make it easier for researchers, companies and entrepreneurs to cooperate, apply for and use EU funding. Performance checks would monitor projects to ensure taxpayers' money is being used effectively.

The Commission has prepared a Green Paper and is seeking the views of all interested individuals and organisations on these proposed changes and on the specific questions set out in the Green Paper. The deadline for contributions is Friday 20 May 2011.

The EU is also refocusing its funding to help close the innovation gap between the EU and its main competitors, the US and Japan. On most measures, the US is ahead of the EU, according to an annual assessment. Other emerging economies, such as China and Brazil, are rapidly narrowing that gap. EU leaders have given broad support to the Commission's approach, which also involves creating public-private partnerships to bring more innovations to market faster. The first partnership, to be launched in 2011, will encourage R&D to develop new products and services for active and healthy ageing.

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13159>

Visit the 'EU and S&T' dossier on CTA's S&T Knowledge website

Livestock and Fisheries

Kenyan fish farmers embrace technology to boost yields



In an effort to expand its aquaculture sector, the Kenyan government has invested money in an innovative pilot project in the Likuyani District, Western province, Kenya. Around 50 fish ponds have been dug in the Lugari constituency, and with the help of the NGO 'Voices of Africa', the ponds are monitored by GPRS ('General packet radio service' - a packet

oriented mobile data service) and satellite images. The aim is to use the 24-hour monitoring system to identify threats to the fish stocks and capture early any shortfalls in pond management: the technology enables farmers to receive accurate information and assess the health of their ponds.

Small-scale fish farmers are already reaping the benefits of the monitoring system (they tackle issues that can become a problem if left unattended) and efforts are made to promote the adoption of the technology in neighbouring districts. (Source: AllAfrica, 23 November 2010)

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13004>

The International Dairy Federation launches common carbon footprint methodology for global dairy sector



The International Dairy Federation (IDF) has now published 'A Common Carbon Footprint Approach for Dairy: The IDF Guide to Standard Lifecycle Assessment Methodology for the Dairy Sector' introduces a common methodology for assessing carbon footprint across the global dairy

industry sector. The dairy industry is the first sector in the agricultural world to realise the need for such a coordinated global approach to this important issue.

The Guide was achieved through a collaborative approach facilitated by an IDF Action Team who brought together organizations and stakeholders throughout the dairy sector value chain and science experts. It includes input from many organisations, such as the FAO, the Global Dairy Platform (GDP) and Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI), among others. The Guide does not try to recreate knowledge but builds on the best current scientific knowledge available.

The International Dairy Federation (IDF) is a science-based, non-profit private sector organization, which represents the dairy sector worldwide. It aims to identify and disseminate best practice at the international level, in order to guide and harmonize members' work on issues. It was founded in 1903 and is represented in 53 countries. Its membership accounts for approximately 85% of the world's total milk production. (Source: IDF website, November 2010)

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13069>

Visit the 'Livestock and Fisheries' dossier on CTA's S&T Knowledge website

Research demonstrates the cost effectiveness of ecological restoration

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/12998>



Research published in November 2010 by the academic journal 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences' (PNAS) provides new evidence that ecological restoration can provide a cost effective response to environmental degradation. The research focused on the dryland forests of Latin America, and examined the cost effectiveness of ecological restoration techniques such as tree planting and forest regeneration. This was achieved using a novel research approach, which involved mapping the value of different benefits provided by these forests.

The problem of environmental degradation is most intense in arid and semi-arid areas, which comprise half the surface area of the world's developing countries and very little evidence is available regarding whether efforts towards ecological restoration of dryland forest ecosystems are cost effective. The team of academics analysed six different study areas across Latin America. Research focused on valuing the benefits provided by forests to people, including carbon sequestration, timber, non-timber products, and tourism. The costs of forest restoration were also estimated, including loss of livestock production, cost of fencing, fire suppression and tree establishment.

Three different restoration approaches were examined, which were compared using a simulation model of forest landscapes. The results showed that ecological restoration of dry forests is most likely to be cost effective if 'passive' approaches are adopted, which support the natural process of forest recovery. 'Active' restoration approaches, involving tree planting, are less likely to be cost effective, because of the high costs associated with new tree establishment. Such findings should encourage decision-makers to support restoration efforts. (Source: AlphaGalileo, 22 November 2010)

New strain of Fusarium threatening banana in Asia and the Pacific

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13064>



Fusarium wilt has devastated banana crops worldwide, forcing the industry to abandon previously favoured varieties. Experts, at the Banana Asia Pacific Network (BAPNET) Steering Committee Meeting on 2-4 November 2010 in Vietnam, are warning that a new strain of Fusarium could be threatening to repeat history. The new strain, known as tropical race 4, attacks varieties resistant to other strains.

Banana research leaders from the 14 member countries of BAPNET stressed the need for urgent collaboration to understand the diversity of the disease and to map its distribution across Asia and the Pacific at their recent meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam. They also called for more research into the impact of climate change on small-scale banana growers. BAPNET members also agreed to further collaborate on research to mitigate the impacts of climate change, by studying banana production systems and how varieties might adapt, and to improve climate change prediction models with better information specifically about bananas. (Source: Bioversity International, 22 November 2010)

Island-scale study reveals climate-change effects

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13072>



A large-scale UC Davis experiment with ants, lizards and seaweed on a dozen Caribbean islands shows that predicting the effects of environmental change on complex natural ecosystems requires a large laboratory. The study, which was led by UC Davis ecologist Jonah Piovia-Scott, is described in January's 2011 issue of the journal

Science. Piovia-Scott said previous studies have found that environmental changes (such as shifts in temperature, precipitation or storm severity) can affect ecosystems by adding or taking away plant and animal species, as well as by shifting the seasonal timing of key events (such as reproduction and migration).

In their 2008-2009 experiment, Piovia-Scott and colleagues put seaweed on Caribbean islands to imitate the effects of environmental change (overfishing and nutrient runoff are expected to encourage global algae growth, and seasonal storms that deposit seaweed on islands are becoming more frequent as the climate warms). Then they recorded how the presence of the seaweed altered the interactions between island plants, the insects that ate the plants, and the ants and lizards that ate those insects. The details are reported in 'Effects of Experimental Seaweed Deposition on Lizard and Ant Predation in an Island Food Web' by Piovia-Scott and fellow UC Davis ecologists David Spiller and Thomas Schoener. (Source: UC Davis, 28 January 2011)

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Democratising agricultural research for food sovereignty in West Africa

Michel Pimbert, Boukary Barry, Anne Berson, Khanh Tran-Thanh (IIED, CNOP, IRPAD, Kene Conseils, Centre Djoliba, URTEL), October 2010

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13088>

This multimedia book reports on an initiative in West Africa that seeks to create safe

spaces in which food providers and consumers can discuss how to build an agri-food research system that is democratic and accountable to wider society. An explicit aim of the entire process is to strengthen the voices and effectiveness of small-scale producers and other citizens in the governance of agricultural research as well as in setting strategic research priorities and validating knowledge. The book combines text, photos, video and audio recordings to describe the methodologies used in processes of deliberation and inclusion that involved small scale producers (farmers, pastoralists, fishermen and food processors) and holders of specialist knowledge on agricultural research. This multimedia publication is available online and will be printed as a hardcopy book in early 2011.

Adoption of agro-forestry technologies among small-holder farmers: A case of Zimbabwe

C. Parwada, C. T. Gadzirayi, W. T. Muriritirwa and D. Mwenye, *Journal of Development and Agricultural Economics*. Vol. 2(10), pp.351–358, October 2010

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13101>

The objectives of the study were to assess and compare the levels of adoption of agro-forestry technologies between trained and untrained farmers, and identify specific factors that affect adoption of technologies. Data from 300 smallholder farmers selected by snowballing from villages where change agents had been trained by the World Agro Forestry Centre, was collected using structured questionnaires. The results showed that there was a low level of awareness of agro-forestry technologies among farmers. Formally trained farmers adopted agro-forestry technologies more than informally-trained farmers. Results also showed that the likelihood to adopt live fence, fodder banks, improved fallow and trees for nutrition was influenced inter-alia by land ownership, belonging to a farming group, employment status, awareness, training, drought, labour and local institutions.

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Call for proposals |

2011 Call announcement from the Canadian International Food Security Research Fund

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13114>

IDRC has announced the next open, competitive Call for Concept Notes as part of the Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF). Project budgets under this call will be in the range of CA\$1 million to CA\$5 million. Notable changes from the 2010 CIFSRF Call for Concept notes include:

- increased eligibility for international organizations;
- restrictions on the allowable number of applications in which researchers can be involved;
- shorter project duration, which must not exceed 30 months, including field research and final reporting.

The CIFSRF is a 5-year, CA\$62 million fund that supports research partnerships between Canadian and developing-country research organizations for applied research to find lasting solutions to fight hunger and food insecurity in the developing world. The Fund is a core element of CIDA's Food Security Strategy and of IDRC's food security programming priorities.

For background information about the Fund, follow this [link](#). The Call for Concept Notes document is available [here](#). The online application will be available on [this page](#) starting 9 February 2011 and closing 23 March 2011. The website gives instructions for filling out the online application, and lists the eligible countries. **The deadline for submission of concept notes is 23 March 2011.**

AWARD : Call for Applications for 2011 Fellowships

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13109>

AWARD call for applications is [open](#). The AWARD Fellowship is a two-year program that offers a series of career-development resources that:

- establish a mentorship for each fellow with a senior scientist
- build science skills
- develop leadership capacity

AWARD's training courses, held over a two-year period, take place in various locations in Africa. Women agricultural scientists who are nationals of Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, or Zambia, who have completed a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in the disciplines listed below, are eligible to apply. Applicants must be available in Africa throughout the fellowship period. There is no age restriction. **The deadline is 25 March 2011.**

Joint call for collaborative projects: 'Sustainable Crop Production Research for International Development' (SCPRID)

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13113>

This is a joint call for collaborative projects under the Sustainable Crop Production Research for International Development (SCPRID) initiative. Up to £20 million is available through the initiative, funded by: BBSRC; Department for International Development; Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Department of Biotechnology of India's Ministry of Science

and Technology, Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The focus of the programme is on research to understand and counter the effects of abiotic (drought, temperature, salinity, nutrient deficiency etc) and biotic stresses (pathogens, pests, weeds) - including combinations of stresses - that constrain food crop production in developing countries of Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Research supported through this programme must be of excellent scientific quality and demonstrate clear development relevance. Projects are also required to provide the basis for forging mutually-beneficial scientific partnerships between the UK and developing countries. **Application deadline: 31 March 2011.**

Intra-ACP academic mobility scheme - Call for Proposals EACEA/35/10

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13112>

The intra-ACP academic mobility scheme promotes cooperation between higher education institutions (HEIs) and supports mobility in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) regions.

The Programme aims to increase access to quality education that will encourage and enable ACP students to undertake postgraduate studies, and to promote student retention in the region along with mobility of staff (academic and administrative). In doing so, the Intra-ACP Programme is expected to increase the competitiveness and attractiveness of the institutions themselves. This programme builds on the African Union's Mwalimu Nyerere programme for Africa, granting additional funding, and setting up a similar scheme for the Caribbean and Pacific regions. It is funded through the European Development Fund (EDF). **Deadline of the 1st Call: 6 May 2011**

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Events | Follow the latest RSS feeds for this section

2iE's 2011 Science Week: Assessment and Adaptation to Climate Variation Challenges

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/12979>

In a global context of growing research on water, energy, infrastructure and environment in less developed countries, 2iE's Science Week constitutes an exchange platform welcoming every other year, international researchers, PhD students and students. The latest research findings, prospects and innovations for the South are discussed in order to address African current challenging issues.

The debates of this 6th edition will focus on the 'Assessment and Adaptation to Climate Variation Challenges in the Fields of Water, Environment, Energy and Infrastructure in Highly Vulnerable Areas'. Various sub-themes will be discussed:

- Latest Findings of Climate Science and Climate Model Scenarios: Applications to African Monsoon
- Vulnerability, Impact and Adaptation for Water and Environmental Management
- Adaptation Measures for Energy and Infrastructure Sectors.

Venue: Fondation 2iE, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Dates: 4-8 April 2011.

UNESCO International Workshop: 'Bioprocessing, Policy and Practice: Conservation and use of medicinal plants of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Indian Ocean and Madagascar'

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13106>

UNESCO and Cephyr are organising the international workshop on the conservation and use of medicinal plants in small island states of the Indian Ocean. The workshop will cover a variety of topics, including:

- Country policy on utilisation and conservation strategies of medicinal plants
- Conservation of traditional knowledge and Utilization of medicinal plants
- Existing databases and Networks Research and Development in plant based research, and
- Knowledge protection and benefits sharing.

CEPHYR is a centre for phytotherapy research and development and has been incorporated in Mauritius. The research work is focused on plants and their potential application in the field of cosmetics, nutrition and therapy.

CEPHYR belongs to the Group CIDC (Centre International de Développement Clinique), CRO (Contract Research Organization) conducting clinical trials on behalf of pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries. CEPHYR is well positioned geographically. Its proximity to the African continent implies access to a rich and unique flora. The Mascarene islands are not only one of the biodiversity hotspots but are blessed with a diversity of traditions and culture. Venue: Ebene, Mauritius. Dates: 20 to 22 April 2011.

CIALCA Conference 'Agricultural Intensification of the Humid Highland Systems'

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13107>

The CIALCA Consortium and the CGIAR Consortium Research Programme (CRP) on the Humid Tropics will host an international conference on the 'Challenges and Opportunities for Agricultural Intensification of the Humid Highland Systems of sub-Saharan Africa', to

be convened in Kigali, Rwanda from 24-27 October 2011. More information can be found [here](#).

The conference aims to take stock of the state of the art of agricultural intensification in the highlands of sub-Saharan Africa, and to chart the way forward for agricultural research for development in the Humid Tropics CRP and the CIALCA Consortium. Papers for oral or poster presentation are invited for the four conference themes; system components, system integration, drivers for adoption and knowledge intensive approaches. Venue: Kigali, Rwanda. Dates: 24-27 October 2011.

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Organisations | Find more organisations on our website

The Caribbean Agrometeorological Initiative (CAMI)

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13124>



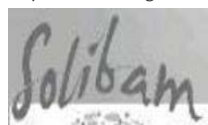
The Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) in partnership with the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of ten Caribbean member States have received a grant from the European Union through the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Science and Technology (S&T) Programme for the Caribbean Agrometeorological Initiative (CAMI).

The objective of the programme is to increase and sustain agricultural productivity at the farm level in the Caribbean region through improved dissemination and application of weather and climate information using an integrated and coordinated approach. The results are expected to benefit the farming community in the Caribbean Region.

The project is expected to assist the farming on predictors of the rainy season potential and development of effective pest and disease forecasting systems for improved on-farm management decisions; preparation and wide diffusion of a user-friendly weather and climate information newsletter and organization of forums with the farming community and agricultural extension agencies to promote a better understanding of the applications of weather and climate information and to obtain feedback to provide better products from the meteorological services for use by the farming community.

SOLIBAM: Strategies for Organic and Low-input Integrated Breeding and Management

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13122>



SOLIBAM will develop specific and novel breeding approaches integrated with management practices to improve the performance, quality, sustainability and stability of crops adapted to organic and low-input systems, in their diversity in Europe and taking into account small-scale farms in Africa.

SOLIBAM knowledge and technology development in breeding, multiplication and dissemination of crop varieties adapted to low-input agriculture will be conducted with the participation of African partners (Mali and Ethiopia). Innovative participatory approaches to technology development, transfer and dissemination (TDTD) will be used for this purpose, including participatory plant breeding (PPB), participatory development of management practices, and associated training.

This project is supported by the European Commission under the 'Seventh Framework Programme' Collaborative project.

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