



*"K4D lets scientists and policymakers express themselves"*

February 2013 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, calls & competitions](#)  
[Jobs](#)

### New feature articles

## Entrepreneurial women in science: The sky is the limit

*By Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, Centre for Phytotherapy Research, Mauritius.*



At the global level, two thirds of the 774 million illiterate adults are women, and this percentage has not improved over the past two decades. This is prompting some serious reflection and prospective thinking. Robert Zoellick, for example, former president of the World Bank, once said that investing in girls is not just a good thing but a smart thing to do. MDG Goal 3, which emphasizes gender equality, is most likely to be missed but remains a laudable objective. It is increasingly recognized that eliminating the gender gap can boost GDP in the United States, the Eurozone and Japan by 9%, 13% and 16%, respectively. In the BRICS, and other fast-growing developing countries, including Mauritius, the gap is already narrowing.

Women's economic empowerment is arguably the biggest social change of our time. Millions more women have been given control over their own lives, and this means that millions more brains have been put to more productive use. I feel privileged to have pursued chemistry despite the odds and to have chosen an area – traditional medicine, which was deemed irrelevant over the past 50 years. Working on medicinal plants meant reconciling two scientific disciplines – botany and organic chemistry. It also required lateral thinking and meant applying the knowledge in a multidisciplinary area involving botany, pharmacology and chemistry, among other fields.

With the pharmaceutical, cosmetic and food sectors continuously looking for innovative ideas for lead molecules, it was almost a natural reflex for me to set up the Centre for Phytotherapy Research (CEPHYR) ([www.cephyr-recherche.com](http://www.cephyr-recherche.com)) especially as the biodiversity of the Indian Ocean constitutes a global hotspot. CEPHYR is important for many reasons. It implies that research and development work is possible on the African continent and has other wider-reaching implications as well. It adds value to our unique biodiversity and enables us to engage in product development as opposed to being a net exporter of raw materials. It creates opportunities for female science graduates.

[Click to read the article.](#)

## Innovation systems: Are we losing momentum?

*Judith Ann Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator, Science & Technology Policy, CTA, The Netherlands.*



In 2003, CTA introduced the IS concept to senior level officials from science and technology (S&T) and research and development (R&D) organisations in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) member states. They decided that the concept was relevant for spurring agricultural innovation in their countries. This decision propelled CTA to launch targeted capacity building programmes to provide lessons for policy and practice. Since then, the application of the IS concept in the agricultural sector has become more mainstream. In 2008, the World Bank released the publication, *Agricultural Innovation Systems*:

From Diagnostics toward Operational Practice and this was followed by their Agricultural Innovation Investment Sourcebook in 2012. Although several ACP organisations have embedded the IS approach into their related programmes, questions remain as attempts are made to fit IS thinking into existing frameworks which have traditionally dominated the agricultural landscape especially among development practitioners. Experts ask: what are the boundaries of the agricultural IS; what is the role of science and engineering; how open is it; can it be created/ facilitated and; will smallholders benefit?

When pursuing an innovation agenda given the complexities and challenges faced by the agricultural sector, the multiple governance structures and power dynamics at national, regional and international level, one may ask, are these questions relevant? Continuous innovation is needed and systemic, inter-connected and systematic thinking is required for achieving agricultural transformation. In my view, what is important is that ACP countries understand the complexity of innovation processes and the relevance of using the IS approach for achieving agricultural-led economic growth. National governments have a crucial role to play in creating the enabling environment for innovation and their key advisors, researchers, academicians and the private sector including farmers must understand; the components, the relationships between actors, the role of S&T, and the functions of the system and know-how to manipulate the levers. Improvements in products, processes and services which lead to wealth creation and socio-economic development are needed.

[Click to read the article.](#)

## CTA and S&T

### CTA/WUR/ACP Universities launch Food Security Audits

The CTA/WUR project on 'Mainstreaming Tertiary Education in ARD Policy Processes' is gaining momentum. Food security audits of university programmes to determine how they are aligned with food security policies and programmes have begun. Professor Arjen and Drs. Bello, Wageningen University and Research centre in collaboration with Dr Newton Nyairo, Kenyatta University conducted the first audit at Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya in early February. The AISHE tool that was co-developed by CTA, WUR and partner universities and networks, was used for undertaking the audits.

Dr Nyairo said *'In my opinion and in the opinions of our guests, it was a successful event. We managed to gather both students and lecturers and we had good facilitation in carrying out the self-assessment'*. Audits were also conducted at Sokoine University, Tanzania and The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago during the month of February. The audit of the University of the South Pacific's curriculum, research and outreach programme will take place in Fiji in early March 2013.

[Follow this event on our website.](#)

### Integrated seed sector development (ISSD) in Africa: practices, programmes and policies for seed entrepreneurship

As part of its contribution to the multi-partnership ISSD project, CTA is supporting African universities to undertake assessments of their role in integrated seed sector development to enhance their contribution to policy processes governing seed systems in Africa. On 8 March 2013, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) will host its national university seminar to share the results of the study on their university's role in seed sector development in Malawi. The university representative focused on three projects to analyze their contribution to seed sector development.

The first bean seed multiplication project was a typical multidisciplinary research project which included releasing varieties, providing support on seed production and engaging and empowering farmers in the process. The second mushroom project includes oyster mushroom seed multiplication, and technical backstopping for farmers and farmer groups in production, training and marketing. The third project involves the contribution of an economist from the Centre for Agricultural Research and Development, in evaluating the use of vouchers in ISSD. The analysis showed that there is need for greater focus on basic research, policy research, and more advocacy/briefing notes. The results will be discussed during the national seminar.

[Updates will be featured on our website.](#)

[Back To Top](#)

## Selected developments and publications | RSS

### The access and benefit sharing agreement on teff genetic resources: facts and lessons

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17577](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17577)

This report tells the story of an agreement on access to teff genetic resources in Ethiopia, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use, that was hailed as one of the most advanced of its time. The agreement was seen as a pilot case for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in terms of access and benefit sharing. The implementation of the agreement failed and as a result, Ethiopia was left with fewer possibilities for generating and sharing the benefits from the use of teff genetic resources. This report provides an in-depth analysis of the course of events with regard to the agreement as well as a related patent on the processing of teff.

([ENI](#), 2012)

### Adapting sorghum to climate change

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17581](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17581)

An international team of researchers used genotyping-by-sequencing (GBS) to determine the individual genetic make-up of

971 sorghum varieties taken from world-wide seed collections. One subject of particular scrutiny was the genetic control of the panicle, the structure on the top of the plant that holds the grains. Closely packed grains, for example, are preferred for maximum crop yield in dry areas, but in places with abundant rainfall, more spacing is desirable to allow grains dry out more readily and reduce crop losses from moisture-caused disease. The researchers identified genes that likely contribute to this physical feature, and they also mapped them geographically according to the source of the original seed. The result was insight into how different variants of the genes spread according to regional climates.

([Phys.org](#), 01/2013)

### **Cashing in on Jamaica's ackee industry**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17584](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17584)

Machel A. Emanuel, a scientist from Jamaica, writes for *The Analyst* about the promising commercial potential of the rare fatty palmitoleic acid, also known as omega-7 fatty acid. This compound is found in low concentration in the arils of the ackee (it is also present in macadamia nuts). It is believed to have potent antiviral, antibacterial and healing effects in the human body. Emanuel believes there are great avenues for alternative product derived from the ackee fruit, though he also thinks the canning industry has to be improved too (refer to his recent article on ackee processing on the *Knowledge for development* website, [here](#)).

(*The Analyst*, Vol.1, No. 3, 12/2012).

### **A new approach to accelerate value addition in Africa**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17586](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17586)

This article looks into why so many countries in Africa have to import agricultural products, mostly processed, while the same countries actually supply surplus quantities of the raw materials that are processed elsewhere. It explains how policy reforms would need to focus first on regional urban markets and demand to successfully tackle this aberration. The author calls for innovation and growth at the processing segment of the value chain: infrastructure, processing and packaging for local distribution, more consistent quantity and quality of raw agricultural products. It also discusses the role of the Agribusiness Innovation Centres (AICs) set up by the World Bank, that provide growth-oriented entrepreneurs with a holistic service offering.

(*This Is Africa*, 8/01/2013)

### **The status of agro-processing in the Caribbean**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17591](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17591)

Pr Neela Badrie, from the Department of Food Production at University of the West Indies in Trinidad, undertook a 'Survey and Synthesis Report on Agro-processing Enterprises in the Caribbean'. Pr Badrie notes that the Caribbean countries have high levels of food imports and that this dependency could pose food security risks in the region in the future. To her knowledge, no thorough assessment of the quality of the food imported is being conducted. Her survey of agro-processing enterprises found that most would expand their operations if it was not for the high costs of facilities, transport, border issues and food safety standards. Some processors were focusing on consumer niches and working more closely with customers to determine their needs.

Other constraints include the seasonality of supplies, high levels of post-harvest losses, inconsistent raw material quality, and the quality of branding and packaging of local processed products. She put forward a number of suggestions for modernizing the sector: improving farmer and production connections and practices, facility improvements, funding options, food labelling improvements, safety standards training, better support for registration and implementation, streamlining food regulations, and more innovative marketing.

(*RIENetwork*, 01/2013)

[Back To Top](#)

### **Innovating to compete: Smallholder farmers' agency and markets in East Africa**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17595](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17595)

Conventional wisdom among policymakers and development agencies is that smallholders must be integrated into modern markets and organised within value chains in order for them to increase their income. Thus the focus of national and regional agricultural policies is on helping farmers to meet the quality and quantity requirements of supermarkets, processors and export firms. Research and experience from work by IIED, Hivos, and partners, documented here suggests that this focus ignores the majority of small-scale farmers who are not organised in value chains or producing for supermarket or export, and who supply the majority of consumers (many still buy their food from traditional markets and small retailers). The paper describes how and where small-scale farmers are trading, how their markets work and how these markets can help improve mechanisms that support the flexibility of informality.

(*IIED*, 11/2012)

### **Climate-smart agriculture bolsters farm production in the Caribbean**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17596](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17596)

This article reports on a new climate-smart agriculture (CSA) initiative that is catching on in the Caribbean that aims to increase agricultural productivity by incorporating weather information into the farming process. The Barbados-based Caribbean Agrometeorological Initiative (CAMI), which encourages the uptake of CSA, is assisting the farmers in the Caribbean by providing information about rainy season predictors and by developing pest and disease forecasting systems. Farmers have been adapting land and water management practices to the changing climate, but it is not known if new, improved or adapted crops varieties have been shared with them. More information is needed on the agricultural crop varieties best adapted to the changing climate of the Caribbean.

### **Indigenous knowledge and climate adaptation in Northern Ghana**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17598](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17598)

Using Northern Ghana as an example, this background document published by *Africa Portal*, focuses on the value of indigenous knowledge in national climate policies related to agriculture. It presents an overview of how small-scale farmers use indigenous knowledge to adapt to climatic extremes and examines the challenge of integrating these practices into policy. The discussion is relevant across the continent: it argues that though small-scale agricultural production can be responsive to climatic variations, adaptation policies that promote high-resource solutions are not relevant to smallholder farmers and that climate adaptation policies could better incorporate sources of indigenous knowledge.

([Africa Portal](#) backgrounder No. 48, 9/01/2013)

### **The CARIWIG project**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17601](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17601)

The Caribbean Weather Impacts Group (CARIWIG) aims to inform policymakers in the Caribbean on the likely impacts of climate change specific to their region. Current weather and climate models appear of limited use in this respect due to scale and bias issues and locally relevant data remains sporadic. CARIWIG will address these issues through the provision of locally relevant information on the weather impacts of climate change, training of technical staff, the development of support networks within the region and with UK research institutes. A web service will be developed to provide this service through the adaptation and provision of leading weather-generator models from the [EARWIG](#) and the UKCIP09 climate knowledge systems.

Visit the website: [www.cariwig.org](http://www.cariwig.org).

### **EU says more need to use science to cut fish quota**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17604](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17604)

The WWF reported in December 2012 how EU nations have followed scientific advice in only 13% of their decisions on setting fisheries quotas over the last decade. The quotas EU nations set for their fisheries are on average 45% higher than the scientific recommendations. The consequences of this bad decision-making are depleted fish stocks. The EU is working on a wholesale reform of its policies to kick in during 2014, seeking to tackle the problem of discards and subsidies for boats, which can contribute to overfishing.

([Phys.org](#), 14/12/2012)

[Back To Top](#)

### **Prioritising climate change adaptations for fisheries and aquaculture in Fiji**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17607](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17607)

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) reports on the outcomes of a workshop on priority adaptation measures to climate change for fisheries and aquaculture in Fiji, including the identification of inshore fish aggregating devices (FADs) as a key 'win-win' adaptation to meet increased demand for fish in areas with degraded coral reefs. Participants explored, among other things, the projected effects of changes to the ocean on the distribution of skipjack tuna and other fish habitats and stocks. The workshop took place in Suva, Fiji, from 12-14 December 2012.

([SPC via IISD RS](#), 14/12/2012)

### **More rapid and severe disease outbreaks for aquaculture at the tropics: implications for food security**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17610](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17610)

Although disease is a major threat to aquaculture production, the underlying global epidemiological patterns are unknown. This research analysed disease outbreak severity across different latitudes in a diverse range of aquaculture systems. It found that disease at lower latitudes progresses more rapidly and results in higher cumulative mortality, in particular at early stages of development and in shellfish. Tropical countries suffer proportionally greater losses in aquaculture during disease outbreaks and have less time to mitigate losses. The authors believe that as the incidences of some infectious diseases may increase with climate change, adaptation strategies must consider global patterns in disease vulnerability of aquaculture.

([Journal of Applied Ecology](#) [PDF], 5/12/2012)

### **Fish discards fall to almost nothing when fisheries are monitored**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17613](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17613)

Discards – where fish are thrown away at sea – have been virtually eliminated by fishermen taking part in surveillance trials, according to the latest catch quota report from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO, UK). The trials use remote monitoring equipment and CCTV to track the fish discarded from each boat. The MMO's report details how the practice could be an alternative method of managing fisheries, at a time when the EU Common Fisheries Policy is undergoing reform. The trials encourage fishermen to fish more selectively and land all of what they catch.

([MMO](#) via [NERC PlanetEarth](#), 30/11/2012)

### **The Caribbean Fish Sanctuary Partnership (C-FISH)**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17615](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17615)

The Caribbean Fish Sanctuary Partnership (C-FISH) initiative was developed out of the CARIBSAVE Climate Change Risk Atlas (CCCRA) that examined the vulnerability of Caribbean communities and ecosystems to the accelerating impacts of climate change in 15 CARICOM countries. C-FISH is aimed at strengthening community-based fish sanctuaries (marine

reserves or no-take- zones) by providing resources, training and alternative livelihood opportunities in 5 countries across the Caribbean (Jamaica, Grenada, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dominica). The project will establish a private-public partnership – involving large companies in the tourism sector, governments, communities and regional institutions – to develop an innovative financing mechanism to support the establishment of fish sanctuaries.  
([C-Fish](#) via [IISD RS](#), 12/2012)

### **Ghana coastal fisheries governance dialogue**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17616](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17616)

This document contains the presentations, discussions and outcomes produced for a stakeholder forum (April 2012) on issues for reforming governance of Ghana's coastal fisheries. This meeting, the second national Fisheries Governance Dialogue, aimed to help stakeholders in the fisheries sector generate a shared understanding of critical lessons and pathways for fisheries co-management success in Ghana. This was a direct response to the call from both fisheries communities and the government of Ghana for a radical change from the way fisheries resources are currently being managed.  
([WorldFish](#), 04/2012)

[Back To Top](#)

### **Foresight prompts researchers in pest management to look beyond research**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17618](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17618)

The European Network for the Durable Exploitation of Crop Protection Strategies (ENDURE) submitted this brief for the Foresight Breakout Session of GCARD2012. It is based on [a foresight study](#) that provided crop protection stakeholders with the tools to proactively respond to new EU legislation on pesticides. The study posed questions on how to reconcile health and environmental concerns with export-oriented agriculture, food production for food self-sufficiency, energy-saving farming, or multi-functional agriculture. It shows that many of the driving forces impacting crop protection are outside and beyond the sphere of influence of the crop protection world itself. These regard macro-economic choices affecting the role of European agriculture on the world market or the place that Europe wishes to give to local development.  
([ENDURE](#), 14/12/2012)

### **CARICOM assesses biodiversity-related statistics and indicators**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17621](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17621)

Representatives from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat are currently visiting Member States to assess their current position regarding statistics on the environment. The exercise targets National Statistical Offices, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) focal points, ministries and environment departments and agencies engaged in the production and use of environment statistics in the areas of forestry, land use and agriculture, coastal and marine resources and biodiversity. The main aim of the exercise is to strengthen inter-agency coordination to fill any gaps in environment statistics in the area of biodiversity.  
([CARICOM](#), 11/2012)

### **An indicator framework for assessing agroecosystem resilience**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17623](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17623)

This synthesis paper by university researchers from Norway and Denmark is an analysis of how resilience theory can be applied to agroecosystems. Building on the premise that agroecosystems are too complex for resilience to be measured in any precise manner, the authors have delineated behaviour-based indicators of resilience within agroecosystems. They discuss an index of 13 such indicators, which, when identified in an agroecosystem, suggest that it is resilient and endowed with the capacity for adaptation and transformation (examples of such indicators are connectedness, self-regulation, functional diversity, spatiotemporal heterogeneity). Absence of these indicators can help identify points of intervention for stakeholders to build resilience where there is vulnerability.  
([SEA Change CoP](#), 2012)

### **Guide to EU legislation on the marketing of seed and plant propagating material in the context of agricultural biodiversity**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17626](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17626)

This report by the Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI, Norway) presents the EU legislation on the marketing of seed and plant propagating material, detailing how it affects agricultural biodiversity. It discusses the principles of the EU's twelve basic directives in this area and the three directives providing derogations for the purpose of conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. In addition, the report reviews the development of such legislation in Europe, its effects on agricultural biodiversity, and the content and consequences of the EU directive that provides derogations for conservation varieties.  
([FNI](#), 08/2012)

### **Assessing agriculture vulnerabilities for the design of effective measures for adaption to climate change**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17630](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17630)

This report, prepared for the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC), presents the final results of the study named AVEMAC (Assessing Agriculture Vulnerabilities for the design of Effective Measures for Adaptation to Climate Change). The study tackles the lack of information on vulnerabilities, risks, and needs for the adaptation of European priority crops (maize, wheat, rapeseed, sunflower, rice) under a changing climate. Assessing the importance of climate change vulnerability requires not only the localisation of relative yield changes, but also the analysis of the impact of the change on the acreage affected. The



assessment has shown contrasting results in response to the different realisations of the emission scenarios.  
([EC JRC](#), 04/2012)

[Back To Top](#)

### **Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES): a new earth observation initiative in Africa**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17573](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17573)

The Monitoring of Environment and Security in Africa (MESA, 2013-2018) will bridge the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) programme (ending June 2013) with the follow-up Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative. MESA will address the needs for improved management of natural resources and environmental security towards sustainable development in Africa, at continental, regional and national levels. Monitoring of soil and water conditions for agriculture, tracking desertification, providing information to policy makers about the effects of climate change and reducing the risks of natural disasters are all areas where MESA will bring added value.

([AMESD](#), 21/02/2012)

### **The importance of policy for agroforestry**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17633](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17633)

Frank Place (World Agroforestry Centre) and colleagues, review the most pressing policy-related constraints to agroforestry in this extended excerpt from the book '[Agroforestry for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services – Science and Practice](#)'. Three policy areas determine the benefit from agroforestry: 1) Long term private property rights; 2) Policies related to tree germplasm multiplication and dissemination; 3) Recognition of agroforestry as an attractive investment area within agricultural programmes. Policy-related constraints include: land and tree tenure, germplasm systems, subsidies for other land use practices, extension systems, departmental structure of governments, and recognition of environmental services. Policy reforms that have been pro-agroforestry did tackle some of these issues.

Read the extended abstract at [The Overstory](#) (No. 251, January 2013).

### **Impact assessment policies and practices of EIARD members**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17635](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17635)

The overall aim of this study was to 'review and compare the policies and practices of different EIARD (European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development) members in impact assessment to increase relevance, uptake and coordination of efforts by and for EIARD members, stakeholders and policymakers'. It discusses current methodological advances in impact assessment and the current practices of EIARD members, using information provided by their national contact points, data base and literature searches and selected case studies, in order to develop practical recommendations for improvement and greater coordination and alignment.

([Agrinatura](#) [PDF], 01/2012)

### **Biofertilisers help fight coffee rust disease in Honduras**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17637](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17637)

Small-scale coffee producers from Honduras' La Labor Ecological Coffee Cooperative (COCAFELOL), have reported that using biofertiliser generated through a biodigester system implemented by SNV has reduced the impact of the coffee rust disease on their trees. Currently, COCAFELOL and SNV, with funding from ECPA (Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas), are developing a process to use the biogas produced by the biodigester system to generate electricity. The electricity produced will be used for various coffee processing activities.

([SNV](#), 2012)

### **Building new agricultural universities in Africa**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17639](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17639)

This paper calls for upgrading the training, extension, and commercialisation functions of existing national agricultural research institutes (NARIs). This would build on a strong research tradition, ongoing training efforts, connections with the private sector and farmers, and extensive international partnerships. Upgrading NARIs in this manner would also lay the foundation for the emergence of the first generation of research universities in Africa with an initial focus on agriculture. The creation of agricultural innovation universities would serve as a starting point for broader efforts in Africa to strengthen the role of science, technology, and innovation in economic transformation. The paper provides a roadmap that can be used to guide the proposed reform efforts.

([Harvard Kennedy School](#), 06/2012)

[Back To Top](#)

### **Africa Lead Short Course Database: e-Learning food security**

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17641](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17641)

The [Africa Lead](#) database features an extensive listing of upcoming training courses and open education resources from around the world related to food security issues in Africa. It is relevant for government officials, farm leaders, entrepreneurs, innovators, and policy leaders in agriculture. It is a collaborative project between OER Africa, an initiative of the South African Institute for Distance Education (SAIDE), the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and the Africa Leadership Training and Capacity Building Program (Africa Lead). The database will ensure the widespread dissemination and usage of some of the courses offered by Africa's and America's agricultural institutions.

([e-Agriculture](#), 15/01/2013)

## Mapping and Geoprocessing Tools in Support of Rural Advisory Systems

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17645](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17645)

This book from the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE, University of Bern) details the use of geoprocessing tools to support rural extension and development. The main tools discussed are the Global Positioning System (GPS), virtual globes, and simple geographic information systems (GIS). Based on examples, the book offers a range of insights into the use of geoprocessing tools in interventions in the context of international development cooperation. Agricultural extensionists and rural advisors who have little or no experience with mapping tools are encouraged to begin using such tools in their work with communities, whenever appropriate, to add value to their initiatives and projects.

([University of Bern CDE](#), 2012)

## Sweet potato roots and leaves fodder feeds cow and pigs in East Africa

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17647](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17647)

East Africa has the highest per capita consumption of livestock products (e.g., dairy cattle, pig, and goats for meat and milk) in SSA. Major feed shortages occur during the dry season, and quality feed concentrates demand a price many cannot afford. Napier grass, which is used in Kenya as a primary feed for dairy farming, requires significant allocations of land and is suffering from a major disease outbreak. In comparison, sweet potato vines offer more protein and dry matter per unit area and require less land than other commonly used livestock feeds. For example, Kenyan researchers have found that 4 kilos of vines could replace 1 kilo of dairy concentrate feed. Sweet potato roots also make good feed.

([ILRI](#), 4/01/2012)

[Back To Top](#)

## Events | **RSS**

### 9th CAADP Partnership Platform

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17650](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17650)

Dates: 25-26 March 2013

Venue: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The African Union Commission (AUC) and the NEPAD Agency will hold the 9th Comprehensive African Agriculture Development (CAADP) Partnership Platform (PP) to evaluate progress and achievements made in implementing CAADP. The PP is an annual high-level partnership platform, bringing together key stakeholders such as African governments, policy makers, civil society organisations and farmers' organisations to assess progress made in implementing the CAADP goals. About 200 delegates from Africa and outside the Continent will attend the meeting at the AU's headquarters.

[More information.](#)

### Week on Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa (WAIA)

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17651](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17651)

Dates: 25-31 May 2013

Venue: Nairobi, Kenya

The EU-funded project JOLISAA coordinated by CIRAD, France; the ProInnova international network hosted by ETC Foundation, Netherlands; the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS); the AusAID-funded project Food System Innovation for Food Security (FSIFS) and other partners are to meet in May 2013 to jointly discuss approaches to enhance knowledge-to-action linkages among actors in agricultural innovation systems in Africa. During WAIA, a workshop on Agricultural Innovation Systems in Africa (AISA) will take place, preceded by an Eastern Africa Farmer Innovation Fair to showcase the achievements of individual and groups of smallholder farmers in improving their farming and their livelihoods.

[More information.](#)

### 3rd International Conference on Neglected and Underutilized Species

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17652](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17652)

Dates: 23-25 September 2013

Venue: Accra, Ghana

The emerging interest in Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS) needs to be supported by science-based evidence of how NUS contribute to food security, income generation, better nutrition and climate change resilience. To this end, Bioversity International and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ghana, and partners are organizing this event. The theme of the conference is NUS for a food-secure Africa. It will bring together research scientists, policymakers, entrepreneurs along the value chain, extension services, NGOs, development agencies, nutritionists, educators and others interested in helping poor farmers to use so-called minor crops to improve their livelihoods and well being. The emphasis will be on sharing evidence of what works.

[More information.](#)

### Science Forum 2013: Nutrition and health outcomes: targets for agricultural research

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17653](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17653)

Dates: 23-25 September 2013

Venue: Bonn, Germany

The Science Forum 2013 will be led by the Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC) on behalf of the CGIAR, and co-hosted by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Germany. The Forum's programme will feature perspectives on research needs, evidence and methods to better understand the contribution and impact of agriculture in improving nutrition and health. Solutions are likely to be multi-disciplinary and not homogenous across all

developing countries. The role of the plenary sessions will be to raise the questions in testing concepts, pathways and assumptions, followed by breakout sessions delving into these topics.

[More information](#).

[Back To Top](#)

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

### Call for concept notes: Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia (CARIAA)

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17655](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17655)

Deadline: 4 April 2013

IDRC and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) are funding a new programme on climate change adaptation. The Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia (CARIAA) began in 2012 and will run until 2019. CARIAA invites submissions of joint concept notes for the establishment of research consortia in three climate change hot spots: semi-arid regions, deltas, and glacier and snowpack dependent river basins.

[More information](#).

### Scientific Communication and Publishing

[knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17656](http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17656)

Dates: 6-10 May 2013

Venue: University of Nairobi, Chiromo Campus, Kenya

Deadline: 1 May 2013

This is an intensive, 5-day course, organised by the Training Centre in Communication (TCC), during which participants will learn about: Writing technical communication, inc. reports, theses, scientific papers, reviews; scientific papers for publication in international peer-reviewed journals, preparing and giving different forms of oral communication for different audiences, preparing posters, writing proposals, communicating in science (conferences, preparing applications, reviewing the work of others), analysing and presenting technical data using graphical methods, designing research projects, managing projects for scientific and international organisations, matters of style in technical communication, communicating to non-experts.

[More information](#).

[Back To Top](#)

## Jobs | [RSS](#)

### Sweetpotato Technical Advisor

Apply by: 15 March 2013

The International Potato Center (CIP) is seeking an agricultural economist or nutritionist with excellent skills in survey design, implementation, and analysis, project management experience, and good communication and writing skills suitable for working with a multi-disciplinary team of agronomists, breeders, nutritionists, food scientists, and extension practitioners. The selected scientist will backstop government and non-government partners in designing and coordinating nutrition and income-earning value chains, as well as breeder and multiplication activities in 6 states in Nigeria. The position is based in Abuja, Nigeria.

[More information](#).

### Director – Biosciences east and central Africa-ILRI Hub

Apply by: 31 March 2013

ILRI is seeking a dynamic director to lead a highly successful USD10 million capacity building and research programme in plant and animal biosciences and take it to the next level. The ideal candidate will be a citizen of an African country, have worked in and for Africa, be a credible and influential leader and have extensive networks throughout the African continent. S/he will have excellent research management and capacity building skills and a track record of securing large scale funding for capacity building and research.

[More information](#).

[Back To Top](#)

---

To unsubscribe, send a blank email to [leave-knowledge-en@lists.cta.int](mailto: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](http://Knowledge for Development) website and register for the email newsletter; or send a blank email to [join-knowledge-en@lists.cta.int](mailto: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.