

February 2011 newsletter

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Navigate from here:

- CTA S&T programme
- Featured dossiers
- Developments
- Publications
- Fellowships & grants
- Events
- Organisations

## CTA launches its S&T blog

### What has been gained from participatory approaches in ARD - Is it time for reflection? Let's discuss.

An invitation from Judith Francis



After years of promoting **participatory approaches for agricultural and rural development** (PARD); has there been any observable improvement in scientific output - numbers of publications, scientific quality and relevance in the south? Have there been improvements in agricultural performance, environmental sustainability, economic development or sustainable livelihoods that the scientific community and their northern partners can boast about?

Are national governments satisfied with the research outputs? Are they making more funds available for agricultural research, training and development? Are there lessons from Brazil, Malaysia, China or other developing countries for ensuring the future of science and innovation for agricultural and rural development?

If yes, then let's share these success stories on PARD and show how they can be replicated, out- or up-scaled to help countries in Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) reform their agricultural research and innovation systems.

If not, is it time for reflection on PARD and focus efforts on mobilizing resources to build the scientific capability in developing countries for research that will yield economic returns and development outcomes?

Let's discuss the benefits and limitations of, and the alternatives to, PARD. Share your thoughts, experiences and references to support your point of view. Using our **new blogging platform**, CTA will summarize your contributions to this debate in a critical assessment paper for circulation among the 'S&T for development' community around the world.

**Express your point of view on our blog page.**

Visit the '**PARD**' dossier on CTA's S&T Knowledge website

## Featured dossiers

### Innovation, Sustainability, Development: A New Manifesto

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13284>



*Innovation, Sustainability, Development: A New Manifesto* recommends new ways of linking science and innovation to development for a more sustainable, equitable and resilient future. It was produced by the 'Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability' (STEPS) Centre, an interdisciplinary global research and policy engagement hub that unites development studies with science and technology studies.

While acknowledging that future generations face huge social, environmental and economic challenges, and noting that global governance, economics and people work against the interest of poorer countries and people, the STEPS Centre proposes that science, technology and innovation must play essential roles in meeting the moral and political imperative of addressing the interlinked global challenges. The new manifesto recognizes the need for a new politics of innovation which responds to "which science?", "what technologies?" and "what kinds of change?".

They call for greater respect cultural variety, regional diversity and democratic accountability and opening up of the political space and debate for more deliberation on styles and directions for research and innovation. They propose that radical changes be made to the way in which innovation is shaped through: agenda setting, funding, capacity building, organizational arrangements and monitoring, evaluation and accountability.

Visit the '**Demanding Innovation**' dossier on CTA's S&T Knowledge website

### Reviving agricultural and forestry research in DR Congo

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13295>



In partnership with the European Union (EU), FAO is leading efforts to help the Democratic Republic of the Congo breathe new life into agricultural and forestry research. Late 2006 saw the beginning of a major initiative in support of agricultural and forestry research, known by its French acronym as REAFOR (*Programme de Relance de la Recherche*

*Agricole et Forestière en République Démocratique du Congo*), that is now in place with almost €8 million in funding.

REAFOR is led by FAO, working with specialised partners, including CIFOR, IITA, the National Institute for Agronomic Study and Research (INERA, DRC) and the University of Kisangani (UNIKIS, DRC). In the area of forestry, 13 PhD-students and 35 MSc-students are carrying out research aimed at safeguarding one of the world's most valuable ecosystems, while at the same time improving the livelihoods of the people living in and around the forest, who greatly depend on it for their income and subsistence. 24 students are enrolled in agricultural research projects, 5 PhDs and 19 MScs.

Their projects focus on basic Congolese food crops such as cassava and plantain, on how to produce more and better plants, while preserving the environment and the ecosystem. Research stations from the heart of the rainforest to the high hills bordering Uganda or the south-western savannahs, are being rehabilitated and equipped with state of the art material, so that the students have what they need to perform. (Source: FAO, 14 Feb. 2011). Remember that 2011 is the International Year of Forests (Ed.)

Visit the '**Agroforestry**' dossier on CTA's S&T Knowledge website

### Caribbean RIE Network Research update : Re-conceiving agriculture in the Caribbean

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13282>



At a Caribbean Fine Flavour Cocoa Industry Commercialisation workshop held in February 2011 at the University of West Indies (St. Augustine campus in Trinidad & Tobago), the University's Principal, Professor Clement Sankat, called for a re-conception of research priorities and practices in the Caribbean agricultural sector.

Adopting a new approach in the sector would involve having a better understanding of the crop branching architecture, delivering the highest levels of productivity, and newer designs of growing systems, like the 'Tatura Trellis' growing system adapted to cocoa trees that boost crop production per tree and lessens negative environmental effects.

Revised agricultural practices should facilitate mechanisation, push for higher levels of labour productivity and help develop opportunities for higher quality employment. (Source: RIE Network, Feb. 2011)

Visit the '**Differentiated S&T Strategies**' dossier on CTA's S&T Knowledge website

### African millet gets international commercial interest and fears patent grab

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13268>



The African Centre for Biosafety (ACB) has focused several recent reports on new international commercial interest and patent claims on the African native crop sorghum. This includes the issues raised by the proposed widespread use of sorghum for the production of biofuels. This report extends ACB's examination of new international commercial interest in African native crops, by including a focus on pearl millet (*Pennisetum glaucum*) and related African native grass species in the *Pennisetum* genus.

Pearl millet, the most important African *Pennisetum* economically and for food security, shows promise to foreign researchers for a variety of applications. The paper explains that a foreign government project in South Africa working on pearl millet is seeking to stimulate development of the seed industry in Africa by replacing traditional varieties with commercial hybrids, and by creating pearl millets for specific uses including poultry feed and for biofuels.

According to the paper, the ongoing unchecked provision of African farmers' varieties of pearl millet to the US INTSORMIL (International Sorghum and Millet Collaborative Research Support) Program, without the use of appropriate material transfer agreements, seems alarming and there are fears that over time these practices are likely to result in biopiracy. It appears the seed transfer arrangements do not enjoy the protections and benefit sharing of the multilateral system under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). (Source: ACB, Feb.2011)

### 'Traditional Knowledge & Biopiracy: The Peruvian Maca Root' - PIIPA Monthly Case Study Series (Feb.2011)

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13190>



Maca root is an herbaceous, perennial, cultivated crop that is native to the Andes in Peru. Maca plants have medicinal values that include increasing libido, stamina, fertility, and alleviating insomnia. For centuries, the people in the Andes have been using the maca root for its medicinal properties and now maca is exported around the world. The Peruvian people's use of maca for medicinal purposes is an example of traditional knowledge (TK).

The National Institute for the Defense of Competition and Intellectual Property (INDECOPI) is a Peruvian government agency charged with the responsibility for market promotion and protection of consumer rights, as well as ensuring honest competition while protecting all forms of intellectual property including TK. Concern about possible biopiracy of the maca root is one reason why Peru created this task force. INDECOPI discovered that there were over 100 patents directed to inventions related to Peruvian indigenous plants, the maca root

or that included maca derivatives in the patent claims. With the help of PIIPA's pro bono assistance volunteer (the US firm of Sterne Kessler Goldstein and Fox, PLLC in Washington DC "SKGF") focus was placed on U.S. patents directed to extracts of maca plants.

The Working Group and SKGF worked with scientists and maca exporters to assemble published documentation on maca preparation and the use of maca prior to the filing dates of most of the patents in question. In 2002, the working group also filed an opposition to an EU patent application with the European Patent Office (EPO). In 2010, the EPO rejected the European patent application, in part due to the documents provided by INDECOPI and the Working Group, which showed prior use. The National Anti-Biopiracy Commission will submit a request for reexamination of the related patent granted in the U.S. based on the rejection of the European patent as an argument. (Source: PIIPA, Feb. 2011)

Visit the '[Intellectual Property](#)' dossier on CTA's S&T Knowledge website

### Natural dyes from Caribbean medicinal plants

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13299>



This research activity is part of the 'Mood Indigo Caribbean - Dyeing for the Blues' project that is being conducted by Dr Sonia Peter, head of the Department of Chemistry, at the Barbados Community College in collaboration with the Barbados Fashion Alliance and funded by the UNDP. Selected plant species will be investigated for natural dye sources.

The dyes will be subjected to a variety of analytical methods for chemical profiling and efficacy.

As Indigo was once of economic significance to the island during the colonial period, the project aims to revive the interest in indigo within the local fashion industry. In addition, extracts from other indigenous plant species used in traditional medicine will be subjected to analytical investigation including chromatography and spectroscopy for suitability as sources.

Novel agents will be explored for the indigo fermentation process and as aggregator for the dyeing process. All fabrics will be of natural fibres with a focus on Sea Island Cotton, which is known to be of high quality. Toxicity testing of the natural dyes developed is also planned. This is in an effort to green the sector of the local fashion industry that is involved in textile manufacture. (Source: chemistry2011.org, 28 Jan. 2011)

Visit the '[Indigenous Knowledge](#)' dossier on CTA's S&T Knowledge website

### African nightshade: An underappreciated native plant

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13301>



The term "nightshade" refers collectively to a wide-ranging group of plants, including poisonous, medicinal, and edible species (from the genus *Solanum*). This includes three major crops of global importance: tomato, potato, and eggplant. The broad-leafed African nightshade (*Solanum scabrum*) is widely cultivated in sub-Saharan Africa on

smallholder plots and in home gardens around cities.

African nightshade is sometimes referred to as black nightshade or garden huckleberry. The vegetable is an excellent source of protein, iron, vitamin A, iodine, zinc. Nightshades are traditionally used worldwide as medicinal plants, especially to treat stomach ailments. Leaf extracts from African nightshade are used to treat diarrhea, eye infections, and jaundice. The raw fruit is sometimes chewed to treat stomach ulcers or stomachache. There are no solid statistics on how much African nightshade is currently cultivated. But the crop is one of the most important indigenous leafy vegetables in West and Central Africa, and to a lesser extent East Africa, according to Plant Resources of Tropical Africa (PROTA). Cameroon produces enough African nightshade to export to neighboring countries. According to Patrick Maundu at Bioversity International, demand for the crop has recently risen significantly since East African supermarkets started stocking it.

In September of 2010, Kenyan Professor Mary Onyango-Abukutsa - who is quoted in 'State of the World 2011: Innovations that Nourish the Planet' - was awarded a grant by Kenya's National Council for Science and Technology to lead research on African indigenous vegetables at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. Her research will focus on three key vegetables: African nightshade, spider plant, and amaranth. Professor Mary Onyango-Abukutsa was the first place winner of the 2008/2009 Africa-wide Women in Science Competitions that was organized by CTA in collaboration with several partners (Ed.). (Source: Worldwatch Institute, 7 Feb. 2011)

Visit the '[Food security](#)' and the '[Horticulture](#)' dossier on CTA's S&T Knowledge website

### SUNRAY: an EU initiative to tackle malnutrition in Africa

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13273>



The European Commission has given the green light to an ambitious research project called SUNRAY: the acronym for 'Sustainable Nutrition Research for Africa in the Years to come'. The project will be implemented by a consortium of four African and five European

institutions coordinated by the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium.

The SUNRAY-project intends to identify new and innovative ways to address the problem of malnutrition. The research agenda and priorities will be defined primarily by African researchers. Other institutions and individuals with an interest in nutrition and related fields in Africa will also be consulted. African partners will take ownership of the research agenda to ensure that it is sustainable. The research will be integrated with initiatives in other sectors such as agriculture, health, education, social protection and rural development, to address the root causes of malnutrition.

The project will link research with policy and action, and involve a broad range of stakeholders, including politicians, government staff, health professionals, nutritionists, consumer and public health organisations, agro- and food industry, policy makers, non-governmental organisations, civil society, UN organisations and donors. (Source: Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp via AlphaGalileo.org, 28 January 2011)

### EC ARD: Improving the quality labelling system

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13276>



The EC wants to improve the quality labelling system it uses to designate traditional agricultural produce and foods. The system helps protect and promote the brand names of Europe's traditional agricultural produce and foods. Since its creation in 1992, the system has registered products under one of three labels (Protected Designations of Origin; Protected Geographical Indications; Traditional Specialities Guaranteed). The Commission made legislative proposals in December 2010 called 'Quality package 2010' to streamline the system and make the labels easier to use and understand.

The Quality Package puts in place a comprehensive policy on certification schemes, value-adding terms for agricultural product qualities, and product standards, covering the different facets of quality, from the compliance with minimum standards to the production of highly specific products. The Package comprises a new 'Agricultural Product Quality Schemes Regulation', a new general base-line 'Marketing Standard' for all agricultural products and new 'Guidelines of best practices' on voluntary certification schemes. For the future, the Commission announced its intention to study further the problems faced by small-scale producers in participating in Union quality schemes as well as mountain producers to market their products.

For ACP farmers and food producers, national or regional quality standards could help them market their products abroad. The initiative by the EC could set a baseline for quality certification process and serve ACP countries in their effort to expand exports of agricultural produce of accredited quality. However, ACP countries would need to improve their human and physical infrastructure to take advantage of the opportunities (Ed.). (Source: EC ARD website, 15 Feb. 2011)

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

### ECOWAS calls for improved quality of agro-based products

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13280>



ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, Mr Ousseini Salifou, has stressed the need for ECOWAS Member States to improve on the quality of their agro-based products with the aim of increasing national and intra-Community trade. The Commissioner was addressing the opening of a six-day "Sensitization workshop on the creation and/or strengthening of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS) Committees and Training of Trainers on Science-based Arguments" on 28 February 2011 in Bamako, Mali.

The workshop sought to raise awareness on the issue of participation of African countries at international standards-setting meetings and the PAN-SPSO project ('Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard-setting Organisations'). PAN-SPSO is a three-year collaboration project between the European Union, African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Secretariat, the African Union Commission and the regional economic communities (RECs). The project involves 47 ACP countries and is being implemented in partnership with seven regional economic communities (RECs). Facilitating trade and marketing of animals and animal products in compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary standards is one of the core missions of the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR). The involvement of African institutions in the activities of major standard-setting organisations has been low. Their lack of qualified personnel and other capacities prevent them from contributing in a gainful way, and exacerbate their ineffectiveness to reach common positions on SPS issues. The main project activities will include institutional support, regional and continental harmonization, technical capacity building and information collection and sharing. (Source: CEDEAO/ECOWAS, 28 Feb. 2011) (Source: CEDEAO/ECOWAS, 28 Feb. 2011)

*Visit the 'Food Safety' dossier on CTA's S&T Knowledge website*

### Coral network can protect Asia-Pacific fish stocks

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13278>



Research by Dr Johnathan Kool (and colleagues) of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies and James Cook University (Australia), has established that the richest marine region on Earth – the Coral Triangle between Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines – depends vitally for its diversity and resilience on coral and fish larvae swept in from the South China Sea and Solomon Islands.

An international scientific team has shown that strong links between the corals reefs of the south China sea, West Pacific and Coral Triangle hold the key to preserving fish and marine resources in the Asia-Pacific region. Maintaining the network of links between reefs allowing larvae to flow between them and re-stock depleted areas, is key to saving coral ecosystems threatened by human pressure and climate change. Six nations within the Coral Triangle (Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, The Solomon Islands and Timor L'Este) are now working together to strengthen coral reef governance and management, under an arrangement known as the Coral Triangle Initiative.

The paper "Connectivity and the development of population genetic structure in Indo-West



Pacific coral reef communities" by Johnathan T. Kool, Claire B. Paris, Paul H. Barber and Robert K. Cowen appears in a recent issue of the journal *Global Ecology and Biogeography*. (Source: ARC, 22 Feb.2011)

## The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2010

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13279>



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) has released "State of the World's Fisheries and Aquaculture", which stresses that the contribution of fish to global diets has increased and that the status of global fish stocks has not improved.

The report highlights that approximately 32% of the world's fish stocks are estimated to be over-exploited, depleted or recovering, while only 15% of the FAO-monitored stocks are under-exploited or moderately exploited. The report underscores the growing importance of aquaculture for meeting global fish demand and praises the improving management of aquaculture in Southeast Asia.

In addition to marine fisheries, the report highlights the importance of inland fisheries and the particular challenges facing these systems from hydroelectric schemes and irrigation. It describes efforts to control illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing through trade measures and global records of fishing vessels. The report includes a section on "climate change implications for fisheries and aquaculture".

Visit the '[Livestock and Fisheries](#)' dossier on CTA's S&T Knowledge website

[Back To Top](#)

## Developments | Follow the latest RSS feeds for this section

### CTA/RADA - National Farmer Experimentation and Innovation Workshop for Extension Officers Report 2010

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13213>



This report details the outcomes of a four-day training workshop on Farmer Experimentation and Innovation that was held from the 28th of September to 1st October, 2010 for twenty-six Extension Officers at the University of the West Indies, Mona Visitors Lodge. The workshop was aimed at developing the capacity of national experts for identifying, characterizing and valuing farmer innovation as a strategy for strengthening the agricultural science technology and innovation (ASTI) system in Jamaica.

### US\$12 million project for ICTs in West African universities

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13204>



The Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, signed an agreement with Soumaila Cissé, President of the Commission of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), to launch a US\$12 million project to boost the information and communication technology (ICT) capacity of West African

universities.

The project is part of a wide-ranging cooperation plan initiated in 2006 by UNESCO and the UEMOA. It aims to develop the use of ICTs to support an ongoing reform of higher education in the UEMOA member states (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Mali, Senegal and Togo). The three-year project will install ICT infrastructure, both material and virtual, in higher education institutions.

The campuses of eight universities, one in each UEMOA country, will be equipped with fibre optic equipment and at least 200 computers with high-speed connection. In addition to a regional virtual library network to which universities will be linked, the project will set up a cyber institute giving professors on-line access to training courses.

A central data base for calculating students' course credits in all state universities will be established, to help harmonize academic standards and facilitate student mobility. The project will be implemented by UNESCO's cluster office in Bamako (Mali). (Source: UNESCO, 14 Feb. 2011)

### Sugarcane bioethanol: Environmental implications

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13310>



An article in *Global Change Biology Bioenergy* assessed the net greenhouse gas savings of bioethanol from sugarcane as compared to the use of fossil fuels. Researchers have long promoted biofuels produced from crop biomass as an environmentally sustainable source of renewable energy but rarely questioned whether the potential climate benefit of sugarcane ethanol is diminished when emissions from land use management are considered. Scientists examined the sugarcane ethanol production systems to identify sources of greenhouse gas emissions. They found that land use change, fertilization, residue burning, and tillage had the largest impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

In order to maximize greenhouse gas savings, Dr Cardoso Lisboa and coauthors suggest changes at all stages of the sugarcane production. For example, simultaneous provision of irrigation water and fertilizer would allow the reduction of fertilizer rates in sugarcane production systems. Furthermore, the conversion from pre-harvest burning to no- or minimum-tillage systems with mechanized harvest may better maintain or even increase soil C and N stocks. (Source: *Alphagalileo*, 2 Mar. 2011)

## **Selected publications | Follow the latest RSS feeds for this section**

### **The nature and extent of research in Africa (Reuters Global Research Report)**

Adams, J.; King, C.; Hook, D.; Thomson Reuters, 2010

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13202>

This report provides an introduction to patterns of research activity in Africa. Its overall finding is that, whilst the volume of research activity on the continent as a whole remains small, individual countries are making notable and effective contributions of a high standard.

The authors note that the challenges that Africa faces are enormous and indigenous research could help provide both effective and focused responses. There is little correlation between the amount and range of resources a country has at its disposal and the standard and volume of its research contributions. For example Malawi, with one-tenth the annual research output of Nigeria, produces research of a quality that exceeds the world average benchmark while Nigeria hovers around half that impact level.

The authors further suggest that the future of the African research enterprise depends to some significant extent on the ability of these countries to help facilitate further growth, through leadership, strong local investment and the creation and support of key facilities and centres to draw in and assist currently less well resourced partners.

### **Geographical indications, in situ conservation and traditional knowledge**

Larson Guerra, J.; ICTSD Policy Brief #3, November 2010

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13314>

Jorge Larson Guerra, biologist, Mexico National University, writes a policy brief for the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) Project on genetic resources. After detailing the rationale and the history of the development of the 'geographical indication' (GI) concept, the author describes the GI legal context, with a focus on developing countries and their efforts to implement and promote the GI concept in their jurisdiction. GI's value chains, and the role played in biological conservation and traditional knowledge is also explained, in depth.

This brief is rich on references and provides up-to-date knowledge on GI placing it on the agricultural science and trade policy-makers' agenda. The author concludes "the current neglect for GIs within discussions on in situ conservation and the protection of traditional knowledge should end and there should be in-depth discussions on their possible drawbacks for developing countries, as well as on their positive contributions to the pressing issues of conservation and development in rural diverse areas worldwide."

### **Mapping a better future: Spatial analysis and pro-poor livestock strategies in Uganda**

Henninger, N.; Landsberg, F.; Uganda's MoAg and BoStats, FAO, ILRI; 2010

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13319>

This report commissioned by the World Resource Institute, USA, uses mapping data to examine the spatial relationships between poverty, livestock production systems, the location of livestock services, in order to ensure that government investments in the livestock sector benefit smallholders and high-poverty locations. The process of compiling the data, producing the maps, and analyzing the map overlays has shown that:

- Analysts working with the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, and other collaborators can combine poverty maps with maps of livestock systems and distributions, milk surplus and deficit areas, and areas of high disease risk to highlight relationships that might not otherwise be obvious.
- From these map overlays, analysts can create new indicators and maps juxtaposing levels of poverty and the type and levels of livestock production.
- Analysts can use these indicators and maps to select geographic areas with specific poverty and livestock profiles for pro-poor targeting.
- Decision-makers can use these new indicators and maps to make more informed and transparent choices when prioritizing investments in the livestock sector and to communicate these priorities to the public.

Maps showing milk surplus and deficit areas can highlight geographic differences in market opportunities for poor dairy farmers. This information can help policymakers, dairy researchers, and development agencies to better target knowledge dissemination, market infrastructure investments, and service delivery to dairy farmers.

### **The World of Organic Agriculture 2011**

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13323>

The 12th edition of 'The World of Organic Agriculture' documents recent developments in global organic agriculture. It includes contributions from representatives of the organic sector from throughout the world and provides comprehensive organic farming statistics compiled by FiBL and IFOAM that cover surface area under organic management, specific information about land use in organic systems, numbers of farms and other operators as well as selected market data.

The book also contains information on the global market for organic food, the latest developments in organic certification, information on standards and regulations as well as insights into current and emerging trends for organic agriculture by region. Special features include chapters on beekeeping as well as on voluntary standards. In addition, the volume contains a number of country reports: Armenia, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Pacific Islands, Switzerland, Tunisia, Uganda, United States and Ukraine.

### **Agricultural, food, and water nanotechnologies for the poor**

Grùère, G.; Narrod, C.; Abbott, L.; International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), 2011

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13324>

This paper first provides a rapid assessment of key technologies that could have a large impact on the poor via increased agricultural productivity, improved food and water safety, and nutrition. Second, it reviews some of the main challenges to their deployment and adoption by the poor. It concludes with a discussion of the potential role of the CGIAR in facilitating the poor's access to beneficial nanotechnologies.

### **Intellectual property and human development - Current trends and future scenarios**

Public Interest Intellectual Property Advisors (PIIPA), 2011

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13197>

Prepared by PIIPA's global team of IP professionals and partners in human development, this book examines the social impact of intellectual property laws as they relate to health, food security, education, new technologies, preservation of bio-cultural heritage, and contemporary challenges in promoting the arts. It explores how intellectual property frameworks could be better calibrated to meet socioeconomic needs in countries at different stages of development, with local contexts and culture in mind.

Scenarios for the future are discussed. A resource for policy-makers, stakeholders, non-profits, and students, this volume highlights alternative modes of innovation that are emerging to address such diverse challenges as neglected or resurgent diseases in developing countries and the harnessing of creative possibilities on the Internet. The chapters emphasize not only fair access by individuals and communities to intellectual property – protected material, whether a cure, a crop variety, clean technology, a textbook, or a tune – but also the enhancement of their own capabilities in cultural participation and innovation.

### **Soils of the Caribbean**

Ahmad, N.; CTA/Ian Randle Publishers, 2011

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13217>

The soils of the Caribbean are the most valuable of the region's resources. Their proper use is important in food security; export of agricultural products and in the provision of housing, touristic and industrial development, sports and recreational facilities. The book is divided into two parts.

Part One provides a general overview of the regional geographical setting and identifies the common features of the soils and their management, land use and land capability classification.

Part Two presents detailed studies of the soils of each of the countries of the Caribbean incorporating the geology, relief, climate and vegetation. The text is supplemented by numerous maps, figures and tables as well as a substantial photo section highlighting some of the significant features from the various countries.

[Back To Top](#)

**Fellowships and Grants | Follow the latest RSS feeds for this section**

### **TEEAL Graduate Student Research Paper Competition 2011**

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13144>

The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (TEEAL) is pleased to announce the first research paper competition for post graduate students from African countries eligible to obtain TEEAL. TEEAL invites MSc and PhD students to submit research papers in food production, food security, agricultural and food policy, and rural development. TEEAL is a digital collection of research journals for agriculture and related sciences. Researchers, students, faculty and librarians can discover and access thousands of full-text PDF articles without the use of the Internet. The competition is open only to MSc or PhD students who will be currently enrolled in a graduate programme in 2011 or graduating in 2011. Undergraduates or faculty members are not eligible. **Registration deadline is 31 May 2011.**

### **African Centre for Crop Improvement (ACCI) offering PhD Scholarship in Plant Breeding**

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13326>

The African Centre for Crop Improvement (ACCI) at the University of KwaZulu - Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa offers this prestigious scholarship to young African scientists who are keen to make Plant Breeding their career. The aim of the ACCI is to train African plant breeders, in Africa, on African crops. This involves 2 years of academic studies at the University of KwaZulu - Natal and 3 years of field research in the student home countries, at their home institution. The crop students breed are food security

crop: Cereals, roots and tubers and legumes. Successful candidates would be eligible to begin their studies in January 2012. **The deadline is 31 October 2011.**

### TWOWS Prizes 2011 for young women scientists in developing countries

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/8716>

With the support of TWAS and the Elsevier Foundation prizes of US\$5,000 will be awarded to the best young female scientists in three categories (biology, chemistry and physics/mathematics) from each of the four regions of the developing world (Africa, Arab region, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean). Additional information and nomination forms can be downloaded [here](#). **Application deadline: 30 April 2011.**

### SEARCA MSc and PhD Research Scholarships 2011

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13328>

This graduate scholarship was initiated in academic year 1968-69 and aims to ensure the relevance and responsiveness of Southeast Asia's agricultural scientists and professionals to global sustainable development issues. The programme provides support for advanced studies leading to the MS and PhD degrees in agriculture, forestry, and related fields. SEARCA aims to prepare highly qualified professionals working in agricultural and rural development for positions of leadership in SEAMEO member countries. **The deadline for submitting application is: 30 July 2011.**

[Back To Top](#)

## Events | Follow the latest RSS feeds for this section

### 19th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition (19th EU BC&E)

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13210>

The 19th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition (EU BC&E), the leading platform for the world's biomass specialists, will take place in Berlin, Germany (Conference 6-10 June 2011 - Exhibition 6-9 June 2011).

The exhibition is designed to showcase biomass products, utilisation and conversion technologies. It targets all interested parties in the commercial use of biomass, promoting business while at the same time providing a forum to network. The Conference February 2011 Newsletter is available [here](#).

**Venue:** International Congress Center (ICC), Berlin, Germany.

**Dates:** Conference 6-10 June 2011; Exhibition 6-9 June 2011.

[Back To Top](#)

## Organisations | Find more organisations on our website

### Plant Resources of Tropical Africa (PROTA)

<http://knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13308>



PROTA's strategy is stipulated around the establishment, and management of its core product PROTA4U (<http://www.prota4u.org/>), a dynamic and interactive web-based bilingual (EN and FR) system providing comprehensive information on 7,000 – 8000 useful plants of tropical Africa.

To ensure that scientific information has the greatest impact on end-user, PROTA follows a fundamental three-step approach:

1. **Knowledge synthesis:**
  - Synthesis of the dispersed world literature on plants and the publication of comprehensive information on each useful species.
  - Stakeholder consultations to identify priority species, research and development needs, policy and conservation needs, and ready technologies for dissemination to farmers.
  - Continuous updating and development of demand-driven bilingual products to suit PROTA's target groups.
2. **Knowledge dissemination**
  - Continuous dissemination of PROTA products through PROTA4U, the handbook and CD-Rom series, key partners in Africa, agricultural extension systems, grassroots projects, targeted workshops and seminars, print media, radio and television.
3. **Knowledge utilization**
  - Proactive promotion of widespread and the best use of PROTA's information by users (policy makers, intermediate development organizations and end-users) to influence policy, advance research, introduce ready technologies.
  - Develop value added products, for curricula development and teaching and to improve livelihoods.

[Back To Top](#)



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