



News from FARA Partners & Stakeholders

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This issue of our bulletin tries to highlight the importance of indigenous knowledge and farmer innovation, as a challenge in responding to the present overwhelming debate on climate change, the utilization of fertilizers, and biofuels. FARA has long been an advocate of innovation systems approach where innovations are not limited to scientists. We are glad to note that international as well as regional initiatives are moving forward in highlighting their increased awareness of the potential of indigenous knowledge and farmer innovation. Farmer's themselves are getting more organized and ready to engage with private sector and research. In October 2008 in Mozambique, there will be a gathering of Via Campesina's global federation of farmers' organizations representing more than 100 million small farmers.

The year 2008 marks the beginning of the most needed attention to food and agriculture assisted by the 2007 World Bank report. The report bemoaned the stagnation of funding in the area of agricultural research and development and broader knowledge systems in sub Saharan Africa.

There are new money at the table from the Gates Foundation and Gates/Rockefeller AGRA initiative (Alliance for a Green Revolution for Africa) which is combining with other G8 countries, Clinton Foundation, Google Foundation and Millennium Village initiatives. They introduce a new era of philanthropist involvement leading governmental and intergovernmental policies on agriculture and agricultural technologies.

The Global Donor Platform on Rural Development is currently restructuring bilateral agricultural aid in light of the OECD's Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness of 2005. The Platform includes 29 bilateral government aid agencies, regional development banks, and international research institutes. Their advice is to be an important input to the 3rd High Level Conference on Aid Effectiveness in Ghana on 2-4 September.

We are also happy to note that key development partners such as UK's DFID, the Netherlands, Denmark are changing their approach towards more sectoral support.

FARA wants to reaffirm its belief that such high profile attention to food and agriculture should not miss out on the importance of innovation including farmer's innovation, the process by which knowledge is applied to bring about change. The change may be technical, organizational, institutional or political. The success of such processes depends on the contributions of all actors in the processes.

Given a new opportunity or threat, farmers react based on their own knowledge and unique systems and circumstances. Lessons learnt becomes new knowledge vital to the success and spread of the particular innovation but it requires the ability to get synergies out of the very different modern, reductionist and ethnic holistic, scientific traditions.

To break the islands of success syndrome typical of innovation in African agriculture it will be necessary to utilise advances in ICT and distance learning to enable rural communities to become learning centres so that they can learn how to apply new information in their unique circumstances.

Monty Jones, Executive Director, FARA

FARA's networking support functions: Secretariat and Forum activities

Advocacy and resource mobilization

An MOU signed between FARA and its development partners

30 March. The FARA Chairman, signed on behalf of FARA, a memorandum of agreement with development partners who are committed in supporting the core activities of the FARA Secretariat starting in 2008. The first group of development partners who signed in the MOU are: AfDB, Canadian CIDA, DFID, European Commission, the Netherlands, USAID and WB.



The FARA Chair and Executive Director.

FARA Secretariat Annual program planning

26-30 March. Seven days were allocated by the FARA Executive Board, its technical advisory group, FARA development partners and the Secretariat to reflect on 2007 operation and lessons learnt to guide the planning of activities for 2008. The programmatic approach of FARA activities will be fully implemented in 2008. The week was divided into several sessions i.e. FARA subcommittee meetings, SRO-FARA retreat and the Executive Board meeting.



The FARA Executive Board and its Technical Advisers



FARA Executive Board meeting.

AU/NEPAD's Partnership Platform

17-19 March. Seychelles. FARA participated in the third Partnership Platform meeting to give progress report on CAADP pillar4 and link up with the other pillars. [Read more](#)



Mozambique Minister of S&T met with FARA delegates

7-8 March. Maputo. The Hon. Dr. Venancio Massingue met with the FARA delegation headed by Dr. Jones in Maputo. The FARA team also met with key Ministry officials including from Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Agriculture. The team gave an update of FARA activities and discussed how Maputo can be more engaged in the CAADP-FAAP process. Mozambique was encouraged to move forward the CAADP roundtable discussions.

Conference to advance Africa's R&D

3-7 March. FARA participated at the conference in Addis Ababa on science with Africa aimed to explore how Africa science-based entities could increase their collaboration with and participation in international science and R&D projects. Key themes were **agriculture**, environment, water, transport, health, ICT and life Sciences [Read more](#).



2nd FARA Leadership and Management training

10-14 March. FARA organized the second training for NARS, SROs and CSO leaders actively linked with FARA regional initiatives.

FARA chairman receives 2008 Alumni award

1 March. Two Ugandan scientists have been recognized for their excellence in agriculture by the State University of Ohio in the US: the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) Director General and FARA Chair Dr. Denis T. Kyetere and Makerere University's Head of agricultural economics and agribusiness, Dr. Bernard Bashaasha. [Read more](#)

The International Development Agriculture Coordinating Committee (IDACC)

29 February. FARA made a presentation on at the meeting of the International Development Agriculture Coordinating Committee (IDACC). IDACC functions at the NASULGC Presidential level for the specific purposes of significantly increasing USAID's funding for agriculture and the Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs) and to promote the university profile within the Agency. [Read more](#)

FARA at the ASARECA Board meeting

3-6 February, Entebbe, Uganda. ASARECA held its Executive Board meeting to provide 2007 progress and

plans for 2008. The Development partner's group were actively involved. Dr. Jones gave a presentation on CAADP pillar 4 and how subsidiarity principles apply to regional initiatives and subregional priorities.

EC Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) Preparatory workshop

31 Jan – 1 Feb. Brussels, Belgium. FARA participated in the workshop which was part of a consultative process launched following the issue of the first European Union PCD report in September 2007 to be incorporated into the preparation of a policy paper in April 2008.

☞ Access to knowledge and technologies



The RAILS taskforce annual meeting

20-21 February. Accra. The RAILS taskforce annual meeting reviewed 2007 progress and discussed the 2008 workprogram. [Read more](#)

The RAILS technical group consultation

18-19 February. The RAILS technical group consultation was held for two days in order to elaborate a workprogram on how the information systems will be developed following the framework of RAILS. [Read more](#)

Creation of the FARA RAILS Dgroup

The FARA RAILS dgroup is an open space for collaboration among RAILS stakeholders and/or partners. It is a tool to enhance effective implementation of RAILS, especially in capturing lessons learnt among various actors and partners with different capacities and resources. <http://www.dgroups.org/groups/fara-rails/>

FARA RAILS selected as core member of a new project to support communication and networking on climate adaptation in Africa

The three-year project will explore how the livelihoods of vulnerable people in Africa can be improved by sharing climate adaptation knowledge between Climate Adaptation in Africa research partners, policy makers, civil society organizations, and vulnerable groups themselves. [Read more](#)

Sierra Leone and DONATA

29 February. During consultative meetings recently held in February at Njala, Kenema and Makeni, farmers were given the opportunity to highlight their constraints as well as brainstorm new ideas aimed at popularizing and promoting the DONATA concept that basically called for new technology for a large scale production of cassava and maize. [Read more](#)

☞ Policy and Markets

Meeting of the African Union's Directorate of Rural Economy and Agriculture

19-22 February Addis Ababa. FARA participated at the revision and discussion of the AU/FAO commissioned consultancy reports on the development of the seed sector in Africa in line with the AU Sirte Summit decisions on functional seed sector for African farmers. [Read more](#)

Conference on climate change and animal production-environment interactions in West Africa

11-13 February - Niamey, Niger. FARA participated at the Conference on climate change and animal production-environment interactions in West Africa, organized by the Centre international de recherche-développement sur l'élevage en zone subhumide (CIRDES - Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso) [Read more](#)

International Symposium on Underutilized Plants for Food, Nutrition, Income and Sustainable Development

3 - 7 March. Arusha, Tanzania This 5-day Symposium was organised under the auspices of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS). [Read more](#)

The FARA communication strategy workshop

22,23,25 February. Accra-Ghana. The workshop identified the different needs of each of the networking support functions (NSF) within the FARA Strategic plan. It included discussions on how the communication strategy will be monitored and evaluated to ensure effective implementation. [Read more](#)



☞ Capacity strengthening

American Association for the Advancement of Science,

14-18 February. Boston. Each year FARA participates at the AAAS Annual Meeting. Science and technology professionals - from across disciplines and around the world-gather to discuss new research, emerging trends, and exciting new possibilities. [Read more](#)

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)

4 April. Seattle, Washington State, USA. The meeting was organised by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as one step in their consultations on their emerging programme for supporting tertiary agricultural education in Africa.

☞ Partnerships and strategic alliances

SSA CP workshop Kano, Nigeria

3-6 March KKM Indicators, baseline and Data management workshop.

Consultation of the Neuchatel Initiative (NI)

3-4 March. Brussels. The consultation meeting was initiated as a preliminary discussion on improving advisory services in Africa.

PAEPARD in East, Central and Southern Africa

3-4 March Pretoria, South Africa. A workshop was held as part of the subregional consultations in shaping the PAEPARD platform such as; 1) mechanics of initiating partnerships; 2) tools to facilitate partnerships; 3) platform concept, 4) mechanics and 5) operation and management of the platform.



PAEPARD workshop hosted by South Africa Department of Agriculture, SADC and ASARECA.

SSA CP workshop Nigeria

27 February. Launch of KKM PLS research activities.

Meeting of the Agriculture and Food Security Working Group; MDG Africa Working Group

15 February. Rome, Italy. The First Meeting of the Thematic Group on Agriculture and Food Security focused

on CAADP Pillar III. The greatest obstacle to achieving Pillar III objectives is the lack of capacity in all aspects of delivering food security.

PAEPARD in West, Central and Northern Africa

11-15 February Dakar, Senegal. CORAF organized stakeholder consultation to discuss the mechanics of PAEPARD in their region as well as in North Africa.



PAEPARD workshop hosted by CORAF in Dakar, Senegal.

SSA CP workshop Harare

11-15 February. ZMM indicators, baseline and Data management workshop

SSA CP workshop Kampala

4-8 February. Lake Kivu indicators, baseline and data management workshop.

ERA-ARD Southern Advisory Group (SAG) Steering Committee meeting

4-6 February Madrid, Spain. Meeting on European Member State (European Research Area) ARD issues and specifically; bioenergy, capacity building and agric food chain discussions. [Read more](#)

Upcoming events

Intergovernmental plenary meeting - IAASTD

7 April - 12 April. Johannesburg, South Africa. The intergovernmental plenary meeting of the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development, rescheduled from Jan. 2008. [Read more](#)

11th ALive Executive Committee meeting

7-10 April 2008, FAO, Rome.

Workshop on Forest Governance and Decentralization in Africa

8-11 April. Durban, South Africa. The Workshop on Forest Governance and Decentralization in Africa will bring together diverse stakeholders, policy makers and international experts to share experiences and explore opportunities for generating concrete gains from governance reforms and decentralized forest management. [Read more](#)

1st World Forum for Agri-business, New Delhi, India

08 - 11 April. This forum will be organized by the United Nations Food

and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization for (UNIDO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Indian Government (GoI). [Read more](#)

Colloque Euro Méditerranéen et Africain d'approfondissement sur la formation à distance : Entre diversité et normalisation

9 au 11 avril Strasbourg - France. Le colloque CEMAFORAD a pour objectif majeur de contribuer au développement de la formation à distance en Europe, dans les pays du pourtour méditerranéen ainsi qu'en Afrique. [Read more](#)

Joint ARD program planning Africa and Europe

14-16 April. African and European experts will gather in Brussels to discuss the next calls of the EC to support Agricultural Research for Development giving more focus on Africa. The workshop is facilitated by PAEPARD on behalf of FARA and EFARD together with CTA.

6th Annual Digital Africa Summit



15-17 April. Cape Town, South Africa. The conference in 2008 will take an in depth look at technology convergence from an African perspective. [Read more](#)

Biomass Conference

April 15th-17th Minneapolis, Minnesota will play host to the International Biomass '08 Conference and Trade Show: a three-day gathering on to look at the potential and future of biofuels produced from biomass.

[Read more](#)

The International Conference on Renewable Energy in Africa

16-18 April in Dakar. Making Renewable Energy Markets Work for Africa: Policies, Industries and Finance for Scaling-Up. [Read more](#)

NATURA General Assembly meeting 2008

18th April 2008 Leuven, Belgium General Assembly meeting at the Katholieke universiteit. [Read more.](#)

Forests and Climate Change in Central Africa

24 April, Yaoundé, Cameroon. [Read more](#)

The second African Sub-Regional Forum on ICT Best Practices

21, 22 & 23 April. Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The African ICT Best Practices Forums serve as a practical way for high level officials from across Africa to share their own specific experiences and demonstrate practical examples of successful technology solutions in their respective countries. [Read more](#)

12th UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XII) - Addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development

20-25 April. Accra, Ghana. One of the sub-themes of the conference will be 'Enhancing an enabling environment at all levels to strengthen productive capacity, trade and investment: mobilizing resources and harnessing knowledge for development'. [Read more](#)

Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP).

29-30 April. Lusaka, Zambia. Agricultural experts, policymakers and representatives from Africa and the international community, will convene in Lusaka, Zambia from for a roundtable culminating into signing a Compact for the African Union (AU)/ New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)'s Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP).

Development of rural livelihoods in semi-arid Africa: issues, challenges, opportunities

29 - 30 April. African Union. Issues covered by the conference: Land/water access & management; Productivity, technology, innovation; Policies & institutions; Markets (access, performance, etc.); Local capacity strengthening; Climate change & desertification. [Read more](#)

Information Society Technologies in Africa

07 - 09 May Windhoek, Namibia. [Read more](#)

International Symposium on Biotechnology (ISB) Sfax, Tunisia

4 - 8 May. Biotechnology for animal, human health and biopharmaceuticals, Microbial and Environmental Biotechnology, Agricultural, Food and Marine Biotechnology, Innovative Biotechnology. [Read more.](#)

International Workshop on Evaluating Climate Change and Development

10 - 13 May. Alexandria, Egypt [Read more](#)

International Climate Conference

12 - 13 May. London, United Kingdom [Read more](#)

Innovations in Biofuels 2008

May 13-14 Baltimore, Maryland 21201, United States [Read more](#)

3rd Fair Trade International Symposium, Montpellier, France

14-16 May. After the first two Fair Trade symposium held in Montréal in 2002 and 2006, the 3rd International Symposium will be in Montpellier on May 14th to 16th 2008 on the theme 'New dimensions in fair trade: implications and challenges'. [Read more.](#)

Pan-Africa workshop on service delivery to smallholder farmers

18-21 May. Nairobi, Kenya. The Inter-Region Economic Network (IREN) is inviting farmers, industry players, media, academia and health experts from Africa to discuss how best the continent can exit dependency and be prosperous through commercializing agricultural ideas. [Read more](#)

Agro-Food Industry as Engine for Growth and Wealth

18-20 June Rome Italy EMRC AgriBusiness Forum. [Read more](#)

2nd African Council for Distance Education

8 - 11 July. Lagos State, Nigeria [Read more](#)

eINDIA2008 + e-agriculture India

29-31 July. New Delhi. The fourth annual ICT4D forum in India. [Read more](#)

US-AFRICA Agribusiness Forum

June 25-27. Leaders in agribusiness industry are to discuss the increasing business case for investing in agriculture & food production in Africa at the 2008 US-AFRICA Agribusiness Forum in Chicago, [Read more](#)

The 12th International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD)

24 - 27 Aug. Atsugi Campus of the Tokyo University of

Agriculture, Japan. This conference will provide an effective forum for agriculture related researchers and information specialists to share and discuss the latest development on applications and developments in the use of Information Technologies. [Read more](#)

By Africa, For Africa: Creating Wealth Through Investing in Agriculture.

September. Uganda. Organized by the World Agricultural Forum, the congress aims at bringing together agricultural companies, African government leaders and non-profit organizations to discuss ways of improving crop yields and increasing profits. [Read more](#) + [Info](#)

World Meat Congress 2008

07 – 10 September. Cape Town Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa. [Read more](#)

African Biotechnology Stakeholders Forum

22nd – 26th September. Nairobi. Harnessing the Potential of Agricultural Biotechnology for Food Security and Socio-Economic Development in Africa. [Read more](#)

Interdisciplinary Climate Research Symposium

2 - 9 November 2008. Saguaro Lake Ranch, AZ. The Dissertations Initiative for the Advancement of Climate Change Research (DISCCRS, pronounced discourse), connects natural and social scientists engaged in research related to climate change, impacts and solutions. Application Deadline: 30 April 2008. Participation limited to thirty-four early career scholars. [Read more](#)

Sub-regional news

Stress-tolerant rice for poor farmers in Africa

5–7 March 2008. Cotonou, Benin. National and international rice specialists took part in a meeting to launch a multi-million dollar project on “Stress-tolerant rice for poor farmers in Africa and South Asia” at the Africa Rice Center (WARDA). [Read more](#)

Inauguration of the West Africa Center for Crop Improvement

27 February. FARA participated at the inauguration ceremony of a new doctoral program at the University of Ghana to train African plant breeders to tackle issues relating to maize, cassava, sorghum, millet, tomato, cowpea and other crops vital to Africans' diet. [Read more](#)

Rwanda in agricultural reform drive

7 February. Rwanda reviewed the Africa's plan for agriculture reform to use it as a yardstick to measure her own performance in this sector. The aim is to enhance the reforms that constitute Africa's Comprehensive Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), managed under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad). [Read more](#)

ASARECA Board of Directors and development partners

3-6 February 2007. Entebbe, The Board started with the progress report from the ASARECA Secretariat. It emphasized on how the year 2007 was the transition period in terms of changing ASARECA's approach from network focus to program focused. [Read more](#)

National news

Angola: Climatic Changes Affect Africans' Daily Life

The consequences of the climatic changes affect the daily life of the African populations, through various phenomena occurring in the continent. [Read more](#)

Angola: MOU for Biodiversity Preservation Zones Signed

A memorandum of understanding for the protection and management of biodiversity preservation zones was signed amongst the Ministry of Urbanization and Environment (MINUA), the Institute of Social Reinsercion of Ex-Soldiers (IRSEM) and the German International Cooperation Enterprise (GTZ). [Read more](#)

Cameroon: fertilizer programme revamped

First Rand Bank Limited will disburse 20 million Euros about CFA 13 billion for the importation of fertilizer in Cameroon. [Read more](#)

Central Africa: CFA 400 billion for Central African Forest

The money to be disbursed by the African Development Bank will be injected in 13 major projects. [Read more](#)

Ethiopia is now coming up roses

20/02/08. Although flowers account for only 1% of Ethiopia's gross domestic profit, they are one of the most visible signs of a fast-growing economy that is becoming less reliant on its traditional coffee exports. [Read more](#)

Ghana: Biofuels: Doing battle with the dragon himself

Development of “the largest jatropha plantation in the world” by a Norwegian company called BioFuel Africa. [Read more](#)

Kenya’s strategic position as regional business hub at risk

Horticulture is the second-largest foreign exchange earner after tourism and most farms can’t operate at optimum level and transport [Read more](#)

Liberia: Firestone Dons Human Face

Firestone Rubber Plantations Corporation (FPCO), the largest American investment in Africa south of the Sahara, recently negotiated with NTGL an 86-year addendum to the 99-year concessionaire agreement it signed with the Charles D.B. King Administration back in 1926. [Read more](#)

Madagascar: Agencies Appeal for \$36 Million After Cyclones

United Nations agencies and their partners in the international humanitarian community have appealed for more than \$36 million to help bring relief to the parts of Madagascar that have been buffeted by cyclones in the past month. [Read more](#)

Malawi: Research and sustainable development

There is need to form effective research forums and networks at country level. Such forums should include all relevant stakeholders including NGOs. [Read more](#)

Malawi: International's Micro Insurance Agency Support

A crop insurance program protects farmers from severe drought that caused starvation in their villages only a few years ago. [Read more](#)

Namibia: New Threat to Fish Stocks

Climate change could be aggravating dwindling fish stocks in countries that derive a significant percentage of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from fishing, a United Nations (UN) report says. [Read more](#)

Nigeria: Making the National Programme for Food Security (NPFS) as synergy for attaining green revolution

The NPFS in Nigeria was a laudable **innovation** that could liberate Africa from hunger, if properly managed. [Read more](#)

South Africa: Row Over GM Seed Exports to Kenya

The government has been implicated in an international row over the export of seed maize to Kenya which has been contaminated with a genetically modified variety banned in every African country except SA. [Read more](#)

South Africa: Farmers Can Plan - But Not Indefinitely

Millions of dollars worth of agricultural produce have been lost due to the electricity crisis in South Africa [Read more](#)

South Africa: Technology Sows Seeds of Public Mistrust

Judging by the level of antagonism between the proponents of the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and the anti-GMO activists, the struggle between these lobby groups is far from over. [Read more.](#)

Tanzania: Carbon credit trading business

Young African entrepreneur Selemani Kinyunyu in Tanzania outlines his carbon credit trading business. His company works with local farmers to grow **indigenous** trees that absorb carbon. He then sells carbon credits to eco-tourists. [Watch a video interview](#)

Uganda: The Ankole cow could disappear within 50 years

Indigenous animals like East Africa’s sinewy Ankole, the product of centuries of selection for traits adapted to harsh conditions, are struggling to compete with foreign imports bred for maximal production. [Read more](#)

Uganda: Farmers Set to Profit from Malaria Drug

MR John Tabaro, an elderly farmer in Kabale District who has tilled the land for years growing mainly sorghum made his first Shs2 million last year thanks to a "little-known" crop Sweet Wormwood whose scientific name is *Artemesia annua*. [Read more](#)

Uganda: Madhvani Group Set for Biofuels

The Madhvani Group of Companies has finalised plans to start a Jatropha (locally known as Birowa plant) project in Busoga. [Read more](#)

Uganda: Entrepreneur Plants Seeds of Success for Women Farmers

How to inspire more women to become successful agri-business entrepreneurs. [Read more](#)

African news

The climate challenge for ACP agriculture.

13 February, CTA and other partners organised the fourth ‘Brussels Development Briefing’ - part of a series of [discussion meetings](#) on ACP-EU development issues.

The Expert Group Meeting on Land for Sustainable Urbanisation in Africa

21-22 February. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Sponsored by the Global Land Tool Network, the purpose of the meeting was to prepare for the thematic reviews on Land and on Africa for the upcoming sixteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16), which will take place at the UN Headquarters in New York, United States, from 5-16 May 2008. [Read more](#)

Moratorium on biofuels.

Scientists and NGOs across Africa are calling for a moratorium on new biofuels projects as millions of acres of prime agricultural land in sub-Saharan Africa are switched from food to fuel. [Read more](#)

Dr. Bayetta Bellachew, new Director of Research/development & Coordinator of African Coffee Research Network (ACRN)

Dr Bayetta Bellachew was nominated with reference to the last Decisions of the 47th Annual General Assembly of Interfric Coffee Organisation (IACO) held in November 2007 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Dr Bayetta Bellachew is a coffee breeder and the coffee and tea research programme co-ordinator at Jimma Agricultural Research Center in Ethiopia.

Africa: World Bank to Assist Grain Trade

Plans are underway by the World Bank to assist countries in Africa to keep grains moving across national borders to deal with shocks from the price of food.. [Read more](#)

Researcher wants biosafety laws in Africa

Professor Walter Alhassan, a renowned agricultural biotechnologist from Ghana, recently raised a very salient issue regarding agricultural biotechnology in Africa. Alhassan moaned the unwillingness by African governments to enact laws to regulate safe acquisition of agricultural biotechnology. [Read more](#) + [Article](#)

The EC reiterates support for African cotton concerns

In a meeting with the ministers responsible for trade from Mali and Burkina Faso on February 6th 2008 the Trade Commissioner reiterated the EU's support for African positions in the cotton dispute, describing cotton as a development priority in the Doha Round.

[Read more](#)

Africa horticulture traders launch regional group

Flowers, fruit and vegetable growers from 12 African countries launched an organisation to give their continent more weight in trade talks with the European Union (EU) that must end this year. [Read more](#)

Africa: Significant Increase in World Cereal Production Forecast

FAO's latest Crop Prospects and Food Situation report. [Read more](#)

Agricultural Techniques for Africa

Africa ought to ask awkward questions and unravel the inconsistencies which the promoters of various ideas about the continent's agriculture might be quite happy to sweep under the carpet. [Read more](#)

Applying Vietnamese techniques to help West Africa with food security



Prof. Vo Tong Xuan, a world-famous researcher in agronomy, a year ago, was invited by Sierra Leone to give the country advice on how to get rid of food shortages the all year round. [Read more](#)

Act or perish, report warns African countries

Technological **innovations** must be combined with institutional innovations to ensure that input and output markets, financial services and farmer [Read more](#)

Africa should apply modern techniques to traditional fruits

But, while in the past fruits native to African formed an important part of the indigenous diet, cultivation of these crops in their original homelands has dwindled considerably [Read more](#)

World Bank Offering US\$4 Million in Grants for Innovations in Agriculture

The 2008 Global Development Marketplace (DM2008) competition was launched **January 22, 2008**, offering \$4 million in grants to social entrepreneurs with innovative ideas that have potential for high impact in promoting sustainable agriculture. Proposals will be accepted in English only through March 21, 2008. [Read more](#)

World news

Convention on Biological Diversity

18 - 22 February. FAO, Rome, Italy, **SBSTTA 13** - Thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. [Read more](#)

Improving World Agricultural Productivity

Leading scientists from around the world recently convened in Des Moines, Iowa, for a three-day project review meeting focused on enhancing drought tolerance in plants. [Read more.](#)

FAO warning over virulent wheat fungus

The FAO says the detection of the wheat-rust fungus in Iran is extremely worrisome. The fungus is spreading rapidly and

could seriously lower wheat production in countries at direct risk. [Read more.](#)

World Bank seeks China's joint efforts in African development

The World Bank seeks to work together with China as strong partners in Africa to tackle key challenges standing on the way to Africa's sustained growth, said Obliageli "Oby" Ezekwesili, the Bank's Vice President for African Region. [Read more.](#)

Resources on Farmer innovation

Farmer innovation in Africa: a source of inspiration for agricultural development.

This publication summarizes the findings of two regional programmes in Africa that supported farmer innovators and their innovations in eight countries representing a wide range of agro-ecological and socio-economic conditions: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe. [Read more](#)

Working with farmer innovators: a practical guide.

Within the past few years, there has been a resurgence of interest in building on farmer experimentation and innovation. The international focus on documenting has opened the doors for the protection and promotion of farmers traditional knowledge and provided opportunities to integrate modern science into their traditional practices. [Read more](#)

Prolinnova International Partners' Meeting (IPM) workshop

30 March - 4 April. Tamale, Ghana. This meeting focused on the experiences of partners with Participatory Innovation Development at the field level: How do they facilitate effective collaboration between farmers, innovators, research-extension agents and other actors etc. [Read more](#)

Facilitating Multi-stakeholder Partnerships: Lessons from Prolinnova.

To accelerate innovation at the local level, effective collaboration between resource users and farmers and research, extension, marketing and other organisations is required: they need to collaborate to pull their knowledge and resources together to find better ways of developing agriculture and NRM. [Download](#)

Recognising local innovation: experiences of PROLINNOVA partners.

This booklet compiles experiences of people in various parts of the world who are joining hands to enhance local processes of innovation in rural areas, within the framework of a programme called PROLINNOVA. [Download](#)

Participatory Technology Development in Cameroon

This paper is based on the Participatory Technology Development (PTD) experiences with the ISWC II project in Cameroon. [Download](#)

Farmers' organizations and agricultural innovation: case studies from Benin, Rwanda and Tanzania

The study shows very clearly that agricultural innovation is a multi-stakeholder, interactive process in which farmers and their organisations should and can be key actors... [Read more](#)

Promoting farmer innovation: harnessing local environmental knowledge in East Africa

This booklet has its origins in a programme entitled Promoting Farmer Innovation (PFI). [Download](#)

Farmers' initiatives in land husbandry: promising technologies for the drier areas of East Africa

In the semi-arid areas of East Africa, there are farmers who are innovating in all sorts of ways – combining conservation with production. What is more, these farmers have proved to be excellent sources of learning. [Download](#)

How farmers' organisations help poorer farmers gain access to agricultural services

Farmers' organisations (FOs) in Sub-Saharan Africa play an increasing importance role in allowing farmers to access. [Read more](#)

Traditions and innovation in land husbandry: building on local knowledge in Kabale, Uganda

The land husbandry project in Kabale District described in these pages is unusual in several ways. First of all it has involved local people and has built on their knowledge of how to protect the land, etc. Secondly, it is a project which has lasted long enough to have impact. Too often projects come and go in a matter of two or three years. [Download](#)

Developing Technology with Farmers - A trainer's guide for participatory learning.

The book provides trainers with a set of resources that can be used in preparing fieldstaff for Participatory Technology Development (PTD). It is meant to facilitate the design of local PTD training events and stimulate the development of

training aids adapted to the local context, needs and resources. [Download](#)

Endogenous and modern innovations: differing perspectives

The different responses of farmers, formal researchers and technical experts to innovations coming from farmers and from formal R&D are analysed. Participatory research and extension activities that are based on and stimulate farmers' innovativeness are described. [Download](#)

Innovation Africa

Innovation Africa is an online magazine covering new ideas, concepts and people for the future. [Read more](#)

Farmer Innovation in Africa

2001. Farmer Innovation in Africa. A Source of Inspiration for Agricultural Development. Edited by Chris Reij , A. Waters-Bayer. [Read more](#)

Innovation in African women's farm tools

There has been relatively little successful innovation in farm tools for African women. [Read more](#)

Agroforestry innovations in Africa

The unaffordability of chemical fertilizers - made more unaffordable with every devaluation of the local currency - leads farmers to adopt improved fallow technologies. [Read more](#)

Indigenous Knowledge for Development

This website opens a gateway to development approaches that rely on traditional knowledge systems to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The goal of the website is to (a) raise awareness among the development community of the role that community-based practices can play in enriching the development process; and (b) help development practitioners to mainstream indigenous/traditional knowledge into the activities of development partners and to optimize the benefits of development assistance, especially to the poor. [Read more](#)

Access to private sector technologies specifically for sub-Saharan Africa

[Read more](#)

Oasis: The power of knowledge-sharing

Researchers are increasingly recognizing the value of helping farmers share their best innovations among themselves. [Read more](#)

Africa: Go Green, Save the Indigenous

African indigenous peoples are important custodians of their natural environments with valuable local knowledge and skills. [Read more](#)

Register of best practices on indigenous knowledge in Africa

[Read more](#)

Other Resources

Soils Atlas of Africa

The Land Management and Natural Hazards Unit of the Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES), ISRIC – World Soil Information, the European Soil Bureau Network (ESBN), the [African Soil Science Society \(ASSS\)](#), and FAO conducted a survey amongst potential users of the Soils Atlas for Africa, to get insight into the needs and wishes about its content. The preliminary report on the user survey for the Soils Atlas of Africa is now available for comment. [Read more](#)

Online Information Service for Non-Chemical Pest Management (OISAT)

OISAT Info is a web-based information tool offering trainers, extension workers and farmers a quick access to up-to-date information for their work and for organizing agricultural learning processes in order to minimize pest damage in a safe, effective, and ecologically sound way. [Read more](#)

The growing demand for livestock



An article in the latest issue of id21 insights ([Issue#72 February 2008](#)) suggest some of the policy changes within the livestock sector that will help the poorest people benefit from the predicted expansion in the sector. [Read more](#)

Sustainable Agriculture Research for International Development (SARID)

21/02/08. Major scientific push to tackle agricultural productivity and food security in developing world. [Read more](#)

IRRI rice photos on Flickr

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versions of more than 350 publications for which it owns the copyright. [Full-text IRRI books on Google](#)

Investing in African Agriculture to Halve Poverty by 2015

IFPRI Discussion Paper by Shenggen Fan, Michael Ohnson, Anuja Saurkar, and Tsitsi Makombe [Read more](#)

Seed Value Chains for Sorghum and Millet in Mali: A State-Based System in Transition

IFPRI Discussion Paper by Lamissa Diakit , Amadou Sidib , Melinda Smale, and Mikkel Grum [Read more](#)

Agricultural Growth and Rural Development in Africa: Context and Prospects

Policy seminar featuring: Ousmane Badiane, IFPRI; Hans Binswanger-Mkhize, Tshwane University of Technology; and Nalini Kumar, The World Bank. Wednesday, February 27, 2008 [Read more](#)

Biofuels: what are the pros and cons for developing countries?

This paper considers the pros and cons of the debate over the potential social, economic and environmental impact of the increase in biofuel production. [Read more](#)

Crop biofuels 'create carbon debt'

Two new research papers indicate that biofuel production can carry an unrecognised cost by indirectly increasing carbon emissions. [Read more](#)

Is Africa rejecting genetic engineering in food and agriculture?

This booklet outlines recent key trends, developments and actors in the debate on genetic engineering (GE) in food and agriculture in Africa.

[Read more](#)

Sustainable Agriculture Research for International Development

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the Department for International Development (DFID) are unveiling 12 new projects as part of their flagship initiative - Sustainable Agriculture Research for International Development (SARID) - to harness the UK's world class bioscience research base to address the challenges of agriculture and food security in developing countries. [Read more](#)

How to incorporate climate change adaptation in project design



Adapting to climate variability and change: a guidance manual for development planning
Authors: ; USAID Publisher: USAID Global Climate Change Program, 2007 [Read more](#)

The Fourth CGIAR Senior Leadership Program

The Fourth CGIAR Senior Leadership Program will be held at IMD, Lausanne, Switzerland, **June 30-July 4, 2008**. It is patterned after the highly successful course held at IMD last year, which followed initial two programs held at the Harvard Business School in 2004 and 2006. [Read more](#)

Prioritizing Climate Change Adaptation Needs for Food Security in 2030

David B. Lobell, Marshall B. Burke, Claudia Tebaldi, Michael D. Mastrandrea, Walter P. Falcon, Rosamond L. Naylor [See report](#) in Science Magazine 01/02/2008

New CTA Dossier: Reshaping Tertiary Agricultural Education

[Read more](#)

New network seeks to break down science barriers

Scientific organisations and researchers working in developing countries will be brought together through a network to be launched later this year. The programme, [Scientists Without Borders](#), is an initiative of the New York Academy of Sciences. It seeks to integrate the efforts of the scientific and health community to address global health, agriculture and energy challenges in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals. The Academy has chosen Africa as the starting continent, with Ghana as the pilot country. [Read more](#)



Cultivating wild fruits 'could boost African nutrition'

A panel of experts from various African countries, with input from ordinary workers, looked at the sustainability of growing a range of indigenous African wild fruits. [Read more](#)

Spatial Data Infrastructure – Africa

[Read more](#)

e-learning course on Collaboration and Advocacy Techniques

[Read more](#)

An inventory of Agriculture Research Institutes in Sub-Saharan Africa

[Read more](#)

FARA's bulletin is published monthly by the FARA Secretariat. It is aimed at improving exchange of information and promoting partnerships. Information in this bulletin is received from FARA's diverse stakeholders. FARA welcomes such contributions from all stakeholders in African agricultural research and development, which should be submitted by email to: info@fara-africa.org. For more information on any of the news items reported here, please contact Dr. Monty Jones (FARA Executive Secretary) by email at: mjones@fara-africa.org.

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