

PROGRAMME

28 OCTOBER, 2012

VENUE: RIO DE JANEIRO A, CONRAD PUNTA DEL ESTE RESORT & CASINO

***Theme: Partnerships for Research, Capacity building, Innovation and Foresighting:
Managing Water for Agriculture and Food in ACP countries***

Background

Safe-guarding natural resources (land, water, biodiversity) for ensuring the future of agriculture and food especially in the face of climate change, conflicting demands and increasing tensions, remain a priority for researchers, policymakers and civil society. While countries and authorities embrace the guiding principles of integrated water resources management (IWRM) as beneficial, they do not necessarily have the capacity for implementation to achieve the desired impact. Paradoxically, while calls for more investments in agricultural water management and security are getting louder, a sizeable part of the existing irrigation infrastructure is underutilized or functioning sub-optimally. Land and water management also remain disconnected. Moreover, many farmer-driven initiatives as well as the work of national, regional and international organizations remain under the radar of governments, researchers, academia and donors, though they may provide important lessons on what works best where and under which conditions.

At the same time, there is increasing need to spur economic development especially in rural areas without further undermining of the natural resource base. New approaches to enable Green Economic Growth require integrating the domains of: (i) innovating product, business and market opportunities; (ii) while sustaining natural resources and (iii) integrating the new opportunities with natural resources management and related sociological aspects that consider the realities of rural populations. Success in achieving green growth in the face of climate change and depleting resources therefore requires concerted global, regional, national and local policy responses and a radically new or improved agenda for research and innovation. This agenda needs to integrate perspectives of foresight, capacity building, partnership innovations, science for impact, institutional change, and innovative financing and investments.

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) in collaboration with Wageningen University and Research centre (Wageningen UR) and other partners from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) Group of States, Europe and North America will host a technical GCARDII side event within the framework of the annual meeting of the ACP-EU think tank on science and technology for ACP agricultural and rural development (ARD). Several innovative research and capacity building programmes from the ACP and other regions will be shared and discussed to provide lessons on the way forward.

Objectives

The objectives of this pre-conference event are to:

- Review experiences of key programmes/projects and identify key lessons for policy, research and capacity building to generate more impact;
- Create a collective focus on future key policy, research and capacity building priorities in the area of land, water, climate change, agriculture and food security with a focus on ACP regions,
- Identify mechanisms for establishing new / strengthening existing partnerships to achieve desired impact.

Expected Outputs

Recommendations for national, regional and international bodies and GCARD II on policy, priorities for future research and capacity building and partnerships specifically to:

- Promote and support new product development through green growth initiatives and spur economic development in rural areas without depleting natural resources.
- Promote institutional reforms for readjusting water delivery mechanisms and achieving water security.
- Advance the science and research agenda in the areas of climate change, drought monitoring and water use efficiency in crop and livestock (including fisheries) production systems
- Develop and strengthen knowledge networks at national, regional and international level to build capacity and provide the evidence base for informing policy processes and foresighting.

A policy paper

- For enhancing research, capacity building and innovation for enabling green economic growth building on lessons from the various initiatives/frameworks on integrated water and natural resource management and ecological sustainability for integrated sustainable development, while addressing societal aspects linked to rural populations, women and youth .

Programme

Chair: Judith Ann Francis, CTA, The Netherlands

Facilitator: Jennie van der Mheen-Sluijer, Wageningen UR, The Netherlands

09:00 – 09:15	Welcome and Introductions – <i>Judith Ann Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator, Science and Technology Policy, CTA, The Netherlands</i>
09:15 – 09:30	Greening Rural Development and Growth in Sub Sahara Africa – Benefits from discussing Green Economic Growth to support Paradigm Changes and Integration – <i>Jochen Froebrich, Water and Green Economic Growth, Wageningen UR, The Netherlands.</i>
09:30 – 9:45	Discussions
9:45 – 10:00	Toward Efficient Water Management for Agriculture in a Changing Climate: The Caribbean Context – <i>Adrian Trotman, Chief of Applied Meteorology and Climatology, Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), Barbados</i>
10:00 – 10:15	Discussions
10:15 – 10:30	Women and Youth : the untapped agents of Sustainable Water Resource Management in the Green Economy – <i>Olivia Liwewe, Managing Director & Consultant, Social Transformation Management Consulting Services, Malawi</i>
10:30 10:45	Discussion
10:45 – 11:00	Feedback – <i>Jennie van der Mheen-Sluijer, Manager Africa Desk, Wageningen International, Wageningen UR, The Netherlands</i>

11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 11:45	Integrating Agro-ecological Crop Management within Integrated Water Resource Management: Lessons from Experience with the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) – <i>Norman Thomas Uphoff, Senior Advisor to SRI-Rice and Director of the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs, United States of America</i>
11:45 – 12:00	Discussions
12:00 – 12:15	Innovative On-Farm Water Management for increased Food Production in Jamaica – <i>Leslie Simpson, Caribbean Agricultural Development Institute (CARDI), Jamaica.</i>
12:15 – 12:30	Discussions
12:30 – 12:45	Green Growth, Food Security and Water Availability in a Changing Climate: The Pacific Context – <i>Viliamu Iese, Research Fellow, Future Climate Leaders Project, Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development, The University of the South Pacific, Fiji</i>
12:45 – 13:00	Discussions
13:00 – 13:15	Feedback – <i>Jennie van der Mheen-Sluijer, Wageningen UR, The Netherlands</i>
13:15 – 13:30	Closing Remarks – <i>Judith Ann Francis, CTA, The Netherlands</i>
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 16:00	Closed Meeting of the ACP-EU Think Tank on Science & Technology for ACP ARD - <i>Round Table Discussions on Implications and Way Forward for the ACP region and Key messages for GCARD II & Planning for 2013 – 2014</i>
	<p>Are key issues currently covered by research organizations and universities in the ACP region?</p> <p>Is essential capacity presently available to implement recommendations? What more needs to be done?</p> <p>Are existing partnership mechanisms at local, national and regional level and with international partners sufficient to generate the knowledge and results to achieve the desired impact in the short to medium term?</p> <p>What more is needed to provide strategic foresight for the future?</p> <p>What should be the top three strategic issues for the ACP-EU Think Tank for 2013-2014?</p>
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break
17:00	GCARDII - CONFERENCE OPENING CEREMONY

In collaboration with

