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Observatory on Science, Technology and Innovation for ACP Agricultural and Rural Development

June 2011 newsletter

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Feature dossier
Developments
Publications
Events
Fellowships&Grants
Jobs
Organisations

International Conference on Innovations in Extension and Advisory Services

-+ REMINDER : 15 July deadline +-
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Deadline for receipt of abstracts and for those requiring sponsorship is July 15. Visit the conference website extensionconference2011.cta.int and register online to attend the conference. Submit abstracts in response to the calls for papers, case studies, videos, photo collages and posters. Join our extension and advisory services community. Post documents, photos and videos on extension and advisory services to the website. Decisions on sponsorship and abstracts will be communicated by August 15. The countdown for calls continues.

Mobilizing the potential of rural and agricultural extension

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13959

By Christoplos I., Danish Institute for International Studies for the FAO and the Global forum for rural advisory services, 2010.

This [paper](#) presents an overview of current opportunities and challenges facing efforts to increase the impact of rural and agricultural extension. The 'extension services' described here may just as likely consist of an input vendor advising a farmer about what seed to plant, a television station broadcasting a weather forecast, a supermarket advising traders about what standards are required for the vegetables they purchase or a farmer organization lobbying for research that reflects the demands of its members for new technologies. Mobilizing the potential of extension is about enhancing this broad and complex flow of information and advice in the agrifood sector. The ideas presented here describe how extension systems can contribute to the improvement of the profitability, sustainability and equity of smallholder agriculture within broader innovation systems.

Feature dossier : S&T Policy Dialogue

ACP and EU policymakers want evidence that science can and will deliver: the chicken and the egg

New lead article by Daan Du Toit, Senior Science and Technology Representative to the European Union of the South African Department of Science and Technology.



Science is a critical instrument for growth and development. Such is the policy rhetoric of many ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) nations and their counterparts in the European Union (EU). The Heads of State of the African Union, for example, dedicated their 2007 Summit to the theme of science and technology (S&T) and its contribution to Africa's development (African Union, 2007), and have subsequently (at regular intervals) endorsed efforts to implement "Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action" (New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), 2005). Science and innovation is also at the heart of the EU's "Europe 2020" strategy for sustainable growth (European Commission, 2010). In recent years, for example, emphasis has been given to ensuring a greater focus on research and innovation as part of the spending priorities of the EU's structural and regional funds, instruments targeted at boosting economic growth in the EU's less-developed regions.

This article will interrogate whether the apparent policy consensus on "science for development" has translated into the ACP-EU partnership being leveraged in a concerted manner to exploit the potential of science to enrich development cooperation between the ACP and the EU, i.e. in the manner which policymakers often declare to be "objective". The assessment will briefly review developments in this regard over the past ten years, examining whether ACP and EU policymakers are indeed convinced, as their policy pronouncements would suggest, that science can and will deliver, and whether they are consequently prioritizing a focus on science as part of their cooperation programmes. In conclusion, looking to the future, the role of a strengthened ACP-EU S&T policy dialogue in enhancing science for development initiatives will be considered.

Read the whole article :

[Back To Top](#)

Developments | Follow the latest RSS feeds for this section

New climate change research partnership in Latin America and the Caribbean

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A new project on climate change mitigation and agricultural projects in Latin America and the Caribbean has been launched, which will bring together a consortium of research institutions and funders. The Government of New Zealand, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology (Fontagro, for its initials in Spanish) have signed an agreement to work together for the first time on a project to improve national greenhouse gas inventories and develop mitigation options in LAC. The research will be adapted to the farming conditions of each of the target countries: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay. ([Farming First](#), 8/6/2011)

Keeping dairy cows outdoors reduces their ecological footprint

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13940



New modelling work by an Agricultural Research Service (ARS, the research arm of the U.S Department of Agriculture, USDA) team, suggests that a dairy cow living year-round outdoors may leave a markedly smaller negative ecological impact than sheltered dairy cows. The team used the '[Integrated Farm System Model](#)', a computer program that simulates the major biological and physical processes and interactions on a crop, beef, or dairy farm. The researchers found that total emissions for the greenhouse gases methane, nitrous oxide, and carbon dioxide were 8 percent lower in year-round outdoor production systems than in the high-production confinement systems. Keeping dairy cows outdoors all year lowered ammonia emissions by about 30 percent and helped reduce fuel use and the resulting carbon dioxide emissions from farm equipment. ([ARS](#), 3/5/2011)

Feeding cows tannins can cut ammonia production by up to 30 percent

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13941



In the [May-June 2011](#) issue of the Journal of Environmental Quality, a team led by Mark Powell, a soil scientist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service's U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center in Madison, Wisconsin, describes how natural plant compounds known as tannins can reduce both the amount of nitrogen cows excrete in urine, and the action of a microbial enzyme in manure that converts the nitrogen into ammonia on the barn floor. Feeding tannins to cattle could not only help dairy farmers reduce these impacts and meet regulatory standards, but tannins could also boost nitrogen use efficiency in cows, thereby decreasing the need for expensive protein supplements. Tannins are perhaps best known for their role in leather tanning, but Powell began investigating them in ruminant feed more than two decades ago in West Africa. In the communities where he worked, tannin-rich shrubs were grown as windbreaks, and to amend the soil and feed livestock. Tannins in the diets of cattle, sheep and goats are in fact well-studied in the tropics, where the vegetation tends to be naturally higher in the astringent plant chemicals, Powell explains. The tannin sources investigated in the study are already approved for animal feed, and 'the levels we used amount to pennies per cow per day'. (ARS, 5/2011)

For French readers, [Lemonde.fr](#) has published in April 2011, an article on [excess nitrogen](#) in Europe agricultural landscapes.

PNG's NARI releases two blight resistant potato varieties

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13942



Papua New Guinea's potato industry suffers from the potato late blight (PLB, *Phytophthora infestans*). The Sequoia, PNG's most common potato variety, is highly susceptible to PLB. After a devastating outbreak in 2003, only commercial farmers who could afford fungicides, portable sprayers and potato seeds did continue to grow the crop. However, smallholders farmers on the islands could not afford to buy the standard remedial to the blight. Especially

for the farmers living at higher altitude, potato was an important cash and subsistence crop. In May 2011, PNG's National Agricultural Research Institute released two late blight resistant potato varieties, the product of a large-scale project that start started in 2003 with the assistance of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). Blight resistant potato seeds are now distributed to farmers, who are also offered training on integrated late blight management for existing and new potato cultivars. ([Malum Nalu](#), 31/5/2011)

Need for farm mechanisation in Papua New Guinea

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13943

Surya Nath of PNG's National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) discusses the need for farm mechanisation PNG. The author gives a broad account of PNG's agricultural sector, defining the limits to and the challenges of building a more dynamic agricultural sector on the islands. One of the author main points



is the need to promote at the farm level the adoption of more modern, albeit low-cost, machinery. Empowering farmers with better cultivation tools and post-harvest apparatus will help them reach a production level that would rival with countries from continental south-east Asia. To blame for the lack machinery on the field is the non-existent 'machinery' policy (or, in other words, the lack of vision for agricultural development on the island). This discussion gives the reader a good overview of the current situation of agriculture in PNG, and a solid starting point for more debate on what PNG needs to develop its agriculture. ([Malum Nalu](#), 25/4/2011)

Agricultural mechanization at a glance: Selected country studies in Asia on agricultural machinery development

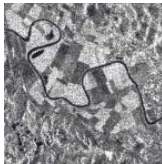
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This [study](#) examines the interactions among agricultural mechanization, food production and agricultural development of the Asia-Pacific region. Six countries were chosen for case studies, namely Bangladesh, China, India, Republic of Korea, Thailand and the Philippines, representing different stages of agricultural mechanization. Through visits and talks with policy makers, researchers and the private sector in the six countries, and thorough review of country reports prepared by representatives to the Technical Committee of United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM), the authors have collected extensive data and information on agricultural mechanization, and conducted thorough analysis. The study identifies the main characteristics of agricultural mechanization of each country, and assesses their respective needs in agricultural mechanization. The study also explores the feasibility of establishing an 'Asia Pacific Network for Testing Agricultural Machinery' (ANTAM). The feasibility study on the establishment of ANTAM is an important part of this report. ANTAM is proposed with an aim to promote introduction of uniform testing procedures and safety standards of agricultural machinery, and facilitate intraregional trade. ([UNAPCAEM](#), 2010)

How do satellite images and airborne imagery relate to agriculture and forestry?

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Satellite and aerial imagery play a significant role in modern day agricultural production and forest related activities. The primary value of satellite and airborne imagery to agriculture and forestry is two-fold. Firstly, imagery provides valuable information that is useful for planning and managing the potential crop output, in a sustainable way. Imagery results in more sustainable food production. Secondly, imagery enables the gathering of knowledge about agriculture and forestry through local to regional to global scales. That knowledge enables a better understanding of overall production factors, but also contributes toward risk management decisions and supports predictive modelling of food supply and consumption. This article gives a thorough account of the applications of satellite imagery and GIS used in the agriculture and forestry sectors. ([Vector1media](#), 13/05/2011)

[Back To Top](#)

Selected publications | Follow the latest RSS feeds for this section

Payments for agrobiodiversity conservation services for sustained on-farm utilization of plant and animal genetic resources

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13946

By Narloch, U.; Drucker, A.G.; Pascual, U.; Ecological Economics, In Press; Accepted 23 May 2011. This [paper](#) discusses the potential application of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)-like schemes to tackle market failures associated with the public good characteristics of agrobiodiversity conservation services. So called payments for agrobiodiversity conservation services (PACS) would increase the private benefits from utilizing local plant and animal genetic resources on-farm through voluntary reward mechanisms, so as to sustain their on-farm conservation. PACS may be understood as a sub-category of agriculture related PES that focuses on socially valuable and threatened local plant and animal genetic resources (PAGR). This paper discusses theoretical and applied insights about PACS to shed light on the potential of PACS to serve as a least-cost and pro-poor PAGR conservation incentive scheme. (Bioversity, 5/2011)

Save and grow: A policymaker's guide to the sustainable intensification of smallholder crop production

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13950

By The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); May 2011. This [book](#) was produced under the direction of Shivaji Pandey, Director of FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division and presents a new paradigm: sustainable crop production intensification (SCPI). SCPI rationale is to help produce more from the same area of land while conserving resources, reducing negative impacts on the environment and enhancing natural capital and the flow of ecosystem services. Green techniques for sustainable agriculture are put together in this book under a number of chapters: Farming systems, Soil health, Crops and varieties, Water management, Plant protection, and Policies and Institutions. This book is not only the statement of a new paradigm of agriculture from the FAO: it is also a guide to practical working solutions for a more ecologically and

socially sustainable agriculture.

Collaborative and participatory approaches to cocoa variety improvement

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13948

By Eskes, A.B. (ed.); CFC, Amsterdam (The Netherlands); ICCO, London (UK); Bioversity International, Rome (Italy); CFC Technical Paper No. 59, 2011.

This is the final report of the CFC/ICCO/Bioversity project on 'Cocoa Productivity and quality improvement: a Participatory Approach' that spanned from 2004 to 2010. It summarizes the outcomes of the Closing Workshop of the above mentioned CFC/ICCO/Bioversity project on cocoa productivity and quality, convened at the end of May 2010 in Accra, Ghana. The workshop formally marked the conclusion of the project that was launched in June 2004, but which was building on the achievements of the CFC/ICCO/IPGRI project on 'Cocoa Germplasm Utilization and Conservation: a Global Approach' implemented between 1998 and 2004. Thus many of the results presented here reflect the work done over a long period of time. This document presents the results and benefits of the project, and an evaluation of the International Clone Trial and disease resistance studies; it also compiles country reports on cocoa for a number of ACP countries: Trinidad and Tobago, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Papua New Guinea, Ghana and Nigeria). (Bioversity, 5/2011)

Aquaculture and food security in Solomon Islands

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13949

By The WorldFish Center, Policy Brief no. 2011-08, March 2011.

The findings from the ACIAR project Aquaculture and food security in Solomon Islands are published in the policy report by the WorldFish Center. One species of tilapia was introduced in the 1950'S but current trends show that this particular tilapia species (*Oreochromis mossambicus*) and related farming systems are insufficient to meet future fish demand. Findings suggest the farming of native fish species, milkfish (*Chanos Chanos*), could help meet predicted demand for fish. It is noted that both tilapia and milkfish farming need more research and risk assessments studies, notably if the Solomon Islands is to import and farm a different species of tilapia, the Nile variety (*Oreochromis niloticus*).

Agroecosystem management and nutritional quality of plant foods: The case of organic fruits and vegetables

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13958

By Brandt K, Leifert C, Sanderson R, Seal CJ; Critical Reviews in Plant Sciences, 30(1), 2011.

Organic fruit and vegetables contain on average 12 per cent more health-promoting compounds than conventionally grown produce, scientists at Newcastle University have found. The study, published in the academic journal Critical Reviews in Plant Sciences, reveals that organic crops contain significantly higher levels of secondary metabolites (compounds that are believed to protect us against a range of diseases including obesity) than conventionally-grown crops. The team, based in the university's School of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, reviewed all the published research on secondary metabolites and vitamin C in fruits and vegetables produced using organic or conventional methods. (Newcastle University via AGree, 29/4/2011)

Measuring livelihoods and environmental dependence: Methods for research and fieldwork

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13956

By Angelsen A. et al. (eds), Earthscan Edinburgh, UK, March 2011.

Quantifying household dependence on multiple environmental resources such as forests, bush, grasslands and rivers is particularly difficult and often simply ignored in these surveys. This book describes how to do a better job when designing and implementing household and village surveys for quantitative assessment of rural livelihoods in developing countries. The book draws heavily on the Poverty Environment Network experiences, and is a major output of the PEN project. The book deals with the entire research process from vague research ideas, formulation of specific hypotheses, data needs, design of surveys and questionnaire, data collection, data management and analysis to presentation of results; it is enriched by numerous practical examples from the field.

Land deals in Africa: What is in the contracts?

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13957

By Cotula, L., IIED, London, 2011.

The report was prepared for 'Legal tools for citizen empowerment', a programme steered by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). It analyses 12 land deals and their wider legal frameworks. A number of the contracts reviewed appear to be short, unspecific documents that grant long-term rights to extensive areas of land, and in some cases priority rights over water, in exchange for seemingly little public revenue and/or apparently vague promises of investment and/or jobs. Also, a number of the deals are being negotiated in legal contexts where safeguards for local interests are weak, and some contracts appear not to properly address social and environmental issues. Some contracts do however feature better terms: such as better distributed revenues, international social and environmental on-farm standards, more flexible duration, clearer identification of the land being transacted, specific investor commitments on jobs, training, local procurement and local processing, greater attention to local food security, and their tighter social and environmental safeguards.

Leveraging private sector investment in developing country agrifood systems

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13947

By Hebebrand C., Policy Paper Series, International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC), May 2011.

This study was commissioned by the [Global Agricultural Development Initiative](#) and sponsored by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. It examines the role transnational corporations (TNCs) play in the funding, via direct investments, of the agricultural sector in developing countries. This policy paper consists of four sections. The first reiterates the benefits of sound private-sector investment in sustainable food security; it also explains the paper's primary focus on investments from TNCs and describes how TNCs approach decisions on investment allocations. The second section highlights examples of TNC investments that have simultaneously benefited smallholders in developing countries while creating profits for the investors. The third section explores how the US government engages with TNCs and incentivizes investments. The final section concludes with recommendations for TNCs, governments, and other players, with a view towards increasing TNC investments that both strengthen agricultural development and offer profits to TNCs.

New issue of the African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13952

The African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development ([AJAND](#)) published its Issue 44 (Volume 11 No. 3, 2011), with 10 peer reviewed papers and one commentary on tobacco. The latest issue compiles hard science on, for example, the cassava brown streak virus, the genetic variability of India's pearl millet, the potential of black-plum (*Vitex doniana*) jam, and the cholesterol reduction ability of *Lactococcus lactis* from fermented smooth pigweed (*Amaranthus hybridus*) leaves.

AfricaScience Special issue on STI

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13953

The *ScienceAfrica* Journal has a special issue on 'Science, Technology and Innovation' (STI). The Issue 15 of ScienceAfrica (March/April 2011) has 20 pages of journalistic reporting on African STI policy developments and practical challenges, with a special focus on the latest work of the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS). The journal is available on the website of the World Federation of Science Journalists ([WFSJ](#)). ScienceAfrica aims to put all aspects of science and technology at the top of Africa's development agenda. It aims to popularize science and technology in Africa especially issues dealing with health, environment, food production and environment conservation.

SET-DEV newsletter No. 6, May 2011

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13954

This is the last SET-DEV (Science, Ethics and Technological responsibility in Developing and Emerging countries) [newsletter](#) covering the final phase of the [SET-DEV project](#) launched in 2008 to support the Indian and African research systems in developing their own ethical perspectives in the context of Scientific and Technological Research (STR). The final phase of SET-DEV envisaged the presentation of the main outputs of the project: the Indian and African Manifestos, the Guidelines for Socialisation of Science, Technology and Innovation and the Pilot Programme carried out in India and Kenya during the implementation of the project.

The Network No. 11 – May 2011 – CASST-Net Newsletter

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The ([May 2011 edition](#)) of the CAAST-Net newsletter focus on the recent opening of three Pan African Universities and the role the science ministers from the South African Development Community have played recently in the development of the Renewable Energy Strategy and Action Plan for the region. Along with other science policy news from the African continent, this newsletter compiles the latest relevant advancement of Sub-Saharan Africa-EU Science & Technology cooperation.

New issue of the Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development

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The Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development (JAFSCD) Volume 1, Issue 3 (Winter 2010–2011) is [available](#) on the JAFSCD website. The Winter 2011 issue presents six open calls papers (with a focus on farming communities and alternative agrifood movement in the Americas) and a series of seven papers on urban and peri-urban agriculture (with topics ranging from wastewater agriculture to peri-urban organic farming). The next issue (Vol. 1, Issue 4) will focus on 'Small- and mid-scale food value chain development' and the call has generated strong papers. The first issue of JAFSCD's Vol. 2 will focus on 'Food system planning' and is [being prepared](#) for the end of summer 2011.

[Back To Top](#)

Events | Follow the latest RSS feeds for this section

2nd International conference on postharvest and quality management of horticultural products of interest for tropical regions

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13960

Dates: 2-4 November 2011
Location: Bogota, Colombia

The announcement is available [here](#).

Announcement for the 3rd RUFORUM Biennial Conference

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13914

Dates: 24 - 28 September 2012

Location: Sokoine University of Agriculture, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The Third RUFORUM Biennial Conference will be held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in conjunction with the RUFORUM Annual General Meeting. The theme of the 3rd Biennial Conference is: 'Agricultural Research for Africa's Development: Strengthening Innovation Capacity, Adaptiveness and Responsiveness for Improved Livelihoods'.

[Back To Top](#)

Grants | Follow the latest RSS feeds for this section

TWAS Research Grants Programme in Basic Sciences

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13961

Deadline: 31 August 2011

These grants are meant for individual scientists and research units in S&T-lagging countries. The [TWAS Research Grants Programme in Basic Sciences](#) was established in response to the needs of promising young researchers in developing countries, particularly those attached to institutions that lack appropriate research facilities. Under this scheme, grants are awarded to individual researchers and research units in 80 science-and-technology-lagging countries (S&TLC) to enable them to purchase the research facilities they need to enhance their productivity.

Ruforum Graduate Research Grants 2011 – Call for Proposals

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13962

Deadline: 30 September 2011

Ruforum announces the Fourth Call for Proposals of its Graduate Research Grants (GRG, RU/CGS/GRG/30/9/11). The purpose of the Call is to support capacity building at graduate level and to link universities more closely with rural communities and with research, extension and development agencies. Please refer to the [Competitive Grants Manual](#) for further information and guide on the Graduate Research Grants. The Manual provides guidelines and other details on how to respond to the Call for Proposals. Results from the selection will be communicated by mid-March 2012. Interested institutions should visit the [official webpage](#).

M.Sc. Program International Agribusiness and Rural Development (IARD)

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13907

The M.Sc. Programme International Agribusiness and Rural Development (IARD) is jointly offered by the Georg-August University of Göttingen (Germany) and Universidad de Talca (Chile) – www.iard.uni-goettingen.de. for further information and guide on the Graduate Research Grants. DAAD offers scholarships for applicants from Latin-American and the Caribbean states. The application of Caribbean candidates is encouraged for this Master programme. If you are interested in the programme please read carefully through the website: www.uni-goettingen.de/en/136089.html. If you feel convinced as well as eligible you may want to send your application documents: read the section 'How to apply': www.uni-goettingen.de/en/136179.html.

[Back To Top](#)

Jobs | Follow the latest RSS feeds for this section

Professor - Biosciences, agriculture, and food technology - University of Trinidad and Tobago

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The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) is inviting applicants for the position of Programme Professor in Biosciences, Agriculture and Food Technologies (BAFT). The University is looking for a visionary academic leader, with experience in tropical agriculture, who can address UTT's core Mission and Vision. The Programme Professor will be responsible for the overall administration, supervision and coordination of the BAFT programme which is connected to a number of holdings in different parts of Trinidad and Tobago including the Eastern Caribbean Institute for Agriculture and Forestry.

IICA Vacancy: Specialist in Technological Innovation, Caribbean

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A vacancy announcement from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for a Specialist in Technological Innovation. The closing date for applications is 19 July 2011.

[Back To Top](#)

Organisations | Find more organisations on our website

The International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC)



The creation of the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the Auspices of UNESCO ISTIC is a follow up of the Doha Plan of Action (2005). As reflected by its name, the Centre acts as an international platform for South-South cooperation in science, technology and innovation and makes use of the network of the G77 plus China and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. UNESCO has asked to develop and implement a programme for South-South cooperation in science and technology with the objective of facilitating the integration of a developmental approach into

national science and technology and innovation policies, capacity building in science and technology through providing policy advice and exchange of experience and best practices, and creating a problem solving network of centres of excellence in developing countries as well as supporting the exchange of students, researchers, scientists and technologists among developing countries.

United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM)

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The United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM) is a subsidiary body/regional institution of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), based in Beijing, China. UNAPCAEM is committed to enhancing environmentally sustainable agricultural and food production, applying green and modern agro-technology for the well being of producers and consumers of agricultural/food products. This organisation pursues its missions through information exchange and

knowledge networking, policy research, technical assistance in capacity building and training, outreach/advocacy programmes, and by fostering partnerships. It is focusing on three thematic cluster programmes: agricultural engineering, food chain management, and agro-enterprise development and trade. APCAEM maintains a 'Directory of Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers' that covers 15 countries within the Asian Pacific region, including Fiji.

African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS)

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AFAAS has the mandate to implement the Agricultural Advisory Services aspects of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) - an African-owned and Africa-led initiative through which interventions to transform agriculture are coordinated. The CAADP has four pillars one of which (Pillar 4) addresses agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption. Leadership of the implementation of this Pillar is mandated to the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). In this context AFAAS operates under the umbrella of FARA but has its own autonomy and governance structure. AFAAS currently works

in 16 African countries.

Better Cotton Initiative

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/13964



The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) is an international membership association made up of cotton retailers, producers, and non-profit groups, working in Pakistan, India, Brazil, and West & Central Africa (Benin, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso) to promote sustainable cotton cultivation that is less damaging to the health of farmers and the environment. BCI aims to promote measurable improvements in the key environmental and social impacts of cotton cultivation worldwide to make it more

economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable. Since 2005, the BCI has been working with organisations from across the cotton supply chain and interested stakeholders to facilitate a sustainable solution for the mainstream cotton sector. The BCI's philosophy is to develop a market for a new mainstream commodity (ie., similar to a brand name): 'Better Cotton'. The 'brand' aims to become the sustainable alternative to common cotton and bring long-term benefits for the environment, farmers and other people dependent on cotton for their livelihood.

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HarvestPlus

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HarvestPlus seeks to reduce 'hidden hunger' (micronutrient malnutrition) and provide micronutrients to billions of people directly through the staple foods that



they eat. It uses a novel process called biofortification to breed higher levels of micronutrients directly into key staple foods. HarvestPlus focuses on three critical micronutrients that are recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as most limiting in diets: iron, zinc, and vitamin A. HarvestPlus envisions that in fifteen years, millions of people suffering from micronutrient malnutrition will be eating new biofortified crop varieties. The HarvestPlus initiative is one of the three 'challenge' programme of the CGIAR. It was officially launched in 2004. It is a good source of information on developments and projects related to micronutrient security and biofortification around the world.

[Back To Top](#)

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