



News from FARA Partners & Stakeholders

- [FARA Secretariat and forum activities](#), p. 2
- [Upcoming events](#), p. 3
- [Subregional news](#), p. 5
- [National news](#) p. 5
- [Africa news](#) p. 8
- [World news](#) p. 9
- [Resources on Agriculture & IPR in Africa](#) p.10
- [Other resources](#) p. 11
- [Opportunities](#) p. 12

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues are being debated among academics, policymakers and NGOs. Particularly with a view to answering the following type of questions; *'Who does what kind of research or development?'; 'How can smallholder farmers benefit, with increasing number of players and opportunities, as well as changing roles of different actors and institutions?'*

IPR rules extend globally and have wide-ranging implications on the future of food production. Access to and exchange of genetic resources has always been the basis of African agriculture and of farmers' innovation. The rise of agricultural biotechnology, and the patenting of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for use in crop production – initially in the US and Canada, but now much more widely including Africa – raises a number of very difficult legal issues. At the same time, as IPR regimes are expanding, other international regimes such as the convention on agriculture biodiversity, are still being worked out in practice on the ground and in conference halls around the world.

There are growing concerns among agricultural researchers in Africa, NGOs and farmers' organizations that exposure to the full range of intellectual Property (IP) tools being wielded by multi-national firms may have major adverse impact on people's livelihoods and food security. When IP tools are combined with other requirements of these multi-national firms, the difficulties faced by small-scale suppliers can become even greater.

FARA has a particular concern about the effects of IP on access to seeds and other technologies and knowledge needed for research and development. National agricultural research institutes (NARI) were established to conduct research on national priority crops, livestock, fisheries, natural resources management, which are not necessarily of important commercial value but are critical elements of food and nutrition among resource-poor farmers. Imposition of IP requirements on publicly-funded NARIs will have implications on their strategy, breeding strategies, organizational structures and external partnerships. NARIs have their own interests in IP. Firstly, to protect the

rights of use of their products and secondly, the special service they provide to the protection of indigenous knowledge and crops of low-commercial value such as pulses and root crops.

The use of IP will require introduction of new organizational cultures among researchers who will have to use IP 1) to protect their products which are of public goods by nature, 2) to protect their access to scientific methods and applications, and 3) to protect the end products, although IP does hold the prospect to commercialize research products as a means of funding future research and rewarding innovative researchers. This will require new skills and expertise to assist in proper understanding and application of IP issues. New investments are required to respond to the requirements in following international policies on IPR.

The potential of genetic engineering to manipulate plants which could be patented draws new players (i.e. chemical and pharmaceutical industries). These players have invested billions of dollars over the past two decades in agricultural biotechnology research and development. They want to see returns on investments. Crops they develop have to be grown commercially sooner rather than later. They are one of the important interest groups keen to allow for patenting of living organisms and are supporters of stronger IP rules internationally.

Partnership with International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs) will have to be reviewed. IARCs supposed to produce international public goods will have to re-think their strategy in working with commercially-oriented national research institutions, particularly for protecting their right to access intellectual properties. Properly managed IP can open new kinds of partnerships with NGOs, seed producers or farmer's organizations to reach the resource-poor farmers in Africa.

Progress is being made on several fronts after years of debate. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) recently started to review its development agenda and is available to provide training and support to national agricultural research institutions. The CGIAR also has a dedicated IP service which can be consulted for advice. This is creating more space and opportunities in the international IPR debate for developing systems that can be fully and quickly implemented in Africa.

Monty Jones, Executive Director, FARA

FARA's networking support functions: Secretariat and Forum activities

Advocacy and resource mobilization

FARA in Sierra Leone

21-24 April. A FARA delegation headed by Dr. Jones visited Sierra Leone honoring the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security in the launching of SLARI (Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute) and to discuss the country's agricultural productivity program. The delegation also met with the President of Sierra Leone. Collaborators present included the Ministry, SLARI, AGRA and FARA. [Read more](#)



Dr. Monty Jones with the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry & Food Security of Sierra Leone: Hon. Dr. Joseph Sam Sesay

FARA in Tunisia

1- 4 April. A FARA delegation headed by FARA Vice-Chairman, Dr. Tiemoko Yo and Dr. Monty Jones honored the invitation of the Government of Tunisia facilitated by Dr. Amor Chermiti, a FARA Board Member. The delegation was exposed to the Tunisian agricultural research and agriculture in general. IN return, they gave a small background about FARA and discuss possibilities of stronger collaboration and support from the Tunisian Government. [Read More](#)



Farmers Union President (Tunisia) – Mabrouk Bahri (left)



Dr. Monty JONES and FARA vice chair Tiémoko YO with the State Secretary – Abderrazak DAALOUL

FARA in Japan. Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

28- 30 May FARA attended the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) held from in Yokohama, Japan. [Read more](#)

Access to knowledge and technologies

New Project Supported by Canada on Communication and Networking on Climate Adaptation in Africa

FARA is part of a core team collaborating on a new project to enhance communication and networking on climate change adaptation in Africa. The project officially started on 30/04/2008. [Read more](#)

CGIAR Knowledge Sharing Workshop at ILRI in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



05-08 May. FARA participated to the Face-to-Face part of the Knowledge Sharing Workshop at ILRI in Addis. The ILRI meeting enabled participants to assess their

understanding of the KS concept following the one-month online discussion that preceded the face to face meeting. [Read more](#)

Regional Impact of Information Society Technologies in Africa 2008.

07- 09 May. FARA participated at the IST-Africa 2008 which took place in Windhoek, Namibia. Part of the IST-Africa Initiative, is supported by the European Commission under the IST Programme of Framework Programme 6 (FP6). [Read more](#)

Capacity strengthening

FARA Management training workshop



10-14 March. Thirty Senior Managers of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) and Sub Regional Organisations (SRO) gathered in Accra for a workshop on Leadership and Team Management. [Read More](#)

FARA SCARDA Inaugural Workshop

30 April-2 May. The DfID sponsored SCARDA initiative had its Inaugural Workshop in Accra. The major output of the workshop was a detailed consolidated SCARDA Activity and Learning Plan, endorsed by the FARA, the Sub-Regional Organisations (SRO), the Focal Institutions (FI), and the Lead Service Providers (LSP). [Read more](#)

Towards a “Green Revolution” in Africa

30 April-2 May. FARA participated to the Conference Towards a “Green Revolution” in Africa, in Salzburg, Austria.
3-7 May. A seminar on *What Framework for Success?* to

further refine the conference recommendations, critically examine implications, potential implementation barriers, and other opportunities that may have been missed. [Read more](#)



Kofi Annan called for a "uniquely African Green Revolution" founded on "bold pro-poor policies" to address the food crisis facing Africa and the world.

Development of Rural Livelihoods in Semi-Arid Africa

29-30 April. The African Union's specialized technical office for the promotion of agricultural research for development in semi-arid areas (AU/SAFGRAD), organised a two-day 'Conference on Development of Rural Livelihoods in Semi-arid Africa'. FARA attended the conference at the African Union Commission Head Quarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. [Read more](#)

Partnerships and strategic alliances

FARA & EFARD Consultation on agricultural research programming for FP7-FAB and FSTP

14-16 April. A workshop on ARD prioritization exercise at the European Commission facilitated by CTA and the two forums for ARD in Africa (FARA) and Europe (EFARD) through their Platform for African – European Partnership on Agricultural research for development (PAEPARD). All participants agreed this consultation was very successful. [Read more](#)

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 4)

FARA participated at the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 4) which was held in Bonn, Germany, from 12 to 16 May 2008. [Read more](#)

Enhanced Africa Rice Development Initiative

7 May. The JICA vice-president, Mr. Kenzo Oshima headed the Japanese delegation that visited FARA to discuss FARA's role in an initiative to enhance rice production in Africa. This initiative will be launched during the TICAD 4 meeting in Japan end of May. [Read more](#)

SSA-CP workshop

12-16 May. Synthesis of SSA CP baseline and development of first draft for paper on *Framework for proof of IAR4D concept*.

Upcoming events

High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy.

3-5 June. Rome, Italy. The focus will be on how agriculture can continue to produce adequate quantities of food for the world's growing population, and particularly the poor and vulnerable, in changing climatic conditions. The Conference will address the specific challenges from climate and bioenergy for the food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors. [Read more](#)

Charcoal and Communities in Africa

16-18 June. Maputo, Mozambique. A conference is planned under an IFAD funded project, implemented by the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), under the framework of the Global NonTimber Forest Products (NTFP) Partnership. [Read more](#)

Agro-Food Industry as Engine for Growth and Wealth

18-20 June. Rome, Italy. EMRC AgriBusiness Forum. AgriBusiness 2008 aims at contributing to the growth & wealth of Africa by a further development of its agro-food industry, with the expertise, experience and involvement of knowledgeable individuals and institutions. **FARA will be part of a group discussing research and**

innovation for a sustainable growth in agriculture: best practices and experiences learnt. [Read more](#)

US-AFRICA Agribusiness Forum

25-27 June. 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](#)

2nd African Council for Distance Education

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

Seminar on Meeting Information and Knowledge Needs of Farmers in Africa through e-Agriculture

14 July. Lusaka, Zambia. The seminar will examine the emerging field of e-agriculture and review specific cases of e-agriculture initiatives in Africa and their impact on sharing, managing and delivery of agricultural information and knowledge services to rural-based farmers and communities. [seminar announcement](#)

The Fifth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning

13 to 17 July London, United Kingdom. The University of London and the Commonwealth of Learning will host the fifth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF5). The conference will bring

together practitioners, researchers and policymakers, allowing them to share their experiences and expertise. Participants will explore how open and distance learning can help achieve international development goals, access to learning and education for all. **FARA will be organizing a side-event together with COL on Africa agriculture and Tech-Mode**. [Read more](#)

The 12th International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD) 24 - 27 August. 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](#)

1st All Africa Biotech Conference

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

NETSSAF Conference

24-27 September. Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. "Pathways towards Sustainable Sanitation in Africa". The conference will bring together members of the NETSSAF consortium jointly with national and regional decision makers, sanitation professionals, practitioners and scientists, in rural and peri-urban areas in West Africa. [Read more](#)

International Banana Conference 2008

5-9 October, Mombasa, Kenya. International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). [Read more](#)

APPRI International Workshop 2008.

21-24 October Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Workshop on Learning, Producing and Sharing Innovations. By analysing actual practices in the field, the workshop will set out to identify the knowledge needed and the tools to be created and developed to enable production of shared

know-how and to improve the impact of agricultural innovations. [Read more](#)

CTA Conference

26-31 October. Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. CTA is organizing an international seminar on the implications of climate change for sustainable agricultural production systems in ACP countries. It will bring together about 200 participants from the ACP region, EU national institutions and regional and international organizations.

[Read More](#)

Interdisciplinary Climate Research Symposium

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

The 9th International Conference on Dryland Development

7-10 November. Alexandria, Egypt, , Under the title "Sustainable Development of Drylands: Meeting the Challenge of Global Climate change". [Read more](#)

1st EuroAfrica- ICT Summit 2008

27-28 November, Lyon, France. The 1st ICT Summit between Europe and Africa, aims to expand the dialogue between the European and African ICT research communities and the authorities of both regions. [Read more](#)

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

February 2009. 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](#) .

Sub-regional news

CORAF/WECARD. First West & Central African Agricultural Scientific Week & eighth General Assembly: *Producers & Users at the centre of research*

June 9-13, Yaounde, Cameroon. The objective of the meeting is to provide a forum where CORAF/WECARD's constituents can meet to review progress since the 7th biennial General Assembly in April 2006 and, based on lessons learnt since then, determine the West and Central African agenda for agricultural research for development for the next biennium. [Read more](#)

Ministers of Trade, Agriculture and Finance discussed the soaring cost of basic food items in West Africa

Representatives of eight international organizations involved in agricultural development and water resource management were invited to a one-day extraordinary meeting on **Monday 19th of May** of the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**. [Read more.](#)

Abdou-Salam Ouédraogo Fellowship for Research on Conservation.[Read more](#)

International Symposium on Biotechnology (ISB) Sfax, Tunisia

4-8 May, the city of Sfax in Tunisia hosted a major international biotechnology symposium [Read more](#)

ARC Sudan receives Prize for Science & Technology.

The selection committee of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Prizes for Science and Technology has awarded the prize for S&T in the category "Noted Scientific Research Institutions in IDB least developed countries" to

the Agricultural Research Corporation in Sudan. [Read more](#)

Ministers of Trade, Agriculture and Finance discussed the soaring cost of basic food items

Representatives of eight international organizations involved in agricultural development and water resource management were invited to a one-day extraordinary meeting on Monday 19th of May of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Ministers of Trade, Agriculture and Finance to discuss the soaring cost of basic food items in West Africa. [Read more](#)

National news

Botswana

"Nothing" is More Than Food for Thought

Battered by frequent fuel price hikes in the past few years, the Botswana economy could be headed for more turbulent times with the looming worldwide food shortages. [Read more](#)

Burundi

Combating cassava mosaic: Global plant genetics policy and research unite with emergency operations against lethal crop disease.

Farmers in Burundi kicked off a new season, planting cassava free of a deadly disease that brought hunger to thousands of people in the Great Lakes region. [Read more](#)

Burkina Faso

Meteorological effects of Malaria Transmission in Burkina Faso

This paper, published in BMC public health, examines the effects of meteorological factors (temperature, relative humidity and rainfall) on the incidence of clinical malaria. It uses data collected from over 670 children in urban and rural areas of Burkina Faso. [Read more](#)

Ethiopia

Ethiopia's Commodity Exchange Opens its Doors

Ethiopia opens a commodity exchange this week, the first of its kind in Africa. The exchange will trade in six commodities: coffee, sesame, haricot beans, teff, wheat and maize. [Read more](#)

The increasing sophistication of coffee drinkers is good for producers

Coffee prices are the highest they have been for a decade. As consumers in India and China develop a taste for the drink, prices are likely to keep rising. Meanwhile something new is happening in developed markets. Europeans, Americans and Japanese are switching to higher-quality coffee. [Read more](#)

Gambia

Gambian farmers cautioned against selling to middlemen

Gambian farmers have been warned to desist from selling their cereals and grains to "traders from the sub-region" instead of the government-controlled company. [Read more](#)

Ghana

Government Says There's little It Can Do About Soaring Food Prices.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture, Mr. Ernest Debrah has indicated that with the worsening world food crises there is little the government can do to salvage the high prices of imported foodstuffs, especially rice. [Read more](#)

ADB Increases Microfinance Credit Facility to Cocoa and Cassava Farmers

The Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) has outlined measures to increase and expand its microfinance credit facility to cocoa and other cash crop farmers to expand their farms to increase production. [Read more](#)

Brazil opens regional agricultural research center in Ghana

Brazil on April 20 inaugurated a Regional Office of its Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) in Accra to spearhead agricultural revolution in Africa. [Read more](#)

Kenya

Farmers Now Demand Better Contracts to Beat Inflation

Factories which process agricultural products face higher costs in assisting contracted farmers to access inputs at affordable prices. [Read more](#)

Growth of Horticulture in Africa: Status, Opportunities: a case study of Kenya

Kenya as well as other regions in Africa, quality of Horticultural produce, supply frequency, packaging as well as pricing of the produce are likely to be ... [Read More](#)

Meat exports to Europe banned

Kenya has lost its beef export quota to Europe over its failure to control animal diseases. The announcement of the PPR threat (peste des petits ruminants) was made by Livestock minister Mohammed Kuti at Kabete Veterinary Research Laboratories in Nairobi. [Read more](#)

Farmers Dump Maize for Passion Fruit.

Farmers in the North Rift have embraced passion fruit growing as an alternative to maize. The switch is partly due to the skyrocketing cost of maize production, and will compound fears of a major grains shortage this year. [Read more](#)

Radio drama to teach advantages of seed pre-planting soaking.

For most of the past 30 years, a Welsh scientist has ploughed a lonely furrow as he perfected a simple way to improve crop yields in poor countries. But next month his idea will bear fruit – because one of Africa's most popular and influential soap operas is basing a new storyline on it. [Read more](#)

Launch of Farm Programme To Provide Small-Scale Farmers And Farm Businesses Financing And Credit.

A major new partnership was launched this week to provide smallholder farmers and small agricultural enterprises with the financing they need to break out of poverty and build viable businesses. [Read more](#)

AGRA Launches \$47m Credit Line for Kenyan Farmers

Kenya Agriculture Minister William Ruto said the government was pursuing an aggressive strategy to revitalise agriculture. [Read more](#)

Enhancing relief, recovery and rehabilitation through agricultural research

ICRISAT-Nairobi hosted a 2-day workshop on 22-23 May in on 'Defining a strategic agricultural research agenda on post-crisis/post-shock recovery in highly stressed systems'. [Read more](#)

Kenya launches interactive voice service system and agriculture information service

The Government of Kenya has launched **farmers information service**, where the community's farming community will be able to receive and exchange timely news and information on agriculture, weather patterns and other related issues through their mobile phones. [Read more](#)

Mali

The growing potential of Mali's industries is the fruit industry

One of the fastest growing industries is the fruit industry, although it is still relatively small compared to rice and corn. Most of the fruit is exported to neighbouring

countries like Ghana, Ivory Coast and Senegal which produce fewer mangos and have slightly different harvesting periods. [Read more](#)

Namibia

Namibian Land reform is problematic, study finds

Three Namibian former commercial farms are now being used for subsistence farming and make no contribution to the national economy, a study on resettlement farms has found. [Read more](#)

N\$8 Million to start a major aquaculture project

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has allocated N\$8 million to start a major aquaculture project at Leonardville village in the Omaheke Region. [Read more](#)

Nigeria

Country, Major Producer of Indian Hemp—NDLEA

National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), has said Nigeria produces a total of 1.2million assorted metric tones of Indian hemp annually. [Read more](#)

Science minister urges Africa to accept, promote GM crops

Nigerian Minister of Science and Technology, Mrs Grace Ekpiwhre has called on African leaders to promote Genetically Modified (GM) crops to tame hunger on the continent. Ekpiwhre said that the continent's per capital food production had gradually declined over the last two decade. [Read more](#)

Rwanda

Second Rural Sector Support Project

The economy of Rwanda continues to recover from the devastating losses associated with the 1994 genocide. As a result of extensive economic and governance reform measures taken between 1995 and 2005, GDP rates have averaged over 7.5 percent per year during the past 10 years. [Read More](#)

Senegal

Investors' Tax Breaks to Boost Farming

Senegal is among the world's biggest food importers on a per capita basis and one of the leading recipients of foreign aid in Africa. [Read more](#)

Sierra Leone

Environmental Degradation in Kono District

Kono district is a region that is not only rich in diamonds but also in dense forests rich with flora and fauna, and huge agricultural potential. [Read more](#)

Tanzania

The relationship between climate and malaria

A paper, published in the Malaria Journal examines the relationship between climate and malaria incidence in Kagera in northwest Tanzania, with the aim of determining

whether seasonal weather forecasts may assist in predicting malaria epidemics. [Read more](#)

Uganda

Global Wheat Deficit Pushes Bread Prices.

Consumers may be forced to start rationing bread and others could scrap it off their shopping list because of its escalating price. [Read more](#)

Coffee Farm Price Soar

Coffee farmers with quality produce fetched high prices despite the drop in coffee prices on the world market. [Read more](#)

Cabinet Approves National Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy

The Uganda National Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy was approved by the Cabinet after a thorough review and deliberation among various stakeholders. [Read more](#)

Zimbabwe

National Foods to Take Over Bulk Milling

Most small-scale millers were channelling maize-meal to the black market. [Read more](#)

Set New Maize Price for Millers

The Government has been called upon to set a millers' price that would ensure the viability of the Grain Marketing Board. [Read more](#)

African news

African Development Bank creates fertilizer subsidy facility

The annual meeting of the governors of the African Development Bank (ADB), held in Maputo on **May 14 and 15**, approved the creation of an African Fertiliser Facility, that will make fertilizer available to African farmers at affordable prices. [Read more](#)

Workshop on Food and Nutrition Security to Accelerating Investments in Response to High Food Prices and Food Insecurity

The African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad), in collaboration the World Bank, the Food and agriculture organisation (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have hosted a [Food Security Workshop](#) with the theme Accelerating Investments in Response to High Food Prices and Food Insecurity in Johannesburg from **20 to 23 May**. [Read more](#)

Mainstreaming eLearning for Environment.

A seminar was organised in Accra on **28th of May** by UNEP in cooperation with [ICWE](#) as a pre-conference activity to the [e-learning Africa 2008 conference](#). [Read more](#)

China Earmarks U.S. \$5 Billion for Food Production

A visiting Chinese delegation headed by the Chief Executive Officer of **China-Africa Development Fund** says about 5 billion United States dollars have been earmarked for the production of food and cash crops in Liberia and other African countries over a 50-year period. [Read more](#)

Costly Food Opportunity to Review Aid Responses

High food prices have brought social unrest but they have also provided a "window of opportunity" to review global policies on the response to food insecurity, said a leading food aid analyst as experts and aid agencies began an unprecedented strategic re-think at a three-day meeting in Rome on 16 April. [Read more](#)

Farming Fails to Reach Potential

Agricultural output in Africa south of the Sahara will not produce larger harvests without greater use of fertilisers, says a report commissioned by the World Bank and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation. [Read more](#)

African Agriculture: UK govt. backs African horticultural exports.

The UK government is urging supermarkets to step up their sourcing from African farmers and reject concerns over 'food miles'. [Read more](#)

Story of African agriculture is not all bleak: IAASTD contributor.

Accounting for about a third of the gross domestic product in sub-Saharan Africa, agriculture clearly plays a significant role on the continent. But, figures only tell part of the story. A review of Africa produced under the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) notes that agriculture is also "woven into the fabric of most societies and cultures in the region". [Read more](#)

Rich Countries Must Deal With Climate Change.

The rich countries created the problems of climate change, and the rich countries bear the main responsibility for solving them, declared Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg on Sunday. [Read more](#)

Large-Scale Biofuel Production May Increase Marginalization of Women.

Rapid increases in the large-scale production of liquid biofuels in developing countries could exacerbate the marginalization of women in rural areas threatening their livelihoods, according to a new FAO study. The study notes that large-scale plantations for the production of liquid biofuels such as bioethanol and biodiesel require an intensive use of resources and inputs to which small farmers, particularly women, traditionally have limited

access. These resources include land and water, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. [Read more](#)

Africa Holds the Future For World Rice Farming

Africa Rice Center (WARDA) has predicted for the past 2 years a rice crisis in Africa as of 2008. The last whistle blowing dates back from the Council of Ministers of Member States held in Abuja in September 2007. [Read more](#)

Soaring Food Prices Cook up New Opportunities for Investors

The World Bank has said it will double its lending to agriculture in Africa to \$800 million over the next year. Food prices in the US rose 4% in 2007 [Read more](#)

India Can Help Raise Incomes in Africa.

Biofuels have, no doubt, also contributed to food price inflation. We have to see how we manage the impact of the whole bio-Economy on food and on the environment... [Read more](#).

International Workshop on Evaluating Climate Change and Development

10 - 13 May. Alexandria, Egypt The workshop themes were climate change mitigation (including policy and market interventions in sectors such as energy and transportation) and adaptation (including land degradation, agricultural development, water management, preparedness for natural disasters, and climate resilience). [Read more](#)

Pan-Africa workshop on service delivery to smallholder farmers

18-21 May 2008. Nairobi, Kenya. The Inter-Region Economic Network (IREN) invited 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](#)

Strong Signs of Record Rice Production

Rice production in Asia, Africa and Latin America is forecast to reach a new record level in 2008, FAO said today, warning that world rice prices could remain high in the short term, as much of the 2008 crops will only be harvested by the end of the year. [Read more](#)

New Ideas to Boost the World Tea Market

Just like for other tropical products, the world tea market has seen a tendency for increasing supplies to run ahead of demand growth, depressing prices and returns to producers in developing countries. [Read more](#)

High Food Prices Renew Interest in African Farming

Africa's agriculture sector is attracting new interest from donors and the international community as a global rise in food prices threatens to wipe out recent economic gains in developing countries. [Read more](#)

World news

CGIAR Calls for More Investment in Agriculture Research

The world must invest now and in the long term in problem-solving agricultural research, the only solution to the growing food crisis, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research [Read more](#)

World Bank's pro-globalization, trade liberalization policies responsible for world food crisis

Zoellick talked about the consequences of the global surge in prices, arguing that free trade had become a humanitarian necessity, to ensure that poor people had enough to eat. [Read more](#)

Global Food Crisis requires more industrial agriculture and globalization, not less.

The world price of staple foods has rocketed, almost doubling in the past 18 months. For consumers in the rich world this massive increase in the price of wheat or rice is an inconvenience; for consumers in the poorest countries it is a catastrophe. [Read more](#)

Creation of the Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation for microfinance

The Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation will develop a platform of financial services and technical assistance to support microfinance institutions that in developing and

emerging countries. It will pay particular attention to microfinance institutions with an agricultural and rural focus. [Read more](#)

Planet Diversity: The World Congress in the Future of Food and Agriculture

12 -15 May. 550 participants from 90 countries met in Bonn, Germany for a world congress on the future of food and agriculture. It is an alternative summit to the UN Convention on Biodiversity and the Biosafety Protocol meeting. [Read more](#)

3rd Fair Trade International Symposium, Montpellier, France

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

World Bioenergy 2008

27-29 May 2008 Jönköping, Sweden. At the World Bioenergy 2008 fair and conference an initiative was launched to form a World Bioenergy Association as a voice on the global arena for the fast-growing bioenergy industry. The current debate on bioenergy and biofuels all over the world is an illustration of the need for such an organisation. [Read more](#)

Resources on Agriculture and IPR in Africa

The future control of Food: A Guide to International Negotiations & Rule on IPR.

In today's world, there is massive over-production and over-consumption, yet millions experience scarcity and hunger. [Read more](#)

E-Biotechnology, Agriculture, and Food Security in Southern Africa

Chapter 6: Intellectual Property Rights Policy Norah Olembo [Read more](#)

Intellectual Property Resources for International Development in Agriculture

Public-Private Partnerships in International Agricultural Research. David J. Spielman, Frank Hartwich, and Klaus von Grebmer IFPRI, Nov. 2007. This research brief examines how PPPs in agricultural research stimulate investment in pro-poor innovation in developing country agriculture. David Spielman made a presentation at CTA 6th AC on ST&I 13/12/2007. [Read more](#)

Access to private sector technologies specifically for sub-Saharan Africa

[Read more](#) about this new initiative, AATF

Intellectual Property and Community Rights in African Agriculture

Authoritative introduction to these issues by Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN) concerning African countries that are being forced to choose. [Read more](#)

Intellectual Property Resources for International Development in Agriculture

Designing Regime to Support Plant Breeding in Developing Countries. Presented by co-author Niels Louwaars at the AGM CGIAR revealed a diversity of responses by managers of public research to the emergence of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs). They are hailed in their capacity to increase recognition, to facilitate public private partnerships (PPPs) and to generate revenue for the institute and the scientists. [Read More](#)

Uganda Agricultural Productivity Enhancement Program (APEP)

The program has also been actively advocating the adoption of stronger intellectual property rules, including the use of biotechnology. [Read more](#)

Water-Efficient Maize for Africa: Pipra Supports Cimmyt

PIPRA offers a unique resource with its experience in articulating public sector goals and its mission to provide services to support the strategic management of intellectual property rights among public agricultural research. [Read more](#)

Technology Sows Seeds of Public Mistrust

The use of farm-saved seed, for instance, posed a problem of intellectual property rights for seed companies in SA that could scupper their arrangements ... [Read more](#)

Intellectual Property Resources for International Development in Public Sector

The fragmented ownership of intellectual property rights [Read more](#)

Intellectual Property, partnerships and people

This article examines the legal arrangements with respect to the products resulting from public-private research partnerships, and the implications for small farmers in East Africa. [Read more..](#)

International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants

The UPOV Convention provides a *sui generis* form of IP protection specifically adapted for the process of plant breeding and has been developed to encourage breeders to develop new varieties of plants for the benefit of society. [Read more](#)

WTO links with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

TRIPS for [least-developed countries](#), to help them with intellectual property protection for their economic, social and cultural development. [Read More](#)

World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)

The TRIPS section of the site provides extensive information on intellectual property in the WTO, news and records of the activities of the TRIPS Council, and details of the WTO's work with other international organizations in the field. [Read More](#)

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Multilateral System of access to 64 of the most important food and forage crops essential for food security. [Read more](#)

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Granting of more favorable IPR terms to promote transfer of biotechnology to developing countries. [Read more](#)

Arcadia Biosciences Contributes Technology Licence

April 24, 2008: Technology License to the African Agricultural Technology Foundation to Develop Nitrogen Efficient and Salt Tolerant African Rice. [Read more](#)

Other Resources

Agricultural Education and information system in Asia and Africa

The Team was charged by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to explore the landscape of agricultural education and information systems in Asia and Africa, and to come up with recommendations. [Read More](#)

A New Knowledge Network in Sub-Saharan Africa for IFAD Funded Programs and Projects.

Rome – 29 April - IFAD's Executive Board has approved a grant that will help establish FIDAfrique-IFADAfrica, a new knowledge network in sub-Saharan Africa for IFAD-funded programmes and projects and for its development partners. [Read more](#)

World Bank Learning Program: Developing Technology and Innovation in Africa: Focus on Agriculture and Food Industry

Technology development is a cross-cutting factor that has profound impact on how a country is able to best fulfill its potential. [Read more](#)

New report on how climate science could be better used for supporting adaptation in African agriculture.

The Stockholm Environment Institute has recently published a policy brief and report (March 2008, 52 p.) [Read more.](#)

Briefing paper on the cause of rising of Food Prices

The latest briefing paper of ODI (April 2008) examines the **causes of rising food prices**, expected trends, the likely impact, and possible policy responses. [Read more](#)

Gender Issues in Information and Communication Technology

An invitation for applications for the third round of the GenARDIS small grants programme. [Read more](#)

E-Learning course on Collaboration and Advocacy Techniques

The EC-FAO Food Security Programme has just published an e-learning course on Collaboration and Advocacy Techniques. www.foodsecinfoaction.org. [Read more](#)

Publications: Aligning Global Agricultural Research Investments with National Development Activities: The CGIAR Experience

The study identifies factors that affect how effectively

the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) aligns its research to support country programs of the World Bank and other Members of the Group. [Read More](#)

Agricultural biotechnology in Africa: selected resources from SciDev.Net

SciDev.Net page on "Agro-biotech in Africa links to a collection of articles and policy briefs exploring related issues. [Read More](#)

Experiences from Cameroon, Kenya, the Philippines and Venezuela

Developing countries address these challenges in different ways, including public and private sector investments in plant breeding and other modern tools for genetic crop improvement. In order to measure the impact of any technology and prioritize investments, we must assess the relevant resources, human capacity, clusters, networks and linkages, as well as the institutions performing technological research and development, and the rate of farmer adoption. [Read More](#)

Improving Nutrition as a Development Priority: Addressing Undernutrition in National Policy Processes in Sub-Saharan Africa.

This report investigates under nutrition's persistence, drawing on case studies of the public response to the problem in Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Uganda. [Read More](#)

A New RESOURCE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY

[Read more](#)

Forum on Agro-industries

10 April. New Delhi. FAO, UNIDO and IFAD, in collaboration with the Government of India, brought together food industry leaders, agro-industry specialists, ministers of agriculture and trade and industry and civil society representatives for the first Global Agro-industries Forum. [Read more](#)

Research Examine Seed-Aid Effectiveness

Findings Already Influencing Policies of Donor and Recipient Governments Emergency seed aid, a critical intervention during times of crisis for farmers in the developing world, has had a range of unexpected effects— and the easiest [Read more](#)

Mountain Forum's initiative on Climate Change

The May issue of the India based i4d magazine features an article on ICTs and Climate Change Building partnerships: Addressing change, more specifically on the Mountain Forum's initiative on Climate Change. [Read more](#)

New PBS Country Fact Sheets Available for Ghana, Kenya, Mali, the Philippines

This collaborative work is essential to ensure that PBS policy, economic, environmental, legal, trade and capacity building- related activities all fully and accurately support the development of national and regional biosafety regulatory systems [Read more](#)

Tropical Rainforests and Agroforests under Global Change

Understanding these processes needs an integrated scientific approach linking ecological, economic and social approaches at different scales, from the household and village level to landscapes and regions. [Read more](#)

Connecting the agribrary catalogue to Google Books

Wageningen UR library is getting excited about the potential to link their library catalogue to full text books in Google. [Read More](#)

Announcements and opportunities

[BECA is looking for plant bioscience research scientist](#)

[AWARD Fellowships](#)

[Farm Africa looking for Director of Programmes](#)

[Endure network PhD scholarships](#)

[McLaughlin–Rotman centre for Global Health Senior Fellowship](#)

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 Director) by email at: mjones@fara-africa.org.

Please check your contact information and update your profile on www.fara-africa.org