



FARA Secretariat updates

The Secretariat

■ FARA and AfDB signed a Protocol Agreement

On December 18, 2006, Dr. Monty Jones, Executive Secretary of Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and Dr. Zeinab El Bakri, Vice President of the AfDB Group for Operations Sector signed a protocol agreement on a Multinational Project for the 'Promotion of Science and Technology for Agricultural Development in Africa' at the African Development Bank in Tunis.

The agreement allows AfDB to give a grant of US\$23 million to FARA and the sub-regional organizations (SRO) over the next 6 years to support the Multinational Project. It is dedicated to raising agricultural productivity through agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption with crosscutting capacity building component. Its intervention will focus on (1) Knowledge and Information Management (RAILS); (2) Technology Transfer and Good Agricultural Practices (DONATA). FARA is the lead agency together with the SROs who will be coordinating the support to the 38 beneficiary countries in sub-Saharan Africa.



The Multinational Project complements NEPAD's strategy for growth anchored on agricultural development as articulated in the Fourth Pillar of CAADP and the Framework for African agricultural productivity (FAAP).

■ WARDA wins UN award for its 'New Rice for Africa (NERICA)' initiative

In recognition of its New Rice for Africa (NERICA) initiative, the Africa Rice Center (WARDA) has been selected to receive the 2006 United Nations Award for South-South Triangular Partnership, which is presented to individuals or institutions for 'spearheading, transforming, empowering, mobilizing and/or expanding the South-South agenda by increasing human and financial resources of the South through partnership for development.'

Carried out by an international research team led by Dr. Monty Jones, the NERICA initiative sets an excellent example and inspiration of implementing productive collaboration and triangular cooperation among the Southern countries seeking to promote their agricultural, economic and social advancement.

Major meetings attended by FARA

■ CGIAR Annual General Meeting 2006 (AGM06), 5-7 December, 2006, Washington, DC

Upcoming FARA Secretariat events

■ 15-16 January 2007, Ceremony in honor of World Food Prize Laureate Dr. Monty Jones, WARDA, Cotonou, Benin

- **17-19 January, 2007. RAILS Implementation Workshop**, to be held at FARA Secretariat, Accra, Ghana
- **30-31 January, SSA CP Steering Committee Meeting**, to be held at FARA Secretariat, Accra, Ghana
- **22-24 January, 2007. International Conference on 'Agricultural Innovation in Dryland Africa: What Are the Key Drivers for Success?'**, Accra, Ghana
- **20-21 February 2007, SCARDA Consultation Planning Workshop**, to be held at FARA Secretariat, Accra, Ghana
- **11-16 June 2007. The 4th FARA's General Assembly and African Agricultural Science Week** will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The detailed programmes are now posted on www.faraweek.org.

For more information on the above events, please contact Dr. Monty Jones by email: mjones@fara-africa.org.

Other Events

[AU – Economic Commission for Africa: Science, Technology and Innovation Exhibition, 22-30 January, 2007, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia](#)

Theme: Science, Technology and Scientific Research and Climate change in Africa

[Rwanda National Conference on Agricultural Research Outputs, 29 Jan-1 Feb, 2007, Gisenyi, Rwanda](#)
Theme on "Sustainable Agricultural Productivity for Improved Food Security and Livelihoods"

[Global Forum on Building Science, Technology, and Innovation Capacity for Sustainable Growth and Poverty Reduction, February 13-15, 2007, Washington DC, USA](#)

[SADC Land and Water Management Applied Research and Training Programme - 2nd Scientific Symposium, 14-17 Feb, 2007, Kasane, Botswana](#)

Opportunities to increasing water use and water use efficiency in agriculture in semi-arid and arid areas of the SADC region.

[Improving Sustainability in Organic and Low Input Food Production Systems, 20-23 March, 2007, Stuttgart, Germany](#)

3rd International Congress of the European Integrated Project Quality Low Input Food (QLIF)

[RUFORUM Biennial Meeting on "Building Scientific and Technical Capacity through Graduate Training and Agricultural Research in African Universities", 22-27 April, 2007, Lilongwe, Malawi](#)

[International Workshop on Potential of Cassava \(Manihot esculenta Crantz\) Processing in West Africa, 4-7 June, 2007, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire](#)

Organised by the University of Abobo-Adjamé and the Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques, this event will take stock of existing technologies and recent developments, and make way for innovative development of the cassava processing sector.

[The Second ANAFE International Symposium: Building Africa's Capacity for Tertiary Agricultural Education, 30 July - 2 August, 2007, Zomba, Malawi](#)

Aimed at establishing mechanisms for building long-term scientific and institutional capacity in SSA tertiary agriculture and NRM institutions

Sub-regional news

[SADC Food Security Update](#)

Detailed report on current rainfall situation and an early outlook for the 2006/7 agricultural season, including cereal supply and trade update for 2006/7 marketing year and household food security assessment.

Study Visit on Rainwater Harvesting and Ecological Purification

Diffusing the concepts of rainwater harvesting and ecological purification in the French-speaking Western Africa

National news

World Bank Approves US\$5 Million Additional Financing for Comoros' Services Support Project

The fund will enable Comoros to support delivery of services to disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups.

Cape Verde Receives Additional Funding for HIV/AIDS Activities

The World Bank Board approved an International Development Association (IDA) credit of US\$5 million to provide additional funding for the ongoing HIV/AIDS project in Cape Verde.

World Bank Report Concludes Mozambique Well Placed To Achieve the Key MDGs Indicators By 2015

Mozambique's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) objectives are consistent with the MDG targets.

IMF and World Bank Support Sierra Leone's Completion Point under the Enhanced HIPC Initiative and Approve Debt Relief under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative

Full delivery of debt relief under the HIPC Initiative and the MDRI will significantly reduce Sierra Leone's external public debt.

The Kumasi – Atlanta Partnership

"The partnership will fill an important role in helping Kumasi build its capacity to attract foreign investment and address the challenges of urban economic growth and poverty reduction"

A Science Culture Is Key to Ghana's Development

"To fight poverty and participate in a technological future, Ghana must start instilling scientific values throughout its culture."

Egypt's 'Black Cloud' Hides Lack of Support for Rural Farmers

The environment ministry is criticized for inaction and not supportive in agricultural waste disposal.

African news

Grant to IITA for Cassava Promotion in Africa

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation has given a grant of US\$599,800 to IITA to promote NEPAD Pan Africa Cassava Initiative (NPACI) for sustainable economic growth, food security and poverty alleviation in Africa

IITA scientists charged to re-position African agriculture for better productivity

IITA scientists and research administrators brainstormed on the justification for the Institute's involvement in R4D.

Exploring Farmer-herder Relations and Conflict Management in Niger

ILRI and partners presented research on farmer-herder relations and conflict management at an international conference on 'the future of transhumance pastoralism in west and central Africa'.

The Mobile's Success in Africa Has Caused Other Problems

Africa's telecommunication infrastructure, including landlines and internet services, is crippled.

Centres of Excellence: Not Ideal for African Science

An over-emphasis on centres of excellence will unlikely lead to an effective spread of science, technology and innovation necessary for development across the whole continent.

Bacteria in Zambezi Likely Cause of Fish Disease

Scientists suspect that sewage leaking into the river from the Caprivi region in Namibia could have caused the high levels of bacteria in the Zambezi.

World news

['Changing the Present' Launches its Website](#)

ChangingThePresent.org, a new concept in nonprofit web sites, has teamed up with FARA, as well as hundreds of other leading nonprofit organizations, to provide easy access to non-profitable causes for everyone.

[Power to Women to Fight Poverty: UNICEF's Report on 'The State of the World's Children 2007'](#)

The Report examines the discrimination and disempowerment women face throughout their lives and outlines what must be done to eliminate gender discrimination and empower women and girls.

[UK New Boost for Development Research](#)

The UK Collaborative on Development Sciences (UK-CDS) will bring together key funders of development science to help improve co-ordination of UK medical, agricultural, environmental and other areas of research that will help combat disease and eradicate poverty in the developing world.

[Breeding Program Tailored to Poor Farmers Awarded Top Agricultural Science Prize](#)

The CGIAR King Baudouin Award was awarded to the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) for its innovative, ongoing series of maize-breeding projects in Southern and Eastern Africa.

[Intensified Research Effort Yields Climate-Resilient Agriculture to Blunt Impact of Global Warming](#)

CGIAR embarks on a new effort to intensify and streamline research to reduce developing countries' vulnerability to climate change caused by global warming.

[CGIAR Climate Change Research: Breeding Climate-resilient Crops](#)

New technologies help scientist to reduce plants' thirst at the molecular level, boost rice's photosynthesis, fine-tune a plant's internal clock, identify 'stay-green' genes, etc.

[Agencies Agree on Plan for Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health Assistance to Help Developing Countries Implement International Standards](#)

The approved strategy will strengthen the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) in its continued efforts to assist developing countries in implementing international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards.

[FAO Encourages Early Withdrawal of Highly Toxic Pesticides](#)

Danish company submitted plans for phasing out highly toxic forms of pesticides in developing countries to FAO in line with the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

[Linking Policy, Practice and Research in International Development](#)

Wageningen report of an interactive process reflecting on 4 years of experiences in research and capacity building in international development

[Genetic Tools to Improve Mastitis Resistance in Dairy Cattle](#)

The mastitis resistance EU-funded project developed alternative genetic approaches to mastitis reduction.

FARA's bulletin is published monthly by the FARA Secretariat. It is aimed at improving exchange of information and promoting partnership. 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 could be submitted by email to: info@fara-africa.org.

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