



FARA Secretariat updates

Regional Initiative Updates

SCARDA Inaugural Workshop, February 20-21, 2007

An inaugural planning workshop for the Strengthening Capacity for Agricultural Research and Development in Africa (SCARDA) programme was hosted by FARA in Accra on February 20-21, 2007.

The workshop focused on planning the scoping studies and consultation workshops that will be carried out during the 6-month inception phase, by the end of which the collaborators are expected to present a convincing proposal for accomplishing SCARDA's purpose, which is '*to strengthen the institutional and human capacity of African agricultural research systems to identify, generate and deliver research outputs that meet the needs of poor people*'.

Some key recommendations include:

Careful targeting of the available resources: The objective is to enable agricultural research and extension institutions to be more effective and achieve greater impact by adopting multi institutional innovation systems approaches that will involve all actors in the agricultural value chains. The institutions that will benefit directly from SCARDA and the package of capacity strengthening activities they will therefore be determined by the outcome of institutional analyses.

SCARDA priorities and emphases: Special attention will be given to the need to strengthen capacities for gender analyses to improve approaches to gender issues in agricultural research and development and to the needs of institutions in countries emerging from conflict.

Functionality of the NARS: SCARDA will improve and strengthen the linkages between universities and national agricultural research institutes and public and private extension agencies to raise their collective capacity for agricultural innovation.

Linkages with other initiatives: SCARDA will build on existing capacity building networks and institutions.

SADC-FARA Secretariat consultation, 21 February

His Excellency (HE) Dr Tomaz A. Salomao, Executive Secretary of SADC met with FARA core team led by Dr. Monty Jones, Executive Secretary of FARA. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an update of FARA activities being conducted in Southern Africa through SADC-FANR. FARA is grateful to the support provided by SADC on this collaboration for the past 3 years. FARA engages with AU and NEPAD, to implement CAADP and FAAP through its five region-wide initiatives.

SADC E expressed their sincere gratitude for FARA's support in strengthening capacity of SADC-FANR, in particular the appointment of the core team for SADC - MAPP. SADC recognizes the importance of partnerships and a consolidated effort in improving agricultural productivity in the region, as well as the challenge of linking farmers to markets, of which there is critical importance played by agricultural research in meeting the challenges. HE will be honoured to attend the FARA GA and give a welcoming speech.

3rd Biotechnology, breeding and seed systems Africa conference, 26-29 March

The conference held in Maputo Mozambique, was organized by the Rockefeller Foundation and gathered at least 500 breeders, biotechnologists, economists and CSO. Scientific papers were presented covering at least four topics i.e. seeds for farmers, breeding source materials, developing finished materials and input markets.

Most of the papers were presented by African scientists based in their own national research institutes. Posters were presented by some authors to informally discuss their scientific findings. Most of the papers presented were research funded by the Rockefeller foundation. Funding will continue through the AGRA program called PASS.

Dr. Jones is the chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee. He chaired several sessions and gave the closing remarks.

Parliamentarian Network of the World bank – Session on agriculture, 17 March

A special session was held on agriculture during the annual parliamentarian network meeting of the World Bank. This is evidence that African leaders are starting to recognize the importance of agriculture in the economic development of the region. This attention given by the parliamentarians should be supported by development agenda of the World Bank.

The opening was made by Francisco Reifschneider who emphasized on four facts and challenges in agriculture.

The world development report 2008 was presented by Mark Cackler of the WB. He provided the overall framework of the report focusing on two issues i.e. economic growth and poverty alleviation. The World Development report will be presented and discussed in Bamako, Mali and will be released in October 2007.

Dr. Monty Jones presented agriculture and agricultural research for development in Africa. He discussed how agriculture in Africa has evolved and how the African leadership through the AU and NEPAD are leading the process since the start of the century. FARA as the technical arm of AU and NEPAD is leading pillar four. It has developed, together with its stakeholders FAAP as the implementation framework of pillar four.

The Minister of Agriculture of South Africa shared with the group the policies in agriculture for South Africa and how it is considered as an important sector for economic growth. The government will be increasing its investment in agricultural research (from 1% of GDP to more than 1.5%) and education. Training will focus on how small holder farmers could be more competitive and increase their productivity to move towards commercial agriculture. The government believes that to reduce the high unequal wealth distribution and reduce poverty, the right technologies and partnerships are crucial.

International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP); 15th Session of the African Regional Committee, 19-25 March

FARA participated in the IFAP African Farmers Committee meeting 15th Session. During this meeting the IFAP African Farmers Committee adopted a recommendation on how farmers could actively participate in ARD by having a *'framework of engagement between IFAP and both International Agricultural research Institutions (CGIAR- Advanced Research Institutions) and Regional Agricultural research systems (FARA- sub regional Organisation (SROs) -Regional agricultural research centres).'*

Upcoming FARA Secretariat events

- **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 and registration information are now posted on www.faraweek.org. Those interested in participating are encouraged to register online as soon as possible.

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

Other Events

[CORAF/WECARD Final Consultation on Operational Plan and Change Programme for Consensus Building, 19-20 April](#)

[Twentieth CORAF Anniversary and Launching of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme \(WAAPP\) and of the Central Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme \(CAAPP\), 28-31 May 2007, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire](#)

[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)

[The 2nd International Conference on Plant Molecular Breeding, 23-27 March 2007, Sanya, China](#)

This event will focus on applied plant genomics and molecular plant breeding in view of the increasing need to use new molecular approaches and mine novel gene resources.

[West and Central Africa Hub & Regulatory Harmonisation Workshops, 27-29 March, 2007, Lomé, Togo](#)

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

[Fourth World Congress of Rural Women, 23-26 April 2007, Durban, South Africa](#)

Theme: United in our diversity: working together towards the total emancipation of rural women from poverty and hunger

[The First FANUS meeting: Nutrition, Health and Human Development in Africa: Breaking the Downward Trend, 7-9 May, 2007, Ouarzazate, Morocco](#)

[International Workshop on 'Improving the Quality of Forestry Education in Africa and Developing Nations throughout the World', 9-11 May, 2007, Nairobi, Kenya](#)

[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 International Symposium on Knowledge Communication and Peer Reviewing \(KCPR 2007\), 12-15 July, 2007, Orlando, Florida](#)

March 8th, 2007 is the deadline for paper/abstract submissions and invited session proposals.

[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

New Face at FARA

Aissètou Dramé Yayé - SCARDA Interim Programme Officer

Born in Mali, Aissètou Dramé Yayé is Senegalese by birth and Nigerian by adoption. She holds a B.S. in Forestry (from the Academia of Agriculture of Krakow in Poland), two Master degrees respectively in Animal Biology (from the Faculty of Science of the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar, Senegal) and in the Use of New Information and Communication Technologies in Education (Distance learning Master from the University Louis Pasteur of Strasbourg, France), and a PhD in Entomology (obtained at the Zoology Department of the University of Ghana). She worked in forestry development projects in Senegal and in Niger before coming to tertiary education. She started as a training expert in Entomology at the AGRHYMET Center before becoming, since 2000, a lecturer in Forest Management, Agroforestry and Forest Entomology at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University Abdou Moumouni of Niamey in Niger. At the same time, she did several consultation studies for the Economic Community of Africa (on Sustainable development), for Action Aid and ROPPA (on food Security), and for the African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education (ANAFE) (on the evaluation of tertiary Education in West Africa). She was elected the ANAFE Sahel Chair by the

representatives of the eleven member institutions during the ANAFE Sahel General Assembly held in Bamako (Mali) in October 2006. She is a member of a multidisciplinary and North/South research team working on the promotion of farmer innovations and initiatives in Niger. She is married to a nice Nigerian lawyer called Seini Yayé and they have two boys, Salim (14) and Idriss (10). Mrs. Yayé is also a Soroptimist. She enjoys dancing, reading and cooking. She is very happy to come back to her third country, Ghana, and she is sure that she will enjoy interacting with all FARA staff for the incoming five months.

Thomas Yeboah – Procurement Officer

Thomas Yeboah is a Ghanaian by birth. He holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Procurement and Materials Management and a professional certificate from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, U.K. He has over eight years of working experience from Ghana Ports and Harbors Authority (GPHA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/West Africa) as a Contract Specialist.

Sub-regional news

[ASARECA Call for a Consultant - "Production of RAIN Highlights 2003 – 2007"](#)

Deadline for submission: 12th April 2007

[Terms of Reference Consultancy for National Stakeholder Situation Analysis for Expanding 'Best Practice into Use' Opportunities and MAPP Implementation Workshops](#)

Multi-country Agricultural Productivity Programme (SADC MAPP) Preparation

National news

[Government of Cameroon and CIFOR Sign Host Country Agreement to Help Forests and People](#)

The agreement guarantees the support of the Government of Cameroon for CIFOR's activities in Central Africa

[São Tomé and Príncipe Receives Assistance from the World Bank and IMF](#)

The World Bank and IMF support São Tomé and Príncipe's completion point under the Enhanced HIPC Initiative and approve debt relief under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative

[Rebuilding Mozambique's Urban Water Supply Infrastructure](#)

The IDA supported projects have benefited about 70 percent of the urban population of Mozambique with improved production and a more reliable supply of water

[Irrigation Efficiency Gives a Boost to Tanzanian Farmers](#)

Agricultural yields for more than 5,000 families doubled and household incomes tripled

[Southern Sudan: Launch of a Project to Improve Animal and Fish Production](#)

The Government of Southern Sudan and the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Southern Sudan jointly launched a project to improve animal and fish production in five states

[ICT Provides Additional Growth for Ghana](#)

Ghana's Information Communications Technology (ICT) sector has registered one of the most significant growth rates in Africa

[World Bank Support for Mali's Poverty Reduction Strategy](#)

US\$45 million to strengthen public finance management, stimulate growth, and expand access to basic social services in Mali

[Maize Seed Launched to Resist Striga in Kenya](#)

The outcome of The Rockefeller Foundation's ability to foster an agricultural product from its conceptual beginnings through the eve of its application

[Zambia Welcomes First Private Science University](#)

The university will offer training in agricultural food processing, information and communication engineering.

African news

[The African Women's Development Fund \(AWDF\) Funding Opportunity](#)

Funding opportunity towards women's empowerment, in particular to programmes relating to women's human rights, advocacy, empowerment, networking, and other important areas

[African Civil Society Forum 2007 \(AfCSF 2007\), 22-24 March, 2007](#)

Theme: "Democratizing Governance at Regional and Global Level to Achieve the MDGs"

[InfoDev and COL Release First Set of Draft Country Reports on ICT Use in Education in Africa](#)

Country reports from Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda highlight first set of draft documents for comment

[Public Engagement Key to Animal Health Research](#)

Public involvement improves the interaction between international scientists and local and national authorities, making for far more effective disease control measures.

[Nigerian Minister Calls for ICT for 'Every African'](#)

ICTs should be made accessible for every African citizen

World news

[MDGs need better evaluation](#)

The increase in aid has not materialised on the ground, neither is the quality of data used to assess progress towards the goals adequate.

[KIT \(Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam\) Launched Its Portal on Rural Innovation Systems](#)

Entry point for Internet sources on RIS, including newsletters, discussion groups, websites, bibliographic databases, and directories of organizations and projects

[Call for Nominations: WWSF Prize 2007 for Rural Women](#)

Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) invites nominations for the 13th annual Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life award

[New Online Resource: the LearningForSustainability Website](#)

A new resource for NGOs and other community groups working to support multi-stakeholder learning processes

[International Foundation for Science \(IFS\) eNews March 2007 issue](#)

[FAO and US Department of Agriculture Sign Agreement to Strengthen Collaboration](#)

Sharing resources to promote sustainable global agriculture

[FAO's State of the World's Forests Report Cites Progress in Slowing Forest Losses](#)

Positive effects of economic prosperity and careful forest management in saving forests are underlined

[Concern over Situation of High-seas Fish Species](#)

Strengthening fisheries management in international waters "a major challenge" - FAO report

[CGIAR to Extend the Reach of Rural Institutions](#)

A more cohesive approach to research focused on strengthening rural institutions

[Meeting the Global Water Challenge](#)

World Bank-backed projects around the world help people gain access to clean water and sanitation

[Financing Clean Energy: A Framework for Public Private Partnerships to Address Climate Change](#)

The World Bank advocates moving towards a climate-friendly development path

[CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food \(CPWF\) Calls for Expressions of Interest](#)

To lead 'Basin Focal Projects' (BFPs) in Nile, Limpopo, Indus-Ganges, Niger, Yellow and the Andean system of basins

[DFID Announces £50 Million UK Contribution to New Congo Basin Rainforest Conservation Fund](#)

The new fund initiative will support proposals made by ten central African countries to protect the Congo Basin rainforest

[Rockefeller Foundation to Convene Urban Summit in July 2007](#)

The Urban Summit will convene leaders from the private and public sectors to explore opportunities to foster healthy and sustainable cities.

[The Rockefeller Foundation's 2006 Annual Report](#)

The impact of the three newly-launched initiatives is reported.

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