The natural resource base of dryland Africa is under continuous threat from erosion and nutrient mining resulting in severe land degradation and desertification. Climate change may still aggravate this situation. However, local knowledge, experience and local skill exist in drought risk management. Investigating best practices and promoting locally proved technologies in natural resources and range management and promoting adequate policies could contribute to the necessary rapid adaptation and sustainability of rural innovations.

The AIDA (Agricultural Innovation in Dryland Africa) is an EU-funded partnership project between eight European and African institutions (CIRAD, University of Nairobi, AGRHYMET, RUFORUM, Bunda College-University of Malawi, PRI-Wageningen University and Research Centre, FARA, CTA,). The focus of the AIDA project will be to build capacity to generate knowledge about long-term trends and innovations in agriculture and environment in drylands integrating the knowledge of farmers and communities. Case studies will be undertaken by inter-disciplinary groups of postgraduate students supervised by international experts from Africa and Europe. Communities, universities, research institutions and policymakers will prioritise and define policy options for up-scaling the results.

The main deliverables of this project are:

- an AIDA website (now running and is constantly updated – (http://inco-aida.cirad.fr)
- a database on development projects and success stories on drylands agriculture (in process)
- a generic framework for analysis of development projects an success stories including the methodology and tools (in process)
- Fifteen postgraduate students (see the table for thematic and countries covered by the students thesis)
- International Conferences (2 already held, the launching workshop which was hosted by FARA in Accra, Ghana and the second which was hosted by University of Nairobi in Kenya).
- A policy brief (in process)
- Published papers, workshop proceedings and reports

The launching international conference on "Agricultural Innovation in Dryland Africa (AIDA): what are the key drivers for success" wad held from 22 to 24 January 2007 in Accra, Ghana. More than 40 participants from farmer organizations, donor community, national research institutions, international research, and communication practitioners attended the conference. Eleven case studies selected out of 55 cases submitted were presented. (CTA published a synthesis report of the case studies and main outputs of the Accra conference – *Agricultural Innovation in Dryland Africa (AIDA): what are the key drivers for success?"* ISBN: 978-92-9081-360-6)

On 5 and 6th March 2009 CTA hosted the second meeting of the steering committee at its headquarters in Wageningen, the Netherlands. The meeting gave the opportunity to evaluate the status of deliverables and set up the actions points to bring the project to an end in December 2009. The first Steering Committee meeting was held in Montpellier in December 2007 and was hosted by CIRAD.

Partners' role in the project

Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (**CIRAD)** manages the scientific tasks, meetings, human and financial resources of the consortium. The Coordinator's scientific responsibilities concern assessment, evaluation and planning tasks of the project. For administrative, financial and legal issues CIRAD provides project management support services. http://www.cirad.fr

University of Nairobi (UoN) leads the identification and selection of case studies, overall supervision of postgraduate student projects and the synthesis of the available knowledge from the success stories for in-depth analysis. UoN determines the potential drivers and indicators for success. http://www.uonbi.ac.ke/

AGRHYMET Regional Centre contributes to the identification and supervision of inter-disciplinary groups of postgraduate students. The centre is also involved in the database implementation, training and dissemination of results. http://www.cilss.bf/

Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)has similar role in the project that is to say the identification and supervision of inter-disciplinary groups of postgraduate students. At the same time, RUFORUM provides a platform through which relevant research interventions can be jointly developed. http://www.ruforum.org/

University of Malawi (Bunda College) is involved in the identification and supervision of inter-disciplinary groups of postgraduate students. http://www.bunda.unima.mw/

Plant Research International B.V (PRI), WUR leads the determination of criteria of success of innovations in drylands agriculture in Africa and is in charge of the design of a framework for analysis of the case studies. http://www.pri.wur.nl/UK

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) provides links to African policy makers, research institutions and to international organizations and facilitates the research and dissemination of the outcomes. http://www.fara-africa.org/

Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) contributes to raising awareness, to disseminating results to target groups, to promoting and up-scaling success stories in drylands agriculture in Africa. It also coordinates the preparation of material to influence policy processes to support sustainable development in Africa's drylands. http://www.cta.int/

Table of information post graduate-students linked to AIDA project

Student's Name	Institution	Title of the thesis	Partner	Country
Mr. Mganga Zowe	University of Nairobi, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of land Resource Management and Agricultural Technology	Role of indigenous grasses in rehabilitating degraded rangeland in Kibwezi district, Southeastern Kenya	University of Nairobi	Kenya
Ms. Irene Koki	University of Nairobi, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of land Resource Management and Agricultural Technology	Socio-economic impacts of rehabilitation technology uptake by the Kamba community in Kibwezi district, Kenya	University of Nairobi	Kenya
Ms. Eddah Kinyuna	University of Nairobi, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Plant Science and Crop Protection	Adoption of improved pigeon pea technologies and their current state of practice in Taita and Mbeere Districts	University of Nairobi	Kenya
Ms. Anne Karuma	University of Nairobi, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of land Resource Management and Agricultural Technology	Effects of legume cover crops and sub-soiling on soil properties and crop yields in Machakos district, Kenya	University of Nairobi	Kenya
Mr. Olesarioyo Joseph Seneiya	University of Nairobi, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Public Health, Pharmacology and Toxicology	Assessing trade-offs between pastoral economy and wildlife conservation in the Ewaso Nyiro Bassin, northern Kenya: a case study of Ilngwesi, Koija and Namunyak conservancies	University of Nairobi	Kenya
Ms. Zipora Otieno	University of Nairobi, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Economics	An analysis of the efficiency of Pigeon pea marketing channels: the case of coast Province, Kenya	University of Nairobi	Kenya
Mr. Kader Mohamed	AGRHYMET Regional Center	Sanding-up dynamics in the Niger river Valley and Analysis of Control Methods: case of the Municipalities of Bittinkodji and	AGRHYMET	Republic of Niger

		Namaro		
Ms. Teresa Fernandes Pereina de Veiga Tavares	AGRHYMET Regional Center	Study and analysis of the impact of Agricultural Holdings and Livestock Farms Located around protected areas: case of the 'W' Park of Niger	AGRHYMET	Republic of Niger
Mr. Mouga Masdewell Blaise	AGRHYMET Regional Center	Ecosystem Spatiotemporal Dynamics in the Gazetted Forest of Yamba Berté: Consequences in terms of concerted Residual Resource Management	AGRHYMET	Republic of Chad
Mr. Abdoulaye Ragbo	University of Ouagadougou, Department of geography/ INERA /CIRAD	Strengthen the knowledge and references on rehabilitation of degraded soils in the central plateau of Burkina-Faso with the Technique of mechanized zaï	CIRAD	Burkina Faso
Mr. Steve G.B. Kantimaleka	University of Malawi, Bunda College, Lilongwe, Malawi	Assessment of socio-economic factors influencing farmers' adoption and intensity of use in land and water management systems in dry land areas in Malawi. A case of conservation agriculture in Chinguluwe EPA Salima District and Nkomba Model Village in Bazale EPA in Balaka District	University of Malawi	Malawi
Mr. Mavuto Chagomerana Mdulamizu	University of Malawi, Bunda College, Lilongwe	An assessment of successful farmer groups in land and water management	University of Malawi	Malawi

		systems in dry lands of Malawi: A case of conservation agriculture in Chinguluwe EPA Salima District and Nkomba Model Village in Bazale EPA in Balaka District		
Miss. Medrina Linda Kamwendo	University of Malawi, Bunda College, Lilongwe	The Effect of Conservation Farming Practices on Soil Physical and Hydraulic Properties in Lilongwe, Salima and Balaka Districts in Malawi	University of Malawi	Malawi
Msc Student 1	Institute of Environmental Studies, Makerere University	Assessment of drought and flood-induced (agricultural) risks in semi-arid and semi-humid regions of Uganda	RUFORUM	Uganda
Msc Student 2	Institute of Environmental Studies, Makerere University	Simulation of Livestock mobility in Uganda	RUFORUM	Uganda
Mariëlle Mulder Catharina Lont Nasr Eldin Mohemed Ahmed Mohamed Koen Leuveld Mereseit Hailu Yemisrach Abebaw Veraniek Geerts	Wageningen University Academic Consultancy Training (ACT) Programme	Developing African-European partnership on dryland research	CTA	The Netherlands