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March 2013 newsletter

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[New feature articles](#)

[CTA and S&T](#)

[Developments / Publications](#)

[Events](#)

[Grants, calls & competitions](#)

[Jobs](#)

New feature articles

Innovation: applying knowledge in development

By *Calestous Juma and Yee-Cheong Lee*

Co-chairs of the UN Millennium Project's Task Force on Science, Technology and Innovation



In this [new lead article](#), Prof. Calestous Juma, Harvard University and Prof. Yee-Cheong Lee, UNESCO, reflect on the progress made since the UN Millennium Project's Task Force report on science, technology and innovation (ST&I) was published. In 2005, the Task Force released the report [Innovation: applying knowledge in development](#). It outlined a number of ways in which ST&I could be used to realise the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The authors claim that the report has played a key catalytic role in raising global awareness of the importance of ST&I in development.

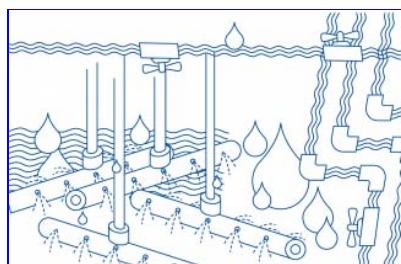
Prior to this, ST&I for economic development was considered to be relevant only to industrialised countries, and often discouraged in developing countries, neither was it a priority for the UN, as it was identified as 'Target 18 of Goal 8 – the very last target of the very last goal'. However, much has changed and the **innovation systems approach**, which included infrastructure, more advanced technical training and entrepreneurship was presented as a framework for thought and action. While the concept of ST&I for development has gained momentum, the authors are of the view that much more still needs to be done by developing countries to ensure that ST&I achieves greater impact on alleviating hunger, poverty, illiteracy and ill health, political and social upheavals.

Click to [read the paper](#).

A forward look: water governance for agriculture and food in ACP countries

By *Norman Uphoff*, Cornell University

Synthesis Report of the ACP-EU Think Tank on S&T for ACP Agricultural and Rural Development – Partnerships for Research, Capacity Building, Innovation and Foresighting: Managing Water for Agriculture and Food in ACP Countries



In this [newly released CTA report](#), Prof. Uphoff notes that relative water scarcity is growing at an alarming rate and it is the efficient and effective management of water that must help ACP countries, where agriculture remains primarily rain-fed, cope with scarcities and surfeits. In reflecting on the contemporary experiences that the ACP-EU Think tank deliberated on in their annual 2012 meeting, Prof. Uphoff noted that the more **'efficient use'** of water can, in effect, expand its **supply**, while on the other hand, the **more productive use** of water can ease the **demand or need** by giving farmers "more crop per drop". He makes a plea for more contemporary

thinking and approaches to addressing water for agriculture and suggests a softer focus to embrace the concept of water governance.

The concept of 'grey water', grasping how to harness the genetic potential and inter-species synergies for agricultural success as part of the evolution of "modern agriculture", paying attention to beneficial micro-climates, maintaining soil cover and water pricing and water quality issues are all addressed in this report.

Click to [read the paper](#).

CTA and S&T

Improving cassava production

By Judith Ann Francis, CTA

Is cassava the crop of the future for food and nutrition security and industrial development? Not unless, we increase investments in science, technology and innovation. An interesting presentation on the Global Cassava Partnership for the 21st century (GCP 21) by Dr Claude Fauquet at CTA Headquarters on 28 March 2013 triggered further reflection on the need for a coordinated approach to cassava development.

Dr Fauquet indicated that 105 countries produce cassava; 50% of which are in Africa where surface area is almost double that of Asia and Latin America. However, yield is lower (10t/ha) as compared to 12t/ha and 19t/ha in Latin America and Asia, respectively. What is the role of African universities and research organisations in driving the research and development agenda for cassava on the continent? Which organisations are studying future consumer and industry trends for cassava?

Which are leading programmes on: (i) documenting and characterising cassava landraces, farmer knowledge and practices; (ii) the performance of various varieties and landraces under changing climatic conditions including for drought and pest resistance; (iii) new product development for food and other industrial uses; (iv) increasing yield potential; (v) standardising height of plants (dwarf varieties) and size of roots to support industry expansion for food products, starch or animal feed etc.?

Work is going on at some leading international centres and in collaboration with national R&D organisations to produce virus-free varieties through genetic engineering and on rapid multiplication but while these are critical research areas, the success of a cassava 'green revolution' in Africa or world-wide requires interlinked thinking, an innovation systems approach, foresight, investments in science and engineering, an enabling policy and institutional framework and visionary leadership from scientists/academicians, policy/governments and the private sector including farmers.

Download the [presentation](#) and have your say: [comments are welcome!](#)

CTA/FARA/IFS/ANAFE/RUFORUM/NPCA/AGRA: Promoting excellence in science, technology and innovation for agricultural and rural development in Africa

Top 20 finalists of the 3rd Africa-wide women and young professionals in science competitions

CTA and its partners, FARA, IFS, ANAFE, RUFORUM, NPCA, AGRA are pleased to announce the top 20 finalists of the 3rd Africa-wide women and young professionals science competitions 'Feeding 1 billion in Africa in a changing world' which was launched in 2012.

The twenty finalists will vie for the top five places and awards (including trophies, cash and other prizes, book donations) in each category; women and young professionals, at a side event which is planned for 15 – 16 July 2013, during the 6th FARA General Assembly and Science Week in Ghana. Each finalist will make a 15 minute scientific presentation on their research and outreach work to a multi-disciplinary high-level panel of judges drawn from Africa. The chief judge will be Professor Ameenah Gurib-Fakim who is a past winner and role model and also now a member of the expert panel for the science competitions.

CTA and partners are very pleased with the high quality of the final papers which were submitted by the 45 semi-finalists

who had benefitted from a scientific writing, communication and policy advocacy training course which was organised by the consortium partners in September 2012 in Uganda. The scientific contributions of all semi-finalists will be published by CTA, FARA and partners.

All semi-finalists will also be fully supported to attend the 6th Africa Science Week and FARA General Assembly from 15-20 July 2013 in Accra, Ghana. The Award ceremony to recognise the winners as well as all the semi-finalists for their contribution to science and development on the continent will be held during the FARA General Assembly.

[This page will be updated.](#)

Synthesis Workshop on Integrated Seed Sector Development II 08 – 09 April 2013, KNUST Campus, Kumasi, Ghana

CTA had partnered with the Centre for Development Innovation (CDI), Wageningen University and Research centre and several international partners in Phase II of the Integrated Seed Sector Development (ISSD) project which focussed on seed entrepreneurship.

This project was endorsed by the African Union and will end in April 2013. CTA supported the participation of knowledge institutes, mainly six African universities; the Universities of Burundi, Ghana and Zambia, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources – Malawi, Makerere University – Uganda and Mekelle University – Ethiopia, in the project.

Each university representative undertook a case study on the university's contribution to innovation in the national seed system and then presented the results to a national forum comprising university peers and public and private sector officials involved in the national seed system. Outcomes and lessons from assessments undertaken by the ISSD national task forces were also presented during the university seminars.

Some of the key lessons learned by the universities at individual and institutional levels included the need for: (i) integrating informal (familial) seed systems in their research, teaching and outreach especially given their importance to food security and the conservation and optimisation of indigenous genetic resources to minimise biodiversity erosion; (ii) greater coordination of research and teaching undertaken within the university for achieving greater impact; (iii) increased networking and sharing of knowledge and experiences among universities within countries and across regions; (iv) including seed policy and legal issues and for curricula review and; (v) universities to play a greater role in influencing national and regional policy processes as they relate to seed sector development in Africa as well as internationally.

CTA will continue to work with African universities and network partners in their efforts aimed at strengthening the informal seed systems and supporting innovations that address hunger, poverty and climate change challenges.

Find Judith Francis' presentation (April 2013) on CTA's ongoing and planned work on seed sector development, as well as the April 2013 ISSD Africa newsletter and previous ISSD notes at knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17770.

[Back To Top](#)

Selected developments and publications | [RSS](#)

Water management for global food security

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17700

This book is a compilation of academic papers by world experts in the field of water and food security. Each paper focuses on a particular world region to provide an analysis of successful innovations in sustainable water management practices for the agricultural sector there. Discussed are broad topics such as climate change adaptation, national and international programmes, innovations in irrigation, food security in tropical drylands, etc. Contributors are also detailing a number of successful practices, typically: green water reuse, micro-management of water, maximising plant water-uptake and tackling hydro-climatic deficiencies. The papers include comprehensive data (tables, diagrams and maps) and references

on the different themes discussed.

([McGill University Institute for Global Food Security](#) (PDF), 2011)

Thirty-five water conservation methods for agriculture, farming, and gardening

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17692

This four-part article by Big Picture Agriculture provides a list of 35 different water conservation methods that are ideal for small and medium sized farms and gardens. Some of the methods described are adapted to drier climates, others to higher altitude cultivation, though most apply to climatic conditions and crops found in ACP countries.

([Big Picture Agriculture](#), 02/2012)

A sustainable water solution for coffee processing in Ethiopia

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17696

A mill processing fresh coffee 'cherries' from thousands of local farmers in Ethiopia is using a low-cost, sustainable approach – vetiver grass wetlands – to treat the large amount of wastewater it produces when washing the beans. The deep roots of the vetiver grass can suck up the water, slowing down flow and infiltration into the soil. The remaining effluent, if any, is stored in a small pond at the bottom of the wetland to evaporate. In designing the system, TechnoServe worked with local agricultural researchers to understand how vetiver has been used elsewhere in the world for treating organic waste, and then adapt it to coffee wet mills in Ethiopia. TechnoServe has helped install more than 40 such wetlands at wet mills throughout East Africa.

([next billion](#), 22/03/2013)

Call for more proactive approach to drought in the Caribbean

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17773

With a below normal 2012 rainy season, countries in the Caribbean have been confronted with low water availability for rainfed farming and reduced water levels in waterways. Adrian Trotman, chief agrometeorologist, Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology, Barbados, believes that unless more is done to increase the region's resilience to drought, the region will be challenged to sustain its socio-economic development. Areas where more needs to be done include (i) enhancing the quality, delivery and targeting of climate services to national and regional stakeholders, (ii) increasing data sharing, enhancing collaborations between national, regional and international stakeholders, (iii) policy reform with respect to IWRM, and (iv) public education, and (v) monitoring the impacts of these events.

Read the complete article [on our website](#).

Click [here](#) to read Adrian Trotman's presentation 'Efficient water management practices in agriculture', from the CTA-WUR side event at GCARD2.

Lowering the water footprint of livestock products

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17697

A leading researcher in water resources says that the efficiency of water use in smallholder livestock systems in Africa could be raised significantly through such means as reducing levels of concentrate feed used in livestock feeding systems, raising more livestock in drylands unsuitable for crop farming, and greater cooperation between livestock sector players and water management experts. Arjen Hoekstra, a professor in water management from the University of Twente, in the Netherlands, made these remarks during a 'Livestock live talk' on 'The water footprint of livestock products' at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) on 7 February 2013.

([ILRI](#), 22/03/2013)

Livestock 'goods' and 'bads': what are the published facts?

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17752

This page provides a concise summary of data on livestock 'pros' and 'cons' taken from a [recent paper](#) written by scientists at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). It gives the reader a wealth of research-based livestock facts little known (and less cited) in current global debates on the roles farm animals play in reducing or promoting global poverty, hunger, malnutrition, gender inequality, ill health, infectious disease and environmental harm. The authors of the paper argue that no single, or simple, way exists to view, approach or resolve issues at the interface of livestock and these big global problems. The facts and data presented here show why.

Optimism emerges over European funding for African research facilities

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17705

Political momentum is growing in both Europe and Africa behind the idea that investment in research facilities is as important as investment in roads and schools for a country's development.

This was the main conclusion to emerge from a two-day conference that took place as part of the meeting on [EU Science: Global Challenges & Global Collaboration](#), which ended in Brussels early March 2013. Those attending the meeting agreed that research infrastructures should be a priority focus of bi-regional cooperation in science, technology and innovation between Africa and the EU. While it is essential for politicians to be able to demonstrate to their electorates the direct benefits to be drawn from investment in research infrastructure, it was emphasised that demand for investment in research facilities needed to come from African countries themselves. In addition, attendees stressed the need to ensure that spending on infrastructure is complemented by investment in 'human capacity development'.

Additional comments on the conference: [In Perspective: Focus cash on research infrastructure](#)

([SciDev.Net](#), 11/03/2013)

New varieties of beans to be distributed in Cameroon

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17708

Farmers in Cameroon are growing new varieties of beans that are providing up to three times the yields of traditional crops, which have been under attack from pests and disease as well as adverse weather patterns. Seven varieties of hardier and more nutritious beans are now being distributed to farmers, following extensive trials by the country's Institute of Agricultural Research for Development ([IRAD](#)). The varieties were selected from hundreds given to Cameroon by the Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance ([PABRA](#)), a multi-agency initiative that coordinates research on the continent.

([SciDev.Net](#), 22/03/2013)

Genetic diversity among farmer-preferred cassava landraces in Uganda

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17711

This study was carried out to determine genetic diversity within and among 51 farmer-preferred cassava (*Manihot esculenta*) landraces and 15 elite accessions grown in Uganda. The genetic diversity assessment in this study revealed that 24% of a total of 154 alleles were unique alleles present only in landraces. Including these landraces with unique alleles in cassava breeding schemes will increase the chances of producing farmer preferred adapted elite cultivars. The study also revealed genetic differentiation among accessions from different regions providing an opportunity for establishment of heterotic pools within a breeding programme.

([African Crop Science Journal](#), Vol. 20, 2012)

Greater Sago use will help to promote food security in the Pacific

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17728

The launch of the Regional Sago Network for Asia and the Pacific (SNAP) in March 2013 marks the promotion of underutilised indigenous food crops such as Sago palm. Sago has a high starch yield potential and grows in swamps and wetlands with minimal competition from other food crops for land and water use. Sago has many advantages over other starch-producing food crops. It can grow in swamps and wet land which are not suitable for agricultural production. It is tolerant to drought and floods. It increases farm household income and employment through the production of confectionery and cookies, roofing material from leaves and the production of woven mats and handicrafts. The Sago worm cultured from old Sago trunks is a local delicacy with high market value. Additionally it contributes to slowing the pace of global warming through its year-round carbon dioxide absorbing function.

([FAO](#), 14/12/2012)

Researchers track down gene responsible for short stature of dwarf pearl millet

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17733

Plant geneticists successfully isolated the gene that creates dwarfed varieties of pearl millet. The dwarf varieties are economically important in the U.S., India and Africa, in particular. The knowledge gained in pearl millet will help to

develop semi-dwarf lines with high agronomic performance in other cereal crops but dwarf varieties of pearl millet are not ideal for every planting situation. In Africa, many farmers prefer taller varieties because they use the long stalks for roofing thatch and other applications. However, where millet is intensively cultivated, dwarf millet allows farmers to harvest the grain with mechanical threshers. Ranchers like dwarf millet as a forage plant because it has a high leaf-to-stem ratio. Knowing more about the plant in general is key to broadening production of the very drought-resistant, hardy grain. ([Phys.org](#), 29/03/2013)

Finding appropriate IP policies for Africa

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17715

Intellectual Property Watch [reports](#) on the efforts made by several countries in Africa to find appropriate intellectual property policies and discussed at the Africa IP conference (February 2013). The issue of applying intellectual property rights to indigenous knowledge, in order to protect holders of this knowledge from exploitation, while at the same time leveraging it for development was a vibrant thread of debate throughout the conference.

IP-Watch.org also [reports](#) on the March 2013 workshop 'Practical Approaches to IP Utilization and Protection in Africa' co-organised by the US Commerce Department and the African Intellectual Property Group (AIPG), a new pro-IP association of stakeholders. Participants there emphasised the need to set an Africa IP agenda, more research on the impact of strong IPR protection, and to debunk the idea of a 'one-size-fits-all' IP policy for Africa.

More recently, *IP-Watch.org* [wrote](#) about the draft protocol for the protection of new varieties of plants proposed by an inter-governmental African regional economic community, the Southern African Development Community (SADC). It reported that the Plant Variety Protection (PVP) draft protocol is provoking the ire of civil society concerned about its potential impact on small farmers, and the lack of consultation of farmers. According to the draft protocol, plant breeders' rights 'in the region will allow farmers access to a wide range of improved varieties to contribute to the attainment of the regional goal of economic development and food security'. The civil society groups said that the protocol would not develop a suitable regime to the needs of SADC member states and their farmers. The latter rely heavily on farm saved seed, exchanges with relatives and neighbours, bartering with other farmers or local markets to access seeds. ([Intellectual Property Watch](#), March/April 2013)

A review of existing regulatory systems for GM food products labelling

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17736

The labelling of GM foods is a key issue in the ongoing debate over the risks and benefits of food crops produced using biotechnology. This Legal and Policy Brief of the African Biosafety Network of Expertise (ABNE, African Union/NEPAD) reviews the labelling requirements of genetically modified (GM) food products for developing countries and developed countries including: South Africa, Kenya, European Union and USA. This brief clarifies the major dichotomy that separates countries with voluntary labelling guidelines from those with mandatory labelling requirements. ([AU/NEPAD ABNE](#) [PDF], 2013)

[Back To Top](#)

Fertilisers could help tackle nutritional deficiency in African country

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17739

An international study has shown that dietary deficiency of the mineral selenium is likely to be endemic among the Malawi population because most of the country's soils cannot supply enough selenium for adequate human nutrition. Diversifying diets to increase the consumption of other selenium-rich foods (meat, poultry, fish, eggs) is recommended but this is particularly challenging for very poor people. Since the Malawi diet is dominated by a single staple crop, maize, researchers recommend introducing a programme to enrich nitrogen-based soil fertilisers – widely used in maize cultivation – with selenium as a way of increasing the levels of the mineral in maize.

([EurekAlert](#), 12/03/2013)

The challenge to produce more food and energy with less pollution

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17731

This report draws attention to the multiple benefits and threats of human nutrient use. It highlights how nitrogen and phosphorus fertilisers are estimated to feed half the human population, and how they will remain critical in the future,

especially given increasing population and potential bioenergy needs. Yet high nutrient use has created a web of pollution affecting the environment and human health, while insufficient access to nutrients has led to soil degradation, causing food insecurity and exacerbating the loss of natural ecosystems. This report shows how these problems cross all global change challenges, threatening water, air and soil quality, climate balance, stratospheric ozone and biodiversity. ([Centre for Ecology and Hydrology](#) [PDF], 2013)

Enhancing geospatial information capture in Africa

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17726

Yaw Poku-Gyamfi, research scientist at the Building and Road Research Institute of CSIR, Ghana writes about the potential role NEPAD and other pan-African agencies could play in developing stronger capacity in geospatial activities in Africa. Detailing four space technology applications which include EGNOS, AFREF, AVN and SKA, he sees great opportunities for the rapid development of a unified continental reference frame for remote sensing and its derived products.

([Geospatial World Weekly](#), 25/03/2013)

Online GIS platform to provide data on Ghana's agricultural sector

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17741

The new online GIS platform aims to provide agricultural related spatial datasets in a user friendly platform and offers data for six commodity value chains: Mango, Citrus, Maize, Rice, Soybean and Cashew. The platform also provides agricultural commodity prices, crop production, agricultural imports and exports figures and Ghana's agricultural budget and in this way the platform pulls together factual data, statistical data and interactive maps. While most data are free, there is a fee for premium datasets.

([FAO AIMS](#) and [Ghana Business News](#), 4/04/2013)

Trainer's manuals on banana tissue-culture plantlets

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17746

The CGIAR Roots, Tubers and Bananas research programme recently released its first publications: two training manuals, one on growing bananas using tissue-culture plantlets and the other on running a banana tissue-culture nursery. The manuals are based on training workshops conducted in Burundi, Kenya and Uganda as part of a project exploring alternative ways of delivering tissue-culture plantlets to smallholder farmers. To encourage farmers to switch to tissue-culture plantlets, development projects typically distribute large quantities of plantlets at subsidised prices. The problem with this type of strategy is that the supply chain set up during the project usually collapses when donor support ends. The training manuals are not intended for farmers or nursery operators, but are meant to be used by extension workers or applied scientists to take the concerned parties through the technical aspects of taking care of tissue-culture plantlet.

([ProMusa.org](#), 01/03/2013)

[Back To Top](#)

Research for the innovation of the agri-food system in international cooperation

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17749

This research paper describes the series of scientific and conceptual tools framed into the agro-ecology domain and explains how appropriate they are in planning sustainable agricultural production processes. By studying a target agro-ecosystem the authors show it is possible to identify and characterise the relationships between both the internal components and the system structures and functions at different levels of complexity of plot, farm and country, without neglecting the interactions among scientific, technological and socio-economic factors. They conclude that a key aspect to empower all the stakeholders involved in the research, development, dissemination and application of new methods and technologies is the identification of information and communication systems that farmers and policy makers need in order to cope with fast-changing conditions in complex systems. They see university and research centres as institutional facilitators of dialogue and development policies among different stakeholders, catalyzing participation and promoting participatory problem-solving strategies for agricultural development and cooperation.

([Italian Journal of Agronomy](#), Vol 7, No 3, 2012)

Agricultural innovation systems: a framework for analysing the role of the government

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17754

This OECD report (declassified by the Organisation's Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets in March 2013) reviews recent trends in agricultural innovation systems (AIS) and discusses the impact of a wide range of policies on the creation and diffusion of innovation in the agricultural and agri-food sector. It suggests a framework for analysing the role of governments in fostering increased innovation, with a view to helping to identify practical actions that governments could take to improve productivity growth, sustainable use of resources, and resilience to future market developments in national and global agriculture and agri-food systems.

([OECD](#), 21/03/2013)

The Association of African Agricultural Professionals in the Diaspora (AAAPD)

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17756

AAAPD is a new organisation founded in 2008 and launched in 2010 at the World Bank with the assistance of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It is comprised of a database of multi-disciplinary African Professionals in the Diaspora, many of them academicians, researchers, extension specialists, agricultural economists and development agents. Most of them have 10 – 20 years' experience working in different capacities in various regions of Africa in addition to their international experience. AAAPD provides a platform where the Diasporians interact and discuss hot issues affecting African development and solicit novel ideas to develop African agriculture.

Visit the organisation's website at www.aaapd-africa.org/.

[Back To Top](#)

Events | [RSS](#)

Global Forum on Innovation and Entrepreneurship

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17760

Dates: 28 – 30 May 2013

Venue: South Africa

The Forum is co-organized with the South African Department of Science and Technology. The event is expected to attract over 600 participants, ranging from entrepreneurs, business incubator managers, policy makers and government representatives, financiers, local and international media, and development agencies for a creative networking and knowledge-sharing experience.

[More information.](#)

International Conference on Science and Technology for Economic Diversification INSCITED 2013

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17759

Dates: 05 – 07 June 2013

Venue: Port of Spain, Trinidad

The National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST), Trinidad and Tobago, the Organization of American States (OAS) and CSIR-National Institute of Science Technology & Development Studies (NISTADS), India, invites you to participate in their first joint conference entitled International Conference on Science and Technology for Economic Diversification: INSCITED 2013.

INSCITED 2013 will serve as a platform for interactive learning between India, Trinidad & Tobago, and international experts, policy-makers and researchers in the various areas of higher education and training, labour markets, and science and technology.

[More information.](#)

International Conference on Global Food Security

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17758

Dates: 29 September – 02 October 2013

Venue: The Netherlands

The deadline for abstract submission is set for 10 May 2013.

The conference aims to deliver state-of-the-art analysis, inspiring visions and innovative research methods arising from

interdisciplinary research. Join this opportunity to ensure that the best science is garnered to support the emergence of the Sustainable Development Goals.

[More information.](#)

Africa Climate Conference 2013

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17757

Dates: 15 – 18 October 2013

Venue: Arusha, Tanzania

The deadline for abstract submission to the Africa Climate Conference (ACC-2013) is set for 31 May 2013.

The ACC-2013 aims to address new frontiers of knowledge on the African Climate system, and narrow the communication gap currently existing between African decision-makers and climate scientists, in order to develop a coordinated collaborative research strategy to improve climate science outputs so that they may better inform climate early warning responses and adaptation in Africa. Concrete pan-African and multi-disciplinary climate research program proposals and a concerted climate research effort, hosted across African climate research hubs, are anticipated from this major climate Conference for Africa.

[More information.](#)

[Back To Top](#)

Grants, Competitions and Calls | [RSS](#)

Scientific and technological exchange 2013

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17761

Deadline: 06 May 2013

The BEST program promotes the acquisition of new skills for researchers, engineers and technicians in developing countries, through their home within research institutions and higher education located outside their country of residence.

[More information.](#)

Call for project proposals 2013 – Resources for thesis research

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17762

Deadline: 06 May 2013

A bursary programme to support the strengthening and consolidation of research potential in developing countries, implemented by IRD.

[More information.](#)

Call for submissions on the Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17763

No deadlines.

The Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus is the featured topic at the IWA Water Wiki in conjunction with the IWA/IUCN Nexus Dialogue on Water Infrastructure Solutions. The initiative is looking for articles, case studies, reports and poster presentations between 500 and 2000 words.

[More information.](#)

Research on pastoral meat value chain

knowledge.cta.int/en/content/view/full/17764

Deadline: 30 April 2013

The University of Nairobi, the National Museums of Kenya and the German Institute for Agriculture in the Tropics and Subtropics (DITSL) are offering:

- [4 PhD scholarships for Kenyan applicants on topics related to pastoral meat value chains](#)
- [1 PostDoc position \(3 years, for candidates from any country\) on transdisciplinary research to reduce post-harvest losses and to add value in \(animal\) food value chains](#), based at DITSL / University of Kassel, Germany, as part of the subproject 'Transdisciplinary research: Stakeholder processes, knowledge integration and collaborative learning'.

The PhDs and PostDoc will take part in the GlobE (Global Food Security) project RELOAD: 'Reduction of Post Harvest

Losses and Value Addition in East African Food Value Chains' funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). This collaborative project builds a research network between partners in Germany, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda.

[Back To Top](#)

Jobs | [RSS](#)

Research associate (yam breeding)

Apply by: 19 April 2013

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture seeks suitable candidate for the position of Research Associate (yam breeding) at the Institute's Headquarters in Ibadan, Nigeria.

[More information.](#)

Small ruminant geneticist

Apply by: 20 April 2013

The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) seeks to recruit an associate scientist- small ruminant Genetics. This position exists to assist in understanding, management, conservation and sustainable use of small ruminants' genetic resources in ICARDA mandate regions.

[More information.](#)

[Back To Top](#)

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