

LEADING THE WAY

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



“*Adding value to
agriculture and rural
development
in African, Caribbean and
the Pacific countries...*”

January

CTA consults with climate change negotiators, *UNFCCC CoP* delegates and research and farmers organizations to assess what progress has been made in promoting agriculture in the global climate change policy process. New strategies and joint activities were identified.

February

CTA launches the Haiti Briefing. Decentralizing the Briefings but building on their results is now CTA policy. In Port-au-Prince, agricultural resilience, adding value to local products, aquaculture and farmer-driven research were topics that attracted a lot of local interest and new partnerships.

March

CTA organizes a media contest during the ICT4Ag conference. ACP journalists were encouraged to highlight the challenges but also the advantages of promoting the adoption and use ICTs for agricultural development.

March

CTA and CORAF/WECARD organize a capacity building workshop for Central and West Africa. Representatives from 21 NARS are trained in management and evaluation, information management strategy and ICT and a regional network - Réseau pour la gestion de *l'information et des connaissances* - is established.

April-May

CTA organizes e-discussions prior to the ICT expert workshop on Strengthening e-Agriculture strategies in ACP countries. FAO, NEPAD, UNECA and other key institutions discuss the development and implementation of ICT policies for agriculture and the recommendations made are presented at the 2013 WSIS Forum.

April-June

CTA launches two new series: *Farm to Market and Value Chains and Trade* to provide small-scale producers with information on market access and the trading structures involved in bringing products to market.

May

CTA wins the WSIS Project Prize 2013 in the e-learning section for its Web 2.0 and social media Learning Opportunities.

June

CTA supports the launching of the Melanesian Spearhead Group's Green Growth Knowledge E-Platform, an outcome of the capacity building and knowledge sharing workshop on Building Resilience to Climate change hosted by Vanuatu in 2012.

July

CTA holds the finals of the 3rd Africa-wide Women and Young Professionals in Science competition: "Feeding 1 billion in Africa in a changing world". During the 6th Africa Science week and the FARA General Assembly, twenty finalists, ten from each section, competed for five places.

August

CTA runs a policy learning and planning workshop/writeshop in Wageningen. Academics, researchers and extension experts share research results and experience and discuss how to improve the effectiveness of extension.

August-November

CTA holds regional training workshops in Benin, Grenada and Burkino Faso to help ARD stakeholders better understand the practicalities of Origin Linked Products (OLP) and Geographical Indications (GIs).

A YEAR IN REVIEW

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© Damian Prestidge - CTA

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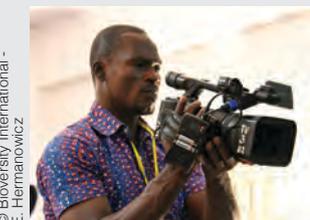


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↓ Fishing is an important economic activity in countries like Ghana.



© REUTERS/Akinlunde Akinleye

↓ Delegates at a conference on underutilised species.



© Bioversity International/E. Hermanowicz

↓ CTA activities have received good press coverage



© CTA

↓ Sorting coffee at the Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union, Ethiopia.



© Panos/Ami Vitale /Hollandse Hoogte

LEADING THE WAY

With CTA's 2011–2015 Strategic Plan now fully operational, and our activities closely aligned with those of our partners, we were able to build on our previous achievements and launch a range of new initiatives.



During the year we stepped up our support to regional farmers' organisations in a number of areas, including helping them to strengthen their knowledge management systems. We also continued to develop our partnerships with international research organisation such as the Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) programme and the International Food Research Policy Institute (IFPRI).

In partnership with the Rwandan Government and several international organisations, CTA organised a major global conference on information and communication technologies for agriculture – ICT4Ag – which attracted over 450 participants to Kigali in November 2013. Earlier in the year, CTA won a prestigious prize for its Web 2.0 and social media training programmes at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Congress. Through these and similar initiatives, CTA is playing a leading role in promoting the innovative use of ICTs in smallholder agricultural value chains.

CTA continued to play a prominent role in facilitating the exchange of lessons and experiences between the Caribbean and Pacific countries, which share similar food and nutritional security challenges. During the Caribbean Week of Agriculture, held in October 2013 in Georgetown, Guyana, CTA co-organised several events – addressing topics ranging from the development of the coconut industry to entrepreneurship among women – which were attended by participants from both the Caribbean and Pacific.

CTA bid farewell to the outgoing members of its Executive Board, who provided excellent service to the Centre over the last five years, and welcomed a new Executive Board, which started its work in November 2013 for a 5-year term.

In 2014 we will celebrate CTA's 30th anniversary, which coincides – appropriately – with the UN's International Year of Family Farming and the African Union's Year of Agriculture and Food Security. This will help us to put the spotlight on the important role smallholder agriculture can play in achieving food and nutritional security and sustainable growth for African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. In doing so, we will continue to rely on the goodwill and support of our many partners around the world.

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13 000

people/organisations are active subscribers to the CTA publications distribution service

406

articles and news reports were published/broadcasted by African and other international media outlets in 66 countries during CTA's last international conference in Rwanda

65%

of the 63,000 books distributed by CTA have been ordered online from our digital catalogue

KEY FIGURES FOR 2013

955

people were trained in Web 2.0 and Social Media of whom 36% were women, and 50% were between 18 and 35 years old

“ CTA will continue to put the spotlight on the important role smallholder agriculture can play in achieving sustainable growth.”

23 962

people from 193 countries actively followed the ICT4Ag conference website

159%

increase in likes to CTA's corporate Facebook page have been noted

2000

senior representatives attended Brussels, National and Regional Development Briefings

24 000

books were downloaded from CTA Publishing website

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In October 2012, CTA's Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation (LME) unit launched a major study to assess the impact of its support for nine long-standing partners, two from the Caribbean and seven from Africa. "The study is a two-step process," explains Ibrahim Khadar, manager of the LME unit. "During 2013, our partner organisations conducted a 'quick scan', which provided an overview of how CTA's support has been used. The next stage will involve in-depth studies of specific projects and programmes."

The quick scan used a methodology developed by CTA, known as the Capacity-Centred Impact Pathway Analysis. This is based on the premise that the impact of organisations depends to a large extent on the state of their five core capabilities: to act and commit; to relate to others; to adapt and self-renew; to achieve coherence; and to generate development objectives. The methodology also incorporates a tool for assessing project impact.

In each case, the team conducting the analysis consisted of a member of staff of the organisation involved and an independent moni-

toring and evaluation expert. All the studies indicated that CTA's partnership had been beneficial. Take, for example, the findings of the study for the Caribbean Farmers Network (CaFAN). "CTA funding has contributed significantly to the work of CaFAN," the report concluded. It had helped the organisation to grow institutionally; increased its visibility; helped to expand its membership; and improved its ability to deliver projects and reports.

A similar story was told for many of the other organisations. There were some surprises too. "We were rather taken aback by the extent to which our support had enabled organisations to grow, as this was seldom an explicit aim," says Ibrahim.

CTA support has helped many organisations to attract other sources of funding. For example, the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) report found that although CTA's financial support had been a relatively small proportion of its overall income, "it has been an important factor in instilling confidence among other potential development partners."

During the course of the year, Ibrahim and his colleague Tarikua Woldetsadick held group discussions with several of the organisations in Wageningen, and eight out of the nine gathered at a workshop in Zimbabwe in June. "I think it helped to bring them together, and made them feel comfortable about discussing their five core capabilities, in a way that they might not have done if they were on their own or dealing with CTA alone," says Ibrahim. ■

LEARNING TO LEARN TOGETHER

In February 2013, CTA organised a joint-learning workshop on sharing project cycle management tools and experiences. Held in Cape Town, South Africa, the workshop brought together 22 CTA partners. The partners agreed that learning together and mastering their project cycle should have a positive impact on their work and their ability to demonstrate results. Sixteen partners subsequently submitted detailed action plans and indicated the areas where they need additional assistance. They also joined an electronic discussion group to continue learning online. A similar exercise was held for Francophone partners in Dakar, Senegal, in November 2013.

MEASURING PROGRESS

CHAPTER 1 POLICYMAKERS

CTA promotes policy processes that empower everyone engaged in the food chain, with a strong focus on benefiting smallholder farmers. In 2013, CTA and its partners played a prominent role in providing information to ACP climate change negotiators. CTA also provided support for policy briefings in Haiti and encouraged ACP countries to develop coherent e-agriculture policies.

PROMOTING CLIMATE- SMART AGRICULTURE

Since 2009, CTA, the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) programme and various partners have co-organised major learning and information events during meetings of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). At the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP 19), held in November in Warsaw, Poland, CTA and its partners organised the Global Landscapes Forum, which attracted some of the world's leading thinkers on issues related to climate change and land-use. The Forum attracted over 1,200 partici-

pants from 122 countries, including 179 UNFCCC delegates and 100 media representatives.

The groundwork for this and other events was laid at a workshop held in Wageningen in February. "Climate-smart agriculture has become a major theme for CTA," explains policy expert Oluyede Ajayi, "and the workshop helped key global partners ensure that agriculture is included in climate change policies." The workshop reflected on the progress that had been made in the past, and identified activities for the future.

The one-day meeting attracted 15 experts and climate change negotiators from CTA, CCAFS, the Southern African Confederation of African Unions (SACAU) and various other organisations belonging to the climate change consortium group. The workshop gave rise to a number of important activities, including a 'success stories' booklet and a guide to negotiations on agriculture.

Climate-smart agriculture – success stories from farming communities around the world, jointly published by CTA and CCAFS, describes 18 farming-related activities >

↓ Agnes Kalibata, Rwandan Minister of Agriculture, speaking at the High-level session: Developing the future of the landscapes approach, 2015 and beyond. Global Landscapes Forum, Warsaw, Poland.



© Ineil Palmer (WMI)

“

Climate-smart agriculture has become a major theme for CTA,” explains policy expert Oluyede Ajayi, “and the workshop at CTA in February helped key global partners ensure that agriculture is included in climate change policies.”

which have helped to reduce farmers' vulnerability to climate change, improve food security, and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. (<http://www.cta.int/en/article/book-launch-climate-smart-agriculture-success-stories-from-farming-communities-around-the-world.html>) In the Sahel, 5 million hectares of degraded land have been restored by a practice known as farmer-managed natural regeneration. In Vietnam, more than 1 million smallholders are benefiting from a package of production practices that are boosting rice

yields and reducing water. In Ethiopia, a programme designed to improve food security and resilience to climate change has benefited some 8 million households. These are just a few of the stories told in the booklet.

Shortly before COP19, Farming First published *A guide to UNFCCC negotiations on agriculture*, with inputs from CTA and CCAFS. The guide, which has been designed for use by farmers, industry leaders and policymakers, will help organisations play a more effective

role in discussions related to agriculture and climate change. (<http://www.farming-first.org/unfccc-toolkit-how-to-use/>)

“Given the quality of information shared and the high number and calibre of the audience, the Global Landscapes Forum and the two technical sessions hosted by CTA at COP 19 were a huge success,” says Oluyede. CTA has provided support for some young people and mid-career professionals to attend the technical sessions at COP 19. ■

#1 POLICYMAKERS

- ↓ Participants of the Global Landscapes Forum, at the nineteenth Conference of the Parties (COP19) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in Warsaw, Poland:



© Neil Palmer (IWM)

122

countries were represented
at the Global Landscapes
Forum.

FROM BRUSSELS TO PORT-AU-PRINCE

In March 2013, Haiti held its first national briefing on 'Building resilience in the face of crisis and shocks'. This had been the subject of CTA's 30th Brussels Briefing, held the previous week. During the year, there were a further three national briefings, focusing on adding value to local production, fish farming and farmer-driven research. The briefings were jointly organised by Promotion for Development (PROMODEV), the Haiti Ministry of Agriculture and other partners, with financial and technical support from CTA.

It says much about the influence of the Brussels Briefings that Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world, should approach CTA with a view to setting up its own policy briefings. "The idea came from them," explains Isolina Boto, head of CTA's Brussels office. "PROMODEV told us they had been

following the Brussels Briefings on the Internet, and they had found much of the material useful. They wanted to look at some of the same topics through a national lens."

Before each event, CTA provided the Haitian partners with material produced for the Brussels Briefings. The national briefings were attended by up to 200 people, and approximately the same number watched some or all of the proceedings on live web-streaming.

"For us, this is very exciting, and the popularity and quality of the national briefings has exceeded our expectations," says Isolina. "We see this as a way of decentralising the Brussels Briefings. If the demand is there, and the conditions are right, we could provide support for national briefings in other vulnerable ACP countries."

Lamon Rutten, CTA's Policies, Markets & ICT Programme Manager, believes that establishing national briefings makes the process of sharing knowledge more democratic. "But we have to find a way of franchising the model of the Brussels Briefings," he adds. It will be important to ensure that national briefings maintain the high quality established in Brussels. See more about this at: <http://haitibriefings.net>. >

“*The Haiti national briefings were a great success. They were attended by up to 200 people, and approximately the same number watched some or all of the proceedings on live web-streaming.*”

#1 POLICYMAKERS

↓ Mobile phones are helping to transform the lives of farmers in the developing world.

> Within two weeks of each Haiti briefing, the organisers produced a publication about each event. CTA had a stand at the second briefing which led to about 200 new subscriptions for Spore magazine. In 2014, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) will provide support for Haiti's briefings. ■

* THE FIRST CONTINENTAL BRIEFING

CTA's first African continental briefing – based on the tried and tested formula developed by the Brussels Briefings – was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in December 2013. Jointly organised with the Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAF) and the African Union Commission (AUC), the briefing focused on "Envisioning the future of African agriculture and the renewed role of farmers' organisations." The event helped to highlight the opportunities and challenging facing farmers' organisations in Africa and the role they can play in developing the continent's agricultural agenda. It attracted representatives of farmers' organisations, policymakers, researchers, civil society groups and international agencies.



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STRENGTHENING THE 'E' IN E-AGRICULTURE

E-agriculture is all about using modern information and communication technologies (ICTs), such as smart phones and the Internet, to increase the agricultural sector's productivity and value. While other sectors feature prominently in most ACP countries' national e-strategies, few have developed coherent e-agriculture policies.

CTA's 2013 ICT Observatory, held in Wageningen in April, focused on this important issue. "We wanted to see what countries were doing in terms of e-agriculture policies," says ICT programme coordinator Ken Lohento, "and make appropriate recommendations for the future." During the lead up to the Observatory, CTA commissioned a background report on e-agriculture policies and strategies in ACP countries, and organised an electronic discussion involving some of the key players, including the United Nations Economic Commission for Agriculture (UNECA), FAO and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

One of the main conclusions of these exercises was that most ACP countries – exceptions include Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Burkina Faso – have failed to develop holistic ICT policies for agriculture. "There are a great many ad hoc e-agriculture projects, many of them donor-driven, and there tends to be a lot of duplication, with very little coordination between ministries responsible for agriculture and those responsible for ICTs," says Ken.

The Observatory recommended that there should be much greater coordination between these ministries, as well as greater involvement of smallholder farmers, young farmers and women farmers. The 30 participants at the Wageningen meeting also agreed that regional agricultural bodies such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) should take a stronger leadership role in organising how regions integrate their ICTs with agricultural policy.

Following the April Observatory, NEPAD and Caribbean Community (CARICOM) representatives announced that they were considering organising a joint workshop, one of whose purposes would be to strengthen e-agriculture strategies for both regions. The private sector also took an interest, with Orange informing CTA that the workshop had inspired it to fine tune its mobile phone agricultural strategies in Africa.

The August issue of *ICT Update*, which focused on 'Strategies for e-agriculture', attracted widespread attention. Several articles have been reprinted elsewhere, and the BBC interviewed Noël Kouable, co-author of a case study on Côte d'Ivoire' e-agriculture policies. Ken Lohento provided an overview of CTA's e-agriculture related activities at the World Summit on the Information Society Forum in Geneva in May. He also co-organised a session on the topic during CTA's ICT4Ag conference, held in Kigali, Rwanda, in November. ■

#1 POLICYMAKERS

* PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION



© P. Faicutti

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In May 2013, CTA and the European Commission organised an event to mark the launch of *Sustainable Intensification: a New Paradigm for African Agriculture*, a report by the Montpellier Panel of experts chaired by Sir Gordon Conway of Imperial College London. Sustainable intensification is all about producing more food on the same amount of land with less impact on the environment. This will be vitally important in Africa, where population is expected to double over the next 30 years. The event was attended by some 70 experts. Among those who made presentations were two members of the Montpellier Panel, Peter Hazell, formerly of the World Bank and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and Tom Arnold, chief executive of Concern Worldwide.

See: <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/african-agriculturaldevelopment/themontpellierpanel/themontpellierpanelreport2013>

* FOOD FOR THOUGHT



* LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE IN EAST AFRICA



© IFAD/Mwanzo Mlinga

“In Africa, many of the indigenous foods which are considered important for the diet and survival of local people have been ignored by science,” says Oluyede Ajayi of CTA. **However, this is beginning to change. In September 2013, 150 people from 36 countries attended the 3rd international conference on Neglected and Underutilised Species for a Food-Secure Africa. Held in Accra, Ghana, the conference explored the latest research, and highlighted the need for national and international policies which will promote greater adoption of neglected and underutilised species. CTA was a major sponsor of the conference.**

In November 2013, the Kilimo Trust and the East African Community organised an international symposium which reviewed the lessons learned about agricultural development in the region over the past 50 years, and prospects for the future. The symposium received financial and technical support from CTA. The recommendations from the technical sessions were formally received by a High Level Executive Roundtable consisting of ministers, parliamentarians and private sector leaders, and later by the agricultural sector’s Council of Ministers. Among other things, the conference highlighted the need for greater private sector involvement in agricultural policy making.

CHAPTER 2

FARMERS, FISHERS AND TECHIES

CTA's annual conference – 'ICT4Ag: the digital springboard for inclusive agriculture' – attracted over 500 delegates to Rwanda in November 2013. It explored how the communications revolution could transform the agricultural landscape. During the course of the year, CTA also supported many other activities aimed at improving the lives and welfare of ACP food producers.

PLUG & PLAY DAY

Conferences this size are nearly always PowerPoint-led," said CTA's Giacomo Rambaldi during the closing ceremony of the ICT4Ag conference in Kigali, Rwanda. "Right from the outset, we decided this one would be different – that interaction would be at the core of the conference." That was exactly how it turned out.

As a warm-up to the main conference, over 300 people attended Plug & Play Day. "We want you to get your hands on innovations, and test them yourselves," said Benjamin Addom, CTA's programme coordinator for information and communication technologies (ICTs), during a brief introductory session. "And we want you to share your own experiences."

During Plug & Play Day, 36 organisations and individuals showcased their apps, videos and other ICTs in six parallel sessions. Here, to give a flavour of the sort of ICTs presented in Kigali, are two of the apps which captured the imagination of delegates.

Fisherfolk in the West Indies are benefiting from mFisheries, a suite of applications developed at the University of the West Indies. Using a smart phone, fisherfolk can access weather reports, navigation tools and training tips on first aid and emergency boat repairs. "They can also use an app to find out fish prices in different markets," explained software developer Daryl Samlal, "and post what species they've caught and the quantities they've got while they're still at sea." Buyers using mFisheries can

then get directly in touch with the fisherfolk to make deals.

One of the most eye-catching apps for farmers is iCow, developed by Green Dreams TECH in Kenya. Farmers who use its cow calendar service register their stock by gestation date, and SMS messages provide the information they need >

“

During Plug & Play Day, 36 organisations and individuals showcased their apps, videos and other ICTs in six parallel sessions.”

#2 FARMERS, FISHERS AND TECHIES

↓ Plug & Play Day introduced conference participants to a whole range of innovative ICTs.



© CTA

> about when to use artificial insemination and how to look after their cows. iCow has helped farmers to increase their milk production by 2-3 litres a day, and their incomes by US\$30 a month. On average, farmers who subscribe – 128,000 currently benefit from the service – receive three SMSs a week at a cost of just US\$0.034 per text.

Benjamin Addom believes that it was a measure of Plug and Play Day's success that participants frequently referred to it during conference discussions. "The event also attracted the interest of investors," says Benjamin. For example, a representative of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) told Benjamin that he intended to follow up at least four of the innovations presented. ■

* A KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM FOR AFRICAN FARMERS

During 2013, CTA helped several of its partners to improve the way they manage information and knowledge. One of the organisations to benefit from the development of an electronic 'knowledge platform' was the Pan-African Farmers' Organisation (PAFO). This involved strengthening the PAFO website and those of its regional members, and developing a discussion forum to stimulate exchange between members. According to PAFO officials, the platform has helped the organisation to disseminate information more rapidly, and has improved communication between regional farmers' organisations. Discussions held on the platform provided key input for the Continental Briefing held in Yaoundé and described on page 12.

HACKING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

One of the key activities held in parallel with the ICT4Ag conference was a 'hackathon', during which young computer programmers developed information and communication technologies, such as mobile apps, to address specific challenges, in this case challenges facing smallholder farmers. "The idea of organising a hackathon was suggested to us by some of our young partners during the CTA youth strategy meeting," recalls Ken Lohento. "This would be a great opportunity for young people to design innovations which could help to improve agriculture's image, increase productivity and create jobs."

Earlier in the year, CTA and its partners organised national championships in six East African countries. At each of these, ICT hubs organised local events to select

a team to take part in the regional finals of the hackathon. At Kigali's ICT hub, KLab, the nine teams were provided with advice and training on business models and how to make a pitch to investors, and they received technical advice to help them fine-tune their innovations. They also benefited from the advice of agricultural experts.

The prize-giving ceremony was introduced by Ken and one of judges, Rebecca Enonchong, founder and CEO of AppsTech. She said the judging had been a truly testing experience, with so little to choose between the front runners.

Ensibuuko, from Uganda, were declared the winners for designing a web and mobile application that enables organisations representing smallholder farmers to mo- >

“

The hackathon was a great opportunity for young people to design innovations which could help to improve agriculture's image, increase productivity and create jobs.”

#2 FARMERS, FISHERS AND TECHIES

↓ CTA's Ken Lohento (left) helped to organise the Hackathon.



© CTA

> bilise savings and receive and disburse loans. Second prize went to MAgric of Ethiopia for their product AgriVas, a resource centre for farmers delivering information via radio, SMS and the Internet. Third prize was awarded to the Ugandan all-girl group, Agrinfo, who developed the Agrinfo web-based and mobile geographic information system platform for mapping farms and lands.

The winning teams received seed grants. The hubs which nominated the winning teams also received a grant to undertake post-competition incubation and business support for the winning teams for at least six months.

According to Ken, CTA intends to replicate this experimental five-week hackathon in

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The hackathon had a great impact and CTA intends to replicate this experimental five-week hackathon in other ACP regions.”

other ACP regions. It certainly had an impact on Rwanda's Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources. At the closing ceremony, the Hon Agnes Kalibata said she was so impressed by the hackathon that she had decided to allocate the Yala Prize – worth US\$30,000 – to a yearly ICT for agricultural competition for young people in Rwanda. ■

✿ IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXTENSION



© Brian Soko/Panos / Hollandse Hoopje

In August 2013, CTA held a four-day policy workshop on extension and advisory services at its headquarters in Wageningen. This built on the outcomes of the 2011 international extension conference, organised by CTA and its partners. Academics, researchers and extension experts shared their knowledge and experience, and discussed future interventions for improving the delivery and effectiveness of extension services. They concluded that extension science must keep pace with agricultural developments. One key policy message was for countries to build coherence between agricultural, rural development and extension policies.

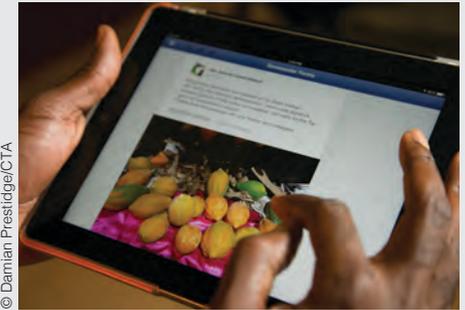
✿ MANAGING POSTHARVEST LOSSES



© Alehkneng/IITA

There is a serious lack of data to support policy and decision-making on investments for reducing post-harvest losses in ACP countries. In August 2013, CTA hosted a meeting of experts to review selected country case studies on post-harvest knowledge systems and public and private sector initiatives on managing losses. The expert consultation included a field trip to the Food and Biobased Research Institute at Wageningen University, where cutting edge research with direct links to industry is undertaken. A policy brief on post-harvest knowledge systems, based on the discussions, will be published in 2014.

✿ CTA WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD



© Damian Prestidge/CTA

By April 2013, CTA had organised a total of 84 events in 23 countries during which some 2200 people had been trained in the use of Web 2.0 and Social Media for development. In recognition of this achievement, CTA was proclaimed winner of 'ICT Applications: e-Agriculture' category of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) 2013 awards, held in Geneva, Switzerland. "This is a prestigious award, and it has given CTA a lot of visibility," explains CTA's Giacomo Rambaldi. "We are now seen as a key player in the world of ICTs for agriculture."

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCHERS AND ACADEMICS

Science has vital role to play in developing a productive agricultural industry and tackling problems such as food insecurity and land degradation. In 2013, CTA supported a wide range of activities in partnership with scientists in ACP countries. These included a workshop on reviving the Caribbean coconut industry and a project to mainstream tertiary education into agricultural R&D processes in Africa.

REVIVING THE CARIBBEAN COCONUT INDUSTRY

It's hard to think of a more versatile tropical crop. Coconuts are used in a range of food, beverage, health, cosmetic, jewellery and furniture products, and they provide a living for thousands of smallholder farmers. Demand is booming, especially in the United States, where the market for coconut water alone is now worth US\$500 million a year.

However, Caribbean countries have not been taking full advantage of increasing local demand and expanding regional and international markets. Although coconut farming is an important economic activity—there are over 8000 growers in Jamaica – production has been falling in many countries. For example, in the Dominican Republic, annual production slumped

from 250 million nuts in the 1970s to an estimated 80 million nuts in 2013.

In October 2013, CTA and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) organised a two-day technical workshop on the coconut industry during the 12th Caribbean Week of Agriculture in Georgetown, Guyana. This >



Although coconut farming is an important economic activity— there are over 8000 growers in Jamaica – production has been falling in many countries.”

➤ was held in consultation with the CARIFORUM ambassadors based in Brussels. “We brought together 80 producers, processors and experts from the Caribbean, the Pacific and EU to discuss the 2013 needs assessment study report funded by the European Commission, and gain buy-in on future strategies for reviving the industry,” says CTA’s Judith Ann Francis.

Speakers identified a number of challenges. These included: ageing coconut palms – typically over 50 years and semi-abandoned groves; pests and diseases, some of which are lethal and difficult to manage;

a limited gene pool of disease-resistant and high-yielding varieties; poor husbandry practices and limited research and development.

Workshop participants agreed on a roadmap to revive the Caribbean industry. “It’s a multipronged approach that requires four interventions that need to go hand-in-hand,” says Judith. This involves improving the availability of high-quality planting material, enhancing scientific capacity, developing new value-added niche products, gathering better market intelligence, and mobilising private and public sector finance.

“We cannot use old infrastructure to develop an important new industry,” Guyana’s Agriculture Minister, Dr Leslie Ramsammy, told participants.

“We need policy, science, farm and market linkages.”

The outcomes were presented to the Forum of Ministers of Agriculture and senior officials during the Alliance and the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) meetings. “The revival of the Caribbean coconut industry is now firmly on the policy-making agenda,” says Judith. ■

FIGHTING HUNGER ALONGSIDE UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS

In 2011, CTA and partners organised a workshop in Burkina Faso to sensitise African Francophone university rectors to agricultural and rural development policy processes, and specifically the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). “We found that most rectors were unfamiliar with CAADP, and universities were making little attempt to align their research with food and nutrition security policies,” says CTA’s Judith Ann Francis.

Having made a strategic decision to engage knowledge institutes more actively in agricultural and rural development policy processes, CTA launched a pilot project on mainstreaming tertiary education in food and nutrition security policies. CTA teamed

up with Wageningen University and Research Centre and in September 2012 held an inception workshop in Wageningen for partners and representatives of 10 universities: six from Francophone Africa, two from East Africa, and one each from the Caribbean and the Pacific. They were introduced to the Auditing Instrument for Food Security and Higher Education (AIFSHE) tool, which they piloted during 2013.

The tool enabled universities to conduct a self-assessment of their programmes, from vision to policy, expertise to educational goals, and to examine the extent to which their research activities advance food and nutrition security. Workshop participants also undertook a scan of nation-

al policies. These findings were validated during in-house university seminars and national consultations.

“When discussing with their colleagues, universities realised that there was a lack of coherence, with many individuals and departments conducting research on food security in isolation,” says Judith. During the external consultations, many people told the universities that they would like them to play a leadership role in agricultural policy development and the war on malnutrition.

The project provided universities with a better understanding of how they can enhance their contribution to agricultural >

↓ Researcher at work in a Francophone university.



“

When discussing with their colleagues, universities realised that there was a lack of coherence, with many individuals and departments conducting research on food security in isolation.”

> policy processes. For many, conducting research on food and nutrition security needs to become a higher priority. There also needs to be greater collaboration within and between university departments, and more active engagement in policy processes. These results were endorsed at the policy learning and synthesis workshop in October 2013.

According to Judith, the feedback from the universities has been very positive, with the successful use of the AIFSHE tool attracting the attention of other tertiary institutions. “We are planning for the universities involved in the pilot programme to help others to carry out self-audits in the future and to document their experience,” she says. ■

#3 RESEARCHERS AND ACADEMICS

* THE KNOWLEDGE BROKERS



© IAALD

CTA played a significant role at the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD) 2013 World Congress, which was held at Cornell University, USA, in July. “We circulated the IAALD call for papers within our networks, and provided support for 16 people from ACP countries to attend the Congress,” says CTA knowledge management expert Krishan Bheenick. Of the 40 papers presented during the three-day Congress, half were delivered by individuals sponsored by CTA. CTA also organised a half-day reflection on the future of agricultural knowledge resource centres.

* A NEW KNOWLEDGE NETWORK FOR AFRICAN RESEARCHERS



© FAO/Riccardo Gangate

The Network for Management and Communication of Agricultural Information (*le Réseau pour la gestion de l'information et de la connaissance agricole*) – was spontaneously established by participants at a training workshop organised by the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/ WECARD). The network will act as a community of practice to share agricultural information and knowledge. Members will also be able to share their experiences about knowledge management. The initiative, which serves as a pilot for other regions, is being supported by CTA.

* MAKING AGRIBUSINESS WORK FOR SMALL-SCALE FARMERS



© Ding Haitao/Xinhua Press/Corbis/ih. Hoogte

The 3rd Africa Rice Congress was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in October 2013. “When AfricaRice was planning the Congress, they asked us to be one of their partners,” says CTA’s Josué Dioné, “but instead of just providing financial support, we organised a special lunchtime event.” Over 150 people attended the two-hour session on ‘Making agribusiness work for smallholders in Africa’, including representatives of the public sector, farmers, and private sector companies of various sizes. Presentations focused on concrete examples of public-private partnerships linking farmers to agribusinesses in the rice sector in Africa and China.

CHAPTER 4 MARKET PLAYERS

In 2013, CTA launched a new series of publications on agricultural value chains, including a new manual on structured grain trading systems in Africa. CTA also supported a pioneering Business Forum, which brought farmers and buyers together in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as a wide range of other activities related to value chain development.

MAKING THE GRAIN TRADE WORK FOR SMALLHOLDERS

Throughout Africa, most smallholder farmers produce grain crops with little idea about where they are going to sell them. "If they're lucky enough to produce a surplus over their family requirements they may then look for a market," said CTA's Andrew Shepherd when he launched a new manual, *Structured Grain Trading Systems in Africa*, at the 5th African Grain Trade Summit, hosted by the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) in Mombasa, Kenya, in October 2013.

Smallholders may sell their crops at local markets, or wait for a trader to visit their vil-

lage, and some sell through cooperatives. However, all these systems are cumbersome, with traders being obliged to inspect everything they buy. "How much better it would be if farmers could have their grains graded just once and the grade was accepted by everyone else in the chain," said Andrew.

This is what happens with structured trade, which already plays a key role in organising, regulating and financing trade in commodities in the developed world, as well as crops such as coffee and cocoa in Africa.

Structured Grain Trading Systems in Africa was developed at a writeshop organised by CTA and EAGC in 2012. During an intensive four-day period, experts and organisations involved in agriculture and the grain trade produced a first draft for the new manual, which covers topics such as grades and standards, post-harvest handling and warehouse receipts. "It's a great piece of work," says Gerald Masila, director of EAGC, "and it's an output that we will use a lot in the future."

The manual is now being used by the Eastern African Grain Institute, which has >

#4 MARKET PLAYERS



© Mikkel Ostergaard/Panos /Hollandse Hoogte

> offices at the headquarters of EAGC in Nairobi, to provide farmers, traders, millers and bankers with a thorough introduction on how to establish efficient structured trading systems. EAGC believes that the number of East African farmers taking advantage of these arrangements could rise rapidly in the coming years. Structured trade could help to improve farmers' access to finance and inputs like fertilisers, and it offers a promising avenue for improving agricultural productivity, rural incomes and food security.

Structured Grain Trading Systems in Africa was one of several value chain publications produced by CTA during 2013. *Guides for Value Chain Development*, written by Jason Donovan and colleagues from the World Agroforestry Centre, presents the results of a review of 11 guides about analysing value chains, comparing concepts and methods and assessing their strengths and limitations. And in August 2013, CTA's flagship magazine *Spore* came out with a special issue on 'Structured Trading Systems – a New Vision for Trade' (<http://publications.cta.int/en/publications/publication/1742/>). This covered a wide range of topics, including grades and standards, contract enforcement, warehouse financing and commodity exchanges. The special issue also included case studies and field reports, as well as interviews with trade officials and experts in Africa. ■

BUSINESS FORUM FOR FARMERS

In 2013, the Network of West African Farmers' Organisations, (Réseau des organisations paysannes et des producteurs agricoles de l'Afrique de l'ouest - ROPPA), organised its first Business Forum in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. CTA was among the key partners involved in this pioneering event, which created space for farmers' organisations and the private sector to do business and explore the measures needed to create a more prosperous and food-secure agriculture in the region.

"In the past, we mostly worked with ROPPA on policy issues and did little on value chains," says Vincent Fautrel of CTA. "However, ROPPA's members were keen to engage more closely with the private sector, and we were happy to support the Business Forum." CTA also supported a four-day training session which took place in Abidjan in the week before the Forum.

"The aim of the training was to build the capacity of farmers who were going to attend the forum," explains Kalilou Sylla, ROPPA Executive Secretary. The 35 farmers who took part were introduced to the concept of value chains, contract farming and the requirements expected by buyers.

During the months leading up to the Forum, the Association Afrique agro-export (Aafex), an association of African agricultural exporters, invited private-sector organisations, including buyers and processors, to express an interest in attending, and specify precisely what sort of products they wished to buy.

The first day and a half of the Forum, which took place on October 29-31, was devoted to thematic discussions, and the remainder to business-to-business (B2B) sessions. The former included presentations on a >

“

The 35 farmers who took part in the training were introduced to the concept of value chains, contract farming and the requirements expected by buyers.”

#4 MARKET PLAYERS

↓ A cooperative warehouse in Abengourou, Côte d'Ivoire. The cocoa trade is vitally important to the country's economy.



© REUTERS/Luc Gnago

➤ wide range of themes, with CTA's Andrew Shepherd providing an overview of contract farming. The B2B sessions enabled approximately 60 small-scale producers to do business with some 40 buyers and processors.

A post-forum questionnaire found that the vast majority of farmers and buyers found the event

helpful. "Before the event, the private-sector buyers had told us they didn't want to come just to talk, they wanted to do business," says Kalilou. And most of them successful deals with the farmers. Indeed, it is an indication of the buyer's enthusiasm for this sort of event that they all paid for their own accommodation, travel and food.

"The farmers were very happy too," says Kalilou, "and some of them have even suggested improvements that we could make before our next business forum." The 2nd ROPPA Business Forum will be held in Accra, Ghana, in October 2014. ■

“

The forum created space for farmers' organisations and the private sector to do business and explore the measures needed to create a more prosperous and food-secure agriculture in West Africa.”

* BANKING ON GROWTH



© National Microfinance Bank, Tanzania

You can't get agricultural growth unless you solve the financing constraints," says Lamon Rutten, CTA's Policies, Markets & ICT Programme Manager. This is precisely what the African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (AFRACA) seeks to do. During 2013, CTA provided support for AFRACA to hold three workshops. The first, held in Niger, focused on warehouse receipts; the second, in South Africa, explored livestock value chain finance; and the third, in Senegal, looked at lessons learned and best practices in value chain finance.

* SIERRA LEONE'S FISHERIES QUEST



© REUTERS/Swoan Parker

Fisheries in Sierra Leone could make a major contribution to the country's exports, and therefore its wealth. However, if the country is to take advantage of Europe's growing appetite for affordable fish, it needs to develop a soundly managed fisheries sector and meet the EU's strict Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) standards. To help it do so, the Government of Sierra Leone signed a contract with Precon Food Management, a Dutch management consultancy, in 2013. CTA is supporting the project's information and communication component, which includes public awareness campaigns on food safety issues for fishing communities.

* MAKING THE CONNECTION



© Jane Hahn/Panos/Hollandse Hoogte

In 2013, CTA published a Policy Pointer on the 'Making the Connection' conference on value chains, which was held in November 2012 in Addis Ababa. This well-illustrated booklet provides an insight into the key issues addressed at the conference, including ways of improving linkages between small-scale farmers and buyers, the development of intra-regional trade, and improving value chain finance. It begins by listing nine policy issues that require the immediate attention of governments.

(<http://publications.cta.int/en/publications/publication/1755/>)

CHAPTER 5 JOURNALISTS AND MESSENGERS

Knowledge is power – that’s why it’s so important that organisations like CTA package information in ways that are accessible to a wide audience. In 2013, journalist played a major role in publicising activities at the Caribbean Week of Agriculture and during a major international conference on ICT4Ag in Rwanda. CTA’s websites received a major overhaul and we updated ICT Update.

MAKING NEWS IN THE CARIBBEAN

Until recently, journalists in the Caribbean had a poor understanding of agriculture and the subject received little attention in the media. At the same time, most scientists had a poor understanding about how the media works and how to talk to journalists. To bridge the gulf between the two, CTA and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) launched its first media workshop during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture in 2010.

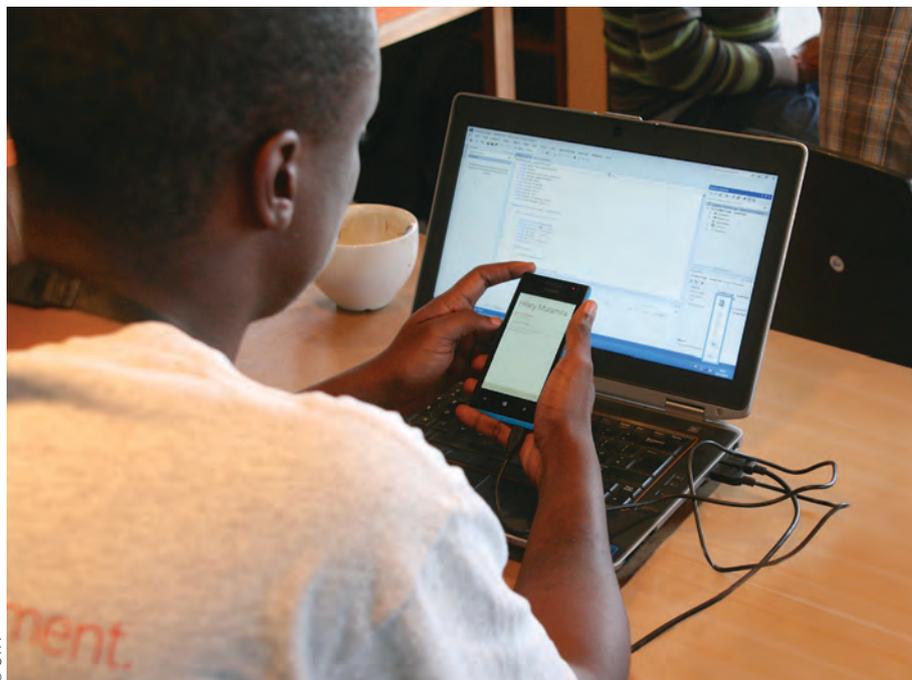
They have organised similar events every year since, leading to better press coverage for agricultural issues. In 2013, the Caribbean Week of Agriculture in Guyana began with a two-day workshop on ‘evidence-based coverage of agricultural research and development issues,’ organised by CTA, CARDI and the Association of Caribbean Mediaworkers (ACM).

The workshop provided journalists with information on the wide range of issues

which would be covered during the week. It also provided scientists and media representatives with an opportunity to share their views. ACM President, Wesley Gibbings, emphasised the importance of good factual reporting, urging journalists “to wake up and shake our societies, take them out of their comfort zone on the issues of food nutrition and security.”

Besides employing a team of consultants to ensure good media coverage, CTA >

↓ A journalist at work during the ICT4Ag international conference.



✿ THE MESSAGE GOES GLOBAL

Forty-seven journalists attended some or all of the ICT4Ag conference in Kigali, Rwanda, in November 2013. Twelve represented international media, including the New York Times, BBC World, the Voice of America and Radio France International. According to CTA's Stéphane Gambier, who orchestrated the media operations, national, regional and international coverage of the conference reached people in 66 countries. There were 341 articles and news reports relating to the conference. The conference also benefited from the presence of 15 young reporters, who received training on how to use social media such as Twitter and Facebook.

> provided support for five journalists, chosen by ACM, to report on the conference. "They were free to attend whatever workshops they wished, and to write and publish their articles in their own way and at their own convenience," says Thierry Doudet, head of CTA's Knowledge Management and Communication Programme.

The excellent media coverage of the week's events – reflecting discussions on every aspect of food and nutritional se-

curity – owed much to the diligence and productivity of these journalists. Kenton Chance of I-Witness News in St Vincent produced stories which were featured in 27 outlets. The Guyanese journalist Kweisi Isles produced 20 stories during the six-day event. Ivan Cairo of Suriname produced 23 stories, which were either published online or in print.

"CTA must be commended for allowing the media corps to function as journal-

ists in their coverage of Caribbean Week of Agriculture," wrote Kenton Chance in his feedback to CTA. "While public-relations-type stories have their place, editors tend to trust other journalists and are more inclined to publish a story from a journalist that addresses issues in a journalistic, rather than merely public relations way." ■

UPDATING THE UPDATE

Readers of CTA's information and communication magazine, *ICT Update*, will have noticed some significant changes during 2013. In the past, *ICT Update* was very much an in-house magazine, with CTA staff responsible for writing the editorial and commissioning articles. Chris Addison, CTA's new programme coordinator for knowledge management, decided to make two significant changes. These involved the introduction of regular guest editors, and the linking of each issue to specific events. He and his team also decided to change the magazine's name from *ICT Update* to *ICT4Ag*.

"One of the advantages of having guest editors is that they help to create a wider readership for the magazine," says Chris. He gives the example of the April 2013 issue, which

focused on 'Small islands and e-resilience.' The guest editors were Anju Mangai of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Jacqui Berrell of Pacific Solution Exchange. They were able to track down a range of stories in an area where CTA has relatively few contacts. At the same time, they promoted *ICT Update* to a new regional audience on a new issue – small island resilience.

The February issue on Agricultural Research and ICTs was guest edited by Enrica Porcari, chief information officer at the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The June issue on 'Opening access and open data' was guest edited by Steven Rudgard of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which manages the influential e-agriculture Community of Practice. The

issue was timed to coincide with the World Congress of the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD) at Cornell University

The final two issues of the year – the last *ICT Update* and the first *ICT4Ag* – focused on CTA's annual conference, held in Rwanda, 'ICT4Ag – the digital springboard for inclusive agriculture.' While the first issue provided an introduction to the conference themes and a range of issues related to the use of ICTs in agriculture, the second gave readers an overview of everything that had taken place during the week in Kigali. Once again, this meant that an important subject reached a wide audience. You might not have attended the conference, but once you've read the December issue of *ICT4Ag*, you almost feel you had. ■

ICT Update

a current awareness bulletin for ACP agriculture

Issue 76
October 2013

CTA
agricultura
<http://ictupdate.cta.int>

ICT solutions should be 'inclusive' and support rather than exclude farmers

ICTs should be integrated into daily operations in order to become effective tools

An enabling environment for ICTs could enhance the impact of agricultural programmes



ICT4Ag: setting the scene

ict4ag the digital springboard for inclusive agriculture

4-8 November 2013
Kigali, Rwanda
www.ict4ag.org



ict4ag Update

the digital springboard for inclusive agri

a current awareness bulletin for ACP agriculture

Issue 76
February 2014

CTA
agricultura
<http://ictupdate.cta.int>

The SmartMoney mobile money solution focuses on penetrating rural markets

The MoBashara mobile platform promotes access to finance

Higher social penetration of ICTs means more youth are getting involved in agriculture



Mobile finance – next stop agriculture

fin4ag 2014

Revolutionising finance for agri-value chains

14–18 July 2014 | Nairobi, Kenya
www.fin4ag.org | #Fin4Ag14



RESHAPING CTA'S ONLINE PRESENCE



© Mikkel Ostergaard/Panos/Hollandse Hoogte

“I spent my first year at CTA just fire-fighting,” says CTA’s Web Programme Coordinator Thierry Lewyllie. The multiplicity of hosting providers, contracts and policies for technical maintenance posed a significant security issue. “Every three weeks or so, somebody would hack one of our websites, so addressing web security and system instability was a priority.”

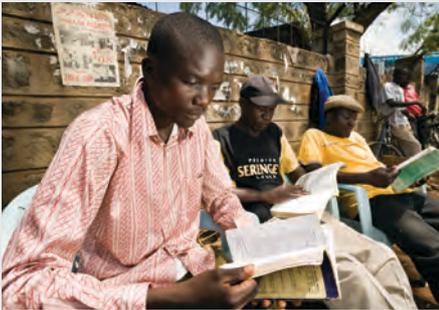
In 2013, a secure hosting environment for CTA sites was set up, including 24/7 system performance monitoring. “We are moving all our sites slowly to this new platform,” explains Thierry

When he joined CTA in 2012, there were more than 100 websites managed by different contractors. Thierry has integrated the management of resources, improved interaction between websites and encouraged more user engagement.

Much still remains to be done. The outline of the content integration strategy is slowly taking shape, and a draft version of a content strategy focusing on delivering more engaging web content has been made available. A revamped cta.int website was launched in May 2013 and this is continuously being improved in response to users’ feedback.

“We have started gathering user data, and are trying to transform the data into actionable project ideas,” says Thierry. By identifying what people want from the websites and how they search for information, CTA gets valuable guidance on how to structure the content. The process of gathering information, organising data and generating actionable insights will enable CTA to deliver better products and services in future. ■

✿ RATING PUBLICATIONS



© Sven Torfinn/Panos/Hollandse Hoogte

In 2013, CTA devised a new system to assess the value of its publications. Subscribers are now invited to assess the publications they receive using a star system, from 0 to 5 – like Amazon and TripAdvisor do for books and hotels. Subscribers can also submit brief comments. “This will help us to get good feedback on how our readers use our publications,” Murielle Vandreck explains. See: <http://publications.cta.int/en/publications/publication/ICT064F/>

✿ ICT4AG MEDIA AWARDS



© CTA

In the run-up to the ICT4Ag conference in Kigali, young journalists from ACP countries were invited to submit articles on the conference theme. There were over 100 submissions, the best six of which were selected as semi-finalists and invited to the conference. Each had to produce four different pieces. “All rose to the occasion,” said Maria Protz, one of the judges. The winner was Joshua Masinde of Kenya. Second and third prizes were awarded to Arison Mbuli Tamfu of Cameroon and Fidelis Zvomuya of Zimbabwe.

✿ SPEARHEADING CHANGE IN THE PACIFIC



© ACIAR

In April 2013, the Melanesian Spearhead Group of Pacific nations established a virtual platform for the development of their Green Growth Framework. Their website (www.msgsec.info) is now promoting an exchange of information and views across ministries and agencies in Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. This is one of several knowledge platforms which have received the support of CTA.

TARGETING GENDER

When the new Executive Board met in September 2013, they asked staff about CTA's 2003 gender strategy," says Tarikua Woldetsadick of CTA's Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation unit. Three months earlier, the Board had approved CTA's new youth strategy for 2013–2018. It was now time to revise and update the 2003 gender strategy.

Since 1987, CTA has been implementing at least one gender-specific intervention a year. However, although the strategy had been reasonably well adapted to the context in which CTA operated at the time, it failed to establish a coherent theory of change or a results-based framework for outcomes and impact. Furthermore, many of the concepts needed updating and the strategy adapted to CTA's new orientation.

A three-stage process to revise the strategy was launched after the 2013 board meeting. First, an internal assessment of the imple-

mentation of the 2003 gender strategy was conducted. CTA subsequently commissioned a desk study of how organisations working in similar fields were dealing with gender issues.

The third phase involved an expert consultation on "Gender in Agriculture and Rural Development Interventions: Updating the Gender Knowledge", held in Wageningen in November. The workshop was attended by 17 experts from 15 ACP organisations. They were invited to share their personal contributions to advancing gender issues, and the experiences of their organisations.

The meeting provided clear guidelines which will enable CTA to revise its gender strategy during 2014. "We need to purposefully target women beneficiaries, and ensure that all our work – whether it's related to policies, value chains, or science and technology – actively improves the lives of women in ACP countries," explains Tarikua

The participants agreed that they should continue to communicate with each other as part of a community of practice, and CTA has set up an e-forum to facilitate this. The experts will also peer-review drafts of CTA's new gender strategy. Many of those who attended the workshop said they had benefited greatly from the meeting, not least because it had given them the opportunity to network with organisations and individuals they hadn't encountered before.

One of the workshop participants was Carmen Nurse, president of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CAN-ROP). She says she benefited greatly from her attendance. "This meeting has been a real eye-opener for me," she says. "I now see that every organisation needs to have a gender strategy right from the outset, not just as an add-on."

Earlier in the year, Carmen had attended the Caribbean Week of Agriculture as CAN-

↓ CTA's new gender strategy will help it to work more effectively with women.

ROP's representative in St Lucia, together with representatives of 11 other Caribbean nations. This was made possible through support provided to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) by CTA. "One of our biggest problems is networking, and every year CWA provides us with the only opportunity we have to meet and discuss our work," says Carmen. "This is a very important event for us." ■

“

CTA needs to purposefully target women beneficiaries, and ensure that all our work – whether it's related to policies, value chains, or science and technology – actively improves the lives of women in ACP countries”.

© FAO/Olivier Asselin



FOCUS ON YOUNG PEOPLE

YOBLOCO TEAM WINS GOOGLE AWARD

In 2013, Kenya's Youth Agro Environmental Initiative won the annual Google Innovation Award (agricultural innovation category), announced at the Connected Kenya Summit in Mombasa. The initiative, which began life as a blog during CTA's YoBloCo competition, runs a campaign which focuses on bringing young people back into agriculture. "The YoBloCo awards pushed me to start blogging and to this day I remain an avid blogger," says Grace Wanene, the founder of the initiative. Others are now contributing to this vibrant blog: <http://yagrein.blogspot.nl/>.



© CTA

THE NEW BLOGGERS

Since it was launched in 2010, CTA's Agriculture, Rural Development and Youth in the Information Society (ARDYIS) project has been raising awareness among young people about the challenges facing agriculture – the loss of young people from the sector being one of them – and promoting the use of ICTs for agriculture. One of the early activities was the Youth in Agriculture Blog Competition (YoBloCo).

"Although the first YoBloCo competition attracted a lot of interest, we didn't get enough participation from three of our regions," says Ken Lohento, organiser of the ARDYIS project. "Young people in Central Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific clearly lacked the skills needed to use ICTs for blogging."

Prior to the launch of the second edition of YoBloCo in 2013, CTA supported regional

workshops to tackle this problem. The three workshops – they were held in Barbados, Congo Brazzaville and Fiji – involved four days of training on the use of Web 2.0 and social media, with a particular focus on blogging, as well as a day devoted to exchanging views and experiences.

"We were particularly proud of the Congo workshop as Central Africa has tended to be neglected," says Ken. "Over 300 people applied to join the workshop, although it could only take 25, and that's a real indication of the interest among young people in the region."

After the Congo workshop, participants set up a mailing list. "This was their own idea, and they did it without any help from us," says Ken. This has led to a regular exchange of knowledge between young people in Central Africa. Besides those who attended the workshop, many others have

also joined in discussions about issues related to the use of ICTs for agriculture.

Feedback from trainees at the Barbados workshop was overwhelmingly positive. "I personally intend to use these new skills to help young people and survivors of domestic violence in Guyana... to start up their own agricultural businesses to gain economic independence," wrote Imarah Radix in a blog.

"Web 2.0 training was enlightening... really eye-opening," wrote Petra Grell-Shillingford of Dominica. "Thanks to the organisers and trainers. Without the training I would in quick time be obsolete!" And Shurdel Garcia of Trinidad and Tobago wrote: "Young people, I urge you to take part! The experience I gained from the workshop was life-changing, motivating and extremely informative." ■

FULL PACE TOWARDS OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

Half way through the implementation of its Strategic Plan 2011-2015, CTA further increases its expertise in order to reach its strategic goals at full pace.

We are now half-way through the implementation of our Strategic Plan 2011-2015 and again the recruitment of new expertise has enabled CTA to adapt and move forward. Mr. Josué Dioné (Mali) was hired on a short term contract as Principle Technical Advisor for Agricultural Policy to help in the strategic development of Policy, Markets and ICTs. Other new recruits were Benjamin Addom (Ghana), Programme Coordinator for ICTs; Babette Meijers (Netherlands) Administrative Assistant, Samson Vilvil Fare (Vanuatu), Programme Associate, Nawsheen Hosenally (Mauritius) Assistant ICT4Ag and Minielle Tall (Senegal), Media & Communication Associate.

A number of staff members left the Centre during or at the end of the year. Jean-

Claude Burguet, Manager Corporate Services, retired after 20 years of service. Samuel Mikenga, Media Officer; Jenessi Matturi, Programme Assistant and José Filipe Fonseca, Senior Programme Coordinator all resigned for personal reasons. Josué Dioné ended his contract at the end of the year, just before it was scheduled to end, so as to join UNECA for a special project in which CTA will be an important partner.

CTA is currently looking for staff to fill the following positions: a Procurement Officer, two Senior Programme Coordinators Agricultural Policy & Value Chain, a Senior Programme Coordinator Communication, a Publishing Associate and two Administrative Assistants one at HQ and one for the Brussels office.

Under the coordination of the new Human Resources (HR) Officer, Pascal Deleu, staff and supervisors completed the annual staff appraisal process as well as the mid-year review that took place during the summer. HR is reviewing the performance evaluation system with a view to increasing its relevance, transparency and ease of use. The revised approach should be available for the next round of performance appraisals starting in January 2014.

A major update of CTA Staff Regulations (Decision No. 5/2006 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors dated 27.09.2006) was proposed to the Executive Board, but because of the change of Board members it was decided to leave the review to the new Board. The modified staff regulations will, therefore, be submitted to the Executive Board in early 2014.

CTA has set up a Process Review Committee that is making good progress in simplifying procedures and improving efficiency at the Centre.

The Executive Board completed its mandate in August following an extraordinary meeting to ensure the completion of all ongoing dossiers, including the approval of the 2014 Work Programme and Bud-

get and to prepare the handover to the new Board. A new Executive Board was nominated by the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors in early November and met for the first time in Wageningen in December 2013. There are 6 members: 3 from ACP countries and 3 from EU countries. This gave the members the opportunity to become acquainted with CTA, its Strategic Plan, programmes, budget and staff. They also received a Narrative report which provides technical details on programmes. This report is available on the CTA website. ■

Members of the Executive Board:

Professor Eric Tollens (Chairman) (Belgium)
Professor Clement K. Sankat
(Vice-Chairman) (Trinidad & Tobago)
Professor Baba Yusuf Abubakar (Nigeria)
Professor Augusto Correia (Portugal)
Dr Helena Johansson (Sweden)
Professor Faustin Rweshabura Kamuzora
(Tanzania)

“ ***The Executive Board completed its mandate in August following an extraordinary meeting to ensure the completion of all ongoing dossiers, including the approval of the 2014 Work Programme and Budget and to prepare the handover to the new Board”.***

INTERNAL ORGANISATION AND PERSONNEL¹

Director's office

Michael Hailu, *Director*
Deborah Kleinbussink, *Exec. Assistant/
Board Secretary*

Brussels Office

Isolina Boto, *Head of Brussels Office*

Financial Control

Sunita Millon, *Financial Controller*

Corporate Services

Pascal Deleu *HR Officer*, acting Head CSD
Juma Lumumba, *IT Officer*
Lan Lee, *Accountant*
Babette Meijers, *Admin. Assistant*
Gerdien van Binsbergen, *Admin. Assistant*
Louis Kolkman, *IT Technician*
Serge Adolph, *Assistant Accountant*
Adrianus Biemans, *Caretaker*
Thomas Mendo-Essiane,
Messenger/Driver
Manuela van Betuw, *Receptionist*

Policies, Markets & ICT (PMI) Programme

Lamon Rutten, *Programme Manager*
Oluyede Ajayi, *Sr Programme
Coord/ARD Policy*

Vincent Fautrel,
Sr Programme Coord/Value Chains
Judith Ann Francis,
Sr Programme Coord/S&T Policy
Giacomo Rambaldi,
Sr Programme Coord/ICT
Josue Dione, *Principal Technical Advisor ICT*
Andrew Shepherd, *Sr Technical
Advisor/Market-led Development
Programme Coord/Value Chains (vacant)*
Benjamin Addom, *Programme Coord. ICT*
Ken Lohento, *Programme Coord/ICT*
Programme Coord/ICT (vacant)
Armelle Degrave, *Programme Assistant*
Ellen Mulder, *Project Assistant*
Marloes Pals, *Project Assistant*
Angeles Salvador, *Project Assistant*

Knowledge Management & Communication (KMC) Programme

Thierry Doudet, *Programme Manager*
Chris Addison, *Sr Programme Coord/KM*
Krishan Bheenick, *Sr Programme Coord/KM*
Stéphane Gambier,
Sr Programme Coord/Communication
Thérèse Burke, *Programme Coord/Marketing*
Thierry Lewyllie, *Programme Coord/Web*
Murielle Vandreck,
Programme Coord/Publications

Anne Legroscolard, *Programme Assistant*
Mirjam Bos, *Admin. Assistant*
Evelyne Kort-Nerincx, *Admin. Assistant*
Merche Rodriguez, *Project Assistant*
Gabriela Gonçalves Bahre, *Data Assistant*
Husna Yagoub, *Data Assistant*
Temporary staff member, *Data Assistant*

Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation (LME) Unit

Ibrahim Khadar, *Manager*
Christine Webster, *Sr Programme Coord/LME*
Tarikua Getachew, *Jr Programme Coord/LME*
Raya Dekkers, *Admin. Assistant*

Project staff members:

Samson VilVil Fare, Nawsheen Hosenally,
Minielle Tall

Interns:

Eric Adrien, Maureen Agena, Maria
Eleonora d'Andrea, Ronalee Biasca, Filippo
Brascesco, Liya Dejene, Cristina Dobos,
Giacomo Dozzo, Etienne Goffin, Nawsheen
Hosenally, Gabriela Mindru, Suzanne
Philips, Ignacio Soler, Silvana Summa,
Senyo Worlali.

¹ at 31st December 2013

BUDGET & FINANCES

The financial resources of CTA come from the European Development Fund (EDF), to which all the Member States of the EU contribute. For the year 2013, the Centre has been allocated a budget of 16 million Euros by its supervisory authorities.

The tables stating the break-down of the CTA budget for the year ending 2013 are as follows:

- The overall CTA budget for 2013 (Table 1)
- The operational programmes budget for 2013 (Table 2)
- The overview budget for 2013 showing the commitments, expenditure and carry forward amounts by operational programme (Table 3).

The end of year budget includes a transfer of € 59.090 from Title I to Title II.

TABLE 1: CTA OVERALL BUDGET FOR 2013 (IN € THOUSAND)

INCOME	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
EDF contribution	16 264	98.8
Other income	200	1.2
Total	16 464	100
BUDGET ALLOCATION		
Title I – Staff expenditure	5 093	30.9
Title II – Operating expenditure	1 271	7.7
Title III – Operational programmes expenditure*	10 100	61.4
TOTAL	16 464	100

* Refer to table 2 for the expenditure break-down.

RESOURCES

TABLE 2: OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES BUDGET FOR 2013 (IN € THOUSAND)

PROGRAMMES	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
<i>Policies, Markets & ICT Programme</i>	5 555	55.0
Strengthening the CAADP and related policy process (Africa)	1 500	27.0
Improvement of the policies and climate protection strategies for food and nutritional security in the Caribbean and Pacific regions	762	13.7
Enhancing value chain governance and competitiveness	1 550	27.9
Promoting the use of ICTs for value chain optimisation and the improvement of ARD policies and strategies	1 350	24.3
Project related operational resources	393	7.1
<i>Knowledge Management & Communication Programme</i>	4 040	40.0
Communication, multimedia publishing and dissemination for ARD	2 460	60.9
Web-based platforms for knowledge sharing	572	14.2
Strengthening ICKM capacities of ACP institutions	720	17.8
Project related operational resources	288	7.1
<i>Learning, Monitoring & Evaluation Unit</i>	505	5.0
Learning, monitoring and evaluation	445	88.1
Project related operational resources	60	11.9
<i>TOTAL (including all programmes)</i>	10 500	100

TABLE 3: OVERVIEW BUDGET 2013: COMMITMENTS, EXPENDITURE AND CARRY FORWARD AMOUNTS

PROGRAMMES / UNIT		Budget approved BRU @ 01/01/13 (1)	Revised budget @ 31/12/2013 (2)	Actual Commitment @ 31/12/13 (3)	Actual expenditure @ 31/12/13 (4)	CF amount @ 31/12/13 (5) = (2) - (3)
PROGRAMME 1: POLICIES, MARKETS AND ICTS (PMI)						
Article 311:	Strengthening the CAADP policy process (Africa)	1,500,000	1,459,702	1,459,702	667,739	791,496
Article 312:	Enhancing climate change and food and nutrition security policy processes in the Caribbean and Pacific	762,000	417,502	417,502	233,271	184,231
Article 313:	Enhancing value chain governance and competitiveness	1,550,000	1,927,455	1,927,455	517,082	1,410,373
Article 314:	Supporting the application of ICT tools, methods and approaches for value chain development and ARD policy processes	1,350,000	1,147,814	1,147,814	313,974	833,840
Article 315:	Project-related operational resources	393,000	605,652	605,652	479,409	126,154
TOTAL PMI		5,555,000	5,558,125	5,558,125	2,211,476	3,346,093
PROGRAMME 2: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (KMC)						
Article 321:	Multimedia publishing and dissemination	2,460,000	2,617,223	2,617,223	1,368,680	1,238,221
Article 322:	Strengthening web-based platforms for knowledge sharing	572,000	542,608	542,608	179,974	362,633
Article 323:	Strengthening ICKM capacities of ACP institutions	720,000	755,202	755,202	380,942	374,259
Article 324:	Project-related operational resources	288,000	121,842	121,842	86,574	35,002
TOTAL KMC		4,040,000	4,036,875	4,036,875	2,016,170	2,010,115
LEARNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION (LME) UNIT						
Article 331:	Learning, monitoring and evaluation	444,906	464,906	464,906	169,704	295,202
Article 332:	Project-related operational resources	60,000	40,000	40,000	38,563	1,437
TOTAL LME		504,906	504,906	504,906	208,268	296,639
GRAND TOTAL (PMI, KMC AND LME)		10,099,906	10,099,906	10,099,906	4,435,913	5,652,847
NON EDF FUNDING						
Article 340	Non-EDF funding	0	817,865	817,865	175,584	642,281
TOTAL NON-EDF FUNDING		0	817,865	817,865	175,584	642,281

* Figures are derived from Navision and may be subject to minor Accounting adjustments

Notes: (1) These are unaudited figures and are subject to year-end accounting and audit adjustments

(2) Expenditure in 2013 on amounts carried forward from 2012 are not included; advance payments are included

(3) Commitments carried forward to the following year are based on expected expenditure

(4) Additional (Non-EDF) funding in 2013 can be broken down as follows:

(5) EU-Intra ACP Policy Programme* (42 months contract) – 32% of total contract – Total amount 2,100,000€ - 671,903; CAAST Net Plus (25 Consortium members) Advancing SSA-EU cooperation in research and innovation for global challenges - 20,071; PACENet Plus (16 Consortium members) Pacific Europe Network for ST&I - 40,000; COS-SIS Contribution Expert Consultation on innovation systems - 25,000; FARA – GA/Finals & Award Ceremony 3rd Africa-wide Women and Young Professional in Science Competition - 17,979; AGRA - Contribution to supporting Web 2.0 and Social Media - 36,550; IFPRI - Contribution to Brussels Policy Development Briefing - 6,362; Total - 817,865

IMPACT STORIES

“

I would like to tell you all at CTA how much your publication *Spore* has reshaped and guided my research. It showed me that - by integrating relevant technologies - peasant farmers in my area can make optimal use of the pesticides they use in their fields. These technologies involve using mobile telephones. I gained this insight after reading Su Kahumba's account of the iCow project in Kenya in *Spore*. His work made me integrate a similar concept into my research as a way of helping local peasant farmers to apply pesticides and the other chemical farm inputs they use in an appropriate way.”

John Gushit, University of Jos, Nigeria

“Twenty-one agricultural extension officers were trained in Web 2.0 at North-West University's Mafikeng Campus, South Africa. CTA sponsored the training and the impact of this programme lead to a demonstration of selected Web 2.0 tools at the annual provincial extension conference attended by over 300 extension officers and senior agricultural management. The presentation had a multiplier effect. Extension managers from other provinces in South Africa who were attending the conference asked to be trained in the full range of Web 2.0 tools and that Web 2.0 be made available in full to other extension officers in the province.”

Prof O. Idowu Oladele, North-West University, Mafikeng Campus, South Africa

“Congratulations for your excellent publication on Structured Grain Trading Systems in Africa. The manual is clear and timely – and I am asking every World Food Programme/Purchase for Progress staff member in our 20 pilot country offices to read it, as well as suggesting the same for procurement and logistics colleagues.”

Ken Davies, UN World Food Programme, Rome, Italy

“I was privileged to be trained in P3DM [Participatory 3D modelling] in Union Island and to take part in P3DM in Grenville, Grenada. I must say that I am impressed by this approach and it certainly can compliment what we have been doing in disaster risk reduction and climate change disaster management using our Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) - a participatory community data collection methodology to map hazards and resources etc. We have carried out these activities in a number of communities in Grenada and Carriacou. P3DM will certainly further enhance some of the work that has already been done and we will incorporated it into projects being undertaking at the community level in the future.”

Terry Charles, Director General, Grenada Red Cross Society, Grenada

“I would like you to know that I posted a summary of the CTA Knowledge for Development e-newsletter featuring two lead articles on tertiary education in agriculture with links to the full paper on my blog. Since I posted it almost 500 people from over 40 countries have viewed it and many have downloaded the paper.”

Arjen Wals, Wageningen University, The Netherlands

September

CTA organises an expert consultation on curriculum development for seven target audiences on Knowledge Management and Rural Development. Further developments expected in 2014.

October

CTA holds workshops during the CWA on how to stimulate agricultural production in the Pacific and Caribbean. Participants concluded that policies were needed to encourage regional agribusiness chain development, diversification, the identification of niche markets and better economic opportunities for women entrepreneurs.

October

CTA trains 30 West African farmer leaders on Value Chain Approaches and contract farming in preparation for the ROPPA Business Forum - an event where farmers could meet agro-food private sector representatives.

October

CTA launches the CTA/EAGC guide *Structured Grain Trading Systems in Africa* during the Africa Grain Trade Summit.

October-November

CTA's organizes its first "hackathon", a competition designed to stimulate young people to explore how ICTs could be used for agriculture. The ICT applications developed by the winning three teams were presented at the Rwanda ICT4Ag conference and are now being fine-tuned.

November

CTA brings participants from 61 countries to Rwanda for ICT4Ag conference. Their job is to assess the past, present and future role of ICT in stimulating agriculture and rural development.

November

CTA re-energizes its gender strategy by working with participants from 15 organizations to identify how to best to deal with the problems facing women who work in agricultural.

November

CTA organizes its second Joint Learning for Organizational Development exercise for its francophone ACP partners. Good practices in project management - particularly monitoring and evaluation - were high on the agenda.

November

CTA and IFPRI discuss *Resilience-building for improved food security and nutrition*. A panel of experts exchange experiences on anticipating shocks, identifying vulnerable locations, taking preventive measures and encouraging recovery when damage is inevitable.

December

CTA finishes its review of the *Spore/Esporo* mailing list. There are now 23,000 active readers ready and willing to provide feedback on articles and news.

A YEAR IN REVIEW



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**Technical Centre for Agricultural and
Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA)**

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The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)

is a joint international institution of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the European Union (EU). Its mission is to advance food and nutritional security, increase prosperity and encourage sound natural resource management in ACP countries. It provides access to information and knowledge, facilitates policy dialogue and strengthens the capacity of agricultural and rural development institutions and communities. CTA operates under the framework of the Cotonou Agreement and is funded by the EU.



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