

CTA - NEPAD : innover pour un avenir durable de l'agriculture



CTA ANNUAL SEMINAR

Closing the Knowledge Gap:
**Integrated Water Management
for Sustainable Agriculture**



Johannesburg, South Africa • 22-26 November 2010

Welcome!

I am pleased to introduce you to the Daily Update of the CTA/NEPAD Agency Week—an action packed week for knowledge sharing, networking and learning on topics ranging from integrated agricultural water management, indigenous knowledge in agricultural science and innovation, youth and ICTs to mobile telephony for rural development.



*Michael Hailu,
Director, CTA*

More than 250 participants largely from across Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific — representing different stakeholders and disciplines—are discussing best practices, challenges, policy and investment needs to advance agricultural development in the region.

We have provided several opportunities for information sharing, such as our seminar website at <http://annalseminar2010.cta.int>. In our daily bulletin, which we will bring out every day for the coming week, we will share news of the Seminar as well as news from the other activities taking place during the week and would be happy to receive your feedback and comments as well. Join the discussions on Twitter, by using the seminar tag of H204Dev. I wish you all a fruitful and enjoyable stay in Johannesburg and a productive and informative week.

PRESS CONFERENCE ON WATER RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Marking the special role of media, indigenous science and multi-stakeholder collaboration



Media attending press conference

Prior to the official opening of CTA/NPCA week, the co-organizers, the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) and the newly-formed NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) set the scene for the media, laying out the objectives, the challenges in ACP and what they hoped would happen at the end of the week.

They were joined on the podium by representatives of the Caribbean, the Pacific, Dr David Molden from the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and Ms Annie Chéneau-Loquay, head of the panel of Judges for the ARDYIS Essay Contest.

DAILY UPDATE

Day 1

22 november 2010

CTA director, Michael Hailu, stressed the importance of getting science into policy and policy discussions and the need to bring all expertise together to maximise exchange, emphasising that the week is: "a unique opportunity to bring together people from different disciplines, from diverse backgrounds to reflect and work on the development prospects of agriculture." According to Dr Arlington Chesney, representing the Caribbean region, the big idea for the week was to see how to make science more inclusive and see how it could best benefit the lives of rural communities. He appealed to the media to realize the importance of their role in improving knowledge systems and in terms of the development and implementation of policies for agricultural water management for food security and poverty reduction in rural ACP communities.

Professor R.M Mkandawire, Director Partnerships, Resource Mobilisation and Communication of NPCA denied the doomsayers and delivered a message of hope for the continent. He cited, in support of this, the increased commitment to financing by African leaders to address hunger and poverty reduction, greater commitment to civil reform and increased response to home-grown solutions to the region's challenges.

CTA Director urges participants to commit to change

At the official Opening Ceremony of a week he described as "not your typical type of workshop" CTA Director, Michael Hailu, recalling the deliberations of a recent Climate change conference on agriculture and climate change in the Hague, relayed the agreement that sustainable food security was indeed possible with the right innovations, policies and finances. In support of this, he asked all of the over 250 participants to commit to doing something new or different as a result of the week's experiences, so they could really benefit the most vulnerable communities.

Representing the Chief Planning Officer of NEPAD, Dr Bankolé Adeoye, Chief of Staff, recalled the importance of agriculture for Africa's Development. To him, this recognition justifies NEPAD's advocacy, in 2003 in Maputo, to get African States to increase their investments in the agriculture sector, amounting to at least 10% of the national budget by 2008. He said that 20% of Africa's population continues to face hunger because so far, Africa has failed

to develop its local knowledge to enhance its ability to develop strategies for endogenous development. In terms of valuing local knowledge to boost development including agriculture, he cited the strides made by Brazil, China and India as positive examples which African countries could emulate.

Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific face similar difficulties. Thus in her speech, the Caribbean representative, April Alexander, Regional Coordinator of Global Water Partnership Caribbean Secretariat, advocated for joint efforts to "find new and innovative ways to manage our water resources to ensure water availability for all sectors".

She welcomed this meeting as it enables the exchange of technical and innovative mechanisms for water management by "bringing together a diverse but similarly-minded group of experts, technocrats and practitioners from the agriculture sector, water management sector and from the media."

Irrigation and storage strategies to address climate change

For Deputy Director General - Research at the International Water Management Institute, Dr. David Molden, "the future of agriculture is irrigation." Denying the dire warnings about waning agricultural productivity and food security he feels quite optimistic – as long water resources can be more effectively managed.

Speaking about the links between water management and climate change, an issue which, to him, was one of the major challenges for food production. Dr Molden highlighted the difficulties faced by certain countries because of water shortages or climate change. He stressed that water deficit is often linked to lack of infrastructure in some regions including West Africa where the annual rainfall is on the decrease. This means there is less water in rivers for irrigation, for energy and other vital development activities. Citing the case of sub-Saharan Africa he noted the marginal increase as a result of irrigation and urged participants to consider a range of agricultural water management options : showing some examples of successful projects as well as some of the constraints.



Science, indigenous knowledge and innovation: Challenges for development

Professor Jacobus Eloff, leader of the Phytomedicine Programme at the University of Pretoria in South Africa took a more historical perspective for his pre-

sentation, showing the progress of the various disciplines over time before making the case of the importance of plants for the livelihoods of Africa and the future of the continent. Looking at some of the challenges for further development, he advocated greater interaction between different players, such as governments, scientists, industry, more collaboration and multi-disciplinary approaches.

9th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for ACP Agricultural and Rural Development

The 9th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for ACP Agricultural and Rural Development began at 8:30 am on Monday 22 November in Zulu 3. Over fifty representatives of; ACP and EU national and regional S&T organizations and networks, farmers' organizations, agribusiness and international professional bodies were in attendance. Professor Aggrey Ambali, NEPAD Agency and Michael Hailu, CTA director opened the meeting. Members reflected on (i) the proposals for the 2011 CTA Science, Technology and Innovation programme and areas for collaboration with key ACP and EU strategic partners, also members of the Advisory Committee, (ii) the Terms of Reference and composition of the Advisory Committee, and (iii) the future impact of the collective efforts of the Advisory Committee on the ACP S&T agenda. The need for continued networking, capacity building and policy advocacy and for linking research/science, policy and society to achieve the desired impact on

livelihoods, were emphasized. Some key thematic issues which will continue to engage the attention of the AC include climate change research which builds on indigenous knowledge systems, reducing post-harvest losses as a strategy for addressing food security and capacity building to ensure that future needs for researchers, academicians and skilled technicians are addressed. The need for building ACP capacity to collect, analyze and interpret data and present policy relevant information to support key decision-making processes was considered a priority.

ARDYIS essay contest

The finals of the ARDYIS essay contest kicked off today with finalists making their oral presentations to the jury. Ms Annie Cheneau, Annie Chéneau-Loquay, President of the Ardyis Essay Contest Judges Panel, in her presentation at the Press Conference before the official Opening of the CTA Week, congratulated the finalists on the quality of their essays. Presenters on the first day included the finalists from Central, East and Southern Africa.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor-in-chief

Michael Hailu

Editorial Supervision

Karen Hackshaw

Souleymane Ouattara

Contributors

Sophie F. Ouattara

Judith Francis

Design : Jade Productions/SO

This report is produced by:

Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (ACP-EU)

The newsletter is available on

CTA : www.cta.int

For more information, visit the seminar website :

<http://annualeseminar2010.cta.int>

Participate in the seminar

You can participate in the seminar online.

You can comment on the :

<http://annualeseminar2009.cta.int/blog>