



2nd Announcement

Theme: “Managing Post-Harvest Systems (Plant, Animal and Fish products) to improve productivity and competitiveness of Agricultural Markets in West and Central Africa”

Hotel Marina, Cotonou, Benin 24-29 May 2010

Context

The first Agricultural Science Week of West and Central Africa and the Eighth General Assembly were held in Yaounde, Cameroon from 9 to 13 June 2008.

Two years later, the players and partners in research and agricultural development will be meeting once again for the second Agricultural Science Week and the Ninth General Assembly in Cotonou, Benin from 24 to 29 May 2010.

Objectives

- Offer a framework for exchange on agricultural innovations to increase the sensitivity of participants and the public on the problem of post-harvest systems;
- Introduce post-harvest research products;
- Review the first two years of implementation of the 2008-2013 Operational Plan;
- Examine and adopt the financial statement for 2008 and 2009. Finally, issue the auditor's certificate of correct record for the Governing Board's management.

Expected results

- The players and partners of CORAF/WECARD have shared their experiences and vision on the post-harvest systems;
- The major post-harvest research products are introduced;
- The activities of the first two years of implementation of the 2008-2013 Operational Plan are examined;
- Adoption of the 2008 and 2009 financial statements and issuance of the

- auditor's certificate of correct record for the Governing Board's management;
- Appointment of new members for the Governing Board;
- Any other matter relating to the life of CORAF/WECARD is examined.

Main theme and Sub-themes

- The main theme for the 2nd Agricultural Science Week is: "Managing Post-Harvest Systems (plant, animal and fish products) to improve productivity and competitiveness of Agricultural Markets in West and Central Africa"
- Sub-Topic1: Innovation systems to improve the processing, packaging and labeling of agricultural produce (plant, livestock and fish)
- Sub-Topic 2: Enabling policy, environmental and institutional options to improve the processing and marketing of agricultural products (plant, livestock and aquaculture)
- Sub-Topic 3: Strengthening the partnership between key players (producers, processors, researchers, NGOs) to encourage collective actions which will help reduce post-harvest constraints (plant, livestock and fish products)
- Sub-Topic 4: Effective utilization of knowledge on post-harvest practices in the area of plant, animal and fish products

Programme

The programme of the 2nd Agricultural Science Week and the 9th General Assembly are made up of four major sections: Side events, Science week, Exhibition and the General Assembly.

- Side events
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These are platforms that are offered to partners to discuss with the participants the topics selected at their convenience and which falls within the context of enriching the main theme for the Science week.

Six institutions have been selected to moderate the side events: CIRAD, Biodiversity International, Africa Rice, AVRDC, FARA and ASTI. The day of **24 May 2010** has been set aside for the six side events.

Each institution is responsible for putting together its panel and inviting resource persons and the participants that it wishes.



- Science week

The main theme and the sub-topics will be discussed at the plenary and at parallel sessions from **25-26 May 2010**.

The day of **27 May 2010** has been set aside for the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of Benin. All the players in the Benin NARS will introduce the post-harvest research results to all the participants.

- Exhibition

Throughout the week from 24-29 May 2010, an exhibition will be mounted on agricultural research products of the 22 countries of CORAF/WECARD and their partners in stands offered by CORAF/WECARD.

- General Assembly

The **28 and 29 of May 2010** will be devoted to the General Assembly which will examine the first two years of implementation of the 2008-2013 Operational Plan. It will examine and adopt the financial statement for 2008 and 2009, as well as the documents on governance.

The General Assembly will, during these sessions, elect new members of the Governing Board in accordance with the Statutes.

Additional information

The third announcement which will be sent to you in the coming weeks will provide all the details on logistic issues (hotels, cost...).

For any further information, please contact the Executive Secretariat of CORAF/WECARD: secoraf@coraf.org or anatole.kone@coraf.org

Register now at www.coraf.org to participate in the 2nd Science Week and the 9th GA scheduled to take place in Cotonou, Benin from 24 to 29 May 2010.

