

## «Improved management of other shared resources» theme

Upon the invitation of the Sahel and West Africa Club, (SWAC), CORAF/ WECARD participated in the launching workshop for the formulation process of the sub-programme improved management of other shared resources » theme held from 19th through 20th March 2009 in Bamako.

This workshop, which was in line with the Regional Programme for Agricultural Investment (PRIA), focused on the general information and discussions related to the PRIA process.

After two days of reflection, the twenty-four participants were well informed of the PRIA process' operation and they also discussed on the methodological aspects before making suggestions to the team of consultants who were to conduct the study on this sub-programme. □

## Scientists instructed in Scientific and Technical Information Systems (SIST)

A training on the Scientific and Technical Information Systems initiated by the Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) targeted at scientists and information officers was held from 2nd through 10th March at the Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar.

The aim of the training was to enable the participants learn the SIST and

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## Change Management: NARS' Managers at School

More than thirty Directors General, Scientific Directors and Managers of Agricultural NGOs, Private Sector Organizations, and Universities of the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in West and Central Africa have been assembled by the Executive Secretariat of CORAF/WECARD to participate in a sub-regional awareness workshop on Change management.

The workshop aimed at strengthening the capacities of those managers in the area of change and change management in the context of the CORAF/WECARD new strategic focus and to provide them with a clear understanding of the required changes in CORAF/WECARD operations.

From 29th to 30th April, in Saly Portudal, the trainers, John Sutherland and Harry Machin from the IDLgroup consulting firm in England recalled the main lines of the 2008 – 2013 Operational Plan before outlining the mechanisms of Change management.

What is Change management? Why, when and how to conduct Change management? And above all, how to manage resistance and adherence to change? These, among others, are the various questions that trainers and participants answered during this workshop, and which is in line with the implementation of plans for Change management activities as identified in the Operational Plan.

Through group work, the participants proposed new activities that would be useful for the delivery of the 3 results identified in the logical framework of Institutional Change plan that are as follows: (i) a programme based on the Integrated Agricultural Research for Development Paradigm (IA4RD) is set up for agricultural research in the subregion ; (ii) the capacities of stakeholders in the sub-region is strengthened sufficiently to work in an IAR4D research paradigm ; effective sub-regional partnerships that support and encourage IA4RD are established and operational. Following the training of managers from 14 NARS in the sub-region, the staff of the Executive Secretariat and the trustees of CORAF/WECARD are going to be trained on Change management. □



Trainees and trainers all committed to achieve Change management in CORAF/WECARD and NARS.

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familiarize themselves to get familiar with their use. The SIST are in fact a tool that facilitates the organization of scientific and technical research results. They are used to establish exchange deliver and disseminate scientific information.

CORAF/WECARD, through its computer specialist's participation in this training, succeeded in acquiring knowledge that will enable it develop its SIST platform to centralize the results of agricultural research in West and Central Africa. □

### 4th meeting of CAADP's partnership platform

The stakeholders and beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) met from 26th through 27th March in Pretoria.

They reviewed CAADP's execution reports in every region and examined the new CAADP execution guide that has been recently developed.

They also examined CAADP level of implementation throughout the continent with a particular attention to the implementation of the Multidonor Trust Fund, which success varies depending on the region.

In conclusion, participants stressed that CAADP is operating rather well but without the involvement of policy makers.

A meeting for the 5th session was scheduled to take place in September 2009. □

### RAILS: An Electronic Platform Set-up

eRAILS is the new information electronic exchange platform set up in the framework of the Regional Agricultural Information and Learning System (RAILS). The structuring and operation of the tool were discussed

and approved from 4th through 10th April 2009 in Bonn, Germany.

RAILS managers in Subregional Organisations (SROs) and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) collaborated with the consultants, Marc Bernard and Henning Knipschild, from the Information Systems for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Rural Development (ISICAD) of the Federal Republic of Germany's Ministry of Agriculture.

The latter drafted a portal based on the terms of reference whose shape and contents were improved through the discussions. eRAILS is an electronic platform that enables agricultural stakeholders, at the level of producers, to publish information on the Internet that can be used by other stakeholders.

The final version of this tool will be available at the end of 2009. CORAF/WECARD information and communication manager represented the organisation at this meeting. □



*RAILS consultants and focal points discussed eRAILS structuring and contents a lot.*

### Launch of NASRO's activities

The Northern African Subregional Research Organisation (NASRO) that had been expected for a long time by the Northern African and the whole African scientific community has finally become a reality since 19th April 2009. Its activities were officially launched in Cairo.

This important ceremony was attended by the President of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Dr Denis Kyetere, and the other subregional organisations' delegates (CORAF/WECARD, ASARECA and SADC/FARN) and the heads of Northern African agricultural research organisations as well. The participants learnt from this meeting that NASRO is

headquartered in Libya, that its first President is Prof. Hadid from Egypt and first vice-president is Dr Habib Amamou from Tunisia and also that its first Executive Secretary is Dr Hamada from Sudan.

NASRO comprises 7 countries: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Sudan and Tunisia. □

### SCARDA: the global and learning strategies developed

The stakeholders of (SCARDA) Programme (Strengthening Capacity for Agricultural Research and Development in Africa) including delegates of the three subregional research organisations, FARA and the Natural

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Resources Institute (NRI) met from 27th through 30th April in Accra in order to discuss and draft the Programme's global and learning strategies. Through six expert groups on change management, gender and diversity, tutoring and mentoring, communication, monitoring and evaluation, learning and the commitment of the programme's implementing entities, the participants proposed a new logical framework with indicators that can objectively be controlled and measured, and among others, an action plan for the domains on which the experts had reflected. CORAF/WECARD was represented by a delegation led by Dr Samba LY, the SCARDA coordinator in the organisation. □

### Monitoring and Evaluation: managers of agricultural research trained

After their training on the action plans, the capacity of the managers of agricultural research in monitoring and evaluation was strengthened from 30th to 2nd April 2009 in Bamako through further training.

The SCARDA, being a project that aims at strengthening capacity for the achievement of institutional change and innovation, requires a comprehensive framework and plans for monitoring and evaluation.

For the two days, the participants learned the frameworks and plans for report drafting, the SCARDA programme's performance monitoring scheme and the steps required to make sure that the performance and learning monitoring plans are really operating. □

### ICRAF: 49th Session of the Governing Board in Nairobi

The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)'s trustees met for the 49th session of their Governing Board from

4th through 9th April, 2009 in Nairobi in order to assess the Centre's activities and to make some propositions that may contribute to achieving the organisation's objectives and mission.

Dr Paco Sérémé, the Executive Director of CORAF/WECARD, who is also among ICRAF's trustees, welcomed the activities performed in the field and asked for an intensification of ICRAF's actions in the various countries. It's worth underlining that ICRAF is a centre of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). It supports more than 20 African, Asian and American countries. Its mission consists in producing scientific knowledge on the role played by trees in agriculture and on the use of knowledge in agricultural development policies. □

## ECHO FROM NARS

### PRIA: the Report by the Theme 2 Group Approved.

CORAF/WECARD and the International Center for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development, coleaders of the theme 2 group on « the sustainable development of agricultural lands » convened a validation workshop of the regional synthesis' final report from 20th to 21th April 2009 in Lomé, Togo.

This meeting served as an opportunity for participants to contribute to and amend the provisional regional report on the formulation of the theme 2. However, prior to the approval of the document, the participants analyzed the regional policies and strategies that had been proposed, the programmes and the projects described by the consultants and the proposed monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

Recommendations on the various amendments were made to the

consultants for consideration in the finalization of the report to be sent to ECOWAS. □

### 2009 agricultural campaign in Cameroon: IRAD offers maize seeds

The Cameroon Agricultural Research Institute for Development (IRAD) recently donated more than 30 tons of improved maize seeds to the Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry in support of this year's agro-sylvo-pastoral campaign.

The Scientific research and Innovation Minister, Mrs Madeleine Tchuinte, got personally involved in the distribution that will facilitate the supply of quality seeds to seed providers for further multiplication. This will support producers in Cameroon and the Central African sub-region who really need this vital input to achieve competitive farming. □

### PRIA: Launch of theme 6

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Network of Peasant organisations and Producers in West Africa (ROPPA) launched theme 6 on institutional strengthening for the implementation of the Regional Programme for Agricultural Investment (PRIA) from the 10th to 11th April, 2009 in Dakar.

The 30 participants coming from ECOWAS countries, the ROPPA and the delegates of the other themes' leaders planned and launched the studies of the theme 6 after they had reviewed and approved the terms of reference proposed by the consultants for the study.

The discussions focused on the action plan for the theme direction and coordination, the funding mechanism, the implementation of a monitoring and evaluation workplan, a mechanism for an agricultural information system and

the implementation of an operational plan for capacity strengthening.□

## PSAOP 2: Monitoring and evaluation experts meet

The Agricultural Services and Producers Organisations Support Programme, in its phase 2 (PSAOP 2), organized a capacity strengthening workshop aimed at monitoring and evaluation experts from 17th through 19th April, 2009 in Saly Portudal.

The participants coming from the agricultural research and development sectors and partnering organizations discussed the monitoring methods and the means for the monitoring and evaluation systems, for the impact study of PSAOP 2 and of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP).

The workshop favoured the production of new tools for better assessment of the projects' activities, of the required means for the improvement of the information system of PSAOP 2's stakeholders and the approval of

the 2009 programme of activities and budget.

This meeting enabled CORAF/WECARD to enhance its monitoring and evaluation capacities and above all to assess the impact of the WAAPP's first activities.□

## ECHO FROM HEADQUARTERS

### The Multi-donor trust Fund: a World Bank Mission at the Association's Headquarters

In the framework of the implementation of a multi-donor trust fund that should serve to finance the CORAF/WECARD 2008 – 2013 Operational Plan, a World Bank Consultant visited CORAF/WECARD headquarters from April 2nd to 7th to discuss with the Executive Director and his colleagues in order to examine the contents of this Plan and to review some activities that should lead to the implementation of the fund.

Dr Paco Sérémé introduced CORAF/WECARD and the changes that have been taking place since the effectiveness of the 2007 – 2016 Strategic Plan. He also recalled the activities planned for the implementation of the fund and highlighted steps that have been initiated so far by CORAF/WECARD. They include the clearance of the PARAO project and the implementation of the Institutional Change Plan.

The Consultant expressed goodwill on the ongoing changes in CORAF/WECARD and made some amendments to the contents of the appraisal document of the fund according to World Bank's new procedures.

During his visit, the Consultant and CORAF/WECARD team met with the European Commission Delegation, and the World Bank office in Dakar in order to assess the preparation of the multi-donor trust Fund.□

## MAEE-CORAF/WECARD: France always alongside the Association

After Brussels, CORAF/WECARD's delegation met with the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE), the Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESR) as well as agricultural research and development organizations gathered into the Commission for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) on 10th March, 2009.

The clearance of the West African agricultural research support Programme (PARAO) commitments by CORAF/WECARD in December 2008, the organisation's operation in the framework of its Strategic and Operational Plans and the presentations of PRASAC and CARPAB were the focus of discussions.

The MAEE managers reaffirmed their support to CORAF/WECARD through the funding of research studies conducted in the framework of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).□

## AGENDA

**4th – 6th May 2009, Dakar.** Working session of an AusAid delegation at CORAF/WECARD headquarters for the finalization of a partnership agreement between the two organisations.

**5th – 6th May 2009, Dakar.** CORAF/WECARD was invited to the discussions on the managing mechanisms of the rural Hub.

**9th – 15th May, 2009, Accra.** CORAF/WECARD was invited to participate in the assessment meeting of the DONATA and RAILS programmes' activities.

**21st–23rd May 2009, Abuja.** Orientation session on institutional change aimed at trustees.

**25th – 27th May 2009, Abuja.** First 2009 session of the Governing Board.□



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