CORAF STC Member Honored

A senior scientist at the CGIAR Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) program and member of the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) of CORAF, Dr. Robert Zougmoré has been honored with the prestigious Derek Tribe Award. Dr. Zougmoré is due to receive his medal at an event in the Australian city of Queensland on Thursday, September 05, 2019.

Instituted in 2001, the Derek Tribe Award promotes international agricultural research. It is awarded biennially to a citizen of a developing country in recognition of their distinguished contributions to the application of research in agriculture or natural resource management in a developing country or countries.

“Dr. Robert Zougmoré has been at the forefront of science-policy engagement on the complex challenges facing agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa,” reads a statement announcing the event during which Dr. Zougmoré will also speak about the challenges and opportunities of building climate-resilient agriculture and food systems in sub-Saharan Africa.

“His work has included leadership of cross-CGIAR teams, deep engagement with national partners, establishing science-policy forums and private-sector linkages in multiple countries, capacity enhancement and forging links with key African institutions.”

As a member of the CORAF STC, Dr. Zougmoré brings his decades of experience towards advancing quality work in the area of climate change.

“Representing CCAFS Robert was a key member of the CORAF-IFPRI-CCAFS tripartite collaboration that led to the publication West African Agriculture and Climate Change that continues to inform key policies that are shaping the agricultural ecosystem in West Africa and contributing to the resilience of the people and farming systems in the region. CORAF and all its constituents couldn’t be prouder of this outstanding recognition. Our congratulations to Dr. Zougmoré,” says Dr. Abdulai Jalloh, Director of Research and Innovation at CORAF.

“Climate change poses a significant challenge to the food systems of West and Central Africa. Through science, innovation, and technology, we can substantially tackle some of these challenges. With this award, we have no doubt that it will further spur Dr. Zougmoré and also inspire other researchers to dig deeper for lasting scientific and technological solutions
to address this challenge for the benefit of our farmers,” added Dr. Jalloh who coordinates the activities of the STC in CORAF.

Building climate-resilient food systems in sub-Saharan Africa

Dr. Zougmoré will also give a talk on building climate-resilient food systems in Africa with a focus on the challenges and potential actionable solutions.

Below is an extract of the talk:

Climate change is a present and growing threat to food security and nutrition globally and is a particularly severe threat in Africa. Indeed, with 70 to 80% African smallholders whose livelihoods depend on agriculture and renewable natural resources (incl. forest products and services) for their income, employment, food and wellbeing, Africa’s food and agriculture sector is already mostly impacted by climate change.

It is estimated that the agriculture sectors (incl. crop, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry) absorb more than 26% of the total damage and loss from climate extreme events (this raises to > 80% for drought). It is, therefore, crucial to scale up action and investment into climate adaptation and mitigation at local, sub-national, national, regional levels and across sectors, especially for the agriculture and food systems in Africa. Also, as a follow up to the Paris agreement, the agriculture and land-use sectors are priorities in more than 85% of African countries’ NDCs.

Through integrating multiple goals and managing trade-offs in the context of climate change, climate-smart agriculture (CSA) addresses food and nutrition security issues at all levels. Concrete technologies, practices, tools, and approaches resulting from the last ten-year’ CCAFS program research in SSA have been instrumental to the uptake of CSA in Africa.