



# ON DIT quoi?

A newsletter from Africa Rice Center (WARDA)

## CGIAR Director Designate visits WARDA



Dr Ren Wang, IRRI Director of Research and CGIAR Director Designate led the IRRI delegation to WARDA to attend the CIAT-IRRI-WARDA Programmatic Alignment Planning Meeting, 27-29 June 2007, Cotonou, Benin.

The other members of the IRRI delegation were Drs Joseph Rickman, Noel P. Magor, Glenn Gregorio and Rachid Serraj. CIAT was represented by Drs Fernando Correa, Cesar Martinez and Mathias Lorieux.

WARDA, IRRI and CIAT representatives conveyed a message of goodwill and success from their respective Directors General to the programmatic alignment. "Through this partnership, the best of science and experience from Asia, Latin America and Africa will come together to address the big challenge of rice in Africa," stated Dr Seck in his message.

Invitees from IITA, IWMI, FAO, CGIAR Central Advisory Service on Intellectual Property, NGOs, NARS, universities and the private sector also

attended in addition to WARDA's participants.

Priority activities were planned under the joint research themes identified by the three Centers. The meeting proposed the setting up of a Sub-Saharan Africa Rice Consortium (SARC) as a platform for collective action by the CGIAR Centers and their partners to promote rice and rice research in the region.

At the end of the meeting, Dr Keya thanked Dr Wang for his enthusiastic support to the programmatic alignment. On behalf of WARDA he presented to Dr Wang a souvenir wishing him all the best in his new assignment. "May you continue to be a wonderful ambassador for rice research and development for the benefit of the poor," he said.

Receiving the souvenir, Dr Wang said that he was deeply touched by this gesture and that he would always cherish the warm wishes from WARDA.

## EPMR: Phase II

Africa Rice Center (WARDA)'s 5th External Program and Management Review (EPMR)

The Phase 2 of WARDA's Fifth EPMR is under way, 7-22 July. Prof. Eric Tollens, EPMR Panel Chair will present the recommendations from their evaluation to WARDA staff on 20 July.

### EPMR Panel

- Eric Tollens (Belgium)
- Brigitte Courtois (France)
- Zelia Menete (Mozambique)
- Pammi Sachdeva (USA)
- Toshihiro HASEGAWA (Japan)
- Mary NCUBE (Zambia)
- Manuel Lantin (CGIAR Secretariat)
- Beatriz Ávalos-Sartorio

- Panel Chair / Agricultural Economics
- Breeding and Genetics
- Agronomy/Soil and Water Management
- Governance and Management
- Rice Physiology Consultant
- Finance Consultant
- Resource person
- Panel Secretary



## Visitors to WARDA

Dr Wayne Patterson, Program Manager for Developing Countries, National Science Foundation (NSF), USA, visited WARDA, Cotonou, on 14 June to explore possible collaboration between NSF and WARDA.

Dr Chukichi Kaneda, Technical Advisor, Japan Association for International Collaboration of Agriculture & Fisheries (JAICAF) visited WARDA Cotonou on 14 June to discuss research activities with JIRCAS scientists. Dr Kaneda was the Director General of National Agriculture Research Center (NARC) from 1989 to 1991, and Professor of Kobe University from 1991 to 1996 in Japan.

## WARDA at FARA General Assembly

At the Fourth FARA General Assembly, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, 10-16 June 2007, Dr Papa Seck was invited by the FARA Executive Secretary Dr Monty Jones to give a brief presentation on his views about the FARA programs for turning Africa's agriculture around. Dr Seck has been recently appointed as the CGIAR Representative on the FARA Board.

In addition to the Director General, ROCARIZ Coordinator Drs Lawrence Narteh and Sylvester Oikeh attended the General Assembly in their capacity as WARDA Focal Points for the Regional Plan for Collective Action and Sub-Saharan Africa Challenge Program respectively.

WARDA's posters and publications were jointly exhibited with those of the other CGIAR Centers in the booth coordinated by the CGIAR Marketing Group.

## Events

Meetings, Seminars and Training Workshops at WARDA

- Seminar on "Geo Information Science at WARDA" by Marcel Meijjs, Cotonou, 6 June.
- Seminar on "Rice Seeds Systems in Ghana and Sierra Leone: Implications for Improvement and Agricultural Productivity" by Dr Margaret Kroma, Cotonou, 15 June
- ECARRN Regional Rice Production Course, Moshi, Tanzania, 18-28 June
- ECARRN Regional Steering Committee Meeting, Arusha, Tanzania, 29 June
- The Third Annual Meeting of the Africa Policy Research and Advocacy Group was held in Cotonou, 25-27 June. The meeting was attended by experts in rice economics and policy from Nigeria, Niger, Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali as well as representatives from the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), Oxfam, farmers' organizations and WARDA economists

## Did you know?

WARDA's poster "Key2Success--Diversity" won the Best Poster Award at the CGIAR Gender & Diversity (G&D) Meeting, held at ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India, 4-8 June.

The poster, which was designed by R Raman, was selected by Vicki Wilde, CGIAR G&D Program Leader because it captured through a powerful image the essence of G&D's mission in CGIAR.

About 40 participants from 14 CGIAR Centers participated in this meeting. WARDA was represented by Dr Ines Sanchez and Safiatou Yabre.



## Best prize for thesis

Congratulations to Alice Bonou, a trainee of WARDA, who received a prize from the Beninese Center for Scientific Research for her thesis on the impact of NERICA introduction on biodiversity in Benin. The study was conducted last year under the supervision of Dr Aliou Diagne.



# Radio Training Program

CTA in collaboration with Radio Netherlands and Wren Media organized a training program in Porto Novo, Benin on communication of agricultural information through rural radios, 18-22 June. Participants from nine West African countries attended. Felix Houinsou from IITA who assists WARDA in all Benin-related communication attended the program and served as one of its resource persons.

## My family!

### *Bravo WARDA/IITA Administration*



### ***On dit “Congratulations” to:***

Michiel de Vries and his wife for the birth of their son Stan Yero!

### ***New contact numbers***

for WARDA-Abidjan Office  
Telephone: (225) 20 22 01 10 / (225) 20 22 04 46  
Fax: (00 225) 20 22 01 33

### ***On dit “Condolences” to:***

Maimouna Ouattara on the death of her father

### ***African Proverb!***

A master drummer must have seven eyes!

### ***Working Together Well!***

Tips from Human Resource Unit



- The least important word - I
- The most important word - We
- The two most important words - Thank you
- The three most important words - All is forgiven
- The four most important words - What is your opinion?
- The five most important words - You did a good job
- The six most important words - I want to understand you better