

CORAF/WECARD – IARCs Consultation on Sub-regional Collaboration/Integration in West and Central Africa

Dakar, Senegal; 27 – 28 January, 2001

Background of the meeting

In recent years changes in the external environment have substantially affected agricultural research globally at all levels. These changes have led to a wide range of discussions on the future of the CGIAR and the way in which the International Agricultural Research Centers are operating and can better serve the needs and priorities of the NARS.

In Africa, considerable SRO/CG dialogue occurred during Meetings of Minds I & II, held in Nairobi (10-11 May 1999) and Abidjan (1-3 September 1999) respectively, during which a framework for a CGIAR Strategy for SSA was developed based on the SPAAR/FARA Vision. There is a perceived need among the NARS for the CG centers to improve their joint functioning and integration, as well as coordination with their principal partners working in each region. These meetings have significantly contributed to the progress made so far in WCA.

In the WCA sub-region, meanwhile, internal institutional development has created conducive conditions for more effective integration:

- At the national level, NARS have evolved substantially and are becoming better organized and more effective.
- CORAF/WECARD, the sub-regional research coordinating body, has evolved, has finalized its Strategic Plan, and is now functioning effectively.

In light of the above, ICRISAT, IITA and WARDA, the three major IARCs operating in WCA have been exploring ways and means of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of inter-center collaboration. The CG integration process so far is seeking to achieve an integrated CGIAR research agenda and shared institutional support services with enhanced efficiency and improved effectiveness in contributing towards reducing poverty in West and Central Africa. The guiding principles behind these initiatives are the optimisation of the international research process through capitalization of comparative advantages, integration of research programs and support services; harmonization of policies and governance structures; and consolidation of partnerships with NARS. It is the intention that other centers will join in the WCA program once the plans have evolved adequately.

Substantial milestones have since been achieved among these three CG centers:

- Aide Memoire between ICRISAT, IITA and WARDA
- Database on center activities in WCA
- Identification of areas of joint interest for programmatic and administrative collaboration/integration

The present meeting is the outcome of a request by the three major CG centers operating in the WCA sub-region to meet with the CORAF/WECARD Executive Committee to discuss the integration process. TAC, INSAH, and ISNAR were invited participated as observers and contributed fully to the discussions.

Objectives of the meeting

The specific objectives of the meeting were to share with CORAF/WECARD the process of regional integration that has begun among the major CG centers operating in the region, and give CORAF/WECARD an opportunity to provide feedback and make input into future developments so that CORAF/WECARD can take joint ownership of the process.

The wider objective of the meeting was for the CG DGs and the CORAF/WECARD Executive Committee to discuss ways to improve the efficiency with which the various partners carry out research jointly in the sub-region. This meeting was the first formal consultative meeting between CG DGs and the CORAF/WECARD Executive Committee to discuss issues of mutual sub-regional interest.

Process of the meeting

Presentations were made by the CORAF/WECARD, CG Centers operating in WCA, TAC, and INSAH. The presentation by the CG Centers highlighted progress already made and identified potential areas of research and administrative integration. The presentation of TAC showed the importance of poverty analysis in the process. That of INSAH highlighted the need for the CG Centers to respond to the needs and priorities outlined in the CORAF/WECARD Strategic Plan, and in particular the agroecological approaches proposed therein.

Salient points arising from the meeting

Several issues were highlighted for consideration in carrying the process forward. These include :

1. Coordinating mechanisms/tools

CORAF/WECARD is recognized as the coordinating body for agricultural research in the sub-region. It has effective coordinating mechanisms/tools to carry out more integrated activities with the CG centers, including networks, poles, etc. These mechanisms/tools are evolving, and can contribute to the integration process.

2. Partnership

The NARS are the key partners of the CG centers. The partners active in the region are evolving in terms of their capacity for effective partnerships. The integration process is expected to strengthen the NARS capacity to be effective partners and also to help evolve new modes of partnership. The individual NARS should be strengthened and fully integrated into this process.

3. Regional Priority Setting

CORAF/WECARD has recently completed its Strategic Plan which involved an extensive priority setting exercise with broad consultation of all stakeholders in WCA. The meeting agreed that the process of regional priority setting in WCA is already in train. ICRISAT, IITA and WARDA are in the process of developing their 2001 –2010 Strategic Plans and will base their priority setting exercise on the CORAF established

research priorities. Research areas of joint interest as presented by the three CG Centers should be broadened to include livestock, agroforestry, and fisheries, etc., to respond to the needs and priorities of CORAF/WECARD as defined in its strategic plan.

4. Integration process

The meeting recognized the need for CG Centers to improve coordination amongst themselves and with CORAF/WECARD. All CG Centers operating in the sub-region should be brought into the integration process, which should eventually include other relevant international institutions operating in the region.

The integration process between the CG Centers and CORAF/WECARD should initially focus on integration of activities with the NARIs. It should also include INSAH and other sub-regional institutions such as ITC, CIRDES, etc.

5. Monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment

There is a need for a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating joint activities, and their impact, and this should be jointly developed. The Scientific and Technical Committee of CORAF/WECARD could play a role in this respect.

Issues that remain to be addressed

The meeting recognized that there are issues remaining to be resolved as the process progresses:

1. Clear definition of the roles of all the partners, and the beneficiaries they serve so that the perspectives of these clients can be included in the integration process.
2. The steps to be taken to further the process of integration in the sub-region.
3. Analysis of capacity building needs in the region. Adequate analysis has to be carried out to delineate the areas requiring further strengthening.
4. Identification of sustainable resource mobilization for collaborative research programs at the national and regional levels. One part of a sustainable resource mobilization program is to sensitise policy makers to support national and regional agricultural research activities.
5. Reconciliation of an ecoregional approach with the regional approach in joint CORAF/WECARD/CG planning.
6. Integration of the process in WCA with the wider CG restructuring process.
7. Inclusion of FARA in the integration process since the sub-regional process is an input into that of the Africa region. The meeting also agreed for the need for GFAR to be kept informed of this process.

General conclusions

There was general agreement on the steps taken so far, and recommendations on how to improve and broaden the process as it is carried forward. The three centers are encouraged to carry forward the process, to bring in the other CG centers operating in the sub-region, and to report regularly to CORAF/WECARD.

The meeting agreed that CORAF/WECARD and the CG centers operating in the region agree to jointly carry forward the regional integration process. It is noted that other partners will join in due course.

Next steps

The working document prepared by the three major CG centers operating in the region will be revised based on the input from this meeting. This revised document will then be submitted to a meeting of stakeholders in Africa to be held in Nairobi from 18-20 March 2001 and later presented to the SPAAR/FARA annual plenary in April 2001 at Addis Ababa. An updated and integrated document for the SSA region will be submitted to the CGIAR for review at the 2001 Mid Term Meeting. Over the following months consultations will continue between the staff of all the CG centers operating in the sub-region to move forward the integration process on the basis of the proposals so far articulated. The final document will be presented to the CORAF/WECARD annual plenary in July 2001.

All the parties involved in the meeting agreed to maintain and strengthen the spirit of open, congenial, and productive dialogue that pervaded the discussions.

List of participants

Adama Traoré

Président CORAF/WECARD
Tél : 223 22 71 65
Email : adama.traore@coraf.org
atraore@spider.toolnet.org

Lukas Brader

Director General
IITA
Tel: 234 2 241 26 26
Email: L.Brader@cgiar.org

Dady Demby

Responsable Information Communication
CORAF/WECARD
BP 8237, Dakar-Yoff
Sénégal
Tél : 221 825 96 18
Fax : 221 825 55 69
Email : dady.demby@coraf.org
Sénégal ;

Francis Idachaba

ISNAR
Tel : (234-2) 241 2626 ext 2757
Fax: (234-2) 241 2221
Email: f.idachaba@cgiar.org

Shelleemiah O. Keya

Executive Secretary
TAC
Tél: 39 06 57 05 24 58
Fax: 39 06 57 05 32 98
Email : Shelleemiah.keya@fao.org

José G. Levy

Président INIDA
Vice Président Comité exécutif CORAF/WECARD
Tél : 238 71 11 47
Fax : 238 71 11 33
Email : jose.levy@coraf.org
Cape Verde

Ndiaga Mbaye

Secrétaire exécutif
CORAF/WECARD
BP 8237, Dakar-Yoff
Sénégal
Tél : 221 825 96 18
Fax : 221 825 55 69
Email : ndiaga.mbaye@coraf.org

Omar Niangado

TAC Member
B.P.E 1449, Bamako, Mali
Tél: 223 77 32 31
Email: niangado@datatech.toolnet.org

Marcel Nwalozie

Coordonnateur scientifique
CORAF/WECARD
BP 8237, Dakar-Yoff
Sénégal
Tél : 221 825 96 18
Fax : 221 825 55 69
Email : marcel.nwalozie@coraf.org
Sénégal ;

Kanayo F. Nwanze

Directeur général
WARDA/ADRAO
Chair, CDC-CSSA
Tél: 225 31 63 45 14
Fax 225 31 63 47 14
Email: k.nwanze@cgiar.org

Oloko Olatunde

Director
NARS/S
Tél: 234 9 314 4141
Fax: 234 9 314 4142
Email: fmaasd@skannet.com
Nigeria

Pape Abdoulaye Seck

Directeur général
ISRA
Tél : 221 832 24 20
Portable : 644 36 35
Fax : 221 832 24 27
Email : paseck@isra.sn

Paco Séremé

Directeur INERA
Tel : 226 34 02 70
Fax : 226 34 02 71
Email : p.sereme@fasonet.bf
Burkina Faso ;

Barry I. Shapiro

Director NRMP ICRISAT
Tél: 223 22 33 75/23 02 21
Fax: 223 22 86 83
Email: b.Shapiro@cgiar.org

Gaoussou Traoré

Institut du Sahel
Tél : 223 23 40 67 / 22 21 48
Fax : 223 22 59 80
Email : gaoussou@agrosoc.insah.ml
idriss@agrosoc.insah.ml

WECARD/CORAF –WCA IARCs CONSULTATION

Dakar: January 27 - 28, 2001

TOWARDS AN AGRICULTURE RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Agenda

Saturday 27 Jan, 2001

09H00 **Opening** : Welcome address by Adama Traoré, Chairman of WECARD

Opening remarks by Kanayo F. Nwanze, Director General of WARDA, Chairman,
CDC-SSA sub-Committee.

Objectives of the meeting - Kanayo F. Nwanze

Status of WECARD/CORAF Strategy and Action Plan – Ndiaga Mbaye/Marcel
Nwalozie

10H30 **Coffee break**

11H00 Status of CGIAR Vision, Strategy and Structure in WCA - Lukas Brader

- Inventory
- Planning
- Programmatic Integration
- Contributions of Observers: TAC, INSAH

12H30 **Lunch**

14H00 **General discussion**

Identification of Thematic issues

Towards an Integrated CORAF/CGIAR Research Agenda strategy for WCA

Expected Outputs

- Convergence of CGIAR activities and CORAF Strategy
- Identification of common research agenda

Sunday 28 Jan, 2001

09H00 Working Group Report and Discussion

11H00 Adoption of Report and Next Steps

13H00 **Lunch**

15H00 **Closing**