

**Year of CfP: 2007 07036**

**Project title:** Learning, Producing and Sharing Workshop (*Apprentissage, Production et Partage d'Innovations (Atelier APPRI)*): what tools can be used to strengthen capacity, accompanying measures, collective construction and the sustainable implementation of innovations in dry rural zones in Africa?

**Unit managing the project:** AIVA (Agroecological Adaptation and Varietal Innovation)

**Project leader:** Danièle Clavel (clavel(a)cirad.fr)

**Countries involved in the project:** Burkina Faso, Senegal, Brazil

**Subthematic axes:** IPB-1 (Integrative Plant Biology 1: *Genetics and genomics, plant breeding, ecophysiology*), STDI-1 (Socio-Technical Dynamics of Innovation 1: *Agri-environmental innovations, agri-ecosystems, resources management*), STDI-3 (Socio-Technical Dynamics of Innovation 3: *Innovation processes, social management of innovations*)

**Objectives:**

The FAO 2006 annual report highlights the fact that sub-Saharan Africa pays the heaviest tribute to hunger. The number of poorly fed people had increased from 169 to 206 million in 10 years, with a concentration of hunger in rural zones with the stagnation of farming and especially food crops. The classification arid to dry sub-humid applies to 45% of the area of Africa. The region is particularly strongly affected by climate changes and recurrent drought. In spite of these difficult conditions, the small farms that form more than 90% of holdings are still the pivot of the economies of most African countries as they provide nearly 60% of jobs and GNP.

We propose to organise a colloquy to consider the conditions and actions that would improve the pertinence and impact of agricultural innovations in the context of the sustainability of the kinds of small farming observed in Africa. The colloquy will be held in French-speaking Sahelian Africa and will be aimed at identifying the need for research and the subjects to be addressed by research in multi-stakeholder participation.

The main expected results are:

- better stakeholder awareness of participatory approaches for the improvement of the results of African agriculture in dry zones;
- thanks to contacts with the farming universities in the Nordeste in Brazil, building a conceptual framework for a multi-stakeholder discussion able to formulate, design, monitor and evaluate agricultural projects in these zones.

**Total Agropolis Fondation funding:** 40 000 € (communication costs, travel expenses, accommodation costs, conference room rental fee)

**Funding categorie(s):** Agropolis Fondation small grants (support for the organisation of high-level scientific events (conferences, seminars))

**Project duration:** January 2 2008 – December 31 2008

**Keywords:** dry lands – arid lands – conference – climate changes