

Year of CFP: 2009

Project No 0900-004 Completed

<p>Project title: The future of Agricultural Research for Development: A rendez-vous for young researchers from the South and the North</p>
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Unit managing the project: French Initiative for International Agricultural Research (FI4IAR: a Joint venture of INRA and CIRAD) - IFRAI

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Countries involved in the project: CGIAR centres, Africa, North America, South America, Europe and Asia, Young Professionals' Platform for Agricultural Research (YPARD)

Sub-thematic axes: IPB-2 (Integrative Plant Biology 2: *Plant pests and diseases, integrated crop protection, population ecology*); STDI-1 (Socio-Technical Dynamics of Innovation 1: *Agri-environmental innovations, agri-ecosystems, resources management*); STDI-2 (Socio-Technical Dynamics of Innovation 2: *Agri-food innovations, food and non-food use of plant crops*); STDI-3 (Socio-Technical Dynamics of Innovation 3: *Innovation processes, social management of innovations*)

Objectives:

This seminar targets young doctoral and post doctoral fellows. Its objectives are to provide an opportunity for young researchers from the North and the South to exchange on their research projects; to raise awareness about the stakes for agricultural research in the different regions of the world; to heighten understanding among the researchers of the North regarding the problems of the South; to identify synergies and complementarities together; and to build linkages. The overarching theme of the event is "innovation and integration".

The event will gather some 40 young researchers who will reflect on how innovation and integration are factored into their respective research work, what are the obstacles faced, what are the institutional and organizational prerequisites, etc.

Senior discussants, from different parts of the world, will also be involved during the seminar. They will provide their expert's opinion in terms of the innovative dimension of the research projects as well as linkages and cross-cutting issues between these projects. Some young professionals from the agricultural development sector will also be invited to express their point of view on the outputs of these research projects based on their personal experiences.

Follow-up events are envisioned to be organized where some previous participants will be invited to take part again over the course of the years. By then, the same young researcher at a different stage of his/her career would have interesting insights to share with new participants. Such is expected to contribute to building a dynamic community of young researchers from different parts of the world interacting with each other and jointly producing and sharing knowledge on important issues related to agricultural research.

Action carried-out and results obtained:

This Round Table brought together senior agricultural and rural development Ministry and development agency officials and specialists from northern and southern Mediterranean countries and international organisations. The experts discussed global and national policies that foster innovation for sustainable development in agriculture and food in the Mediterranean Region. Panelists drew on practical experience and lessons from successful cases from the OECD, Egypt, France and Morocco, and address the following three questions. First, what are the main drivers and spaces of agricultural and rural innovation for sustainable development at the national, regional and global levels? Second, what institutions have been successful in mediating and

promoting learning and innovation and what support do they need? Third, what governance frameworks are required to allocate resources and manage complexity effectively for innovation (e.g. participatory learning approaches, public policies, financing, and assessing impact)? The panel session concluded with some practical implications for better linking research and policy making processes and actors to foster innovation.

Prospects for the future:

The results of the round table were posted on the site of the « Global Donor Platform for Rural Development », were sent out through the AARINENA network and will be published as a book chapter within a book on ISDA which will be published by Quae-Wageningen Publishers and CTA in French and English.

We also hope that these reflexions will be carried on within the ArimNet, the Aarinena network, or at a next edition of the ISDA symposium.

Total Agropolis Fondation funding: € 60,000

Funding category(ies): Agropolis Foundation Small Grants to sponsor and support the organization of an international seminar on agricultural research for development for the future involving young researchers from the North and the South

Project duration: 15 July 2009 - 30 June 2010

Keywords: innovation, integration, young researchers, young professionals