



## Regional Collective Action wraps up

*After four years, the Regional Collective Action Programme has come to an end. In this final issue of Collective Action News, we report on how Regional Collective Action activities have supported the work of the Consortium and the CRPs.*

The Regional Collective Action Programme has been described by Carlos Seré, Director General of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), which has hosted the Programme since its inception in 2007, as 'a bold experiment that achieved considerable success in promoting collaborative action in eastern and southern Africa that has now been overtaken by the process of CGIAR reform'. Many of the activities started under the Programme have now been incorporated into the CGIAR Consortium and the CGIAR Research Programmes (CRPs).

A key output of the Programme has been the CGIAR Ongoing Research Map. The Map makes CGIAR research information publicly accessible, facilitating information sharing and promoting partnership opportunities. The Research Map is now maintained and managed by the various focal persons in most of the CGIAR Centres who work closely with scientists and take a leading role in ensuring that projects within their Centres are up-to-date. Future administration of the Map will be subject to the outcome of a proposal presented to the Consortium Office to take it up as part of the system wide initiatives. The Research Map, which now has over 530 projects, can be accessed from the home page of the CGIAR Consortium website.

The four Flagship research programmes have been incorporated into various CRPs: Flagship Programmes 1 (Integrated natural resource management) and 2 (Policies, institutions and information for achieving impact at scale) have become part of CRP5 (Durable solutions for water scarcity and land degradation) and CRP2 (Policies, institutions, and markets to strengthen assets and agricultural incomes for the poor). Some aspects of Flagship Programme 4 (Improving impact of emergency response on agricultural livelihoods in highly stressed and unstable systems) have been incorporated into CRP7 (Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, CCAFS). Flagship 3 (Conservation and enhancement of agricultural biodiversity for improved agricultural production) held two regional workshops on food-feed crops in Nairobi and Bulawayo in February and March 2011 to further understand and evaluate the potential, challenges and opportunities of crop residues to address food and fodder challenges in eastern and southern Africa. Participants included representatives from ILRI, ICRISAT, CIMMYT and CIP, as well as private sector, national and regional partners. A full proposal around this issue is now being drafted which will link into the CRPs on grains, roots and tubers, and livestock. Further details of all the CRPs can be found [here](#).

The Regional Collective Action Programme also recently supported a detailed review of inter-Centre CGIAR capacity development. A desk study, an e-consultation and two regional workshops held in Nairobi and Maputo in April, 2011, were coordinated by ILRI in collaboration with other CGIAR Centres as well as various other international, regional and national institutions with an interest in capacity development. The review found that, despite various past inter-Centre capacity development projects and numerous discussions over the years highlighting the need for enhanced collaboration, there has been limited action or follow-up. Those consulted by the review were critical of the proposed 'dedicated informal network' approach to collective capacity development as outlined in the CGIAR Strategy and Results Framework (SRF). Instead, it has been suggested that a more formal mechanism such as a special unit or platform should be established to serve as a think-tank on CGIAR capacity development and collaboration to add value to all Centres and CRPs. The review recommended that a scoping study on the subject should be undertaken by a high level capacity development specialist in close collaboration with the capacity development staff of the CGIAR Centres and the CRP Leaders. If you need further information or details about this project, please contact Dr. Purvi Mehta (P.mehta@cgiar.org) head of capacity development, ILRI and Jan Beniast (jan.beniast@gmail.com).

## Newsbytes

### Priority Actions for Market Development

The proceedings of the 2009 AGRA/ILRI conference on market development for African farmers (see [Collective Action News No 21](#)) will soon be available. The book, *Towards Priority Actions for Market Development for African Farmers*, is a collection of practitioner evidence, research, and discussions presented at the conference. It addresses a wide range of topics regarding what is working and what is not working to leverage the untapped capacity of agriculture markets in Africa to increase food security and incomes. The book identifies specific interventions, initiatives and innovations that can improve agriculture markets in Africa to the mutual benefit of both producers and consumers. Available next month on the [AGRA website](#).

### Mapping Hotspots of Climate Change

A new study by the CGIAR Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) has matched future climate change "hotspots" with regions already suffering chronic food problems to identify highly-vulnerable populations in Africa and South Asia. The report, "Mapping Hotspots of Climate Change and Food Insecurity in the Global Tropics", pinpoints areas of intense vulnerability by examining a variety of climate models and indicators of food problems to create a series of detailed maps.

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