

**CIAT is a living and adaptive organization of excellence that contributes to capacity strengthening, stimulates learning, and shares knowledge in agricultural and related sciences.**

Training and related efforts to strengthen institutional capacity are fundamental for achieving more effective use of knowledge in research for development. Over the past 40 years more than 12,000 professionals from Latin America, Africa, and Asia have benefited from training at CIAT, whether through specialized courses, group events, individualized training, or thesis work. In 2010 this was the case for more than 1,100 professionals (almost 400 in Colombia, 240 in Africa, 280 in Asia, and 230 in Central America).

CIAT offers several capacity strengthening modalities at both undergraduate and graduate levels:

- Group events combine conferences, training courses, laboratory practices, and fieldwork. They also include distance-learning courses.
- Individualized training, practices, internships, and thesis work towards postgraduate degrees.

## Beneficiaries



We offer training opportunities to the technical and scientific personnel of a broad range of local, national, and international institutions, whether public, private, or mixed. CIAT also

welcomes personnel from development and nongovernmental organizations, preferably those involved in agriculture-related areas. Special preference is given to those who work in the areas of research carried out by CIAT and other CGIAR Centers.

## Learning together



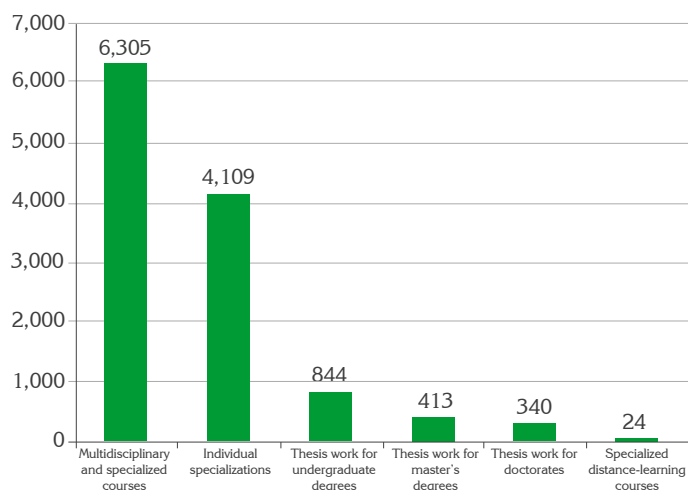
CIAT is one of various CGIAR centers which originated and promoted participatory research and learning approaches. Participatory principles and methodologies now play key roles

in agricultural partnerships for innovation and for strengthening the capacities of farmers, researchers, and stakeholders.

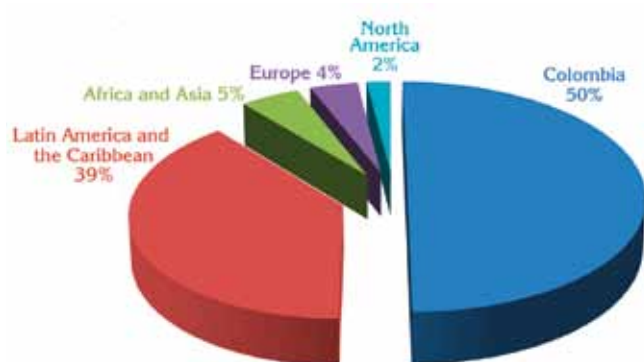
Examples of CIAT and partner initiatives are:

- The *Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance* (PABRA). Through its thematic working groups, PABRA ensures that the Alliance responds to demands, and that quality is maintained in development and in the delivery of outputs from research and development. The working group themes are seed systems, nutrition, bean breeding, integrated crop management, markets, and monitoring and evaluation.
- *Learning Alliances in Central America and Africa*. These alliances involve international, regional, and national research organizations; donors and development agencies; policymakers, and private business. They seek to identify, share, and adapt good practices in research and development in specific contexts. The practices thus become more widely applied, with increased benefits to society, despite differing geographical and cultural contexts.

(A)



(B)



**Figure 1.** Professionals trained at CIAT headquarters during 1967–2010 and totaling 12,035. Data are broken down according to type of training received (A) and region of origin (B).

- *Soil research networks*: The TSBF–CIAT established the African Network for Soil Biology and Fertility (AfNet) in 1988 to exploit the advantages of networking. The goal was to build the capacity of African institutions to conduct interdisciplinary and integrated soil fertility management (ISFM) research at regional and international levels. AfNet is adopting participatory and gender perspectives in research, technology testing, and adaptation; and conducts process research.
- *Thematic capacity strengthening platforms for Latin America and the Caribbean*. The initiative's objective is to respond to demands through alliances that strengthen our strategic partners. Current themes that have been addressed include Seed Systems, Participatory Research, and Climate Change.

## Research opportunities



CIAT welcomes and hosts capacity strengthening initiatives in its three major research areas, which are:

- *Agrobiodiversity*, which involves crop research in beans, forages, cassava, rice, and tropical fruits. The area also includes one of the world's largest genebanks.
- *Climate Change and Capacity Strengthening* has three areas of research: (1) adjustment to global changes in climate and helping decision-makers weigh the pros and cons of different policies; (2) knowledge management, participatory monitoring and evaluation, and capacity strengthening interventions; and (3) gender participatory research and participatory plant breeding.
- *Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility* falls into two programs: (1) *Integrated Soil Fertility Management*, which emphasizes nutrient management for enhanced agronomic efficiency and production at the plot and farm scale; and (2) *Sustainable Land Management*, which looks at the management of soil biological resources at the landscape scale.

## How to become a visiting researcher at CIAT headquarters

If you, or your institution, would like to participate in a training modality offered by CIAT, please consult our blog at <http://ciatcapacity.cgiar.org/en/category/capacity>, or contact:

**CIAT headquarters:** Eleonora Izquierdo

([ciat-capacity@cgiar.org](mailto:ciat-capacity@cgiar.org))

**Asia:** Rod Lefroy ([r.lefroy@cgiar.org](mailto:r.lefroy@cgiar.org))

**Africa:** Rachel Muthoni ([r.muthoni@cgiar.org](mailto:r.muthoni@cgiar.org))

The employing institution and/or university where the student or professional is enrolled must present a *request for capacity strengthening*. CIAT will then assess suitability.

Please note that CIAT's Capacity Strengthening Initiative does not provide direct funding for any individual or group training programs, or for any scholarships, internships, or fellowships. Prospective applicants must arrange their own funding and sponsors.

Visiting Researchers must bring international medical and accident insurance that will cover them during their stay at CIAT.

The Visiting Researchers must arrive with a valid visa or, on arrival, process his or her visa through the Training Office.

If you would like further information on other aspects brought up by this brochure, check our website at

<http://ciatcapacity.cgiar.org>