



CIAT contributes to capacity strengthening by stimulating learning and preparing sharing knowledge on agriculture and related sciences

The Center contributes to the preparation of future generations of scientists, who are essential for making tropical agriculture eco-efficient—that is, competitive, profitable, and at the same time, sustainable. CIAT researchers develop innovative approaches that take into account cultural and gender diversity, and they actively promote knowledge sharing and learning.

Beneficiaries

Over the last 45 years, more than 13,000 professionals from Latin America, Africa, and Asia have benefited from training at CIAT. In the last 5 years, the Center has received, annually, an average of 175 visiting researchers at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels for two main types of training:

- Individualized training, internships, and thesis work towards postgraduate degrees.
- Group events jointly organized with CIAT's research programs, including conferences, training courses, laboratory activities, field work, and distance education courses.

CIAT also provides training opportunities for the technical and scientific staff from local, national, and international institutions in the public or private sectors.

A survey conducted with participants in CIAT training activities between 2006 and 2011 found that the majority rated their learning experience at the Center as excellent. More than 85% of those surveyed said they had acquired valuable knowledge and skills. They also indicated that they have been able to use what they learned in their research and teaching activities.

Laura Tatiana Moreno Colombian doctoral candidate:



I studied at Universidad de los Andes, where I graduated in microbiology and specialized in plant molecular biology. I arrived at CIAT in 2006 as an undergraduate, and from then on, the Center was my school for professional development. I'm currently working on my dissertation through a project with the University of Melbourne (Australia) and CIAT. The main objective is to introgress a modified rice gene—for increased concentration of iron and zinc in milled rice grain—into cultivated rice varieties. My main goal is to help find a way of reducing the high incidence of iron deficiency affecting children and pregnant women in marginal communities of Latin America.

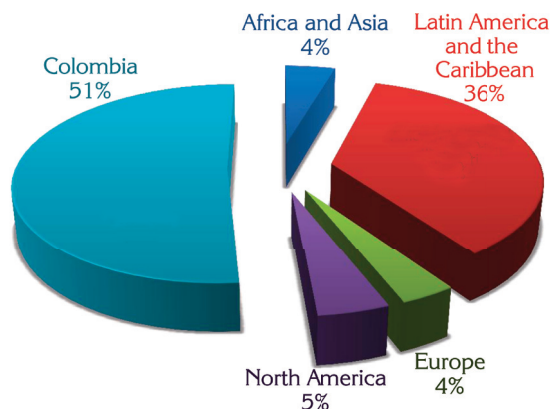


Figure 1. Professionals trained in CIAT headquarters from 1967 to 2011 (13,000 in total), by region of origin.



Research Opportunities

CIAT welcomes and hosts capacity-strengthening initiatives in its three main research areas:

Agrobiodiversity: CIAT makes food more nutritious and affordable by using advanced science to improve crops and agricultural practices in the face of challenges like low soil fertility, climate change, and limited market access. CIAT researchers focus specifically on beans, cassava, rice, and tropical forages. In support of this work, CIAT maintains one of the world's largest genebanks.

Soils: Healthy soils contribute significantly to sustainable increases in agricultural production, which are fundamental for achieving food security and reducing poverty while protecting biodiversity and thus maintaining vital environmental services. Improved soil management also creates new options for climate change adaptation.

Decision & Policy Analysis: Agricultural landscapes are changing rapidly. Farmers and policy-makers need information and innovative tools and technologies to confront the challenges of climate change, highly dynamic markets, and increasing pressures on natural resources. Research in this area deals with climate change, ecosystem services, market access, impact assessment, and capacity strengthening.

Alexandra Amrein German Master's student

After gaining some work experience in Colombia, I joined CIAT's Decision and Policy Analysis (DAPA) Research Area. We are developing a field guide on new business models that involve small producers. For this purpose, I travel regularly to the Colombian Pacific Coast, where I work in a project with three Afro-Colombian producer organizations led by women, who produce and market medicinal and aromatic plants. CIAT's support aims at strengthening these local businesses in terms of marketing opportunities and access to markets through participatory workshops within the community.

My work at CIAT is based on my distance education studies towards a master's degree on sustainable development at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. CIAT has provided me with a unique opportunity to learn from experts and grow as a professional.



Anthony Ukom Nigerian doctoral candidate



I arrived at CIAT in February 2012 with the idea of evaluating the antioxidant potential of four different varieties of yam that I had brought with me from my country. Starting with the study of a specific group of molecules, known as flavonoids, which confer an antioxidant action to the yam varieties eaten in Nigeria, I could study the typical foods of my region and recommend to my community those healthy recipes that do not destroy the yam's antioxidant capacity. CIAT and its personnel have allowed me access to new knowledge, which has empowered my work.

The investment a country makes in research and education is very important because it has impact on people's live over generations.

How to Apply as a Visiting Researcher at CIAT

If you or your institution would like to participate in CIAT's training activities, please visit our blog at <http://ciatcapacity.cgiar.org> (category Research Opportunities), or contact:

- **Headquarters:** Eleonora Izquierdo (ciat-capacity@cgiar.org)
- **Asia:** Rod Lefroy (r.lefroy@cgiar.org)
- **Africa:** Rachel Muthoni (r.muthoni@cgiar.org)
- **Central America:** Vilia Escobar (v.escobar@cgiar.org)

Your organization or university shall send us a request for capacity strengthening. CIAT does not offer direct financing for participation in individual or group training events, nor does it offer research internships or grants.

