

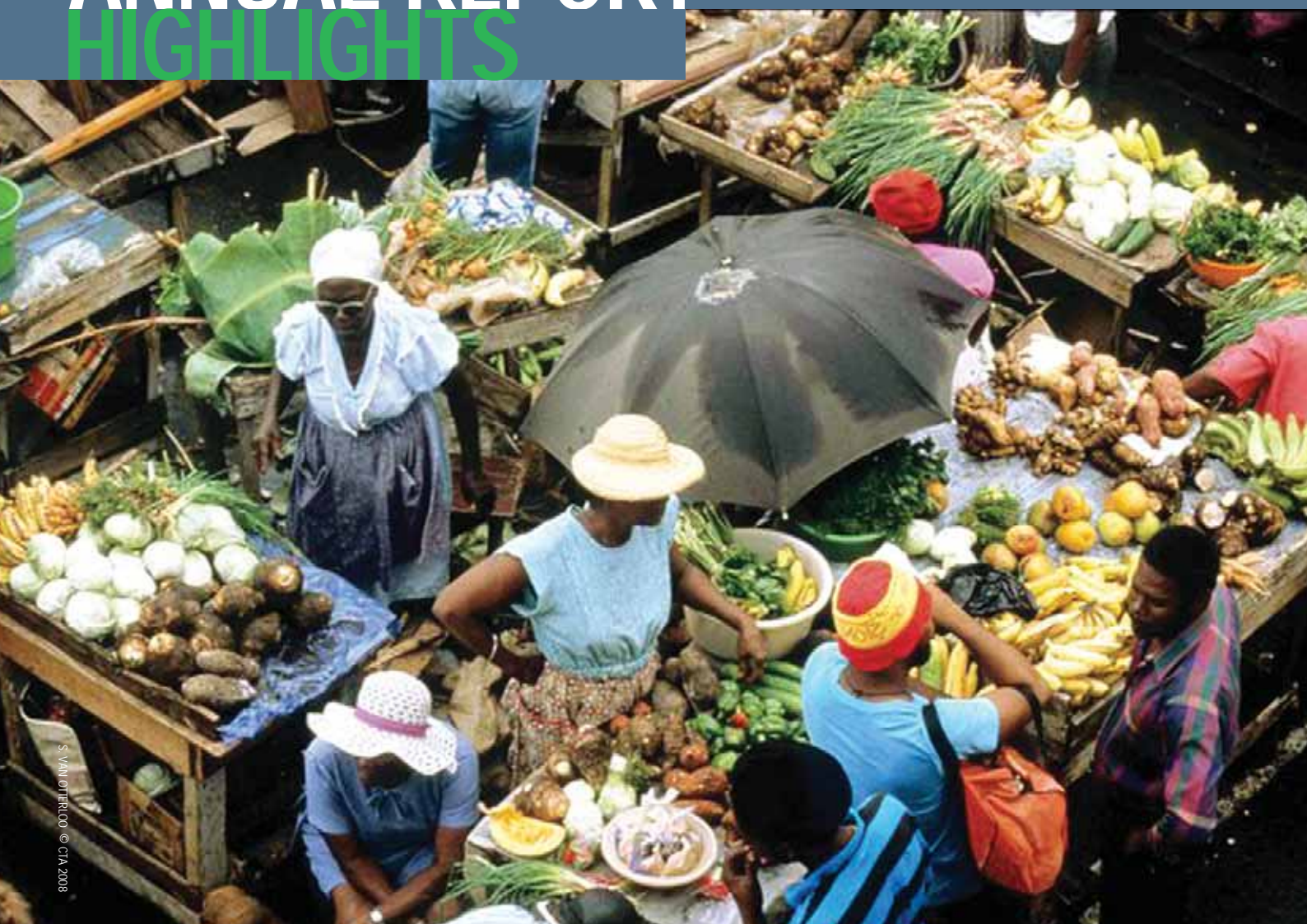


# CTA RESPONDS TO THE WINDS OF CHANGE

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READ THE FULL 2008 ANNUAL REPORT AT  
<http://annualreport.cta.int>

## ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS





# FROM THE DIRECTOR



2008 Inaugural Board Meeting, left to right: M. Bride (Observer), Prof. R.B. de Sousa, Dr H. Neun (CTA Director), Prof. E. Tollens, Dr W.A. Songa (Chairperson), E. A. Vos (Vice Chairperson), J.F. Boutin, A. Costa (Observer) (Missing: K. Kahuure, Observer representing the ACP Secretariat)

## LINKS:

<http://neun.cta.int/>

Read the full annual report online at <http://annualreport.cta.int>

2008 will be remembered for extreme oil price volatility (plummeting from US \$147 in July to \$40 in December (€103 to 28), food shortages, skyrocketing food prices and the spectre of recession. We have got so used to seeing daily reports of ongoing wars and yet how many of us remember that Haiti was hit by four devastating hurricanes in a short period of time? But 2008 has also been a year of change and hope — “Yes we can!” as the newly elected African-American president, Barack Obama said.

Recognising and reacting to these changes, FAO organised a high-level conference on “World Food Security” in Rome and highlighted that “securing food security in the light of climate change may be one of the biggest challenges we face ... urgent action is needed”. A meeting in Ghana on Aid Effectiveness highlighted the need to spend our money and efforts wisely — and it is deplorable that yet again donors did not keep their promise to increase contributions to 0.7% GDP. We keep referring to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), but surely if we do not radically change our approach we can never achieve them. Where is the paradigm change — stopping “business as usual”?

At CTA we believe that “if you don’t go forwards, you go backwards” and our 2007-2010 Strategic Plan has given us the focus to increase our outreach, visibility and efficiency — and we understand that motivating and getting commitment from staff is vital to our success. During 2008 we initiated many structural changes — some of which are discussed in this report. We obtained recognition from the Dutch government to grow our internship programme, recruiting ACP students to work with us, and we have recognised a need to improve our responsiveness to subscriptions and requests for publications.

Our new Executive Board with members from ACP and EU countries, plus observers from the EU council, ACP



**IF YOU DON'T GO  
FORWARDS, YOU GO  
BACKWARDS**



Secretariat and the EC held its first meeting in October at CTA's Wageningen Headquarters. We are also carefully evaluating how we spend our budget, and this year our large annual report will only be published online and on CDROM, but the year's highlights are summarised in the report that you are now holding or reading online.

From the large number of projects we ran during the year, it is hard to pick just a few, but for me the comprehensive study on telecentres (see page 11), and the seminar on Climate Change (see page 6) must stand as milestones. “Climate change” or “we change the climate”? During the seminar this reflection illustrated a need for a level of discussion beyond the abstract “label” we use every day. Climate change is mainly man-made, and we all need to be involved in mitigation measures. CTA pays for carbon offsetting for all seminar participants and we have established a “green group” at the Centre to guide our efforts in reducing CO2 emissions through our activities.

Partners have always been vital for CTA, and we are strengthening our partnerships within the ACP regions, and the EU. Our work in training embassy officials in Brussels (see the article on CTA and Web 2.0), plus our involvement with European development coordination through the Advancing African Agriculture initiative (see page 9) are both items that bring us into the heart of agricultural information and development.

The wind of change, as pointed out in our 2007-2010 Strategic Plan, has gained momentum this year. In 2009, the new structure will introduce several changes, including a marketing unit that will enable us to better understand our clients and partners. Our goal is to reach more and more stakeholders in the field of agriculture and rural development year-on-year. Next year will be my last with CTA and I look forward to new challenges and greener pastures. We thank you for your support during 2008, and look forward to continued collaboration. If you would like to share any comments or experiences, please contact us.

Dr Hansjörg Neun



# CTA BUDGET:

## RECEIVING MORE – ACHIEVING MORE

The good news first: CTA received additional European Development Fund (EDF) funding of €1 million in 2007 and €2 million in 2008, increasing our 2008 operational budget by 37%.

The sad news is that this does not even reflect budget and funding evolutions since the 9th EDF, and does not factor in ACP population growth or EU inflation. If this had been done, our 2008 budget would be around €19 million instead of €16, and we would have 47 staff compared to 42.

So, how did we make the best out of this situation? Firstly, we have made considerable improvements in our efficiency

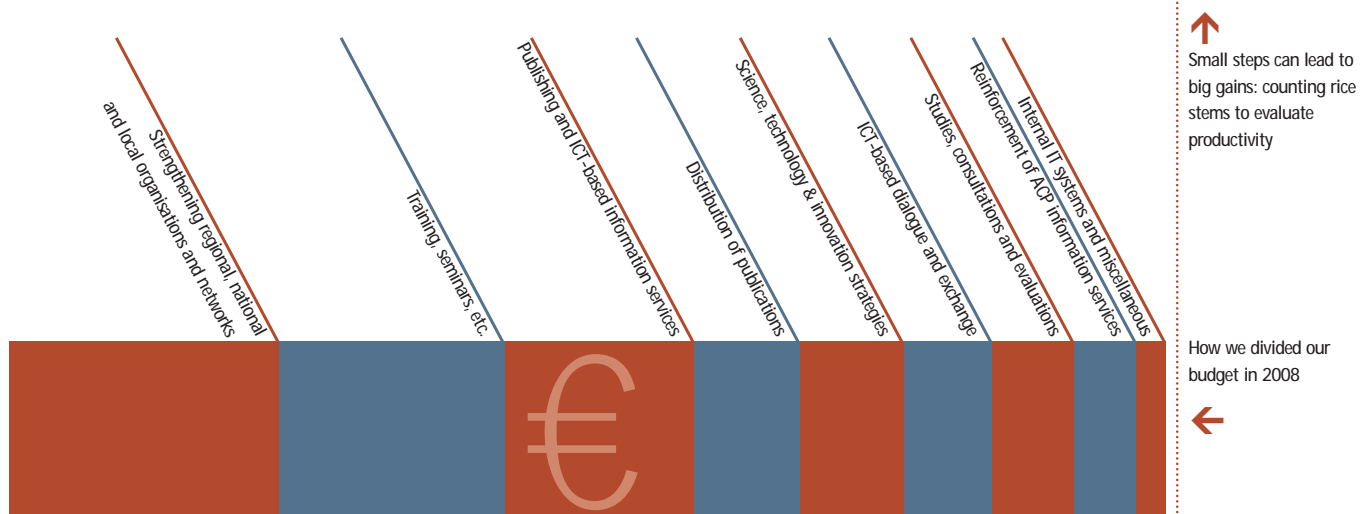
in response to the evaluations and audits since 2005, improving both commitment and disbursement rates.

Secondly, as reflected in our 2007-2010 Strategic Plan, a particular aspect to improved efficiency is “increasing outreach”: how to reach more target beneficiaries and partners. Therefore our activities have been redirected and increased in terms of numbers and coverage.

Thirdly, attracting additional funding is another way out of underfunding. Gaining additional funding acknowledges our professional expertise and we continued to strengthen partnerships that offered

### MAKING BETTER USE OF OUR MONEY:

- Avoid duplicating the efforts of other development agencies
- Target the most “needy” countries
- Use ICTs more effectively – develop innovative products to fulfill the needs of our users
- Increase collaboration with local networks
- Implement more business-oriented methods to increase our outreach
- Cost-share, e.g. allowing participants to contribute towards travel and accommodation
- Co-fund at institutional level in organising activities
- Tender for additional funding





## PUTTING PRICE TAGS ON OUR PRODUCTS



"win-win" opportunities — for example, our collaboration with IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) in the development of a training kit on "Participatory Spatial Information Management and Communication". The 3-year project will be made available on CD-R/DVD and the Internet, and will also be available in Portuguese funded by the Ford Foundation.

Another example is an agreement with NAADS in Uganda to translate and distribute some of our publications locally, and a similar collaboration with Proximedias Libres in DR Congo. We have other collaborations under discussion for next year.

We think those who benefit from our assistance should be aware of the cost of our products: how much does *Spore* cost; how much for one person to participate in a seminar, training course, etc? This is why CTA's Director, Dr Neun, has insisted on putting "price tags" on our products.

In addition to the free subscriptions, many of our publications are available for sale and a new Marketing Unit will monitor market trends and develop strategies to raise our profile: for instance we will be using *Spore* to raise awareness of our work throughout the world.

It goes without saying that receiving more would mean achieving more, but attracting more funding and extracting more funding from our money is an exciting challenge that we happily accept.

### WHAT OUR BUDGET REPRESENTS...

The current Block IV Tomahawk land-attack cruise missile has an estimated cost of \$1.1 – 1.4 million each (equivalent to €800,000-1 million) (<http://www.fas.org/man/dod-101/sys/smart/bgm-109.htm>). Our €16 million translates into only 16 missiles.

# RESTRUCTURING AT CTA

Following an evaluation of our 2002-2005 Strategic Plan, it was recommended that we assess our internal structures, to see where we could be more streamlined and efficient. Last year a supplementary 2007 budget allowance enabled us to undertake an analysis of our operations throughout 2008.

Some of the changes have been mentioned elsewhere in this report and include some new positions. We also want to ensure that existing staff are working in the right area for their skills and interests. This could mean that next year your existing contacts at the Centre may have different roles!

We know that our staff are crucial to achieving our mission. With this in mind, in 2008 we reviewed our annual staff performance evaluation system to make it more transparent with more objective evaluation criteria based on competency models measuring better individual skills and performances.

We are also preparing to recruit new staff in early 2009, in the areas of publications, marketing, IT and ICT.

### TIME IS MONEY

Dr Neun put a more commercial spin on CTA's activities, announcing to an astonished audience at the CTA annual seminar on Climate Change that a 15-minute presentation plus discussion would represent around €3,000 — not including the salary cost of all the participants.





# LEARNING RIGHT FROM WRONG – ON THE GROUND

## INFOIR: INFORMATION OUTREACH AND IMPACT REVIEW

Our commitment to ensure we provide products and services that you — our community — want and need, was put to a gruelling test earlier this year when we launched INFOIR. This initiative evaluated both the impact and reach of our activities, specifically looking at eight of our products and services.

INFOIR required country teams to visit 10 ACP countries between April and October. The country teams comprised two CTA staff, plus two independent consultants. Their mission was to visit a country for 2 weeks, to meet and interview organisations to find out what we were doing right, what we were doing less efficiently or maybe even incorrectly, and what we could do better.

The UK consultancy firm, ITAD, supported us with this extensive and detailed project – and they agreed that the approach was unusual, but effective! We had meetings with almost 200 organisations in Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Samoa, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and Uganda in an intensive period which was exhausting but also exhilarating.

INFOIR constituted a significant investment. Key to the exercise was that CTA staff participated in this exercise themselves and that this experience will not just feed a consultant's report. This

feedback from the ground is important to help change the mindset of our staff, so we can improve our products and services. At the same time the missions helped us to identify potential new partners and raise awareness about CTA.

The review confirmed our strengths and experience with:

- a wide range of products;
- the breadth of our mandate;
- the flexibility of our possible responses;
- the longevity of our funding and support.

The innovative exercise also provides an important basis for making pragmatic strategic choices for the future.

It has told us that to be effective we must increase our focus on user groups and methods for exchanging learning with users. In particular we must strengthen relationships with our users so that our products and services are secondary to serving these relationships. The results also allow us to reset our priorities to make better use of our limited resources under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF).

We immediately started to implement these findings, as well as specific recommendations for our products and services (see the Table).



Visiting libraries in Malawi showed how much information was needed

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Publications Distribution Service (PDS)	Increase the number of both products and recipients
Question-and-Answer Service (QAS)	Increase the use of mobile phones, local partnerships and funding to provide faster quality responses
Training courses in information and communication management (ICM)	Increase this programme – particularly national and small-scale events
TV and video	Phase out current TV work – but watch for future opportunities. Continue to commission high quality videos
Digital satellite broadcasting programme	Re-evaluate this programme to see if we should continue with it
Rural Radio Resource Packs	Phase out this programme in its current form and identify new products to assist rural radio
Database Subscription Service	Phase out this programme
Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) Service	Phase out this programme





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# CTA SEMINAR ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND AGRICULTURE

“FROM A PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE “CLIMATE CHANGE” IS RATHER ABSTRACT, SIMILAR TO “TRAFFIC JAM”. WE ONLY REALISE WE ARE IN A TRAFFIC JAM WHEN WE ARE SITTING IN ONE OF THE CARS PRODUCING IT. CLIMATE CHANGE IS MAINLY MAN MADE. THEREFORE, AND IN ANALOGY TO THE TRAFFIC JAM IT WOULD BE BETTER TO SAY “WE CHANGE THE CLIMATE”. ONLY THEN WE REALISE THAT WE CAN AND HAVE TO CHANGE OUR LIFE STYLES IN ORDER TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE.

Dr H. Neun, Director, CTA



Aftermath of Hurricane Hanna — Gonaives, Haiti

Video message by Dr Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP at the Opening Ceremony of the Climate Change Seminar



In October we organised an international seminar on “The implications of climate change for sustainable agricultural production systems in ACP countries” in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. There were 225 participants from 45 ACP countries, EU national institutions and regional and international organisations.

Before the seminar we hosted an enthusiastic e-discussion moderated by the InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources of the African Union (AU-IBAR). We registered 800 participants, and received over 550

contributions. The discussion outcomes were analysed and shared with seminar participants, and are available on the website.

We were overwhelmed by the interest that people showed in the seminar, and so — for the first time — invited poster submissions as well as formal presentations. Of the 90 presentations, 25 were posters which allowed a greater exchange of information and additional visibility to the presenting organisations.

Following recommendations of the INFOIR review, we have started targeting

distribution of publications to ACP organisations. During the seminar, we handed over the first tranche of publications to four Burkina-based organisations: Institut de l’Environnement et de Recherches Agricoles (INERA), Institut Africain pour le Développement Economique et Social (INADES-Formation), Resacifroaf et la Fédération Nationale des Organisations Paysannes (FENOP).

In addition to traditional information media, it was only fitting that the seminar used a gamut of ICT/ICM strategies to communicate...

The seminar has its own website (see links at left), used by participants to add text and photo blogs throughout the event. There were also daily reports prepared by Francophone and Anglophone journalists which are still available online.

The website includes various resources, including the two winning entries to the climate change scriptwriting contest that was launched last year in collaboration with Farm Radio. The website has both the written scripts and links to the broadcasts produced by Farm Radio in collaboration with FAO for the World Food Day (16 October 2008).



© CTA 2008

## LINKS:

<http://ctaseminar2008.cta.int/>  
<http://ctaseminar2008.cta.int/fr/>  
<http://spore.cta.int/>

A special issue of *Spore* on Climate Change was produced, and given to all participants (see link).

CTA, in collaboration with People TV produced a television programme in French and English as an input to the seminar. This one-hour broadcast comprises five thematic reports and one session live from Ouagadougou. It was shown between 24 November and 8 December on stations in Africa, Europe and the United States. The videos will be distributed to climate change development specialists.

The objective of the TV show was to present climate change in ACP countries and show how rural communities adapt in the various agro-ecological zones. The programme targeted political decision-makers and rural communities (farmers) in particular.

At the end of the seminar, four working groups presented their conclusions to deliberations on the impacts of climate change, current solutions and recommendations for information and communication strategies.

At the end of a fruitful week of deliberations, field trips, networking, and oral and poster presentations, it was decided that the conclusions and recommendations should be recorded, and so the Ouagadougou Declaration was presented and approved by all delegates, who also committed to continuing to work together to mitigate the effects of climate change.

**WE NEED TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE ROLE OF COMMUNICATION TOOLS IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGIES. WE ARE ESPECIALLY AMAZED TO SEE THE EXPONENTIAL UPTAKE OF MOBILE TELEPHONY. THIS, IN COMBINATION WITH RADIO, FOR EXAMPLE, OFFERS MANY POSSIBILITIES TO CIRCULATE INFORMATION RAPIDLY TO RURAL POPULATIONS.**

Mrs Oumy Ndiaye,  
Manager, CTA

**“WE WERE TOTALLY OVERWHELMED BY THE INTEREST IN CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES.”**

André Vugayabagabo,  
CTA seminar coordinator







G. RAMBALDI © CTA 2008

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are seen as catalysts in fighting poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Free or low-cost, simple online services are increasingly available to the general public and “web 2.0” is the name given to this developing trend — where user-centred applications promote communication, information exchange, collaborative content development, user empowerment and social networking.

# CTA AND WEB 2.0

↑  
Surfing the Web during training in Namibia

→  
Blogging during training in Morocco

↓  
Group work at CTA meeting

LINKS:  
<http://www.newsfordev.org/>

CTA was among the early adopters of web 2.0 tools to facilitate access, exchange and disseminate information, and the highly successful Web2forDev conference in 2007 triggered considerable demand for follow-up initiatives.

In 2008, we continued to work with the ACP Secretariat and the European Forum on International Collaboration (Euforic), this time to raise awareness of web 2.0 potential within ACP embassies in Brussels.

This “Web 2.0 Policy-Makers Awareness-Raising and Capacity Building Initiative” trained 68 staff from 41 embassies in the opportunities offered by new technologies. It looked particularly at remote collaboration, VOIP communication, blogging, information retrieval and web publishing. We also undertook a similar initiative with 59 delegates from the Indigenous Peoples of

pan-African umbrella network with 150 affiliate organisations.

In September we ran a 5-day workshop to build capacity in web 2.0 applications in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM). The workshop aimed to equip scientists with the tools to conduct collaborative content development. WikiEducator was used to demonstrate educational content creation, improved research efficiency and the effective flow of agricultural information among researchers. Nineteen men and 16 women, a total of 35 participants, attended the workshop from Southern and East Africa.

We also produced an 8-minute documentary with People TV on web 2.0 applications in the African context. During June the documentary was shown on 38 TV stations in Africa, and it is currently available online on Google Video and syndicated on many websites.

Towards the end of the year, two women's networks, Union des femmes rurales ouest-africaines et du Tchad (UFROAT) and Réseau d'Appui à la Citoyenneté des Femmes Rurales Ouest Africaines du Tchad (RESACIFROAT), benefitted from a project to build web 2.0 capacity.

Using our technical expertise, we are an integral part of the committee transferring the DGroups discussion area (2,660 groups, 120,000 members) to a more web 2.0-oriented platform, and we also launched



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newsfordev.org, a news aggregator for development issues.

By the end of the year, the French and English lists of the Web2forDev online forums, animated and moderated by CTA, had over 600 members discussing how to make best use of these new applications. A report of the Web2forDev conference and the subsequent survey and outcomes was published in a special issue of the IIED magazine *Participatory Learning* at the end of 2008.

Finally, CTA experts have delivered web 2.0-related contributions at many meetings in 2008 including the IAALD conference in Tokyo, Japan in August, and the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, Spain in October.

To support these activities, we did not forget our own internal needs. We moved several operations online using Wikis and outsourced SharePoint services, and also ran in-house courses on applications such as SharePoint, Google maps, Blogging and Wikis.



“AS THE WEB CHANGES, WHO KNOWS: NEXT YEAR’S REPORT MAY HAVE AN ITEM ON OUR WEB 3.0 ACTIVITIES.”



# AAA: ADVANCING AFRICAN AGRICULTURE

African agricultural development, food security and rural livelihood are all back on the international and national agendas — and were endorsed within the AAA communication issued by the European Commission (EC) at the end of 2007.

The communication stressed the importance of EU-African cooperation and the increasing prominence of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). Information, communication and capacity building are key to assist CAADP implementation.

Our mandate and experience as a joint ACP-EU institution gives us the privilege to work closely with the EC on AAA related issues.

“Who is doing what, where and how” is a vital question for both donor and African countries in order to avoid overlapping funding and assistance following the principles of the 2005 Paris declaration on aid harmonisation.

In a first attempt to find a response to this question, we assisted the EC to carry out a review of existing information systems at EU Member States level and started a similar survey at the level of the African Union (AU), The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and CAADP.

To support intra-EU cooperation and donor harmonisation, we are assisting the EC with information and knowledge sharing on a series of thematic issues. We have been tasked with identifying a mechanism for sharing data among European member states in addition to our role in supporting agricultural information exchange within Africa.

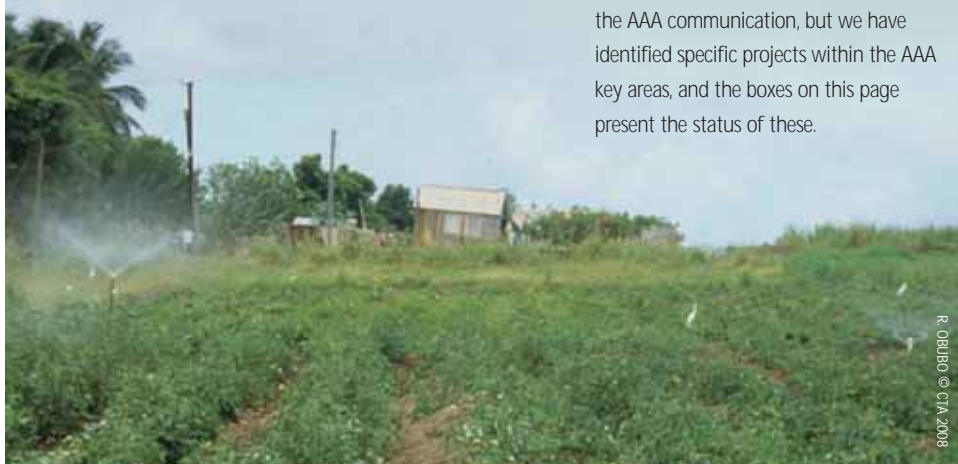
Most of our activities are in line with the AAA communication, but we have identified specific projects within the AAA key areas, and the boxes on this page present the status of these.

## PROJECTS COMPLETED

- Organise development policy briefings in Brussels
- Organise meetings between the European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD) and African research networks on agricultural research programming for the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP)
- Participate in seminar on risk management
- Publish special issue of *Spore* on climate change
- Support the participation of African experts in meetings to prepare competitive proposals

## PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

- Organise training courses on communication skills, advocacy and public awareness for leaders of farmers' organisations (FOs)
- Organise study visit on cattle-meat commodity chains in Kenya
- Provide web 2.0 applications to facilitate dialogue among EU member states and between EU and African Union (done within Europe)
- Support FOs in the development of information and communication strategies, products and services, and networking activities especially with web 2.0 applications
- Support ICT services to strengthen Commodity Observatories in West and Central Africa
- Support regional farmers' and women's organisations
- Strengthen partnerships with mass media and journalists





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### THE \$100 LAPTOP

Although One Laptop Per Child Association (OLPC) officially launched in January 2005, the unveiling at the Tunis World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in November 2005 propelled it into the spotlight. Developed by the MIT media lab, it is an initiative to “design, manufacture and distribute laptops that are sufficiently inexpensive to provide every child in the world access to knowledge and modern forms of education”. See <http://laptop.org/en/>

# ONE LAPTOP PER FARMER (OLPF)?



Dr Neun discussing the XO laptop with Louis Michel, European Commissioner for development and humanitarian aid

This is the question buzzing around CTA since the appearance of the US\$100 (€75) (XO) laptop in 2005. Assuming that millions of such small laptops would be flooding rural areas in ACP countries we started brainstorming the following ideas:

- What role could the XO laptop play outside the educational sphere?
- Could these boost communication and information exchange (including VOIP) in rural areas?
- Could such a laptop have a role for journalists, for disseminating libraries' contents, for our Question-and-Answer Service (QAS)?
- And many more uses ...

Harnessing the potential of low cost, portable devices is vital for CTA to reach its partners and beneficiaries. The potential of these devices is huge – for example:

- farmers' groups and associations could use low cost Wi-Fi networked devices to share publications and information without Internet connections;
- with “store and forward” technologies, farmers could use laptops and mobile phones for email, or VOIP, to share

information such as market prices;

- they could be used for improving agricultural extension and Q&A services within Wi-Fi networks.

We organised a special session at the IAALD World Congress in Tokyo/ Japan in August called “Only connect? Emerging ICT options and opportunities for farmers”

where the importance of mobile phones in the OLPF agenda was discussed.

Other organisations have also recognised the potential, and many of the issues surrounding the OLPF agenda were discussed at international meetings – for example at the European Development Days in November in Strasbourg CTA products were showcased on the XO laptops.

Whatever the applicability of the XO laptop in agriculture and rural areas it has the merit of having triggered a myriad of low-cost laptops onto the market. The growth in mobile phones – with functions previously only offered by PCs or Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), encourages us. We will continue our efforts in this area.



A. LIGROSCOLLARD © CTA 2008



# TELECENTRES – FACILITATING ACCESS TO INFORMATION?

Telecentres have been operating in Africa and elsewhere since the early 1980s, but their sustainability and long-term use has been called into question.

The Question-and-Answer services (QAS) is one form of telecentre and we have been instrumental in establishing and/or supporting the service in over 35 ACP countries for over 20 years. In 2008 we decided to analyse which telecentre concepts work, and if collaboration between existing centres and our QAS would be advantageous.

Therefore we undertook three field studies in Mali, Mozambique and Senegal,

complemented by surveys and documentary video reports. These helped us investigate the policy, economic and operational environments in which telecentres operate. We then established a portal with these (and other) resources.

To share these experiences we organised a workshop in Lusaka, Zambia, in June 2008 with the InfoBridge Foundation, the Zambia Association for Advanced ICT, telecentre.org and the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD).

Fifty participants from 20 African countries, including telecentre managers,

telecentre and ICT4D specialists and key strategic partners from organisations supporting telecentre initiatives across Africa attended the workshop.

The workshop helped us to identify three main areas of concern for the sustainability of telecentres in Africa:

- Lack of appropriate low cost and easy-to-implement technologies including suitable energy supply,
- Insufficient demand-led content development and information services,
- Weak socio-economic, technical and policy environments.

The main outcome, however, was an agreement that all partners involved in the telecentre movement need to develop a common framework for collaboration.

As a further result of this workshop, the participants at the meeting launched Southern African Network of Telecentres (SATNET). In 2009 CTA will investigate developing a collective Wiki guide on how to establish sustainable rural telecentres and look into ways to support pilot centres.

LINK:

[www.share4dev.info/telecentres](http://www.share4dev.info/telecentres)



Using the radio to share information

## WHAT ARE TELECENTRES?

The concept of shared access to information and services was first launched in the early 1980s as a “telecottage”. This movement was boosted by the digital revolution and the interest of development organisations. Attempts to define telecentres are diverse: some see them as information kiosks with a mix of ICT tools such as radios, telephones, faxes and Internet connections; others focus on the nature of services offered such as telemedicine or money transfer.

Telecentre projects (especially in Africa), have been mainly funded by international NGOs and government institutions, often supported by international organisations and bilateral development partners. Most started as pilot projects and the results have been mixed. In most cases the telecentres closed as soon as funding ended.



CTA staff in 2008



## CTA WEB PORTALS

**Agritrade:** <http://agritrade.cta.int/>  
Agricultural trade issues in ACP-EU relations

**anancy:** <http://anancy.cta.int/>  
Virtual resource centre of CTA publications

**Brussels web log:** <http://brussels.cta.int/>  
On-line daily news bulletin

**ICTupdate:** <http://ictupdate.cta.int/>  
A current awareness bulletin for ACP agriculture

**Knowledge for Development:** <http://knowledge.cta.int/>  
ACP/EU S&T policy dialogue

**NewsforDev:** <http://www.newsfordev.org/>  
The latest news for development professionals

**Rural Radio:** <http://ruralradio.cta.int/>  
Rural radio information packs

**Spore:** <http://spore.cta.int/>  
Information for ACP agricultural development

**CTA video:** <http://video.cta.int/>  
Video for development

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) was established in 1983 under the Lomé Convention between the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) Group of States and the European Union Member States. Since 2000, it has operated within the framework of the ACP-EC Cotonou Agreement.

CTA's tasks are to develop and provide services that improve access to information for agricultural and rural development, and to strengthen the capacity of ACP countries to produce, acquire, exchange and utilise information in this area. CTA's programmes are designed to: provide a wide range of information products and services and enhance awareness of relevant information sources; promote the integrated use of appropriate communication channels and intensify contacts and information exchange (particularly intra-ACP); and develop ACP capacity to generate and manage agricultural information and to formulate ICM strategies, including those relevant to science and technology. CTA's work incorporates new developments in methodologies and cross-cutting issues such as gender and social capital.

CTA is financed by the European Union.

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