

# SPORE

The magazine  
for agricultural and  
rural development  
in ACP countries

<http://spore.cta.int>

INTERVIEW  
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Knowledge Management  
(CTA)

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TOOLS FOR YOUNG FARMERS  
**Effective policies  
are essential**

SUGAR  
**A sweet  
renaissance**

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INTERVIEW

## Editorial

## Spotlight on Small Island Developing States



The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Although SIDS are famous for their rich biological diversity, distinct cultural heritage and beautiful sandy beaches, they face significant environmental and economic challenges. Climate change threatens their very survival. A new report by the United Nations Environment Programme estimates that climate change-induced sea-level rise in the world's 52 small island nations is up to four times the global average, threatening the socio-economic fabric of these nations. SIDS also face serious food and nutrition security challenges due to their increasingly high dependence on imported food at the expense of local, more nutritious diets. Their excessive reliance on tourism also exposes them to external shocks. To build resilience against economic and natural shocks, SIDS need to develop and implement 'green growth' strategies, which many of them are pursuing with renewed vigour. Opportunities in regional trade and value chain development need to be identified. Diversification and linking agriculture to other economic sectors such as tourism, ICTs and financial services, will be key.

The United Nations-sponsored Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa in September 2014 will provide an excellent opportunity to focus the world's attention on the vulnerabilities of SIDS and help marshal ideas and resources to address the challenges they face.

CTA is actively engaged with the SIDS Conference, supporting several activities leading up to and during the event in Samoa. We have organised a number of policy briefings and workshops, in collaboration with the UN and other partners, to ensure that the voices of various stakeholders are heard, including farmers, the private sector, women's groups and the youth. We are also facilitating the sharing of lessons and experiences across the SIDS of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

**Michael Hailu**  
Director – CTA



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# Effective policies are essential

Few combined agriculture–youth oriented policies and specific instruments have been drawn up and implemented to date, although initiatives abound.

**A**mong young people, agriculture has an image problem, generally viewed as a laborious low income activity that does not match their aspirations or offer an attractive future. As such, it's not surprising that a broad range of different initiatives are focused on making agriculture more appealing. In Barbados, for example, the Caribbean Farmers Network's AgroFest show highlights the diversity of opportunities, as does the Denbigh Agricultural Show in Jamaica and Festicoffee and Festicacao in Cameroon. In St Lucia, Oxfam is working to promote the link between agriculture and tourism to stimulate production and make agriculture more youth-friendly.

## Weak policies

Youth unemployment, rural exodus, ageing farming populations and increased dependence on food imports are common trends throughout ACP countries, yet despite this, few countries have so far developed policies that focus on both youth and agriculture. Ghana and the Pacific provide some welcome exceptions. In 2008, the Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Policy Network and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community began reflecting on ways to encourage youth to engage in agriculture. Several field surveys were conducted in Fiji, Kiribati and Tonga, leading, in 2010, to the launch of the Pacific Youth in Agriculture Strategy 2011–2015, which recommends measures and initiatives that will prompt stakeholders to promote active youth participation.

In 2009, Ghana supplemented its National Youth Employment Programme with a new Youth in Agriculture Programme (YIAP). YIAP specifically helps young people gain access to or acquire land and equipment, while offering training and supervision. However, according to a report compiled in 2013, only 25% the participants are actually young people. The training is not tempting young people due to the low income potential of agriculture.

In Africa, an assessment on youth involvement in agriculture across the continent was not conducted until 10 years after the adoption of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme in Maputo. The studies were partly carried out by the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network in several Southern African countries, which then put forward recommendations for developing national policies focused on youth and agriculture.

There is still a considerable way to go in taking the long overlooked concerns and expectations of rural youth

into account while strengthening the dialogue between politicians and young people. Youth representation in organisations must be strengthened, even though initiatives and innovative approaches abound.

## Transforming farmers into effective entrepreneurs

In Nigeria, the Agripreneurs Initiative launched by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in August 2012 has been relatively successful throughout the country and has spread to the Congo and Tanzania. 'Agripreneurs' are young graduates from various disciplines who are involved in agribusiness. The initiative aims to make agriculture a platform for creating jobs for youth by improving the value chains of different crops, such as

As part of the Pacific Youth in Agriculture Strategy, young people are looking after a community nursery in Nadi, Fiji



cassava, maize, banana, plantain and soybean.

In Tanzania, the national MVIWATA farmers' organisation created the MVIWATA Youth Wing, which develops sectors that offer opportunities for youth in rural areas. Poultry and sunflower value chains were identified as offering greater potential as a source of income than conventional crops like maize, beans and potatoes. Members benefit from services such as technical assistance for production and business development, in addition to credit for inputs and marketing assistance.

In 2014, the Senegalese Ministry of Agriculture has focused on the entrepreneurship of women and youth, with the launching of a community-based agricultural development programme (DAC) in nine areas. Services will be offered to help farmers set up plots on 30,000 ha of land. The project aims to create 150,000 direct jobs.

The Songhai Centre, founded in Benin in 1985, is a model for providing youth with credible alternatives through agricultural entrepreneurship. Promoted by the UN as a Centre of Excellence for Africa, the Songhai model is being replicated in 15 African countries.

In Cameroon, the average age range of farmers working in cocoa and coffee growing areas is 55-65 years old. The Interprofessional Organization for Coffee and Cocoa launched the New Generation initiative in 2012, with the intention of rejuvenating the workforce in these sectors. This includes 3 years of training and technical support during the process of setting up a nursery, while providing access to inputs and planting material. The formula seems to be working, with 325 young people now managing 500 ha of new cocoa plantations. This unique initiative

is beginning to bear fruit and could be replicated by the International Cocoa Organization.

Further public-private partnerships could also be combined with these different initiatives. The Youth Venture Capital Fund, for instance, was set up in Uganda through collaboration between the government and three banks. Alternatively, support for networks like Young Professionals for Agricultural Development could be improved.

### A new training approach

Strengthening the technical and entrepreneurial skills of young people is of paramount importance in rural areas, where literacy and training rates are often lower than elsewhere. Farmer field schools are platforms for training and experience-sharing between farmers and have proven effective in knowledge, technology and innovation dissemination for over 2 million farmers. FAO has implemented an innovative approach specifically designed for young people in the form of Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS), in which, over the course of a year (the length of a crop cycle), rural youth acquire agricultural, entrepreneurial and life skills. First launched in Mozambique in 2003, JFFLS have been introduced in 20 further countries and around 20,000 young people and 2,000 facilitators have already been trained. In Tanzania, for example, JFFLS has focused on capacity building of cooperative members in targeted value chains, such as horticulture, cashew, red meat, fruit trees and rice, while encouraging the involvement of youth in agricultural cooperative federations. These initiatives contribute to the necessary reform of agricultural education.

### ICTs

ICTs cannot solve every problem, but these tools clearly do promote youth involvement in agriculture by enhancing their opportunities, motivations and capacities. ICTs contribute to improving youth livelihoods, agricultural modernisation and creating benefits throughout value chains, especially through increased access to more effective information via many smartphone apps (see *Spore 169 ICT: the digital revolution*). ICTs also help strengthen and develop farmers' organisations, especially through social networks. Many initiatives are warranted, such as training of youth on ICTs (especially in rural areas) and competitions on ICT uses in agriculture. Young software developers should also be encouraged to develop computer applications targeting the agricultural sector, which could boost their incomes while modernising the agricultural sector. CTA's new Youth Strategy 2013-2017 involves several ICT initiatives.

Agriculture is currently a source of growth, and its development is essential to ensure global food security. Young people are needed to meet these challenges. However, as is the case with their elders, constraints will have to be overcome, mainly regarding access to land and funding, while also improving training. The necessary transformation and modernisation of agriculture also requires the increased appeal of agriculture for young people and greater productivity, but it will also reduce labour requirements. Rapid urbanisation will also lead to the development of medium-sized cities and could generate new jobs for young people in rural areas. ■

Anne Guillaume-Gentil



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## CERTIFICATION

### Promoting papaya in Fiji

A certification scheme for the production and sale of 'Fiji Red' papaya seed has been developed to make papaya production and export more profitable for all actors in the supply chain, and replace costly imported seed.

## PALM OIL

### New nursery for Solomon Islands

An oil palm nursery has been set up in Malaita Province, Solomon Islands, with 10,000 seedlings. Ultimately, the nursery is expected to cover 4,000 ha. The country has only one other oil palm plantation, which contributes about 10% of the country's revenue.

## MAIZE SHELLER

### Saving time and labour in Ghana

A new maize sheller - mounted on the back of a bicycle - removes grains from husks 40 times faster than shelling by hand. The sheller also contains phone-charging cells, so when the bike is being pedalled, up to four mobile phones can be charged at the same time.

## SHEA

### New tropical sensation

Indigenous to the Sahelo-Sudanian regions, shea is being increasingly integrated into development projects. Côte d'Ivoire ranks fifth worldwide, with an annual production of around 40,000 t and an estimated potential of 150,000 t.



Stem rust affected more than 10,000 ha of a popular variety of wheat in southern Ethiopia in 2013

## STEM RUST

### African wheat at risk

Global wheat surveillance network moves to combat dangerous outbreak of stem rust

**W**heat farmers in Eastern Africa and the Middle East are on the alert after a damaging strain of stem rust affected more than 10,000 ha of wheat in southern Ethiopia. During the 2013 growing season, the strain proved lethal to a popular variety of bread wheat called *Digalu*, which ironically gained popularity in Ethiopia for its resistance to other strains

of stem rust and to another wheat disease known as yellow or stripe rust.

"With such widespread planting of *Digalu*, we have not seen the major yellow rust outbreaks that were a problem in recent years and most farmers in Ethiopia have enjoyed bumper crops this season," said Bekele Abeyo, a senior scientist and wheat breeder at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center. "But the widespread planting of *Digalu* may have opened the door for the incursion of a new and destructive strain of stem rust." Working with farmers and other stakeholders to replace vulnerable varieties with resistant varieties is now a high priority. Ethiopian agriculture officials also are advising farmers about correct usage of fungicides to control an outbreak. ■

## NEW CROP

### Strawberries boost economy

With a return of 150%, producing strawberries has proved to be an excellent investment in Cabo Verde

**S**trawberry production in Cabo Verde, non-existent in the archipelago until 2005, has grown in recent years, with a rate of return of around 150% for growers and retailers alike. Strawberries were introduced to the country by the National Institute for Agricultural Research and Development, which started production trials with imported

plants. Pina Veiga was one of the first farmers on the island of Santiago to produce the fruit, along with other crops such as cabbages, carrots and tomatoes.

"Strawberries are my passion," says Veiga. Production is also highly profitable, as he explains: "They have a guaranteed market, a continuous production cycle and do not require intensive care." Veiga harvests about 65 boxes of strawberries a week, destined for market in the capital, Praia, and a network of supermarkets, where the fruit is increasingly sought after for its price, taste and presentation in individual punnets. Veiga currently employs 30 people, mostly heads of household, and a considerable number of women make their livelihood selling strawberries. ■

## AFLATOXINS

### Bio-control protects crops from contamination

A natural, safe bio-control is drastically cutting aflatoxin contamination in food crops

**F**our African countries have reported 80-99% reductions in aflatoxin contamination of groundnuts and maize using Aflasafe™, a bio-control product. Aflatoxins are highly toxic natural poisons produced mainly by the fungus *Aspergillus*

*flavus*. In Kenya, aflatoxin poisoning is prevalent in lower eastern regions like Makueni, Kitui and Machakos, with the fungi typically found in dead and decaying matter in the soil.

Aflasafe™ uses native strains of *A. flavus* that do not produce aflatoxins to 'push out' toxic strains so crops are less contaminated. The trials, overseen by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the US Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Research Service, took place on 3,000 ha of groundnuts and maize in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal. According to Dr Charity Mutege, a scientist with IITA, Aflasafe is applied to maize crops 2 to 4 weeks prior to flowering and can be broadcast on 1 ha by four people in an hour. ■

Aflasafe™ has reduced aflatoxin contamination by 80-99% in four African countries



## HORTICULTURE

### More and better production

The horticulture sector in Cabo Verde has responded to the increasing demand for quality vegetables from tourists

**C**onsumption of locally-produced vegetables, destined for hotels on Cabo Verde's major tourist islands of Sal and Boavista, increased by 250% in the last 3 years, from 168 t in 2011 to 608 t in 2013. Until very recently almost all vegetables consumed by tourists visiting the archipelago were imported because local

production did not guarantee quality and quantity. Investment in new technologies in recent years, particularly in drip irrigation, has helped increase agricultural production in the archipelago which was affected by regular droughts.

Horticulture is the sector that has seen most development in Cabo Verde, with visible increases in production and productivity, leading to a gradual change in the structure of the sector and playing an increasingly important role in the local economy. Horticulture is now considered one of the most profitable activities in the country, with decisive implications for food security and the family budget. Data from the Directorate General of Customs show that imports to Cabo Verde for this sector decreased by 17% on average between 2011 and 2013. ■

## HEALTHY DIETS

### Pacific urged to eat local

With Pacific retail outlets increasingly selling imported, processed food, FAO has urged Pacific countries to produce more healthy local foods at competitive prices, in order to improve prospects for local producers and help tackle obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

## SENSITISATION

### Reducing child malnutrition

Community health volunteers have been introduced in 41 districts in Cameroon to carry out sensitisation on good nutrition practices in local languages. The scheme has reduced child malnutrition, with more parents taking their children to hospital for checks.

## PARENTAL GUIDANCE

### Home grown nutrition

In Rwanda, *Akagoroba k'ababyeyi* (parents' evening) is a village-based approach to educate mothers on how to prepare nutritious food by using food they produce on their own farms. In some areas, the approach has reduced malnutrition by 30% in less than 2 years.

## PESTICIDES

### Protective nets for vegetables

Eco-friendly nets, which reduce the need to spray vegetables with chemicals by 70-100%, have been successfully tested by a team of scientists working with small farmers in Benin and Kenya. The nets may be re-used for up to 5 years and have the potential to double farmers' profits.

# LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES

## FISH FOOD

### Natural feed

Scientists in Guyana have identified locally growing duckweed as a possible alternative high protein feed for aquaculture farmers. Commercial feed currently on sale in the country is unaffordable to many, has low protein content and a short shelf life.

## ANIMAL FEED

### Ox bones and oyster shells

In Cameroon, protein-rich ox bones are collected and burned until they turn into a white powder that is sold to livestock feed producers. Calcium-rich oyster shells are used the same way.

## SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

### Gabonese sardines

Ireland Blyth, a Mauritian company, has set up a seafood processing plant in Libreville, Gabon. The first Gabonese canned sardines are already available in local and regional markets. Other products will also be produced during the extraction of protein concentrates and lipids.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Benefits of floating cages

Aquaculture in floating cages and pens is very successful in Sô-Ava, Ouinhi, Adjohoun and Bopa in Benin. Fish reared in these cages, such as catfish and Nile tilapia, are adapted and resilient to climate change. Furthermore, this production method boosts fish farmers' incomes.

## INSURANCE

### Compensated for drought

'Sharia-compliant' livestock insurance paid out to pastoralists in Kenya

Over 100 pastoralists (30 women and 71 men) from Wajir County in Kenya have been compensated for livestock losses suffered between December 2013 and March 2014. They were benefiting from an index-based livestock insurance scheme, an initiative of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and a sharia-compliant insurance company, Takaful

Insurance Africa. "This payout is critical for building confidence in the concept of insurance for the pastoral, drought-prone regions of East Africa, where life revolves around livestock and droughts can bring disaster," says Andrew Mude, who leads the programme at ILRI.

Hassan Bashir set up Takaful Insurance 3 years ago, which - unlike ordinary insurance schemes prohibited by Islam - only takes a management fee from clients. The company is named after the Islamic concept of *takaful*, in which risks are shared among the community. Any surplus money after payments are made is distributed equally to the remaining policyholders. "Our goal is to show pastoralists that they can use a fair and ethical business model to protect their assets from a natural hazard of keeping livestock in East Africa," Bashir explains. ■

Shamsa Kosar is one of over 100 pastoralists in Wajir who have been compensated for livestock losses



© ILRI/R. Gangale

## INTERNATIONAL FISH TRADE

### Small-scale fishers losing out

World fish trade is generating more wealth than ever before, but small-scale fishers need support to benefit too

Global fishery production from wild capture fisheries and aquaculture is expected to have set a new record in 2013 at 160 million t, up from 157 million t in 2012, while exports will have reached US\$136 billion, according to preliminary data published by FAO. Developing countries

continue to play a major role in supplying world markets, accounting for 61% of all fish exports by quantity and 54% by value in 2012. Their net export revenues (exports minus imports) reached US\$35.3 billion, higher than all other agricultural products combined, including rice, meat, milk, sugar and bananas.

However, while small-scale fishers and fish farmers constitute about 90% of the sector's global workforce, such benefits from international trade seldom reach small-scale fishing communities. FAO is therefore urging developing countries to provide small-scale fishers with access to finance, insurance and market information, to invest in infrastructure, strengthen small-scale producer and trader organisations, and ensure that national policies do not overlook or weaken the small-scale sector. ■

## CARBON CREDITS

### Sustainability in the air

Smallholder farmers in western Kenya are benefitting from carbon credits generated by improving farming techniques

In western Kenya, the Kenya Agricultural Carbon Project has enabled 60,000 small-scale farmers to use sustainable and eco-friendly farming techniques.

Because of land degradation, these farmers could not produce enough to feed their families. They learned techniques that increase organic matter in the soil, boost land yields, prevent erosion and improve water absorption of soil. The adoption of new farming practices, such as covering land with plant waste or mulching, enables soil carbon sequestration. Farmers, who have tried these techniques on 45,000 ha, have received their first carbon credits for reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 24,788 t, which is equivalent to the annual emissions of 5,164 cars. Farmers also benefitted from increased yields of 15 to 20%. ■

## HANDICRAFT

### *Typha*, a thermal insulation

Craftsmen living along the Senegal River are finding a new use for an invasive plant

In Senegal, and along the river bearing the same name, people are benefitting from *Typha*, an invasive and unwanted wetland plant. Increasingly used by craftsmen, the plant is removed from the streambeds it invades to

make mats and thatched roofs. An eco-friendly farm school opened in Rao, in the north of the country by the Swiss foundation, Sylla Tati Cap Onlus, has sought thatchers for one of its projects. In parallel, Le Goff, a Breton company specialising in thatched roofs in France, joined the project to share its know-how and to train 10 people. One of the school's huts now has a *Typha* thatched roof 35 cm thick, with a life of at least 40 years and very good thermal insulation. Banned for a long time and then used to make charcoal, *Typha* has a new future, which could extend to Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Niger - all countries that have to cope with *Typha* invasions. ■

## PREPARING FOR CHANGE

### Long-term warning for pastoralists

A new 80-year weather forecast for Kenya's Transmara, which predicts droughts, soil erosion and floods, has encouraged livestock farmers to plant trees, fodder and fast-maturing, drought-resistant food crops in preparation for droughts and to control soil erosion.

## SUSTAINABLE HYDROPOWER

### Impacts of large dams questioned

Big shifts in the financing of large dams have weakened social and environmental safeguards, say researchers. Private and Chinese investment has increased but recommendations for mitigating social and environmental impacts have not been adopted. Researchers are urging the backers of new dams to adopt the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol to deliver environmental and social outcomes, and mitigate climate change.

## MARINE AREAS

### Village-based management

Since 2004, local communities in Madagascar have managed 580,000 ha of marine protected areas along the south-western, eastern and northern coastline. Supported by Conservation International, a network of about 100 villages control the areas and provides ecological monitoring, earning substantial additional income.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Joining forces against climate change

The people of the north of Mozambique are protecting themselves against climate change through conservation agriculture and the building of anti-cyclone infrastructures. The success of these measures is already apparent from a reduction in hunger and also an increase in production.



Specialising in thatched roofs in France, Le Goff is training 10 people to thatch with *Typha*

## DIGITAL EXTENSION

### Kenya's electronic information delivery

Kenya is implementing e-agriculture extension services and setting up information desks in every district. Digital resources such as the Agri-Nutrition Resource Manual for Trainers aim to improve nutrition, reduce diseases and increase resilience during drought or times of high food prices.

## RESEARCH INNOVATION

### Farmers drive progress in Ethiopia

By forwarding problems to researchers, brainstorming with researchers and becoming involved in research, 1.7 million farmers have benefitted from practical agricultural research on soil conservation, water harvesting, cropping, harvesting and post-harvest technologies.

## ADAPTATION

### Climate smart rice for Africa

Through the STRASA project, more than 30 stress-tolerant rice varieties have been released in nine African countries to help farmers cope with flooding, drought, extreme temperatures and soil problems, such as high salt and iron toxicity.

## TSETSE FLY

### Genome breakthrough

Scientists have succeeded in mapping the genetic code of the tsetse fly. The breakthrough will support efforts to control trypanosomiasis, a disease that affects 3 million animals each year at massive cost to farmers' livelihoods and food security.

## EDUCATIONAL GAME

### African Farmer - play and learn

New online game simulates the complex decisions and uncertainties faced by small-scale farmers in Africa

**A**frican Farmer has been developed to challenge and engage students, development practitioners, and anyone interested in the challenges faced by farmers in poor countries. The challenge for players is to manage a farming household in a village, as they make decisions on what to grow, what to

buy and how to feed a family - and see the results of those decisions. *African Farmer* presents players with a range of challenges, from food prices, diets and work, to more unpredictable chance events like weather and disease.

"The game is about allowing people to be confronted by uncertainty and having to make complex decisions with imperfect information," explains project coordinator, Dr John Thompson. "It's about exposing people to encounter the realities - within the limits of the simulation - that small farmers face on a day-to-day basis. And it allows people to think about the strategies that farmers pursue and the kinds of policies, technical support and services they require to allow them to follow those successfully in the real world." The game is free and open source: [www.africanfarmergame.org](http://www.africanfarmergame.org). ■



Left: *African Farmer* allows people to think about strategies that farmers pursue. Below: Students at the Institute of Development Studies playing the game



## PLANTAIN

### A natural fungicide to combat Black Sigatoka

Spraying of banana plantations with wild basil effectively combats Black Sigatoka

**B**lack Sigatoka, or black leaf streak disease, caused by the fungus *Mycosphaerella fijiensis*, is a scourge for banana and plantain farmers in many developing countries as it causes severe yield losses. Instead of using chemical fungicides, an Ivorian team of researchers

at Félix Houphouët Boigny University in Abidjan opted to test a natural fungicide, known as NECO. The main ingredient is an essential oil extract obtained from the freshly harvested leaves of *Ocimum gratissimum* (wild basil) by steam distillation. *O. gratissimum* is a very common plant in Côte d'Ivoire and is mainly used in the pharmaceutical sector.

The results of the study, conducted on two cultivars of plantain infected with *Mycosphaerella* between August 2010 and April 2011 in an experimental plot cultivated by the University, have shown that spraying the natural fungicide was an effective way to fight Black Sigatoka disease. The study was published in the *Journal of Applied Biosciences*, which can be downloaded: <http://tinyurl.com/mocd4jk> ■

## SEED

### Dynamic enterprises

African seed companies are becoming major producers in sub-Saharan Africa

**A**frican seed companies are now the major seed producers in sub-Saharan Africa. This is the result of the Program for Africa's Seed Systems, launched in 2007 by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa. This programme aimed to guarantee

a regular supply of seeds of improved varieties adapted to local conditions. From 2,000 t produced by a handful of companies, seed production was raised to more than 80,000 t in 2013 provided by about 80 small and medium-sized firms across Africa. Some 464 new varieties of 15 major crops, such as maize, cassava, millet, rice, sorghum, bean, sweet potato and pigeon pea, have been specifically developed for African climates and soils. According to a survey conducted in 2013 in nine countries, the majority of the farmers who invested in improved varieties saw their yields increase by 50% to 100%. ■

## VALUE FROM CASHEW

### Profits lie in processing

Cashew consumption is booming but the sector needs more support to take advantage of the growing market

**W**hile cashew nut consumption in Nigeria is booming, farmers are losing about 900% of what they could earn if they processed and packaged their cashew nuts to international standards. "The price of raw cashew nuts is about NGN 80,000 (€360) per ton," says Sotonye Anga of the National Cashew Association of

Nigeria (NCAN), "but when processed and packaged, the price is about NGN 1 million (€4,500) per ton."

To reverse this trend, stakeholders are calling on the government to adopt a Cashew Intervention Fund, similar to the NGN 10 billion (€45 million) intervention fund for cassava that was established in 2013 to provide low interest loans to businesses along the cassava value chain. Interest in the cashew sector is currently high, following sensitisation by NCAN. "Lots of private investors resuscitated their abandoned cashew plantations and many more established new plantations," says Anga. Street traders are increasingly selling locally-sourced cashews, and most Nigerian supermarkets stock branded cashew nuts. While this is good news for the industry, farmers could be earning much more by processing their crop. ■

Cashew farmers could be earning much more by processing their crop



© O Alawode

## FIBRE TECHNOLOGY

### Sisal innovations

Kenya's Alex Odundo has created two machines that turn sisal leaves into twine. One machine makes standard twine and the other, finer twine used by women to make bags, baskets and other products. Some farmers are earning around €3,000 per ha per year from their sisal crop.

## FRUIT TRADE REOPENED

### Restrictions lifted

Quarantine restrictions on African banana, avocado and citrus have been lifted in Europe after scientists showed Cavendish dwarf banana to be a non-host stage of an invasive Asian fruit fly, and developed a cold disinfection treatment for citrus and avocado.

## VALUING RICE

### Collective brand

After having supported the parboiled mangrove rice sector in Guinea for 5 years, the French development NGO, GRET, is now testing the first collective brand for a product processed in Africa. A quality charter and a good practice guide have been developed.

## FINANCE

### Seasonal credit

Based in Korhogo, in northern Côte d'Ivoire, Comako, a cooperative that produces and exports mangos, has received a loan from Alterfin, a Belgian social investor, to cover working capital for its next export season. Comako also profits from a European cooperation programme (PIP) managed by COLEACP, an interprofessional network that promotes sustainable horticultural trade.

These 6 pages were produced with contributions from: **N Ackbarally** (Mauritius), **L Adoma** (Solomon Islands), **E Aidasso** (Benin), **O Alawode** (Nigeria), **M Andriatiana** (Madagascar), **T Getachew** (Ethiopia), **E D Karinganire** (Rwanda), **J Karuga** (Kenya), **M A Konte** (Senegal), **C N Nforang** (Cameroon), **E Ntungwe** (Cameroon), **A M Nzouankeu** (Cameroon), **A C Santos** (Cabo Verde), **P Sawa** (Kenya), **A Silva** (Mozambique), **M Waruru** (Kenya).



Chris Addison is CTA Senior Programme Coordinator for Knowledge Management. He is responsible for how CTA supports partners in their use of the web to exchange information.

CHRIS ADDISON

## Turning information into action

Knowledge management (KM) is one of CTA's main focuses. In recent years, the Centre has supported the development of KM platforms to better generate and circulate information from one region to another, and between different actors.

### *What is CTA's definition and practice of KM?*

KM emerged in the early 1990s in the ICT industry as new technologies enabled people's knowledge (the experience they had and the skills they had learnt to do their job) to be written down and stored in computers - or so it was thought. People believed this knowledge could be managed in databases, retrieved easily from anywhere across a network and transferred to the reader. But things weren't that simple. During the next 10 years, the focus shifted as people realised that knowledge is personal and subjective and it was clear that there were different ways to share the information and very different ways to learn. The next major step in KM thinking was a focus on how people interact in an environment, such as within a company, a network or a community. This has proved more fruitful as we come to better understand the motivations behind communication and learning, and the sciences of managing information and measuring success - which are all essential for managing the flow of knowledge. CTA drew its current integral approach around the idea of a knowledge ecosystem developed with the help of its partners.

CTA's approach to KM is based on a tree model: the *roots* are the 'people' - their strategies, values and culture, structures and governance, management and leadership, and skills and roles. The *trunk* are 'enablers', for example, communication, systems and technologies, learning and monitoring and evaluation, and innovation. The *branches*

are 'knowledge processes' like knowledge creation, sharing, storage and use. Finally, *external factors* are 'motivation factors', including participation, external influences and external resources. CTA has used this idea to identify what organisations, like the New Partnership for Africa's Development, are already doing in KM and identify where new KM activities can be developed.

### *Can you provide examples of CTA KM platforms and activities?*

One of the conclusions of the KM scans is that organisations and communities often lack good internal communication platforms. This is not so much a question of technology as it is of building a network of people who can animate and facilitate knowledge sharing. CTA has a long history of training people in these skills, but more recently our focus has been on building platforms to support discussion on policy issues, which continue from and feed into face to face meetings. For instance, we have been working with the Pan African Farmers' Organization (PAFO) linking regional groups together to provide a platform for their members to discuss policy issues and present case studies. The platform has been used to contribute to the agenda of the PAFO continental briefing, held in conjunction with the CTA Fin4Ag conference in July 2014. The regional farmers' organisations that work together to support PAFO have built up a group of around 255 people, drawn from various membership organisations, to create the platform. CTA has used a similar approach

with the Melanasian Spearhead group in the Pacific and are just starting similar work with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism.

### *What are the main difficulties you have had to deal with?*

It has been a completely a new way of working for many of our partners. Some said they felt it was a real struggle at the start but that it was very exciting once the dialogue began. The main difficulty is building trust across a network and being clear on common goals.

### *How do you see the future of CTA's KM practices?*

Historically, CTA has produced a lot of information for ACP countries from our own resources but the Centre has to take more advantage of the content being produced by our partners. CTA has changed this balance over the last 30 years but we need to go one step further and change the way we look at publishing, more in a community mode. I hope that more development partners, governments and practitioners will see the benefit of investing in easy, cost effective and innovative KM approaches and tools for lasting solutions and profound changes in the way we produce, acquire, use and share knowledge. It is important to conduct more research to be able to highlight the costs of not sharing knowledge and the returns of investing in KM. ■

Anne Perrin

When a region grows a product that can't be matched anywhere else, consumers take note. Will geographical indications turn these sources of local pride into global brands?

## ORIGIN-LINKED PRODUCTS

# Certiably one of a kind



© Alamy/V. Shulevsky

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Marie-Antoinette Haba:  
Upgrading a gift of nature

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Penja pepper gets GI protection

**W**hat do farmers in your country produce that nobody else can? No matter where you live, an answer no doubt comes easily to mind. The famous products of specific regions, rooted in local environment and tradition, are an ancient form of 'branding' that is still practised everywhere. In light of this, it is worth considering how much emphasis has been put on turning farms over to internationally standardised commodity crops, and how much less has been put on supporting the unique values and reputations established by generations of farmers.

Origin-linked products - inseparably tied to the place they are grown - are up for reconsideration in ACP countries. In particular, efforts have begun to establish internationally recognised, protected geographical indications (GIs) to bring special products to wider markets. Sub-Saharan Africa recently established its first three GIs (see *Spore* 168, *Sweet success?*), and more are appearing in the Caribbean, taking the lead from Jamaica's world famous Blue Mountain coffee.

Unlike Fairtrade, organic, and other labels, GIs allow producers to set their own code of practice, based on the methods they have always followed. Traditional approaches thus become sources of value and distinction. Contrary to the large majority of voluntary standards, GIs are regulated by national laws, so public authorities fix and oversee the conditions under which a GI is conferred, maintained and protected against imitations and appropriation. Public authorities also oversee the framework that ensures quality control, again with various degrees of involvement and effectiveness depending on the legal system chosen to protect GIs at national level. And unlike patents or trademarks, GIs confer collective rights that belong to all farmers in an area who respect the product's specifications, bringing equitable opportunity to whole communities. However, these collective rights demand an equally collective approach between producers and others in the value chain, in order to set up, govern and market GIs.

## From parmesan to Penja pepper

The practice of registering GIs began in Europe, initially for wine, and today well over a thousand products are on the EU register. The system has been credited with keeping entire local industries alive, while contributing to huge markets for origin-linked favourites like parmesan (Parmigiano-Reggiano) cheese and champagne. With such shining examples - and millions of GI-attuned consumers - it is no wonder that Europe is inspiring ACP countries to revisit their own local specialties.

But to go from a good reputation to a protected, quality controlled and well-marketed GI product takes much effort - and especially cooperation. There is no single formula for identifying a good origin-linked product or candidate for GI, and no single actor who can create a new



## Alternative marks

In the US, the main form of GI protection is through 'certification marks' owned and administered by independent entities. A certification mark on a product indicates that it matches given characteristics - such as a region of origin. In the US these often refer to states, such as the 'Grown in Idaho' mark for potatoes. Another solution is a 'collective mark', which certifies that a product is produced by a member of an association. When the association only admits members in a certain geographic area, a collective mark can function as a GI. Either of these marks can operate in the absence of a national system of GI protection by placing most of the responsibility on the mark's owner. The owner may be a private or public body, but needs to have the capacity to monitor the usage of the mark, enforce standards and bring legal action against any infringement.

Grenadian nutmeg has been identified by WIPO as a product that could receive technical assistance towards GI designation



Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee is noted for its mild flavour and lack of bitterness

origin-linked brand. This is where traditional farming and processing techniques meet a complex body of knowledge on intellectual property rights, branding and marketing.

Some of this expertise was brought together for the first time at a 2009 ACP/EU workshop on GIs, organised in Montpellier, France by CTA, the French Agency for Development (AFD) and the French agricultural research for development centre, CIRAD. The great interest sparked by this conference led to the establishment of an online discussion forum by CTA and the Organisation for an International Geographical Indications Network (OriGIN), which currently has 226 members from 63 countries. The collaboration culminated in a *Practical Manual on Geographical Indications for ACP Countries*, to provide policymakers, producers and others in the region with a comprehensive guide to the economic, legal and operational intricacies of the GI approach.

So far, sub-Saharan Africa has three examples of GI implementation: Penja pepper (see p18-19 *Penja pepper gets GI protection*) and Oku honey, both from Cameroon, and Ziama-Macenta coffee from Guinea. These are registered with the African Intellectual Property Organization (AIPO), which established a uniform system of protection for intellectual property in 1977 that has now proven suitable for GIs. It is very likely, however, that other products will be developed in the near future, ►

## Pacific origins?

As an island region of many unique environments and cultures, the Pacific looks like another natural home for origin-linked products. No Pacific states have yet taken on this challenge, but that may soon change. "The region certainly has great potential – see cocoa from Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands – and especially for linking with agro-tourism," says CTA's Senior Programme Coordinator for Value Chain Development Vincent Fautrel, who has participated in the Caribbean and African workshops (see p16). "Discussions are going on now with various organisations in the region on how to raise awareness of key stakeholders on these approaches and tools and strengthen their capacities."

GI products might be a way of showcasing Pacific products that the rest of the world hasn't yet heard about, along with the islands they come from. And examples are appearing in the neighbourhood: Indonesia has registered its first pilot GI for coffee from Kintamani, Bali, while the Philippines is working on products like Bicol pili nuts and pomelo fruit from Davao.

# DOSSIER

► as a number of partners have been supporting efforts around the continent. In a series of training workshops since May 2013, for example, CTA, FAO, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), AIPO, United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the West African regional farmers' organisation, ROPPA, have been building the capacities of West and Central African countries in selecting potential products.

## Island favourites

The promise of origin-linked products in the Caribbean is embodied in Blue Mountain coffee, a high value product from the mountains of eastern Jamaica. The country has followed this successful GI approach with other native products, from Jamaica rum to jerk spices. Other countries are also looking at how to move towards a GI approach; a regional WIPO/CTA training workshop in August 2013 helped with the identification process.

The Antigua Black pineapple seems like a sure bet: it has a distinctive look, a reputation as the 'world's sweetest pineapple' and is so closely associated with the island that it tops Antigua and Barbuda's national coat of arms. In a hotly contested global pineapple market

dominated by mega-producers, the Antigua Black could gain new markets for the small island, especially as the fruit's particular sweetness is dependent on the soil and relatively low rainfall. The country has been pursuing a GI branding strategy since 2010, but has not yet achieved the goal. Once a GI is secured, the true export potential will still depend on the island's productive capacity, which currently falls short of even domestic demand.

The government of Grenada, meanwhile, is pursuing branding not just for products, but for the island itself as the 'Spice Isle'. Grenadian nutmeg, in particular, was identified by WIPO among six products that could receive technical assistance towards GI designation. Grenada hopes that the fragrant spice will ultimately be recognised and protected on the European market.

"Within the region, the process of obtaining GI protection is relatively new," says Barbadian intellectual property expert Wendy Hollingsworth, so conforming to guidelines from outside makes sense. "In developing a framework for GI protection, countries within the region will use guidelines already in existence, such as those of the World Trade Organization (WTO) or the EU within the context of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA." A clause in the EPA

## Origin-linked Products

*On average GI products are estimated to be sold 2.23 times higher than non-GI products.*

Source: CTA, 2011; CTA, 2013; EC, 2014; Oryza.com, 2014; WIPO

### COFFEE



Blue Mountain coffee, Jamaica

*one of the most expensive coffees worldwide*

**US\$19.75**

per kilo  
vs. **US\$1.44**  
for roasted coffee

**45%**

of the retail price goes to producers

Ethiopian coffee

*trademark protection*

**US\$6-8/kg**

Farmers' income doubled in 2007 in comparison with their income in 2006 for Yirgacheffe coffee

**US\$1.2-1.6 billion**

expected from exports

### DARJEELING TEA



**10,000 t**

produced annually

**7,000 t**

exported

**US\$30 million**

profits derived from exported tea

**52,000**

full-time employees

**+ 15,000**

people employed during harvesting season

### BASMATI RICE



**20 million t**

expected production in India in 2014-15

**US\$250 million**

exports from Pakistan in 2001

**US\$1.5 billion**

exports from India alone in 2007

### ARGAN OIL



*Used for nutritional and cosmetic purposes in south-west Morocco*

**320 t**

exported in 2007/2008

**25-45%**

of the local population's income

### OLIVE OIL 'RIVIERA LIGURE'



*North-west coast of Italy*

**30%**

more expensive than non-origin-linked olive oil



The Antigua Black pineapple has a distinctive look

(Economic Partnership Agreement) required CARIFORUM countries to establish a system of GI protection by the start of 2014, which would lead to negotiation for a fully fledged agreement between the regions.

While these are government-led efforts, Hollingsworth stresses that anyone can potentially start the process. “Even smaller producers can file a GI application,” she says. “Such groups will often require support from the public sector or from business support organisations. To date, not much interest has been shown by either large or small producers and the process is being driven by intellectual property offices or business support organisations.” But eventually, it is the producers and their associations who must make quality products a reality, organising themselves with a code of practice and oversight authority.

### A changing geography

As more countries venture into GI development, there are, at least, plenty of examples to follow. In the meantime, it is important to remember that an origin-linked product does not necessarily need GI certification to find better markets. Unique, high quality products are everywhere, and there are many ways to preserve, protect and promote them (see p14 *Alternative marks*).

“I am sure that every country has some potential for origin-linked products, but whether there is value in pursuing a GI is very much on a case-by-case basis,” says CTA’s Senior Programme Coordinator for Value Chain Development Vincent Fautrel. “Countries need to examine very carefully which product could potentially become eligible and the identification methodology developed by FAO is really useful in this sense. The bottom line is whether this approach is going to provide more revenue for the farmers.” Sometimes, farmers already know and serve a market they have fed for generations. Sometimes, bigger possibilities lie over the horizon. The first step is simply looking around and discovering, or re-discovering, what makes a place unique. ■

T Paul Cox

## Viewpoint

Ziama Macenta coffee is one of the first African agricultural products to be registered as a geographical indication (GI). Marie-Antoinette Haba is the focal point for GIs at the Ministry of Agriculture in Guinea.



### Upgrading a gift of nature

#### What is the ‘Café Ziama Macenta’ GI?

The characteristics of Ziama Macenta coffee come from its geographical location in the Mount Ziama forest in Guinea, the microclimate, and the know-how of local producers. These all come together in a complex agroforestry system based on coffee trees. All operations (planting, harvesting, sorting, drying, packaging and storage of coffee shells, hulling, winnowing, grading and bagging of commercial coffee) must take place in this geographical area according to precise specifications (a ‘code of practice’).

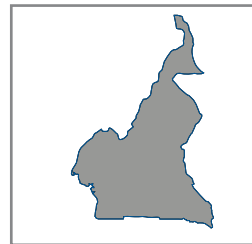
#### What are the advantages of having a GI?

Specific quality – when proven and mobilised by stakeholders themselves – can serve as a driving force for local development. Today, GI green coffee sells for 25,000 GNF (€2.59) per kg, compared to 13,000 GNF (€1.35) per kg for non-GI green coffee. Ziama Macenta coffee is sold in regional and European niche markets where consumers are ready to pay more to get high quality coffee. The producers’ knowledge and respect for their land guarantees more environmentally friendly farming. Preserving this environment maintains the reputation of their production, adds value, creates jobs and increases their bargaining power.

#### What are the lessons to be learnt from this experience?

Firstly, strong motivation and organisation are needed to carry such a project. Involving all stakeholders is of paramount importance. Secondly, the Guinean government needs to support local producers and help them develop technical and financial partnerships to mobilise the resources necessary to properly identify, upgrade and develop their products. The Guinean context has major constraints: unorganised actors and markets, lack of infrastructure, and poor access to finance for producers. With an output of 18 t and a purchase contract with a French company in 2013, the producers were able to make good use of this opportunity. But challenges remain. For instance, they were unable to produce enough and so their contract was suspended in 2014. The partnership should be maintained in 2015 provided both parties agree.

Anne Perrin



# Penja pepper gets GI protection

Penja white pepper, produced in Cameroon, has led the way as one of Africa's first GI protected crops – a lengthy process but one which is now bringing farmers deserved rewards.

**A**t the 'Plantations Metomo', located in Penja, Cameroon, employees wearing scarves and head covers sort Penja white pepper by hand. Some are checking to ensure that there aren't any foreign bodies in the pepper, while others sieve the pepper to separate large and small grains. "Current

production of Penja white pepper is around 300 to 400 t a year," explains René Claude Metomo, president of the association of Penja pepper producers which brings together over 300 actors in the sector, including nurserymen, producers and distributors. "However, production will certainly increase now that the white

Left: Penja white pepper crop  
Centre: Sorting of Penja white pepper  
Right: A Penja white pepper nursery



pepper produced in Penja has a geographic indication (GI) which allows it to be sold under the 'Penja Pepper' label," adds Metomo. "Potential production with our land is about 2,000 t a year."

"Penja white pepper was the first product to receive a GI in Africa," explains agro-economist Angeline Ketchajuene. "This means that the pepper received a protection linked to a specific locality of Cameroon. Pepper is a spice found almost everywhere in the world. But Penja pepper is different from others because of its specific taste and exceptional aroma," she adds. So why is Penja pepper so distinctive? Metomo explains: "In Penja, we have a rather particular ecosystem. We are on volcanic, basaltic grounds, thus the soil is very rich. Our climate is also very favourable to the culture of the pepper plant. All these ingredients come together to give Penja pepper qualities which are recognised internationally."

The process of obtaining GI took many years, beginning in 2008 and succeeding in September 2013. According to Ketchajuene, the most difficult part was organising all of the actors in the sector, getting them to come up with a specification document/code of practice, detailing the responsibilities of each party and steps to maintain the pepper quality. But producers testify that obtaining GI has improved their life, with the most visible aspect of this change the sale price of pepper. "Before the GI, prices fluctuated but were around 3,000 CFA (€4.50) per kg. Producers did not all sell at the same price but depended on their capacity to negotiate. Since the GI, the group of producers has managed to stabilise prices. For this season just ended, all the producers sold their pepper at 5,000 CFA (€7.60) per kg," reveals Metomo.

Most farmers in the producers' association grow conventional pepper, but there are some who produce

organic pepper, like Jean-Pierre Imélé. "We use only inputs authorised in organic farming," he explains, adding that he only uses organic fertiliser and pesticides made by one of their group members. Imélé has been producing organic pepper for 7 years on 3 ha and his production is checked annually by a certification body which provides him with documentation as proof of his organic status. This allows Imélé to sell his organic pepper to specialised shops in France for no less than 25,000 CFA (€38) per kg. "Obtaining GI has increased the pepper's fame," Imélé reveals. "Since the GI, orders have increased. We can't deliver the quantities that are needed."

According to Metomo, the biggest challenge after obtaining the GI will be to maintain the quality and the fame, especially as it is not easy to produce. "After planting a pepper plant, you have to wait 4 years to start harvesting the first seed. It is necessary to be patient. You have to maintain your plantation during those 4 years. Sometimes production fails and it is necessary to start again." To maintain the high quality of Penja pepper, producers are benefitting from support from Cameroon's Ministry of Agriculture, which is drilling two boreholes. "In pepper processing, the quality of water used to wash it is very important. It is necessary to wash them with drinking water," explains Metomo.

The Ministry is also constructing a packaging centre. "The packaging centre will be very important in terms of our specification document. Only products which have respected that document will be packaged with our logo, so we will be sure to continue to maintain the quality of Penja pepper," adds Metomo. Penja pepper is sold in Cameroon but also in France, Germany and Switzerland. ■

Anne Mireille Nzouankeu



# A sweet renaissance

The development of a range of sugarcane by-products has revitalised the Mauritian sugar industry – a winning strategy.

**T**he narrative of a long-expected death has proven ill-founded. The Mauritian sugar sector was heading towards economic disaster after the European Union (EU) scrapped its Sugar Protocol in 2007 and sugar prices subsequently fell by 37%, with the decisive blow expected to come once the system of sugar quotas is dismantled in 2017. But this scenario has not taken form because Mauritius implemented reforms and strategically repositioned its activities by transforming its sugar industry into a sugarcane processing industry. This industry integrates all economic components necessary for optimal processing of the raw material.

Mauritius first reduced the number of sugar factories from 17 in 1997 to four in 2014 to make the industry more competitive. But these remaining factories can crush more cane and also produce electricity. The country then invested in the production of 400,000 t per year of refined and specialty sugars, which are more profitable than raw sugar, through strategic partnerships, including with the German company SuedZucker AG. These sugars are sold directly to major clients, including European companies, such as Nestlé and Danone, and supermarkets. Gone are the days when the Mauritian sugar industry merely produced brown sugar for Tate & Lyle, the British company that refined and sold it on the European market.

The Mauritian industry also makes effective use of bagasse, a sugarcane residue. This residue was discarded as waste when the industry was focused on the production of brown sugar, prior to the price drop. Bagasse is now used along with coal as fuel for cogeneration applications, generating around 20% of the electricity consumed on the island. Ethanol is also produced from molasses,



© Mauritius Sugarcane Industry Research Institute

another sugarcane by-product that was once used as fertiliser. Finally, agricultural rum is another sugarcane-based product that is always appreciated in France, which imports several tens of thousands of bottles yearly.

In Mauritius, people now talk about the sugarcane industry rather than the sugar industry since all parts of the plant are now being used. So the issues that arose following the EU sugar reform have now been turned into opportunities that have saved the industry.

## Forgotten small-scale growers?

Producers, especially small-scale growers, however, are not fully benefitting from this trend. Around 20,000 smallholders cultivate about 40% of the overall sugarcane growing area. “We sell our sugarcane as raw material to the sugar factories and get practically nothing back in return for the bagasse, electricity, vinasse, molasses or ethanol they produce from our sugarcane - we only get paid for the sugar,” says Jugessur Guirdharry, a farmer member of the Union Park Cooperative Society in southern Mauritius. Farmers have to cope with rising production costs, including fertilisers, herbicides, labour and transportation. “If a small-scale grower is not involved in some of the field work and has to hire workers for the task, then he won’t be able to keep his head above water,”

Guirdharry adds.

When brown sugar was the only sugarcane product manufactured on the island, nobody was interested in the by-products. Now that bagasse has value, small-scale growers are demanding fair compensation for this by-product. Moreover, the factories keep 22% of the produced sugar to pay for their cane crushing operations, which small-scale growers deem too high. Fearing that these small-scale sugarcane growers would switch to another crop, Kailash Purryag, President of the Republic of Mauritius, interceded to reduce this share.

Sen Dabydoyal, a farmer member of the Médine Cooperative Society in eastern Mauritius, says, “We have not yet hit rock bottom, but we’re not far. The number of small-scale growers who add value to the Mauritian sugarcane industry will decrease along with the sugarcane growing area.” Some cooperatives that had up to 300 members not long ago now only have around 50.

The sugarcane industry is growing, but danger looms. The future dismantling of the system of sugar quotas in 2017 could result in lower prices, which will likely be a significant blow to small-scale sugarcane growers. ■

**Nasseem Ackbarally**

# Celebrating 30 years



## Stories of Change: Transforming Lives Through Agricultural and Rural Development

By C Pye-Smith  
CTA, 2014; 72 pp.  
ISBN 978-92-9081-545-7  
CTA no. 1775  
0 credit points

Downloadable as PDF file from:  
<http://tinyurl.com/pthkfrd>



Written to mark CTA's 30 year history and providing a snapshot of the Centre's achievements over the last decade, *Stories of Change* begins with an honest declaration from CTA Director Michael Hailu: this book is a celebration, not an impact assessment. As such, it is very successful. Written by a highly respected and accomplished development author, Charlie Pye-Smith, and with stunning photographs from a wealth of sources, *Stories of Change* offers the reader a collection of short, well-focused case studies that span the range of CTA's activities. Naturally, these stories focus on

the individuals and partner organisations that have benefited from those activities, allowing them to pay tribute to the transformations they have witnessed.

CTA prides itself on being responsive to the needs of a changing world, and this is reflected in its achievements. In the context of rural development, it has led the way in promoting the use of social media and other ICTs; support for Rwanda's 'telecentre revolution' is just one example. And while CTA is probably best known for getting information and know-how to farmers (including through *Spore*), readers can learn of other areas of work that may be less familiar: prompting policy debate, especially in Europe; supporting improved marketing of agricultural produce; and strengthening agricultural research skills.

# Climate change



## Living with Environmental Change

Edited by K Hastrup  
& C Rubow  
Routledge, 2014; 304 pp.  
ISBN 978-04-  
1574-667-0  
£25 • €31  
Routledge  
130 Milton Park  
Abingdon  
OX14 4SB, UK  
[www.routledge.com](http://www.routledge.com)

■ Of the many ways of considering climate change, this large format and lavishly illustrated book uses the lens of anthropology: what climate change means to different people living in a diversity of sites ranging from Greenland to Burkina Faso, Ghana, India, Mauritania and Peru to the Cook Islands and Kiribati. The message is that people respond to climate change by adapting: the adaptation may be to exploit a site in a new and even advantageous way, or to abandon it and migrate elsewhere.

A team of 13 authors write from the standpoint of their specialities - land use, different aspects of water, arctic, mountain, urban and sea level living - and describe new technologies for coping with climate change. All are associated with the *Waterworlds* team at the University of Copenhagen. They explore how people across the world think about environmental change and how they act on their perception of past, present and future opportunities. The book offers much to think about - for planners and politicians and the general reader alike.

## ▼ Expanding opportunities

'Inclusive business' describes profitable, core business activities that tangibly expand opportunities for producers, suppliers, workers, distributors and consumers. This report draws together findings on inclusive business models that work - or don't - in Bangladesh, India, Malawi, Nigeria and Zambia. The challenge and importance of creating a viable business model, how it evolves, and the time needed to deliver results at scale, are outlined in this report.

### The 4Ps of Inclusive Business

By C Ashley, T Harrison & C Schramm  
Business Innovation Facility, 2014; 40 pp.

Downloadable as PDF file from:  
<http://tinyurl.com/nw6s7sm>

## ▼ Quality assurance

This report highlights the main conclusions of a workshop that looked at how voluntary standards for sustainability (VSS) could be made to work for farmers and small producers, how VSS could be used to enable green trade opportunities (particularly in agri-food products), how to make them work for consumers and the private sector, and the role public actors should play.

### Voluntary Standards for Sustainable Food Systems: Challenges and Opportunities

Edited by A Meybeck & S Redfern  
FAO, 2014; 242 pp.  
ISBN 978-92-5107-902-7

Downloadable as PDF file from:  
<http://tinyurl.com/nfle46v>

## ▼ Women's wealth

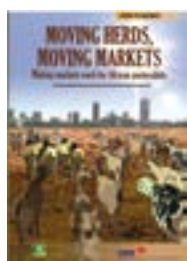
Strengthening the abilities of smallholder farmers, particularly women, to produce for home and the market is a development priority. This paper explores changes in gender relations in different agricultural interventions from four value chain projects. It suggests that the dairy and horticulture value chains have successfully increased both men and women's assets, and their social and human capital, particularly for women.

### Closing the Gender Asset Gap: Learning from Value Chain Development in Africa and Asia

By AR Quisumbing, D Rubin, C Manfre et al.  
IFPRI, 2014; 28 pp.

Downloadable as PDF file from:  
<http://tinyurl.com/k3eyt69>

## Trading up



**Moving Herds, Moving Markets: Making Markets Work for African Pastoralists**  
 Edited by K Hastrup & C Rubow  
 CTA/IIRR, 2013; 185 pp.  
 ISBN 978-92-9081-544-0  
 CTA no. 1778  
 20 credit points  
 Downloadable as PDF file from:  
<http://tinyurl.com/lsvcbxb>



In West Africa, the livestock sector provides employment for around 50% of the economically active population. Meanwhile in Sudan, the pastoralist-dominated livestock sector contributes 80% of agricultural GDP; in Namibia the figure is 28%, less but still highly significant. Thus the keeping of livestock in Africa's dry regions, whether by 'exclusive pastoralists' who have no settled home or 'agropastoralists', who grow some crops as well as keeping livestock, is a hugely important activity.

This excellent, writeshop-produced book from CTA and IIRR, offers the non-specialist reader an invaluable introduction to pastoralist systems in Africa. Written in highly accessible language, with engaging illustrations and a clear, reader-friendly structure, it describes the problems that pastoralists face in marketing their products and provides practical suggestions for how these challenges can be solved. These are targeted at a range of audiences, from government and development organisations to the private sector, and to pastoralists themselves. Highly recommended.

### ▼ Lessons in cooperation

After reviewing the evolution of collective action among smallholders, this paper assesses the determinants of success and discusses lessons and options for future action. These include lessons from collective action for market participation by African smallholders, value chain penetration by developed country farmers, and natural resources management among pastoralist communities. It also covers the possibility of using ICTs to build the institutional, commercial and technical skills of smallholder producer organisations.

#### **Collective Action among African Smallholders**

By F Wanyama, C Poulton, H Markelova *et al.*  
 IFPRI, 2014; 18 pp.

Downloadable as PDF file from:  
<http://tinyurl.com/kjd8c73>

## Agricultural policies



**Markets and States in Tropical Africa**  
 By RH Bates  
 University of California Press, 2014; 216 pp.  
 ISBN 978-05-2028-256-8  
 £19.95 • €25  
 University of California Press  
 155 Grand Avenue  
 Suite 400  
 Oakland, California  
 USA  
[www.ucpress.edu](http://www.ucpress.edu)

■ If the title is familiar it is because, ever since its first publication in 1981, this book has been widely read and quoted as a critique of why agriculture has failed and poverty persisted in Africa. Based on personal research in the then newly independent countries by author Robert H. Bates, Professor of the Science of Government at Harvard University, this is an expanded and updated edition, together with a new Preface that explains how he has tackled the need to totally revise his earlier judgements in order to explain the new vigour now apparent in several African economies.

"At the time of writing, six of Africa's economies number among the ten fastest growing in the world," he writes. "The principal thrust of my argument remains intact, however: that the politics of Africa shapes its economic performance, including its response to economic forces originating from abroad." Read the volume and understand Bates' analysis of what and how much has changed.

### ▼ Information deficit

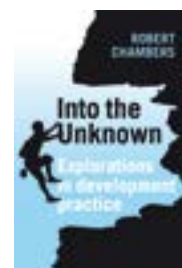
Growth in demand for animal protein in Africa could provide significant opportunities for livestock producers, but there are major information gaps which constrain the formulation of effective policy and investment decisions. For example, basic information on livestock keepers is needed to measure the contribution of livestock to livelihoods and to understand the potential returns from livestock investments. Typically, such information is unavailable at national level.

#### **Business and Livelihoods in African Livestock**

Edited by U Pico-Ciamarra, D Baker, N Morgan *et al.*  
 World Bank, 2014; 40 pp.

Downloadable as PDF file from:  
<http://tinyurl.com/kp3seg8>

## Lessons learned



**Into the Unknown: Explorations in Development Practice**  
 By R Chambers  
 Practical Action Publishing, 2014; 180 pp.  
 ISBN 978-18-5339-823-0  
 £8.95 • €11  
 Practical Action Publishing  
 The Schumacher Centre  
 Bourton on Dunsmore  
 Rugby  
 CV23 9QZ, UK  
<http://tinyurl.com/lqqq267>

■ Development is about change, and international development researchers should be prepared for exploration, for discovering the unexpected and for questioning the direction that 'development' is taking. As such, Robert Chambers uses this book to reflect on his journey of learning, and encourage readers who are immersed in researching international development to learn from observation, curiosity, critical feedback, play and fun.

Specifically written for development professionals, *Into the Unknown* looks at how 'participatory rural appraisal' and 'community-led total sanitation' have benefitted from sharing practice, innovations and experience through participatory workshops. Over 20 methods, lessons or tips on how to lead and convene workshops that can co-generate knowledge and have an influence are included. The book concludes with direct lessons about development practice in research, policy influence, actions learning and workshops.

### ▼ Urban agriculture

This report looks at the progress that has been made towards realising 'greener cities' in Latin America and the Caribbean, in which urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA) is recognised by public policy and included in urban development strategies and land-use planning. The report finds that UPA is widespread, but states that increased support from national, state and local governments is still required to realise its full potential.

#### **Growing Greener Cities in Latin America and the Caribbean**

By FAO  
 FAO, 2014; 51 pp.  
 ISBN 978-92-5108-250-8

Downloadable as PDF file from:  
<http://tinyurl.com/kcttg26>

## Investment



**Finance for Food**  
Edited by D Köhn  
Springer, 2014; 295 pp.  
ISBN 978-36-4254-033-2  
£44.99 • €56  
Springer  
236 Gray's Inn Road  
Floor 6  
London  
WC1X 8HB, UK  
[www.springer.com](http://www.springer.com)

■ While African agriculture has suffered from decades of poor financing, the current boom in private sector investment and an upturn in government budgets for farming are positive signs for a more productive future. Despite this, access to both capital and financial services is still a significant bottleneck for small-scale farmers and processors. Too many financial institutions continue to be wary of rural investments and the need for new ways to include rural people in financial systems is paramount.

With rural banks facing challenges such as poor physical infrastructure, dispersed demand, high risks in client income and limited collateral, innovative approaches are needed if rural populations are to join the formal financial system. This book draws on a wide variety of expertise (from academics to private industry) to suggest solutions, including new ways to reach the rural poor, such as mobile banking. Innovations in institutions and processes in order to cope with agricultural risks, and ways of assessing and mitigating the risks associated with agricultural finance are also covered.

### ▼ Reducing emissions

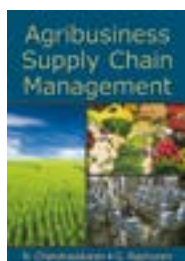
This report examines the strategies and approaches of 23 sub-national REDD+ initiatives in six countries, the nature of the challenges they faced, and how they intended to overcome them. To overcome the biggest challenges, of tenure and unviable economics, the report calls for participatory tenure mapping, clarification of forest carbon tenure rights, direct linkage of forest tenure reform, development of sustainable agricultural supply chains that correspond to REDD+ goals, and enforcement of laws against illegal logging.

#### **The Challenge of Establishing REDD+ on the Ground**

By WD Sunderlin, AD Ekapatni, EO Sills *et al.*  
CIFOR, 2014; 44 pp.  
ISBN 978-60-2150-432-1

Downloadable as PDF file from:  
<http://tinyurl.com/ly4lzc5>

## Best practices



**Agribusiness Supply Chain Management**  
By N Chandrasekaran & G Raghuram  
CRC Press, 2014; 700 pp.  
ISBN 978-14-6651-674-8  
£63.99 • €80  
CRC Press  
130 Milton Park  
Abingdon  
OX14 4SB, UK  
[www.crcpress.com](http://www.crcpress.com)

■ Agribusiness supply chains include processes such as management of supply, production and demand through a competitive distribution channel, but each step can be affected by diversity of production and demand, bulkiness of produce, perishability and seasonality. In this substantial volume the two authors share their considerable experience to help readers systematically approach decision-making in the agricultural sector.

Companies compete on supply chains, inefficiencies shaving margins: the authors provide numerous case studies spanning a wide range of issues and industries that can help readers sharpen their managerial decision-making skills. The authors also emphasise the dependence of supply chains on government and its bodies to function effectively, so policymakers must also understand the complexities of supply and demand of inputs and production in agribusiness. From cold-chain, storage, packaging and transport to effective use of ICTs and debt servicing, this volume has much to offer any reader intent on making the best of agricultural potential.

### ▼ Equitable growth

The 'green economy' and 'green growth' policymaking have gained significant traction in recent years, but policymakers often fail to take account of the social implications and costs of such policies, particularly on the poorest. This briefing draws on a wide range of national case studies to propose ten guidelines for promoting national strategies and policies that are both green and just.

#### **Securing Social Justice in the Green Economy**

By K Raworth, S Bass & S Wykes  
IIED, 2014; 4 pp.

Downloadable as PDF file from:  
<http://tinyurl.com/lgpw7wd>

## Manual



**Fiji Floriculture Handbook**  
By CTA/SSO  
CTA/SSO, 2013; 78 pp.  
CTA no. 1774  
10 credit points

Floriculture has become big business for small businesses in Fiji and it has potential elsewhere in the Pacific. A driving force in Fiji has been South Sea Orchids (SSO), which has both trained growers and helped to develop markets in Fiji and abroad. This slim but informative and attractively produced manual has been produced by SSO to provide reference for established growers and to form the basis for training at workshops. The publication will prove useful throughout the Pacific and should more than justify CTA funding of its publication.

The advice, diagrams and images result from long practical experience by Don and Aileen Burness, owners of SSO, who began their careers in floriculture with orchids in the early 1980s. Sourcing plants and advice from the University of Hawaii, their enterprise succeeded and has gone on to help many others in Fiji and elsewhere, diversifying into gingers, heliconias, guzmanias and potted trees. Beginners and established growers will also benefit from sound advice on business management.

### ▼ Next generation

Who wants to farm, and under what conditions? Where are economic, environmental and social conditions to bring educated young people into farming? How are policies and programmes creating attractive opportunities in agro-food livelihoods? This paper digs deeper into why youth in developing countries appear reluctant to enter farming. It identifies conditions under which capable and enterprising youth are being attracted to farming, and entry-points for youth participation in policymaking around agriculture and food security.

#### **Who Wants to Farm? Youth Aspirations, Opportunities and Rising Food Prices**

By J Leavy & N Hossain  
IDS, 2014; 18 pp.  
ISBN 978-17-8118-158-4

Downloadable as PDF file from:  
<http://tinyurl.com/klijgxc>

## Information



### Media and Development

By M Scott  
Zed Books, 2014; 232 pp.  
ISBN 978-04-1574-667-0  
£14.99 • €19  
Zed Books  
7 Cynthia Street  
London  
N1 9JF, UK  
www.zedbooks.co.uk

■ From delivering public health messages to promoting democratic participation, the media plays a crucial role in development, but it can also have negative impacts. *Media and Development* highlights the variety and complexity of the media's role in social change, in order to better understand how this impacts on poverty and inequality around the world.

The book is split into three sections and begins by analysing the potential benefits of using media as a mechanism to achieve development outcomes. Communication for development is about seeking sustained and meaningful change through working at different levels, including listening, debating, learning, building trust, sharing knowledge and skills, and building policies. Specific examples, including Kenya's soap opera *Makutano Junction*, are reviewed. The book then covers initiatives to develop the media sector within specific regions or countries, the media's representation of development, and how this impacts ethical consumerism, public policy, charitable donations and support for NGOs.

### ▼ Food security

This briefing makes the case for investment in agro-ecology to achieve food security for some of the poorest farmers in the world. It shows how an agro-ecological approach can provide a range of social, economic and environmental benefits that, with the right policy support and associated investments, can be scaled up to enable smallholder farming communities to achieve sustainable livelihoods.

### Building a New Agricultural Future: Supporting Agro-ecology for People and Planet

By GE Castillo  
Oxfam International, 2014; 18 pp.  
ISBN 978-17-8077-582-1

Downloadable as PDF file from:  
<http://tinyurl.com/ntpczpe>

## Community driven



### Scaling up Multiple Use Water Services

By B van Koppen, S Smits, CR del Rio et al.  
Practical Action Publishing, 2014; 104 pp.  
ISBN 978-18-5339-830-8  
£9.95 • €12.50  
For Practical Action Publishing's address, see p22

■ People in developing countries need water for many purposes - for drinking, bathing, irrigating vegetable gardens and watering livestock - but responsibility for water services is often divided between different government agencies. Multiple use water services (MUS) is a participatory approach that takes account of poor people's multiple water needs as a starting point of planning. This book argues that by designing cost-effective multi-purpose infrastructure, MUS can have a positive impact on people's health and livelihoods.

*Scaling up Multiple Use Water Services* analyses and explains the success factors of MUS and why there has been resistance against scaling up the approach. The book states that resistance could be overcome by a stronger service delivery approach, by rewarding more livelihood outcomes, fostering discretionary decision-making powers of local-level staff and allowing horizontal coordination.

### ▼ Natural resources

This report profiles five local organisations working to link biodiversity conservation and local development in and around protected areas in Eastern Africa. It details key lessons on the factors that have supported or constrained their effectiveness, and the important roles such organisations play in integrating conservation and development, as partners of the state, champions of local rights, surrogates for state institutions, and market actors.

### Getting it Together: How Some Local Organisations in East Africa have Succeeded in Linking Conservation and Development

By O Hughes, D Roe, DHL Thomas et al.  
IIED, 2014; 115 pp.  
ISBN 978-18-4369-978-3

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## CTA celebrates family farming in the tropics

The United Nations declared 2014 the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF), reflecting the international community's determination to "reposition family farming at the centre of agricultural, environmental and social policies in national agendas."



A family from Uganda building improved hives for honey production

CTA has joined forces with FAO and the World Rural Forum (the international coordinators of the IYFF), alongside many international, national and regional organisations, to celebrate and learn from this special year.

Around the world, family farming is a major source of employment for millions of people, while also having a paramount role in the fight against food insecurity. Production and income for the vast majority of smallholder farms in ACP countries are based on family labour.

So what exactly is family farming? What are its challenges? What are the social and technological innovations family farming helps to implement, and how can more resources be allocated to boost its profitability, while meeting the challenge of feeding the world by 2025? How could this be sustainably and

equitably achieved? Do national agricultural policies reflect the current realities of the silent majority of smallholders? All of these issues have answers: several IYFF organisers and partners have achieved encouraging results from initiatives that have addressed these questions, and these should interest the media and general public.

This year represents a unique and long-sought opportunity to highlight the contribution of family farms in an ever-changing setting. CTA is committed to helping family farmers obtain the resources necessary to enhance the profitability of their farms so that they will be better prepared to meet the many challenges they face. The Centre supports projects that facilitate small family farmers' access to finance and stimulate interest in ICTs, while creating opportunities for sharing scientific knowledge, innovations

and local know-how, and encouraging the creation of more inclusive agricultural value chains.

CTA focuses on family farming concerns in ACP countries in a special issue of *Spore* published this summer. Some of these realities deserve closer attention in the light of the double symbolic significance of this year, 2014, which as well as being the IYFF, is also the International Year of Small Island Developing States. To this end, CTA has set up a mini website to showcase and pay tribute to the vitality and dynamism of family farmers in small island developing states. The Centre presents the viewpoints of its experts with the aim of reviving and bolstering family farming, while providing food for thought on the many opportunities for potential cooperation. Enjoy your visit! <http://cta.int/en/news/iyff.html>

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## CTA's gender strategy revamped

Women clearly have a paramount role in agriculture in ACP countries, but they are often held back due to a lack of adequate access to information. How can CTA make a difference? **Tarikua Woldetsadick**, who is in charge of CTA's gender strategy, explains.

### *CTA has revised its 2003 Gender Strategy. What are its main recommendations?*

CTA's revised 2014 Strategy for Gender is designed to take the Centre into its new strategic period from 2015 and beyond. CTA is at the forefront of developments in the field of agriculture, ICTs and knowledge, and key to every recommendation in the strategy is that empowerment is what is most crucial to ACP women today. At the heart of the strategy is the recognition that by directly and indirectly targeting smallholders in ACP countries, CTA, through its mandate and activities, has always embraced women as a key part of its beneficiaries. This strategy calls for an 'en-gendering' of CTA's impact by strengthening existing women-specific products and by ensuring that all its activities, products and services are based on solid gender analysis.

*The strategy states that "Women are the backbone of the rural economy. Yet they access only a fraction of productive resources such as land, credit, inputs, agricultural training and ICTs compared to men."*  
*What difference will CTA make?*

CTA is a knowledge organisation with comparative advantages including access to ACP policymakers and its pioneering role in promoting ICTs as key to agricultural and rural development. With its GenArdis project, for example, CTA was the first to show that ICTs are not gender neutral. The current body of knowledge on the impact of ICTs in empowering ACP women in agriculture, both in terms of policymaking and in agri-value chains development, is still very weak. One of the ways that CTA can contribute is by filling this knowledge gap, which will in turn enable well informed and sustainable interventions to be implemented together with our partners.

### *Empowerment of ACP women in agriculture requires the engagement of ACP governments and policymakers. What actions does CTA plan in this regard? Will ACP women organisations be involved?*

One of the ways CTA will engage ACP agricultural and rural development policymakers is by providing the evidence required to make policies that empower women. Firstly, there is a need to generate that evidence. Value chains analysis, capacity building, specific research and CTA's work on science, technology and innovations are but a few of the mechanisms that CTA uses to generate such evidence. Secondly, this evidence needs to be promoted, up-scaled and used, not least because CTA already promotes multi-stakeholder policy processes, and this cannot happen without the involvement of ACP women's organisations. This includes the recognition of ACP women and their representative organisations as policy actors in their own right. It also involves strengthening their capacity to make their voices heard.

### *How will the impact of this new strategy be evaluated?*

CTA's plan is firstly to facilitate and maximise impact. CTA staff will be provided with specific tools and support to strengthen the gender analysis of their interventions. The plan includes clear progress markers and targets for each project cycle management step to enable them to translate the 'new en-gendered CTA impact pathway' into concrete actions. Coupled with CTA's new partnerships and regional strategies, this will help with regular monitoring as well as context specific project design. Since CTA cannot bring about impact in isolation from its partners, CTA has a unique evaluation framework which encompasses impact of its own capacity and that of its partner organisations.



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