



## Cameroon National Consultation for CGIAR Site Integration



## Workshop Report

March 2016

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## List of acronyms

<b>AVRDC:</b>	World Vegetable Center
<b>BIOVERSITY:</b>	Bioversity International
<b>CGIAR:</b>	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
<b>CRP:</b>	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Research Program
<b>CIFOR:</b>	Centre for International Forestry Research
<b>ICRAF:</b>	World Agroforestry Centre
<b>IITA:</b>	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
<b>IRAD:</b>	Institute of Agricultural Research for Development

## **1. Introduction**

In order to prepare the success of the CRP phase 2, CGIAR had developed the concept of site integration. Cameroon was chosen among the countries to experiment this concept. So the scientists from all CGIAR centres based in Cameroon (ICRAF, CIFOR, IITA and BIOVERSITY) met on Friday, 18th March 2016 at the ICRAF office in Bastos Yaoundé for the first National Consultation for CGIAR Site Integration workshop. The meeting was extended to include national partners (IRAD) and other important sister organizations dealing with development of rural areas: AVRDC, CIRAD, SNV and Universities etc. In the face of current challenges within the CGIAR, the participants met to look at ways of improving in-country collaboration and coordination as well as to identify opportunities to align CGIAR current and future Agriculture Research-for-Development (AR4D) activities with national priorities and seeking a common understanding of current and evolving development challenges in Cameroon.

## **2. Opening session**

While introducing the context and purpose of the meeting, Zac Tchoundjeu, ICRAF WCA Regional Coordinator, made a strong appeal for CGIAR centres working in Cameroon to work as a team as a way to enhance the outcomes of CGIAR's research agenda. He further explained that the second phase of CRPs (2017-2025) will put a lot of emphasis on impact and this can only be achieved if the CGIAR centres implement the various programs in an integrated manner, align their research with national priorities and intensify their interactions with national partners. He added that the national site integration meeting was the first step in the integration process through which we can engage partnership, find synergies, and learn about national priorities. Zac saluted the on-going collaboration between some of the Centres within the framework of the CRPs such as the Sentinel Landscape initiative.

## **3. Workshop Objectives**

The objectives of the workshop were as follow:

1. To achieve a common understanding of current and evolving development challenges in Cameroon and related national priorities for addressing these where Agriculture Research-for-Development can play a key role.
2. To identify opportunities to align CGIAR current and future AR4D activities with the activities of all other key actors and the national priorities, ensuring the relevance of research to achieving development outcomes.
3. To recommend modalities for greater country collaboration and coordination.

This workshop will provide a major input into CGIAR Cameroon site integration plan as well as important inputs into Phase 2 of the current CGIAR Research Programs.

#### **4. Participants**

A total of 23 participants actively took part in the workshop. They were drawn from the different CGIAR centres that have presence in Cameroon (ICRAF, IITA, CIFOR, national agricultural research systems (IRAD), universities (IBAYSUP), NGOs (SNV) and other (CIRAD, AVRDC) (see list in the Annex).

#### **5. Session II WHO: Getting on the Same Page. Who are we – lessons to date, agendas, priorities, focus areas, ambitions.**

The second session was facilitated by Denis Sonwa of CIFOR. “We need to have a global view of all the on-going activities of the different CGIAR centres” he said. This paved the way for the different CGIAR centre to present their on-going research activities.

Rachid Sana, IITA Country Representative presented on-going research on the following: fruits and vegetables, development of Bio pesticides, sustainable intensification of cocoa, climate change risk

analysis, social studies and capacity development, the different laboratories and youth training in agribusiness amongst others.

Zac Tchoundjeu, ICRAF-WCA Regional Coordinator and team presented on on-going research on participatory tree domestication and the different vegetative multiplication techniques on high value indigenous fruit trees, marketing and value chain development, REDD and climate change, land health decisions, restoration of cocoa plantations, community forestry through DRYAD project, rural advisory services and rural resource centres amongst others.

Richard Eba'a, Regional Coordinator of CIFOR and team gave a snapshot of CIFOR activities ranging from that on the sentinel landscape, the FAO project on the provision of legal wood, the project on knowledge sharing in partnership with the Ministry of Forestry (MINFOF) and the activities on capacity development amongst others.

Mathurin Tchatat presented the different structures of IRAD, how they are working in all the different agro-ecological zones and covering a wide range variety of tree and crops with specialised centres focusing on specific domains.

Jean-Claude Bidogeza presented on different activities of AVDRC. He talked about the project on livelihood, the Humid tropics, traditional African vegetables, the project funded by IFAD in North Cameroon amongst others.

This was followed by a series of questions for clarifications. After the presentations, participants were unanimous that IRAD is an enormous store of potentials taking into consideration the fact they are have stations in all the regions of the country. It was also observed that the CGIAR centres in Cameroon have a strong presence in certain agro-ecological zones. They are mostly working in the southern part of the country with little activities in the north. Participants saluted the fact that CGIAR centres are responding to food security issues working mostly in collaboration with the technical government ministries and little with the private sector. It was also observed that not enough is being done on gender

## **6. Session III WHAT: Opportunities for Collaboration with Focus Areas Proposed – addressing relevant development challenges and aligned to national priorities**

The participants were divided into three (3) sub-groups to look at three important issues that are considered crucial for site integration. The issues are:

- Sustainable intensification
- Climate smart rural development
- Challenges and opportunities for successful collaboration.

The groups presented the outcomes of the discussion on each of the theme in plenary followed by a question and answer section.

## **7. Major outcomes of the workshop**

The major outcome of the workshop can be summarized as follow:

- For site integration to work, participants agreed that adequate resources should go into its implementation, and to ensure that all the partners are able see the benefit of being part of the integrated approach.
- Participants were able to earmark the priority research domains on which collaboration can be built.
- The need for the establishment of a joint CGIAR-national agriculture research system collaboration platform where all the institutions meet regularly for planning and sharing of information.
- Participants unanimously define major areas of collaboration to include; the development of joint research proposals, sharing of equipment and resources, streamlining policy engagement, and improving opportunities and modalities of capacity development.
- The participants raised the need for regular scientific presentation to share the findings of research activities. To this effect a committee was put in place to coordinate among centres

and proposed a calendar for various presentations. The members of the committee are ICRAF (Bertin Takoutsing), CIFOR (Fai Collins), IITA (Fotso), CIRAD (TBD), IRAD (TBD), AVDRC (TBD).

- Collaboration between centres could be enhanced through joint research implementation and supervision, publications, and exchange of staff.
- Participants recommended more joint proposal development and research, focusing on systems, rather than sectorial approach, with common objectives linked to national priorities.
- Participants highlighted the need for the development of protocols on shared facilities such as office space, laboratories, equipment and germplasm.

## **8. Closing session**

Speaking earlier, Denis Sonwa said this is just the beginning and there is hope everything will work out well. “If we look at the Sentinel Landscape, there is hope it will work... this is an opportunity and we have to work as a team to source funding and to give a strong signal to the CGIAR that we in Cameroon are on the right tract. Closing the workshop, Zac Tchoundjeu reiterated the need for the CGIAR centres in Cameroon to work together. “It is not acceptable to see that in a country with four CGIAR centres, we are sending laying off staff due to funding challenges. The major conclusion as the way forward was that once the report of this workshop is finalized and reviewed, a country steering committee made of ICRAF, IITA, CIFOR and BIOVERSITY will be put in place to validate its content, give directives and propose the agenda for the next meeting scheduled to hold at the IITA campus at a date to be announced.



## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#	Name	Institution	Position
	TSOBENG ALAIN	ICRAF	Assistant Scientist / Tree Improvement
	TCHOUNDJEU ZAC	ICRAF	Regional Coordinator / WCA
	SONWA DENIS	CIFOR	Scientist
	NANA ERIC	HIES - IBAY	Researcher
	JEAN-MICHEL HARMAND	ICRAF / CIRAD	Scientist
	SADO THADDEE	ICRAF	Junior Scientist
	TUECHE JACQUES ROBERTO	IRAD	ASB Facilitator
	TAKOUTSING BERTIN	ICRAF	Assistant Scientist / Land Health
	TSAFACK SYGNOLA	ICRAF	Junior Scientist
	MBOSSO CHARLIE	ICRAF	Socio-economist
	FAI COLLINS	CIFOR	Communication Officer
	ATIA JULIUS	ICRAF	Communication Officer
	MATHE SYNDHIA	CIRAD - IITA	Socio-economist
	JEAN-CLAUDE BIDOGEZA	AVRDC	Agricultural economist
	NKEUMOE FREDERICK	ICRAF	Junior Scientist / Biometrician
	RACHID HANNA	IITA	Scientist
	TCHATAT MATHURIN	IRAD	Scientific Coordinator / Forest-Soil-Environment
	NKENGLA LILIAN	IITA	Scientist
	NYANGA PHILIP	ICRAF	HR Officer
	FOTSEU WILLIAM	SNV	RE Advisor
	EBA'A ATYI RICHARD	CIFOR	Regional Coordinator
	ALEMAGI DIEUDONNE	ICRAF	Scientist
	NNA DENIS	ICRAF	Junior Scientist / Land Health – Tree Improvement