

A Strategic Partnership in Research for Development

We thank the Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS) of the Netherlands for their significant support of the “research for development” initiatives at CIAT.

In 2010, the CGIAR requested proposals for programs on seven key development themes. These programs would represent a new way of working, the hallmarks of which would be research integration, strong partnerships, and sharp focus on development impact. Given its broad mandate related to food security and climate change research, CIAT is actively involved in research partnerships in several CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs). The Center’s researchers are substantially involved in the CGIAR Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP) and the CRP on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS). CIAT contributed significantly to several proposals, and now plays central roles in the two programs already under way.

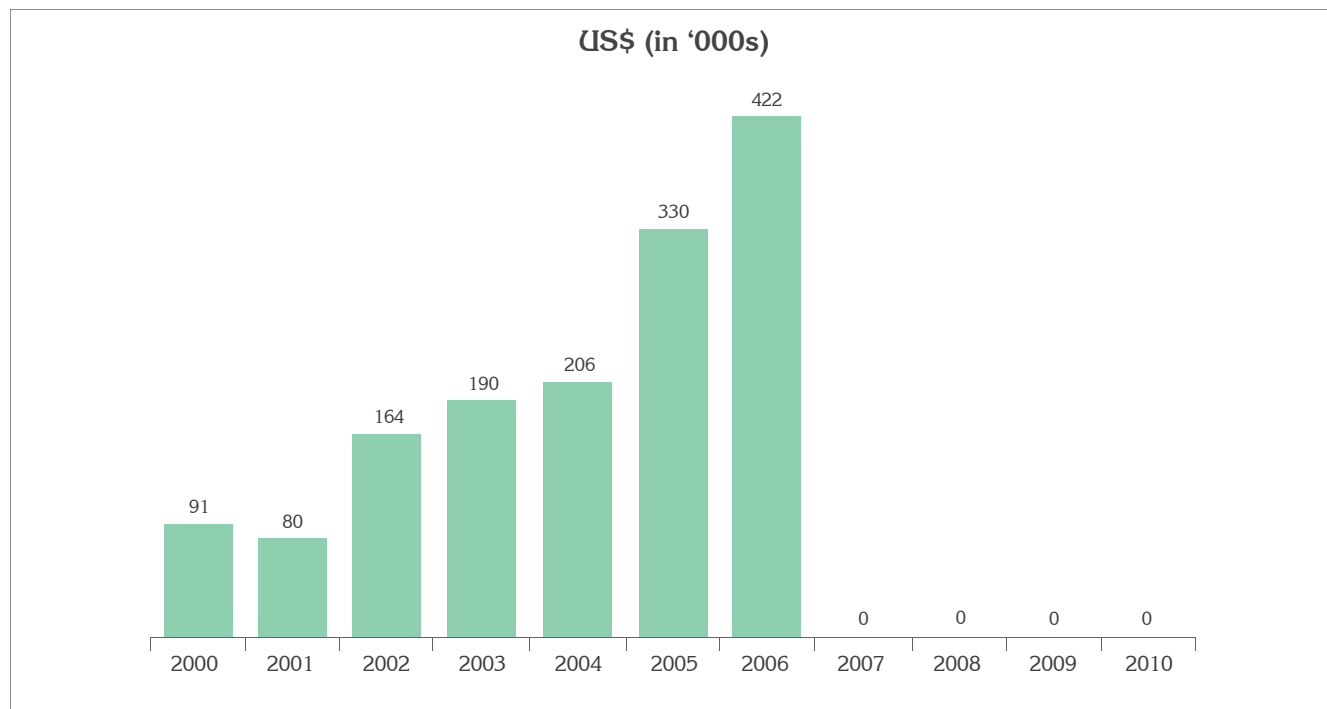
We look forward to strengthening the Center’s partnership with BMZ/GIZ and aligning some of our initiatives more closely with their priorities. In addition, we welcome continued efforts to identify opportunities for research and institutional cooperation with our German partners and colleagues in developing countries to fight against poverty, improve rural livelihoods, and better understand climate change and its impacts.

CIAT initiatives supported by the Netherlands Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIS), 2000–2010

Project name	CIAT staff member	Period	US\$ (in ‘000s)	Results
Cassava Biotechnology Network (CBN) III	Joe Tohme	2000–2007	653	- The CBN became the Cassava Biotechnology Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (CBN-LAC) in 2001. - A molecular genetic framework map of the cassava genome was made available. - PCR-based molecular markers were made publicly available for germplasm characterization and improvement. - The network’s Sixth International Scientific Meeting, March 2004, brought together about 300 participants, and included cassava researchers (two-thirds from developing countries), local farmers, and representatives from NGOs, governments, agribusinesses, and international foundations.
Systemwide Program on Participatory Research and Gender Analysis (PRGA) Coordination	Jacqueline Ashby	1997–2002	933	- The PRGA and its partners helped build strong momentum for implementing gender-responsive, participatory approaches to agricultural research, both within and beyond the CGIAR. The Program demonstrated that participatory research and gender analysis: – Embody rigorous methods that are scientifically grounded, confirming that their use significantly improves the relevance of research to the poor, especially women. – Have broad impact on technology design and resource management, creating options geared to end users’ needs and thus significantly reducing the likelihood of farmers rejecting new technology.

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				– Have impact on human and social capital, helping to make rural development and innovation more relevant to poor farmers, especially women. – Are especially beneficial to women and to the poorest and most marginalized groups, who are frequently overlooked by conventional research. – Are cost-efficient, primarily because of increased impact and more efficient development of technologies. – Are being used by a large and growing number of CGIAR and national program scientists. The PRGA also taught and published the major lessons of its work, which continues to influence how participatory research and gender analysis are approached in the CGIAR. • Despite increasing interest in participatory approaches, the use of gender analysis requires more attention. • The CGIAR has not yet achieved critical mass, that is, the minimum levels required to sustain the use of participatory research and gender analysis methods in its Centers. • A large and unmet need for capacity development in the use of these methods continues to exist. • In CGIAR research where participatory approaches were applied, experimentation with these methods enhanced learning, but much of it remained isolated. More effort is required to fully mainstream participatory approaches through policy and institutional change.
Cassava Biotechnology Network (CBN)	Joe Tohme	1992–1998	1797	• Technology diffusion by further adapting key biotechnologies, together with small farmers and public-sector research partners. • Information to promote awareness and dialog among scientists and end users on biotechnology's inherent opportunities and constraints. • Acted as intermediary for emerging cassava partnership projects involving national agricultural research and development institutions, international donors, local farmer organizations, and the private sector. Supported the formulation of proposals through the Small Grants Program to conduct research, training, and participatory projects related to the genetic improvement of cassava. • Techniques for improving cassava vegetative propagation systems and producing clean planting materials. • Improving pest control through disease detection techniques. • Techniques for improving postharvest handling. • Opportunities for increasing and modifying starch quality for agroindustrial purposes. • Opportunities for introducing resistance to selected pests and diseases into local varieties through genetic engineering and molecular markers. • Organization of five international meetings.

As shown below, DGIS unrestricted contributions to CIAT during the period 2000–2010 have been instrumental for the Center to achieve its mandate, complementing the support given through grants.



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