

# F@RMLETTER

The E-magazine of the World's Farmers  
Issue n°27, May 2014

## PARTNERSHIP



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Walter Oyhantcabal,  
GRA Council Chair

# The Global Research Alliance and the WFO: linking science with farmers needs on climate change



**I**n March 2014 the WFO became a partner of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases. The development of this Partner Relationship is a key step for the Alliance, and supports the objective for the 2013 Council meeting in Uruguay to widen the reach of the Alliance to farmers through farmer organisations.

Farmers are on the front of line of climate change challenges\*. Their lives and livelihoods are affected by its impacts more than in any other sector of the economy. At the same time farmers are vital to implementing many of the solutions we need to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Farmers interact daily with land and natural resources, so they are key actors in the development of sustainable agricultural practices that provide food and fiber for their families and society.

Developing less emissions intense and more resilient agro-ecosystems is a huge challenge. Greater knowledge and the sharing of this information is needed to successfully implement mitigation technologies at the farm level. Partnership with the WFO will let the Alliance better understand what types of information farmers require to be developed and how this can be deployed to be easily understood and reach the widest audience.

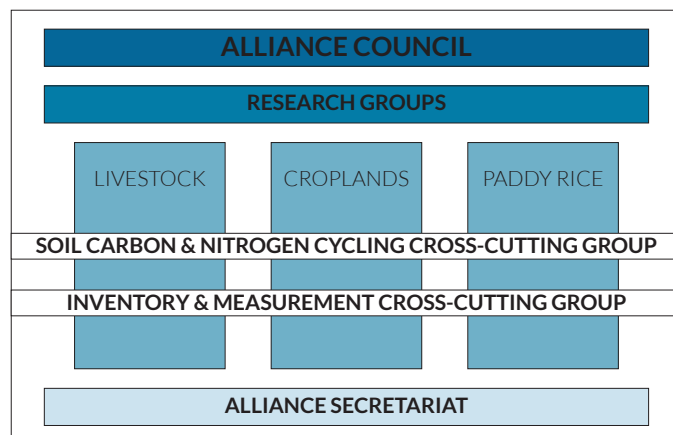
## About the Alliance

The Global Research Alliance was launched in December 2009 and now has 41 member countries from all regions of the world. The Alliance is focused on research, development and extension of technologies and practices that will help deliver ways to grow more food (and more climate-resilient food systems) reducing the emissions intensity of greenhouse gases. The Alliance is founded on the voluntary, collaborative efforts

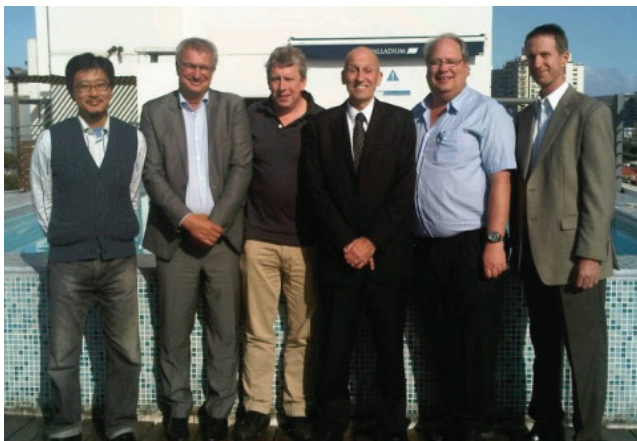
of countries. Its membership and governance arrangements are underpinned by a Charter, signed by all participating countries. This Charter establishes the Alliance Council, which is the representative body of all member countries. The current Chair of the Council is Uruguay and the Netherlands is Vice-Chair.

Members of the Alliance aim to deepen and broaden mitigation research efforts across the agricultural sub-sectors of paddy rice, cropping and livestock, and the cross-cutting groups of soil carbon and nitrogen cycling and inventories and measurement issues. These Groups have developed work plans that bring countries and other partners together in research collaborations, as well as to share knowledge and best practices, build capacity and capability amongst scientists and other practitioners, and move towards breakthrough solutions in addressing agricultural greenhouse gas emissions.

A Secretariat, currently hosted by New Zealand, supports the work of the Council and the Research and Cross-Cutting Groups. The structure of the Alliance is explained in the following diagram:



The Alliance promotes an active exchange of data, people and research to help improve the ways that agricultural greenhouse gas research is conducted and to enhance participating countries' scientific capability. Alliance members work with farmers and farmer organisations, the private sector, international and regional research institutions, foundations and non-governmental organizations to improve the sharing of research results, technologies and good practices, get these out on the ground. At present, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), CGIAR, Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre (CATIE), World Bank, African Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Farmers' Organisation are Partners to the Alliance.



GRA'S RESEARCH GROUPS CO-CHAIRS IN MONTEVIDEO, 2013

### Research Groups

The Alliance currently supports three research groups: croplands, livestock and paddy rice. Connecting these three research groups are cross-cutting groups devoted to: soil carbon/nitrogen cycling and inventories/measurement<sup>2</sup>.

#### Croplands Research Group

The croplands research group is coordinated by the USA and Brazil. To date, the croplands research group has set specific goals, among which we can mention taking stock of key scientific projects and personnel involved in GHG emissions and soil carbon sequestration of cropping systems; developing a searchable literature database relevant to agricultural GHGs and soil carbon sequestration; assembling protocols, guidelines and methods for determining soil carbon, GHG fluxes, and assessing temporal and spatial variations among measurements; Identifying funding opportunities for cross-national research collaboration; cataloging best management options and recommendations for farmers in different environments.

#### Livestock Research Group

The livestock research group is coordinated by the Netherlands and New Zealand. The scope of the group is to characterize GHG emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O) from four general components of the industry, namely housing, feed, manure and grazing lands. This group has a wide spectrum of work, and for this reason activities have been organized in six different

networks: Feed and nutrition (US and the Netherlands); Manure management (Netherlands and Vietnam); Rumen microbial genomics network (New Zealand); Animal selection genetics and genomics network (Netherlands and Australia); Animal health and GHG intensity network (United Kingdom); and Grasslands (Uruguay)

#### Paddy Rice Research Group

Paddy rice has unusually high emission of methane compared with other cropping systems and, thus, Alliance member countries saw a need to establish a separate research group on this globally-important crop. Three overarching elements were used to frame goals in a holistic manner for the group: maintaining and improving productivity to increase food security; ensuring production was carried out in a sustainable manner, including reduction in GHG emissions; and enhancement of opportunities for farmers to adopt new technology and solutions to problems. While trade-offs among various aspects of a production system might be needed, a key underlying process is to have robust scientific data to understand the impacts of management decisions. Goals for the paddy rice research group, coordinated by Japan and Uruguay, include:

- Developing standardised measurement techniques.
- Creating knowledge databases.
- Encouraging collaborative multi-country experiments.

The group has recently decided to organize its work in two main regions for logistics reasons: America and Asia.

#### Cross-Cutting Groups

Each of the three research groups has already recognized common themes related to: understanding and modeling of carbon/nitrogen cycling in soil and improving national GHG inventories/measurement. These themes formed the basis for two cross-cutting groups, composed of scientists participating in each of the three research groups. Australia and France coordinate the carbon/nitrogen cycles group. Canada and the Netherlands coordinate the inventories & measurement group. Currently, membership in the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases includes Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the UK, the USA, Uruguay and Vietnam. These 41 members will welcome seeing this list grow.

#### Why the Alliance is needed

At the turn of the millennium, approximately one third of the Earth's ice-free land surface was occupied by crops and pasture. Our land currently feeds almost 7 billion people, but by mid-century, it will be expected to feed approximately 9.5 billion people. In the next 50 years food production shall be higher than in all previous history of humanity.

This increasing human pressure on the Earth is of great concern and a key reason why agricultural and natural resource sciences must be fully engaged to develop solutions for a sustainable future. The agriculture sector is particularly vulnerable to the



impacts of climate change and faces significant challenges in meeting a dramatic increase in global food demand. Climate change introduces new and higher challenges to Agriculture, as its impacts threaten in many different ways the increase in productivity.

The 5th Assessment Report of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2013) states that warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and since the 1950s, many of the observed changes are unprecedented over decades to millennia. The atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane, and nitrous oxide have increased to levels unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years. CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations have increased by 40% since pre-industrial times, primarily from fossil fuel emissions and secondarily from net land use change emissions. Human influence on the climate system is clear.

Agriculture currently produces 5 – 5.8 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, which represent around 10 percent of the world's annual greenhouse gas emissions (49 GtCO<sub>2</sub>eq). But Agricultural emissions are expected to rise by about 30-40 percent above 2005 levels in line with the projected dramatic increase in food production by 2050. Agriculture, as well as Forestry, is unique among the sectors since the mitigation potential is derived from both an enhancement of removals of greenhouse gases (GHG), as well as reduction of emissions through management of land and livestock.

There are promising opportunities to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions intensity and increase soil carbon sequestration while still helping meet food security objectives. For example, improving the efficiency and productivity of agricultural systems through better management practices and techniques can go a long way to reducing emissions. This can also help build the resilience of these systems to meet the increasing demand for food in a sustainable manner.

Many countries already have research underway to better understand, measure, and manage agricultural greenhouse gases emissions. By linking up these efforts through the Alliance, we can achieve faster progress towards the solutions needed for improving agricultural productivity and reducing its contribution to climate change.

Member countries of the Alliance recognize opportunities to reduce GHG emissions and sequester carbon in soil by improving the efficiency and productivity of agricultural systems through robust ecologically based management practices and technologies, as well as developing novel approaches. By capturing these opportunities, not only will agricultural GHG emissions be mitigated, but resiliency and adaptive capacity of agriculture to meet the growing demand for food in a sustainable manner amidst global-environmental changes will be an expected outcome.

*More information is available at the Alliance website:  
[www.globalresearchalliance.org](http://www.globalresearchalliance.org)*



MEETING IN AFRICA (GHANA, 2012)

<sup>1</sup> WFO Policy Paper on Climate Change and Agriculture, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> More information about the formation of the Alliance is provided in an

editorial for the Carbon Management Journal from June 2011, prepared by Steven R Shafer, Charles L Walthall, Alan J Franzluebbers et al.

# THE BENEFITS OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPING NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

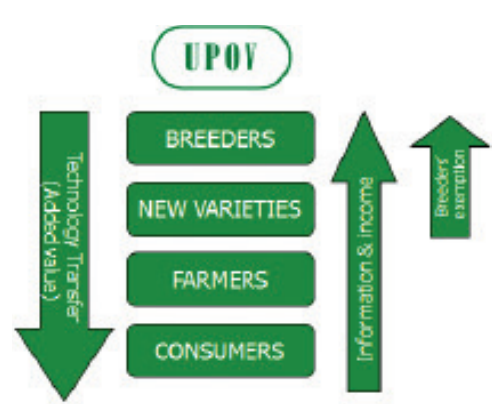


The legal framework of protection offered by the UPOV system provides incentives for investment in delivering the most suitable varieties to farmers. It is also that framework which enables the needs of farmers and growers to be understood and for the investment to be directed towards meeting those needs.

**Peter Button,**  
Vice Secretary General,  
International Union for the Protection  
of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)

**T**he UPOV system of plant variety protection facilitates technology transfer to farmers in the form of new varieties. (See Box 1).

Finally, to complete a virtuous cycle of technology transfer, the breeder's exemption enables breeders to utilize protected varieties for further breeding, in order to maximize breeding progress. (See Box 2).

BOX 1	BOX 2
<p>The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) Convention provides the basis for UPOV members to encourage plant breeding by granting breeders of new plant varieties an intellectual property right: the breeder's right. The UPOV Convention specifies the acts that require the breeder's authorization in respect of the propagating material of a protected variety and, under certain conditions, in respect of the harvested material. The breeder's right means that the authorization of the breeder is required to propagate the variety for commercial purposes Under the UPOV Convention, the breeder's right is only granted where the variety is (i) new, (ii) distinct, (iii) uniform, (iv) stable and has a suitable denomination. The breeder's right does not extend to acts done (i) privately and for non-commercial purposes, (ii) for experimental purposes and (iii) for the purpose of breeding other varieties.</p>	 <p>The diagram illustrates the flow of genetic material and value in the plant breeding sector. At the top is the UPOV logo. Below it are four boxes: BREEDERS, NEW VARIETIES, FARMERS, and CONSUMERS. A downward arrow on the left indicates 'Technology Transfer (Added Value)' from breeders to farmers. An upward arrow on the right indicates 'Information &amp; Income' from farmers to breeders. A smaller upward arrow on the far right indicates 'Breeder's exemption' from breeders to other breeders.</p>

UPOV recently organized a “Seminar on Plant Variety Protection and Technology Transfer: the Benefits of Public-

Private Partnership”<sup>3</sup> to look at the ways in which public-private partnership, based on plant variety protection, facilitates the

development and delivery of new varieties. The following extracts have been taken from that seminar.

EXTRACT #01

## ROLE OF GOVERNMENT OWNED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS IN NEW ZEALAND GRASSLANZ TECHNOLOGY LIMITED, NEW ZEALAND

**Ms. Jenn James,**  
IP Manager<sup>4</sup>



Prior to the establishment of Crown Research Institutes (CRI's) in 1992, all Government Departments in New Zealand, including those with a scientific research capability (e.g. Department of Scientific Research (DSIR), Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries/Forestry) (MAF) were largely publicly (tax payer) funded to perform and deliver outputs for public good. In the case of plant breeding and development, this meant new plant varieties were released into the public domain for any party to use – essentially they were commodity products.

In this situation, plant breeders would often develop new varieties which proved of little commercial interest or value due to their unrecognized potential by end users, or due to unproven performance in specific or general environments that were the focus at that time.

CRI's must transfer and disseminate their research, science and technology. They have the role of "making a difference" with the research they produce. This is achieved through strategic, long-term relationships with sectors and industry. This provides the mandate for companies such as Grasslanz Technology to be established and to function.

Grasslanz Technology Ltd. (Grasslanz) is a plant technology provider. Its products are primarily proprietary plant varieties and other technologies delivered through seed to the end user – farmers. Grasslanz invests in applied research and development

(R&D), the outputs from which are licensed to production and marketing companies for sale. It employs neither science nor marketing capability. It establishes alliances with seed companies to co-invest and then, most often, exclusively licenses the resulting products for production and sale.

Grasslanz is a wholly owned subsidiary of AgResearch Ltd, one of 8 government-owned CRI's.

The Grasslanz business model is a six step process, starting from the identification of a product concept, through to the product's commercial launch by a seed company partner:

1. Identify market opportunities, through either market 'pull' or research 'push'

2. Determine the market entry strategy and engage investors/alliances

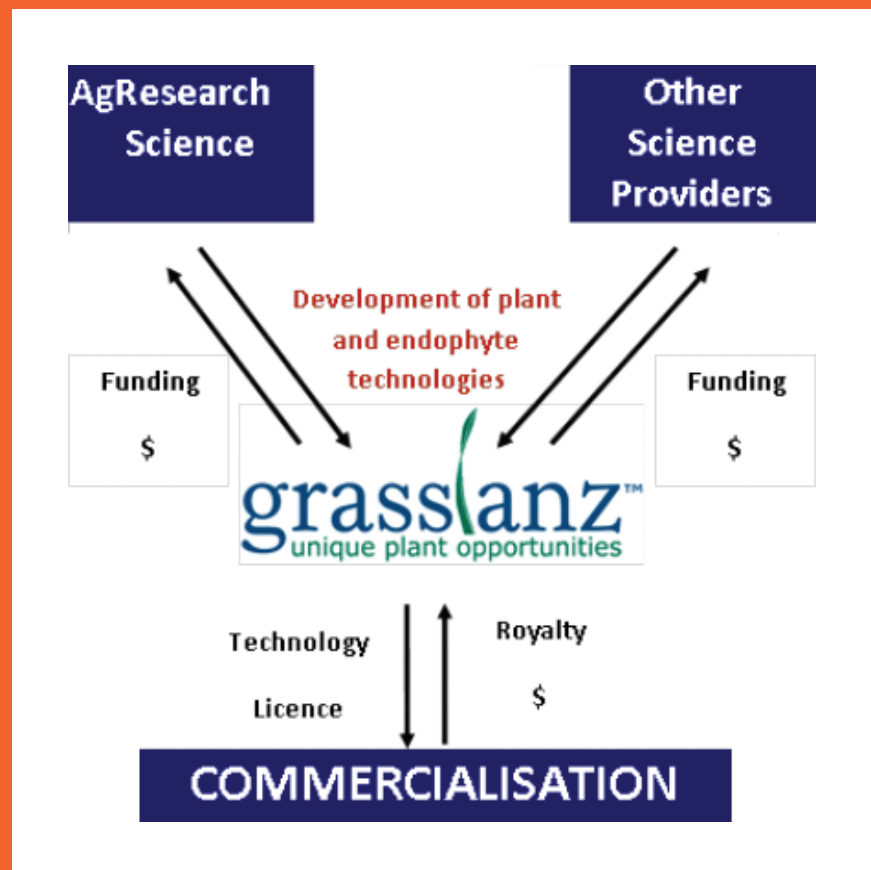
3. Contract and manage R&D

4. Protect intellectual property and brand

5. Deliver technology through nucleus seed to commercial partner

6. Administer license and steward product in the marketplace

AgResearch Ltd./Grasslanz' successful proprietary varieties enable higher monetary return to be invested in other projects – ones which serve farmers directly and which generate an effective cycle of providing funding to develop highly innovative products for the agricultural industry, which in turn help fund further projects.



EXTRACT #02

## AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, SOUTH AFRICA

**Mr. Shadrack  
R. Moephuli,**  
Chief Executive Officer<sup>5</sup>



As a public entity in South Africa, ARC is obliged to ensure that the outcomes of its research and development initiatives are effectively disseminated. This includes developing mechanisms for commercializing its Intellectual Assets. To this end, ARC has adopted an approach for the transfer of technology, including new varieties with plant breeders' rights to both the commercial and resource-poor agricultural sector. An Intellectual Property Licensing Policy is used to enter into specific arrangements for the transfer of ARC varieties to

commercial producers. The policy includes principles for entering into benefit sharing arrangements with other parties. For commercial producers, the licensing of ARC varieties is often designed to ensure maximum benefit to the organization, while also enabling the agriculture sector a competitive advantage. Whereas, licensing in the transfer of varieties to resource poor producers is done in a manner aimed at ensuring maximum benefit to the recipients, mainly through training interventions and the establishment of small medium and micro - enterprise incubators.

Licenses issued for agricultural development to resource poor farmer can be drafted in a variety of innovative ways. For example, the license may be royalty-free for a

period where payments are deferred, with payment of royalties linked to the performance of the recipient's business.

This royalty-free period would be carefully managed, ensuring the recipient understands their contractual obligations (e.g. protection from unauthorized propagation, performance milestones and periodic reporting on commercial activity). In addition, the recipients would be made aware of the powers of the rights'-holder (ARC) to revoke the license where contractual arrangements are not being fulfilled.

The aim of such a specific approach is to prepare the budding entrepreneur for a competitive commercial environment through successful performance.

EXTRACT #03

## BRAZILIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CORPORATION (EMBRAPA), BRAZIL

**Mr. Filipe  
de Moraes Teixeira,**  
Head,  
Technical Innovation  
Office



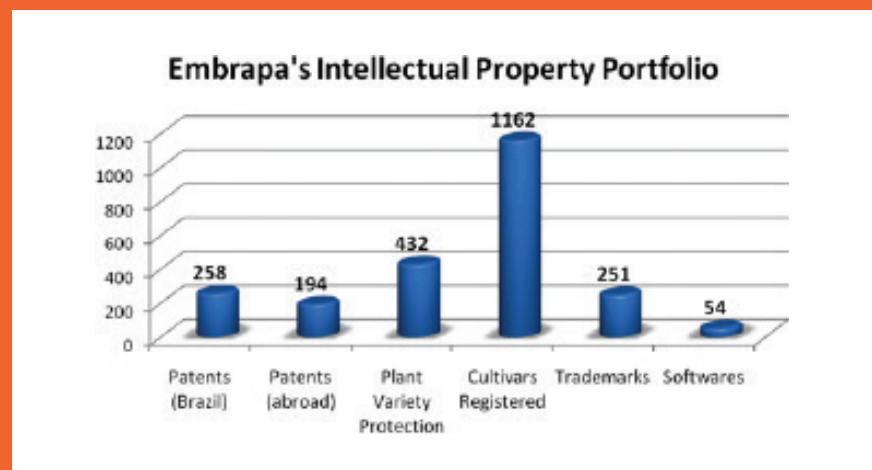
established legal norms, allied with the capacity of the institution to utilize this system in its favor, represents EMBRAPA's principal competitive difference in making viable the formation of both private and public partnerships in the generation of

innovations, which benefit Brazilian agro-business.

*Source of graphic:  
Embrapa data base. December, 2010*

The management of questions of intellectual property (IP) involved in the processes of research, development and innovation by research institutions constitutes a strategic management tool that is increasingly important, being prioritized to make viable the formation of partnerships that can guarantee success in the process of agricultural innovation.

The existence of a strong and well-structured system of IP protection of varieties in Brazil, with well-





One of the best examples of Embrapa's success in the formation of these partnerships is its program of variety development and licensing: Through public/private partnerships in this area of research, substantial resources are brought in by diverse private partners in every phase of Embrapa's innovation of varieties, from research to the sale of seeds. The varieties developed within the framework of these partnerships are protected exclusively in the name of Embrapa, but the private partners who contribute to the generation of these varieties acquire exclusive licensing rights for a determined

period of time, paying royalties for their commercialization.

To give an example of the volume of money involved in this process, in 2009, more than six million US dollars were invested by the private sector in Embrapa's research; close to 10 million US dollars were collected in royalties and close to six million US dollars were collected from the sale of seeds by Embrapa.

Transfer of technology; totaled nearly 22 million US dollars among the partnerships in the generation of varieties in 2009 alone.

Moreover, these partnerships permit Embrapa to test its varieties at more than 200 test sites spread across Brazil and in at least five other countries, guaranteeing an immense variability for the adaptation of our varieties. Another strategic benefit for the Corporation is that with this business model the process of defining varieties that are to be generated by Embrapa is done by its researchers in conjunction with the technical and marketing teams of its private partners, guaranteeing that Embrapa delivers what the market really needs and wants, avoiding the risk of wasted investment.

EXTRACT #04

## NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (INRA), FRANCE

*Mr. Yves Lespinasse,  
INRA Research Director*<sup>6</sup>



INRA has to adopt a policy which combines the primacy of public service and support for innovation in a constantly evolving international and bio-industrial context.

As collaborative partnerships are increasing between public and private researchers in life sciences and new relationships have to be built with extension services, INRA is developing an appropriate policy on IP. By developing such a policy on IP protection, INRA expects more than just a financial gain to provide support for its efforts in favor of innovation; INRA wants to maintain its strategic ability to choose its industrial partners and to control conditions under which

innovations achieved using public funds can be exploited.

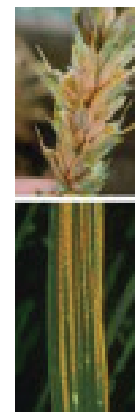
These principles will be illustrated through examples of collaborative projects involving private partners in practical plant breeding and involving two examples in annual crops (winter rapeseed and bread wheat) and one in perennials (fruit trees).



CANOLA (RAPESEED)



EYESPOT IN WHEAT: WITH/WITHOUT PCH1



YELLOW RUST IN WHEAT

Concerning winter rapeseed [Canola]; since the 1960s, INRA has been directly involved in:

- i) increasing academic/pioneer research in the genetics of key agronomic traits (fatty acid composition, oil content, meal

quality, disease resistance, cytoplasmic male sterility, dwarf genes, etc.)

- ii) breeding commercial varieties protected through PVP with the aim of being the first breeder to promote new traits on the seed.

Market:

single low (zero-erucic 'Primor' in 1973) and then double low (low glucosinolate content 'Samourai' in 1989), quality, blackleg resistance ('Darmor' in 1983), hybridization system ('Synergy' in 1994), resistance



to lodging (dwarf types such as 'Lutin' in 1999) and low linolenic acid content ('Basillic' in 2010). INRA rapeseed breeding was developed in collaboration with one private breeder (Serasesm) from 1974 to 2005 and then with five private companies. As a second step, these INRA varieties were successfully exploited by other private European breeders to integrate the innovative traits into their commercial varieties.

Concerning bread wheat, INRA has also been involved in:

- i) increasing academic/pioneer research on the genetics of key agronomic traits (meal quality, disease resistance, dwarfing genes, etc.)
- ii) breeding commercial varieties protected through PVP with the aim of being the first breeder to promote new traits on the seed market: the first double dwarf variety with resistance to lodging (Rht1 and Rht2 alleles in 'Courtot', registered in 1973), first stem-base disease resistance (e.g. eyespot caused by *Oculimacula yallundae* and *Oculimacula acuformis*) with Pch1, yellow rust (Yr17), brown rust (Lr37), black rust (Sr38), and cereal cyst nematode (Cre2), resistance introduced from *Aegilops ventricosa* and *Triticum carthlicum* ('Roazon' in 1977), multi-resistance and bread quality to reduce the dependence of agriculture on fungicide use ('Renan' in 1999), high-yielding hardy varieties in low input systems ('Virtuose' in 1998, 'Farandole' in 1999, 'Koreli' in 2005, 'Barok' in 2008, 'Flamenko' and 'Folklor' in 2010).

These INRA varieties have been successfully exploited by other private European breeders through integration of the innovative traits in their commercial varieties. INRA bread wheat breeding was developed in collaboration with private breeders (associated in GIE Club5 and CETAC) from 1983 to 2010.

Concerning fruit trees, besides INRA, two partners are involved in releasing fruit varieties: Agri-Obtentions (AO), an INRA subsidiary, and the SARL (Ltd.) CEP-Innovation, grouping most of the French fruit tree nurserymen.

A new 10-year agreement was signed in April 2008 between INRA, AO and CEP-Innovation. For different groups of countries – the European Union and Switzerland, Mediterranean countries, the rest of the world – this agreement stipulates the role of CEP-Innovation in screening, propagating and developing the new INRA fruit varieties, even in the case of a variety bred jointly with a partner other than CEP-Innovation. CEP-Innovation is now in partnership with INRA to breed new varieties of apricot (15-year contract signed in 2007) and new varieties of pear (20-year contract signed in 2008).

In summary, such an organization involving the INRA charter on IP, including the certificates of Plant Variety Protection, is a guarantee for mutual benefits for the partners:

- The public institute INRA, has the opportunity to develop its own varieties (100 per cent owned) or co-bred varieties (50 per cent owned) in better conditions, thanks to the professional expertise of its private partner.

INRA also has financial support for current fruit breeding programs within applied research contracts which stipulate the "rights and duties" of each partner.

INRA could also involve a private partner (NOVADI) when answering European calls for pre-competitive research.

- The private partner has access to the pre-competitive knowledge and pre-breeding material within a framework (the applied research contract with INRA), but also within the European Integrated Projects when it is a partner.

It can screen, propagate, develop and benefit from innovative new fruit varieties, particularly for bio-

aggressor resistance, regularity of production and quality of the fruit. It would gain international consideration and could participate in professional debates for promoting its view on training and developing new innovative varieties.

EXTRACT #05

## TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR DSP SA, SWITZERLAND

*Mr. Wilhem Wicki,  
Responsible  
for Varieties  
Administration*



Delley Seeds and Plants Ltd (DSP) is a small and medium enterprise (SME) active in breeding and development within the Swiss seed branch (Fig. 1). It is owned by the Swiss seed growers, which are members of the Swiss seed growers association, Swisssem.



THE POSITION OF DSP WITHIN THE SWISS SEED BRANCH

Swisssem, the Swiss seed growers association, holds 40% of the shares of DSP and the 4 major seed multipliers organizations: ASS; SEMAG; SGD; and OSP/NFW, hold the remaining 60%.

The producers affiliated to the latter organizations are also members of Swisssem with about 1,500 specialized farmers.

### The Benefits of Public-Private Partnership: A More Detailed View On The Cereal Sector

The scheme of the wheat breeding program is as follows: ACW is responsible for the fundamental breeding work, i.e. crossing, selection for resistance in the early generations, first quality and yield analyses.

From generation F7, the breeding material is screened at the site of ACW as well as at the site of DSP. Final selection for candidates to enter into tests for Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) is carried out jointly with ACW and DSP at the site of Delley (Fig 2). From that point, until variety registration, further VCU tests are carried out jointly and DSP is responsible for the site in Delley.

Here, in parallel to VCU, DSP starts maintenance breeding and production

of pre-basic seed and also basic seed for more advanced material or varieties that are already registered.

It is important to point out that DSP is neither producing nor marketing its varieties. The PBR system, according to the UPOV Convention, is the basis for licensing the ACW/DSP varieties and thus for collecting royalties, which is the main financial source to cover the costs of DSP relating to the services provided to the Swiss seed growers and hence for the Swiss farmers, which benefit from new, valuable varieties.

It is part of the duties as co-owner of the ACW-varieties to promote them abroad. For this purpose, DSP evaluates possible candidates in trial networks of breeders and representatives worldwide.

After successful tests, the varieties are registered in the relevant variety lists and protected by means of plant breeders' rights. Currently, 40 varieties in 17 countries are registered (Fig. 3).

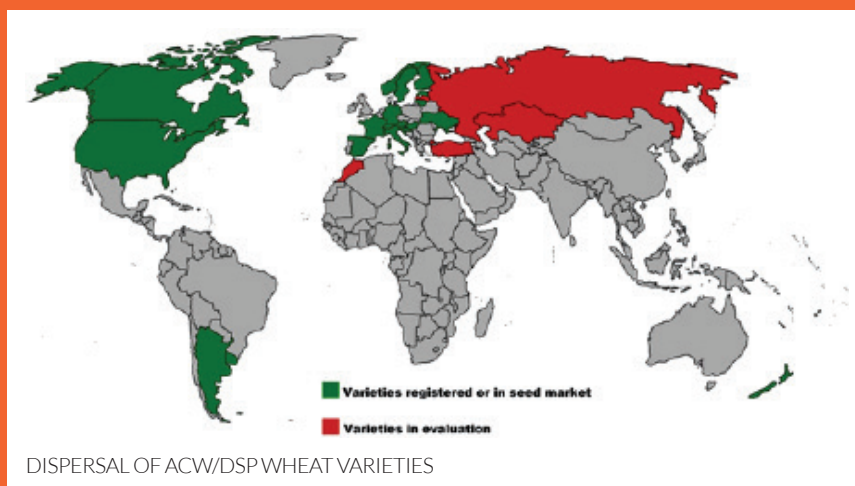
Again, the considerable input is compensated by collected royalties,



SCHEME OF THE WHEAT BREEDING PROGRAM IN SWITZERLAND

which are shared 50/50 between DSP and the respective partners.

15% of the royalties collected by DSP are transferred to a breeding fund. With these funds, Agroscope is entitled to carry out research projects that may support their breeding program.



DISPERSAL OF ACW/DSP WHEAT VARIETIES

More information about UPOV and plant variety protection is available from the UPOV website (<http://www.upov.int/portal/>

[index.html.en](http://www.upov.int/portal/index.html.en)) and copies of the proceedings and all presentations made at the Symposium on Plant Variety Protection and Technology

Transfer: the Benefits of Public-Private Partnership are available at [http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=22163](http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=22163).

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=22163](http://www.upov.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=22163)

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# BETTER FARMING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

**Janice Chow,**  
Global Communications & Public  
Relations Manager,  
Bayer HealthCare Animal Health

**A** shared passion is a powerful impetus for synergies amongst the corporate sector, scientists and organizations towards achieving a common goal.

*At Bayer, our passion for animals has inspired us to engage with over 90 organizations around the world in three areas – supporting the efforts of animal focused organizations, educational and awareness outreach, and research towards helping improve animal health and well-being around the world.*

It's no secret that farming is hard work and it is getting even more difficult. At Bayer, we want to help farmers achieve better outcomes and this is why improving animal welfare is an important topic to us. The pressure faced by farmers today is mounting with the escalating demand for animal proteins amid dwindling land and energy resources, as well as impact on the environment. Adding to the host of challenges, consumers today increasingly expect higher food standards, even as they take more interest in the origins of their animal proteins and how animals are treated. This makes animal welfare more essential to good farming practices than ever before.

## Sharing expertise alongside animal focused organizations

Bayer was pleased to partner with the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) to co-organize the Livestock workshop at the WFO Annual General Assembly in Buenos Aires, Argentina in March. The joint workshop organized along with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Meat Secretariat, put the spotlight on critical topics relevant to animal farming today,

and underscored the vital importance of sustainability in animal farming on the international stage.

This marks a significant milestone in the journey towards greater awareness and understanding of animal welfare, as well as the efforts of the farming industry as a whole to promote good farming practices more widely. The next step is for the workshop participants to take what they have learned beyond the confines of the conference room, and to take the knowledge, ideas and best practices back to their home countries to inspire their colleagues to work towards achieving higher levels of animal well-being.

"Animal welfare and animal health work together. One cannot exist without the other," explains Dirk Ehle, President of Bayer HealthCare Animal Health. "A lot of the work we do in the communities where we operate is carried out in partnership with organizations, such as the WFO. These partnerships are important as they help ensure that the initiative reaches the right people and that it benefits the community."

## Supporting farmers in caring for animals

Bayer's commitment in the area of animal welfare and sustainable farming translates into many different outreach and educational initiatives, many of which are carried out in Latin America, where much of the world's meat comes from. In Latin America, our colleagues recently completed a five-month educational course on animal welfare at the Cambridge Institute.

Animal welfare is a topic we take seriously.

From talks and seminars, to workshops and farm visits, Bayer has partnered with organizations to educate thousands of farmers, veterinarians and students in Latin America on how the better care of animals contributes to better outcomes for farms and for the broader community.

Each initiative is designed to engage the local community, and provides practical and relevant know-how on pertinent topics such as stockmanship, installations, disease control, parasite management, as well as nutrition and feeding.



DIRK EHLE, PRESIDENT OF BAYER HEALTHCARE ANIMAL HEALTH (RIGHT) WITH UWE MUCKE, HEAD OF BAYER HEALTHCARE ANIMAL HEALTH IN LATIN AMERICA, VISIT A SWINE FARM IN SAO PAULO, BRAZIL.

The Bayer team helps farmers understand animal welfare principles, and how making the animal healthier – by understanding stress factors and possible pain points for the animals, and using methods that remove or reduce these stressors – is good for productivity, their business, and for the farming industry as a whole. The message they share with farmers is simple – “what is good for the animal, is good for the business.” Treat animals well.

### Innovating together for farm animal health

Bayer is also active in research and development (R&D) collaborations and partners with leading research institutes, universities think-tanks and laboratories around the world. As the fifth largest animal health company in the world and a global leader in parasiticides, we are committed to help prepare veterinarians and farmers for future animal health challenges, including parasitic, infectious, chronic, and zoonotic diseases.

“Our external research collaborations complement our own strong innovative edge that we enjoy from working closely with Bayer CropScience and Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals, which enables us to take a life-sciences approach to R&D. In fact, we are the only animal health company that can leverage the best of plant, human and animal health towards developing new innovations to help keep animals and the people who care for them healthy,” added Ehle.

We know we get the best results by working together, and we can all help farmers by collaborating across corporate, research and government sectors. There are many synergies and much that can be shared and learned through partnerships, and we look forward to more opportunities to partner across boundaries to help farmers achieve more and succeed, with healthier farm animals and sustainable farms.

To read more on Bayer’s efforts in animal welfare in Latin America, visit <http://bayer4animals.blogspot.de/2014/04/animal-health-and-animal-welfare-bayer.html>



WFO'S LIVESTOCK WORKSHOP



BAYER PARTNERS WSPA TO CONDUCT TRAINING ON ANIMAL WELFARE IN SAN PEDRO, COLOMBIA.

# CARIBBEAN FARMERS NETWORK (CAFAN)

*A network of regional Farmers Associations  
c/o Eastern Caribbean Trading Agriculture and  
Development Organisation (ECTAD)*

**Jethro Greene,**  
Chief Coordinator, Caribbean Farmers  
Network (CaFAN)

**T**he Caribbean Farmers Network (CaFAN) defines a partnership as a business relationship built on transparency, honesty and trust. It is a common ground for cooperation that benefits all involved and that is why CaFAN's philosophy is built on partnerships.

A few years ago, CaFAN came up with the "Buyer Grower Forum". This forum brings together producers and buyers to discuss common grounds of cooperation. It's a system that benefits both producers and buyers having identified on both the producer and the buyer side critical success factors for the production and marketing of various commodities. At the end of the forum, a partnership is created.

Another example of CaFAN's approach is the way in which leadership takes place within the network. This leadership is done by a team in partnership with one another. Information is shared, decision marketing is shared and responsibility is also shared.

A third example of partnership is the establishment of a regional network of Institution which was initiated by CaFAN. Through our belief in sharing information, we were able to pull

together all the leading agriculture institutions within the region into a cluster where we share our information and upcoming programmes in order to complement each other, and avoid duplication of programmes and waste of resources. So far, this cluster has done a lot in terms of pulling together of information and programmes and is being coordinated by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI).

In terms of our collaborated efforts, CaFAN has a way of initiating something without taking ownership because of our philosophy; we try to build everyone as equal partners because each have the responsibility to ensure the sustainable development of agriculture within our countries.

Furthermore, and towards this end, CaFAN is looking to build this same kind of partnership with the World Farmers Organisation because we need to build worldwide partnership and alliances to strengthen agriculture for everyone and this requires the partnership of large and small farmers working together to ensure that agriculture remains a high profile and get the policy support and support of our politicians.





# NETHERLANDS WATER PARTNERSHIP: WHERE WATER MEETS FOOD PRODUCTION

## Golden triangle

Agriculture in the Netherlands has a long history of close collaboration between the government, research and private sectors. It brought farming in the Netherlands to a high technical level and prosperity to farmers' families. The Netherlands is still ranked as the world's second largest exporter of agricultural products.

However the farmers voice has weakened, in particular over the last 25 years. Multinational enterprises in the value chain have become stronger in the political arena, as well as NGOs (for instance on animal welfare). To make the lobby more effective farmers' organizations are looking for new partners and are working together, on a temporary basis, for instance on projects for nature conservation or certification. It is likely that these new arrangements will have more influence in political discussions, rather than the 'traditional' lobbies of the farmers' organizations. Thus the strategy of farmers' organization will change. New arrangements will come in place. The Dutch water sector will show a new model.

**Peter Prins,**  
*Land, Water & Food Consultancy*

**N**o food without water. Water plays a key role in agricultural production. How to deal with too much, too little, too dirty water?

It is not easy to find practical solutions for every problem without taking all relevant interests and actors into account. A successful approach of complex cases requires knowledge and a multi stakeholder involvement.

As a lot of areas in society, the water sector is strongly organized in a sectorial way. Looking at agribusiness, the situation is not really different. In the Farmers' world we often notice that there is a gap between science and the grass root level of farmers. However, collaboration on multidisciplinary challenges will be more profitable if we are able to bridge gaps and to establish overlaps between determined fields of knowledge. The Dutch water sector established Netherlands Water Partnership in 1999. It is an example of joint forces, initially via a sectorial model. But times move on, things are changing.

What can we learn from this model, and how is it currently linked to the Farmers' world?

## The Netherlands Water Partnership

The Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) is a comprehensive network that unites Dutch water expertise. The partnership, consisting of 200 members from private companies, government, knowledge institutes and NGOs, acts as a centre of information on water expertise, policy developments and market opportunities. However NWP is more than an information source; the organization also initiates, coordinates and executes projects for its members, such as trade missions, exhibitions and conferences.

The experience of NWP members covers many disciplines, enabling them to tackle the growing number of large, complex projects that demand a broad expertise, creative solutions and innovative financing. Be it in the field of water policy development, hydraulic engineering and design, construction, implementation and maintenance, water supply and sanitation, flood

control, environmental protection or integrated water management.

### A Gateway to the Dutch water sector

By putting their heads together as a network, the NWP can achieve more in solving global water related challenges. A united voice is stronger than 200 individual voices. Moreover, by entering markets in clusters, offering expertise as a one-stop-shop, Dutch companies are increasing their world market share considerably. In the Netherlands as well as abroad, the NWP is the gateway to the Dutch water sector and its solutions to global water related challenges.

### Link to agriculture

Only recently the NWP expressed their wish to promote collaboration on the issue of water and food. A program called 'More crop per drop' was launched in August 2013. By recruiting an officer of the Farmers' Organization LTO Noord the networks of the agribusiness and the water sector were connected. It was my role to setup an action program on Water & Food ('More crop per drop'). It shows which companies are excellent in their field and can play a role in cross-cutting issues on water and agriculture. In particular SMEs need support to find partners in carrying out international business, especially when it comes to a multidisciplinary approach. NWP plays that role. The relevance of such a role can be illustrated by LTO's experience in the international climate project in Cambodia. Collaboration with the soil testing company BLGG AgroXpertus was a success, bringing in their expertise in a case which was originally dominated by a discussion around water storage to bridge periods of drought. Soil management and an improved fertilization strategy seemed to be far more effective to adapt to climate change than giving more water. NWP encourages this kind of collaboration, bringing in knowledge of soil, water and crop management to improve yields in agriculture. Furthermore the challenges to Water & Food are diverse. A lot of them have to do with water: flooding, drought, salinization, depleted groundwater resources. At the end of the day

the measures that have to be taken should be the most effective ones. The NWP brings companies and partners together, like brokers do, linking the agricultural sector is most valuable.

### What can we learn from this model?

The NWP is a public-private collaboration, financed by the Dutch government and by the annual fees of its members. A dedicated professional staff and a group of networkers with a broad international background in business are the backbone of the activities of NWP.

The location of the International Waterhouse is only 100 meters away from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economic Affairs. The lobby of NWP is based on practical experiences all over the world, initially on water projects. New projects on Water & Food will give new input to lobbies on policy and government schemes.

The farmers' voice will obtain a new dimension, fed by experiences in projects and supported by other stakeholders. Lobbies can probably be more effective if organized in this alternative way. In my opinion a successful lobby strategy should take another form, like a commuting mechanism.

Getting input from practical and experimental cases at grass root levels and using it in the arena of policy and

research. And vice versa. In my opinion partnerships in other areas could be very valuable too, for instance on climate change and soil.

Active participation in partnerships could be an additional tool for Farmers' Organizations in advocating the interests of farmers.

### Personal note

It is our mutual challenge to translate policy into farmers' operational level and vice versa. We must share this experience with our most important partners, aiming for farmers' prosperity.

Those were our goals in the projects with UNFFE Uganda and CFAP Cambodia. There is still a lot of work to do, so a follow-up of these projects is recommended. We look forward to further collaboration with WFO and its members!

For more information about Dutch water expertise, projects, knowledge, education and events around the world, please consult the website [www.dutchwatersector.com](http://www.dutchwatersector.com).



# COOPERATION OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE CREATION OF LEGAL RULES

**Dr. Marek Dubovec,**

*Senior Research Attorney, National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade, Tucson, Arizona*

**T**he success of legal reform and development projects requires the cooperation of various interested parties. The need for such cooperation is more evident for projects that aspire to provide rules and standards on a regional or international level.

The main focus of this article is to introduce the current project of an international law-making body and its collaboration with interested parties, including the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO).

The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) was established in 1926 as an auxiliary organ of the League of Nations with the objective of preparing and adopting rules in the form of international conventions, model laws and guides to improve the legal frameworks of countries in numerous areas, including contracts, leasing, lending, etc. These rules impact many individuals and businesses that enter into the kinds of transactions covered by these instruments. For instance, a farmer may want to lease a tractor, get a loan to finance the production of her crop, or sign an agreement to sell her crop after harvest. Depending on the type of transaction, a different set of rules may be applicable. For these rules to have a positive impact on the operations of the farmers, they must

facilitate actions like leasing a tractor by ensuring the transaction occurs at a reasonable level of complexity and cost for both parties."

Cooperation of multiple parties that represent different sides of the transaction is necessary for developing an efficient legal instrument. Otherwise, what may be the most effective for the manufacturer or lender might not be attractive to the farmer and vice versa. Without the participation and input of both parties, the legal instrument faces the prospects of not being implemented by the states or utilized in practice. Furthermore, if the transaction involves an outlay of credit from financial institutions, their input would be equally important because a transaction that has benefits for both the seller and buyer may pose unnecessary risks to the lender.

At times, disagreements between parties can arise and may require some form of 'mediation' in order to move the project forward. For instance, lenders will likely want speedy remedies in case of a default while users will likely want to be given an opportunity to cure the default and retain the equipment. Often, this has been the domain of academics who attempt to bridge gaps and look for balanced solutions.

Very few legal instruments drafted by academics, manufacturers, users and lenders gain wide acceptance without some kind of a support from governments. Legal instruments of both domestic and international nature may require active participation and engagement of governments, who will ultimately be responsible for the instruments' ratification and implementation. Government representatives participate in projects to ensure that the drafting process has some level of legitimacy and that the approved rules are implemented. They also work with various governmental agencies that have the financial resources to incentivize the private sector to utilize the rules in practice.

International projects often require the cooperation of international organizations to succeed. One





organization may have the expertise in legislative drafting, while another represents the stakeholders who will be affected by the rules. This is also the case of the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment (Cape Town Convention) adopted by UNIDROIT in 2001.

The Convention was drafted to facilitate the financing of certain kinds of assets addressed in the equipment-specific Protocols. Those types of equipment include aircraft, locomotives and satellites. Major industry players, such as Boeing, as well as end-users and lenders participated in the development of the individual Protocols. UNIDROIT is now considering development of a 4th Protocol to cover mining, agricultural and construction equipment. Who are the parties that need to collaborate in the development of this Protocol, and what is necessary to move it forward?

UNIDROIT typically reaches out to industries and other relevant stakeholders to gauge their interest and support for a particular project.

Most recently, UNIDROIT has done so for the Legal Guide on Contract Farming, which is being developed with the support (both financially and otherwise) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The WFO has also been an active participant, and even provided a forum at which to present the project before the during a workshop aside the WFO General Assembly in Buenos Aires this past March. The work on the 4th Protocol would be a natural extension of the relationship between the UNIDROIT and the WFO.

The 4th Protocol project presents an opportunity for farmers to be able to lease, buy and use their equipment as collateral and at a lower cost. The project is estimated to also benefit the manufacturers and financiers of such equipment. Nonetheless, a number of questions still remain and their resolution will require further cooperation among all of the relevant stakeholders. My participation at the

WFO General Assembly in Buenos Aires was just one step in this process.

One of the outcomes of my participation at this General Assembly is the initiation of a dialogue with another international organization – the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group (IFC). The IFC has been involved in the implementation of projects that facilitate access to reasonably-priced credit for a long time, and the 4th Protocol might fall within their general framework.

I would like to express my gratitude to the WFO staff that facilitated my meetings and presentations, which shed light on a number of important aspects that require consideration. It was gratifying to encounter such interest in the project, as well as listen to the critical feedback on some of the specific details of the proposal. This is the kind of approach and partnership that is necessary for the development of international instruments.



# YOUNG FARMERS ON THE WORLD STAGE

**Matteo Bartolini,**  
*President of Ceja*

**C** Created in 1958, the European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA) has consistently expanded its network of members and today it is comprised of 31

member organisations from 23 EU Member States and one observer member from Latvia. As such, CEJA represents around two million young farmers from across Europe.

CEJA's main objective is to promote a younger and more innovative agricultural sector in the European Union (EU) and to establish better working and living conditions for young people setting up in farming, as well as those who are already young farmers. Our biggest challenge is to reverse the ageing trend of the sector, which has reached alarming levels. Currently, only some 6% of agricultural holders in the whole of EU are below the age of 35 - compared to a third over 65. Unless the situation is significantly improved, the future of Europe's agricultural sector and with it our food supply will be put in jeopardy. This danger is amplified by the ever growing food demand both in the EU and across the globe.

Given the evidence that shows that young farmers, especially those younger than 35 tend to have 40% more economic potential and own 37% more agricultural land, CEJA believes that Member States and the EU should do everything in their power to develop a policy framework that will deliver a sustainable and prosperous agriculture.

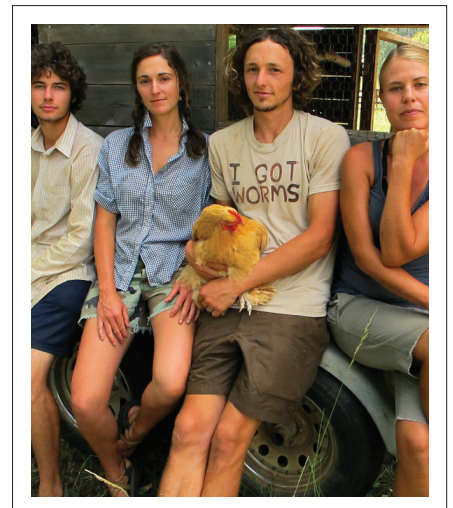
To that end we must ensure that entry barriers such as access to land and access to credit are broken down. Only then can we ensure that young people are not turned away and disincentivised from taking up agriculture as a career of first choice. For this reason CEJA took the opportunity of the recent EU reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in which CEJA fought for, and successfully achieved, the inclusion of a number of measures specifically targeting young farmers.

These include installation aid and annual top-up payments to facilitate entry to the sector and help buffer young farmers from market volatility and price fluctuations in their first few fragile years of business.

Our rich experience in representing young farmers has shown that farmers' interests are best served and taken into account only when they speak with one voice. By uniting young farmers in their diversity, CEJA serves as a platform for dialogue on a number of levels. To that end, it becomes clear that partnerships between young farmers and between CEJA and other actors of the civil society can unlock the potential of the future generation of farmers and the agricultural sector at large.

CEJA's unique position as a united voice of European young farmers and its location in Brussels means that we have formed partnerships not only at national but also at the EU and global levels. Indeed, CEJA has strong links with policy- and decision-makers here in Brussels – this is particularly true for the European Commission, Parliament and the Council. Nonetheless, it has equally developed a substantial network of other relevant stakeholders. As you are very well aware, CEJA is an associate member of the World Farmers' Organisation but it is equally part of the European Youth Forum and is as such involved with wider policy areas than just European agriculture. Moreover, CEJA holds regular contact with industry representatives and environmental organisations, as well as close relations with other farm organisations such as COPA-COGECA, the European farming lobby.

CEJA believes that partnerships and the exchange of information and experience that they offer, are key to succeeding in keeping farming in Europe alive for future generations to come. To the end of advocating for a more sustainable agriculture, CEJA has developed a number of partnerships with national organisations on the one hand and EU and global players on the other. Having created a broad network cross-cutting governance layers and regions, CEJA is well placed to make its case for young farmers and to advocate for their improved wellbeing and sustainability of our food supply.



# THE VALUE OF PARTNERSHIP

**Rose Akaki, Member,**  
*Uganda National Farmers' Federation (UNFFE), WFO Women's Committee, Kampala*

In Uganda, women are slightly more than men by about 1%. These women provide most of the labour force in the agricultural sector and count for 90% of the labour force in the food industry. However, they have almost no access to land or property.

According to the recent data published by IFPRI, in sub-Saharan Africa women own only about 7% of lands and properties; they depend on men to decide what crops to grow and for financial assistance. On the other hand, women are the ones who buy food and cloths, and they make sure that their children are healthy and provide assistance for them to go to school. All the financial institutions require collaterals in order to grant a loan; but this is not the only obstacles that women farmers are facing. In fact, they need money to access the agricultural inputs. If those women had equal access to land, financial services and agricultural inputs, then they would have no problem in meeting the needs of their family.

Keeping in mind what most of women farmers have gone through, the Uganda National Farmers' Federation (UNFFE) which is the main farmers' organization in Uganda, in partnership with the Swedish Cooperative Centre - Vi Agroforestry (SCC-Vi) began a three year project entitled

“Financial Services for Poor Farming Communities in Uganda”.

This project started in 2010 and since then it has uplifted the conditions of farmers in the seven districts of Kayunga, Apac (where I come from), Kumi, Masaka, Nebbi, Rukungiri and Sembabule.

The project was characterized by a first phase devoted to the training of the UNFFE national and local staff to enable farmers to organise themselves into smaller, self-selecting groups and to form a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA). This VSLA would provide farmers with the finances they need to create a successful and sustainable business and meet the needs of their families.

Through this partnership, UNFFE national and local staff was trained for financial literacy, managerial and supervisory skills.

They were then provided with equipment such as motorcycles, computers, laptops, bicycles, and cameras to enable them to effectively support farmers. The trained staff at the district level became coordinators and community-based trainers while those at the national level supervised the overall running of the project.

The community-based trainers mobilised farmers in the villages to form groups of VSLA. They taught and helped the farmers to organise themselves in groups and to nominate the leaders of VSLA through democratic means. Each VSLA is composed by a maximum of 30 members who make savings on a weekly basis and borrow when the need arises. The groups are formed by both men and women, although the number of women who joined these groups doubles the number of men. In the first two years, 662 VSLA groups were formed and yet the target was 630. The groups were able to make savings for 1,509,855,400 Uganda shillings. The group members were able to receive loans from their savings and yet two years ago no financial institution was willing to risk giving them loans.

The groups have benefited from the VSLA in the following ways:  
 It is a self-sustaining system where



FSPFCU PROJECT STAFF ATTENDING A WORKSHOP ON ADVANCED FINANCIAL LITERACY AT KIREKA SPORTSVIEW HOTEL, KAMPALA



funds keep increasing and are redistributed among the members. This enables them to continue saving and borrowing larger amounts of money and running bigger businesses thus generating more wealth. The confidence in the self-sustainability of the VSLA is evidenced in the fact that no member of the group has ever abandoned his/her group.

The VSLA system has also been commended for promoting good governance through constitution making, organized group discussions and taking decisions collectively and owning them as an entity. The weekly meetings for most VSLAs stress the importance of solving social problems collectively and in an orderly manner. During the weekly meetings it has been possible to train VSLA members on issues such as the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS, gender and sustainable use of natural resources including mitigation of the effects of climate change. Most importantly, all group members are accountable for the success or failure of their group.

There are many testimonies where VSLA members praise the project

for improved standards of living particularly in such areas as housing, ability to send children to school and also meet the costs of school materials; ability to pay hospital bills; improved nutrition in terms of more frequent meals as well as improved quality of the meals.

The project has helped rural farmers to develop a new and modern mindset towards improving the quality of their products and services. They now know that quality matters in order to get higher income. The project has indeed introduced rural farmers to a new level of appreciating money from a developmental point of view, particularly after making numerous savings and borrowings and promptly paying back the money to their groups on the due dates. As a matter of fact data show that the default rate among VSLA borrowers is negligible.

There are also testimonies that show that this project has opened up numerous opportunities for many group members. Since they are organized in disciplined groups, they become more visible to potential assistance-giving organizations. An

example for this project include a group of 26 HIV/AIDS positive members of Alinyikira Farmers Group in Masaka District which has attracted assistance from an Australian organization that has given the members a powerful tractor to help them plowing their newly acquired piece of land.

The members are very thankful to the FSPFCU project and for the funding from the Swedish people through UNFFE which has led to improved lifestyles and better nutrition. Another group, the Kalinga Farmers Group, also in Masaka, has attracted assistance from the Heifer Project which has donated to them 26 exotic milk goats to improve nutrition and incomes of the farmers in the group. Other groups in several districts have made important connections with agencies such as NAADS, and local CBOs.

### Special Benefits for Women

The project has been particularly popular within female farmer, although more men are now joining. More and more groups have continued to be formed in districts outside the project area benefitting even more farmers.

The project has done a lot to empower women economically as a contribution to redressing gender economic imbalance and now women talk of owning plots of land and even building their own houses.

All these benefits are as a result of the partnership UNFFE had with the Swedish Cooperative Centre - Vi Agroforestry.



UNFFE APEX FSPFCU PROJECT OFFICIALS (PROJ. MANAGER, ASSISTANT AND ACCOUNTANT) ADMIRING THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AMONG MEMBERS OF A VSLA GROUP IN KAYUNGA DISTRICT. STANDING AND TALKING IS THE COORDINATOR OF KAYUNGA DISTRICT FARMERS' ASSOCIATION. IN THE FOREGROUND STANDING IS THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE GROUP. ON THE MAT ONE CAN SEE THE SAVING BOX (IN MAROON COLOUR) AND THE ACCOUNTING BOOKS.



# THE ROLE OF PARTNERSHIP IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT

**Olawale Ojo,**  
*YPARD country representative for  
Nigeria*

**T**o enhance agricultural development in Sub-Saharan Africa and especially Nigeria where I come from a lot has to be put into research. Research will not only enhance productivity

for farmers and processors, it will also aid in coming forth with best practices, more technologies and methodology to develop rural areas and meet their needs when it relates to their livelihood via agriculture.

Funds, infrastructure, work environment, human resource etc are all keep to producing quality research result especially through universities, NGOs, research centres and agencies. But aside these Partnership is paramount to enhance research. This is especially true considering that we not live in a global village where we all face common problems and challenges, besides the exchange of information among researchers is paramount in today's world.

More often than not it has been discovered that researchers do not team up on issues. Many researchers have been found to be working on the same subject but do so at individual levels. Even institutions of learning have been found wanting in this regard where institutions in same country all work individually on the same research area instead of pooling resources and man power together.

It is however important that researchers learn the need for partnership. This

is especially important for our next generation of researchers the youth. Young researchers have to come to the realization that by working with one other either at individual level or at institutional level they can achieve more than working sole. Partnership allows better and more production of result. It enables collective pursuit of individual goals or interest.

Another angle to the benefit of partnership is the fact that it helps parties derive individual benefits. For example, when researchers partner at institutional level it could result in benefit for both parties such as new equipments or even laboratories or workstation for participating institution.

Partnership also allows for pulling together a large bulk of resources that an individual researcher would have had to pay for. Partnership can lead to cooperation between governments; private businesses and the civil society making sustainable development possible as all relevant sectors have a share.

One can however say that the challenge faced is how to choose a partner. In an instance where no relationship existed between interested parties working together might be difficult. However, the sources available have lightened the task. For example, Google Scholar can be found useful in identifying potential partners and what research areas or topic they find appealing. Also professional networking website like LinkedIn which is globally accepted can also be a good point to start with our search. Another method could be to look into past studies that are relevant to research topic one is working on and reach out to them. Attending conferences, workshop though sometimes expensive is a good way to meet in person. Researchers interact a lot at conferences and events thus it is a good avenue to foster relationships that will lead to collaborations in the near future.

In all an individual researcher has to show a readiness for partnership to be able to get one. Only collective efforts can get us moving and progressive in the fight against hunger, poverty and food insecurity.

## “Climate change affects us all. So what’s stopping us joining forces to act on it?”

The United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki Moon, speaking about Climate Change, pointed out that three decades from now the world is going to be a very different place; how it will look depends on the actions that we take today. We have important decisions to make and little time to make them if we are to provide stability and greater prosperity to the world’s growing population. Top of the priority list must be climate change.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/may/06/climate-change-affects-all-solutions-new-york-summit>

## Farming Is New Manga Genre in Japan

Finding willing young successors has been a major challenge for Japan’s agriculture. But in the world of manga at least, farming is being embraced by the country’s youth. “The Silver Spoon (Gin no Saji),” a comic series featuring would-be farmers at an agriculture high school on Japan’s northernmost main island of Hokkaido, has sold a combined 15 million copies in three years, making it one of the most popular comics in the country.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/japanrealtime/2014/03/10/farming-is-new-manga-genre-in-japan/>



## Family Farming and Research Conference

As part of the International Year of Family Farming, IYFF declared by the United Nations for 2014, the research institutions of Montpellier’s hub have taken the initiative to organize International Conference on “Family Farming and Research”.

The event is co-organized with the CGIAR Consortium, the Global Forum

## Policies Against Hunger XI

The eleventh conference “Policies against Hunger” will take place at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin from 30 June to 1 July 2014. The conference will seek to contribute to promoting the “Principles for responsible agricultural investments”, due to be adopted by the Committee on World Food Security Plenary in October 2014, by providing a forum to discuss approaches and strategies for their implementation and incorporation into other international processes.

<http://www.policies-against-hunger.de/en/>

## World Cocoa Conference 2014

The World Cocoa Conference will be held from 9 to 13 June 2014 in the RAI Exhibition & Congress Centre in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

This year’s theme will be “Towards a sustainable world cocoa economy: mapping progress along the road”.

<http://worldcocoaconference.org/>



9-13 June 2014  
Amsterdam Rai, The Netherlands

Towards a Sustainable World Cocoa Economy:  
Mapping Progress Along the Road

on Agriculture Research (GFAR) and the World Rural Forum (WRF) and supported by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the French Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and various national and international organizations. The event will be held from 1 to 3 June 2014 in Montpellier, France.

<http://www.agropolis.org/news/2014-international-encounters-family-farming-research.php>

## Uganda Ready to Revamp Livestock Sector

Uganda’s Ministry of Agriculture announced that there will be an increase in the number of livestock extension service providers with the aim of improving the health of the cattle across the country but also to train farmers on modern livestock practices. This investment, along with a more stringent regulatory framework, would also control outbreaks of livestock-related diseases and improve the quality of the cattle in Uganda.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201405061312.html>

## Bonn Climate Change Conference

The fortieth sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, SBI 40, and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, SBSTA 40, as well as the June session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) will be held from 4 to 15 June, 2014 in Bonn, Germany.

[http://unfccc.int/meetings/bonn\\_mar\\_2014/meeting/7979.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/bonn_mar_2014/meeting/7979.php)



