Regionalisation: a stepping-stone to integration?

Despite the waves of globalisation that are roaring across the world, the older notion of 'regionalisation' is gaining favour amongst policy makers on all continents. This time, it appears that regionalisation is being promoted as a defensive reaction to the damage that unfettered globalisation is wreaking on weaker economies and societies. Increased regional cooperation, so people argue, could be a way to strengthen a sector, such as agriculture, before it is fully exposed to the world's market-place. But regionalisation in most ACP countries and regions has not become the powerful force predicted. Dreams can come true, but is regionalisation destined to remain an illusion?

The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Rubens Ricupero, characterised regionalisation as "An implicit 'insurance policy' for the developing countries in case globalisation and liberalisation produce undesirable consequences", and as one of the most hotly debated international topics in recent years. Of course, the topic does not concern developing countries alone. Quite the contrary, economic and political cooperation within Europe is still drawing the attention of people from all over the world. For developing countries, however, it may be more of a matter of life and death than it is for the rich, industrialised nations. For ACP countries it is especially relevant, as negotiations proceed on the future of the Lomé Convention.

Regional integration in the South presented itself as an issue as early as three decades ago, but for a long time it was often more of an ambition than a political reality. How long, for instance, did it take the Organization of African Unity to prepare its members for an African Economic Community? (The Treaty establishing this Community finally entered into force in 1994.) In the Caribbean and the Pacific the sheer lack of infrastructure in itself was an enormous obstacle preventing integration from materialising. After all, most small nations in these regions had closer relations with former colonial powers overseas than with each other. In the current debate on regionalisation in the South a distinction is made between old and new regionalism. The former is considered to have been an aim in itself, when developing countries refused to join either party in the Cold War that was then raging. The latter is seen much more as an instrument, particularly in order to adjust in one way or another to the globalisation processes underway. At any rate regionalism is not just a matter of increasing trade, but has a clear security dimension and touches on development in the broadest sense of the word.
An attractive strategy for the excluded

In a conference on regional integration in November of last year in The Hague, Professor Björn Hettne of Sweden’s University of Göteborg pointed out that the ‘basic problem with globalisation is that it is uneven and selective’. As a result, he said, the benefits for some mean misery, conflict and violence for others and in the longer run these negative features pose a threat to humanity.

Against the background of such uncertainties, regionalism is become a strategy to protect domestic security and development for those excluded by globalisation. Regionalism is a strategy especially attractive to these peripheral regions, which are politically turbulent and economically stagnant. Their regional arrangements, however, reflect the weaknesses of state structures and civil institutions. Here regionalism can only work once the nations involved have come to grips with domestic violence and poverty. No wonder they tend to interpret regionalism in a protectionist way as a means to obtain greater political control of the region. The benefit of regionalism is more open. These regions are at present closely linked to one of the three major macro regions, mainly North America and East Asia. The nations in an intermediate region try to conform to the model of being part of a core region, which are sustained economic development and political stability. As they succeed in these efforts, they gradually get incorporated into the core.

ACP countries constitute partly peripheral and partly intermediate regions. The Caribbean as a whole is considered to be the part of an intermediate region that is becoming ‘North Americaised’, although the Mercosur bloc in the core of South America (which comprises Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) may put up some resistance to the increasing presence of foreign interests in the region. Since in the Pacific, especially the southern part, there is a clear tendency of options being drawn into the core region of East Asia, but at the same time this is counter-balanced by the risk of sinking into the periphery.

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), Southern and, to a lesser extent, West Africa have the great problem of emerging peripheral regions. William Lyakura, Deputy Director of the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), contends that SSA is a window of opportunity for sub-Saharan Africa to use regional integration as a mechanism to secure and enhance the economic, political, social and cultural conditions of globalisation and liberalisation have not been able to prove that their objectives have been reached. ‘They have not been able to secure the lowest possible level. No wonder the South-North Centre in Lisbon asked in a report on food security, ‘How to be food secure on the lowest possible level?’. The report stresses the need for more regional integration, to be achieved through greater resource and food security.’ The strongest regional groupings within the ACP group, the Southern Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), which was established in 1981 and consists of 22 Member States (240 million people in 1990).

Better be sustainable

The concept of sustainable development represents another example that underlines the need for regional integration. Against the macro-economic policy twins of globalisation and liberalisation have never been seen more clearly. However, the concept, as it was adopted by the world community in the 1992 Rio conference on sustainable development, does not provide a sufficiently clear understanding of the nature of globalisation as it works at present. The consequence for the environment is not incorporated in transportation costs, neither at the producer’s nor the consumer’s end. It would make sense to ensure that raw materials are at least partly processed as near the source as possible instead of being shipped to the other end of the world to be processed and returned again as finished products.

Regional cooperation among groups of ACP countries is bound to be discussed, as the future relationship between them and the European Union takes shape. It is to be hoped that in this context the advantages of such cooperation in itself get sufficient recognition. As the experience in Europe shows, the political incentives are minimal. As Aliou Jeng, Principal Economist at the African Development Bank explains, ‘It is easy for integration agreements to be violated because there is no constituency back home to whom the politician has to answer. He is not required to answer to his people and explain why he has opted out of an integration. To hold the politician accountable, the integration arrangement and the issues related to it have to be extensively discussed and the people have to be informed. No one should take for granted that regionalism is a stepping stone to full integration in the world market. In fact, it could - with commitment – provide an alternative to the dogma of globalisation, as well as all things mortal, will one day wither and die.

Maj or regional groupings within the ACP community

1) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) established in 1975 and remade in 1990 as the ECOWAS Economic Community (ECCEA) in 1983; 15 members (75 million people); headquarters: Dakar; member States: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, The Gambia, and Upper Volta.

2) Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) established in 1983; 13 members (75 million people); headquarters: Libreville; member States: Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, and Rwanda.

3) Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), which in 1994 superseded the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa (PETA), which itself was established in 1981 and consisted of 23 Member States (240 million people in 1990).

4) Southern African Development Community (SADC) established in 1992 as the successor of the SADCC, the 1980 alliance of the 16 Southern Africa states (about 200 million people); headquarters: Windhoek; member States: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and others.

5) Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) established in 1973; 13 members (5.67 million people in 1990); headquarters: Georgetown, Guyana; member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago.

Further reading:
Handbook of Economic Integration and Cooperation Groupings of Developing Countries, Vol I: Regional and Subregional Economic Integration Groupings. 1996. UN CDD, Geneva.
Handbook of Economic Integration and Cooperation Groupings of Developing Countries, Vol II: Regional and Subregional Economic Integration Groupings. 1996. UN CDD, Geneva.
ACP farmers in the corridors of power: A time to sow, a time to reap?

The new farmers’ organisations thrusting their way onto the political stage in the ACP countries are nothing if not ambitious. Although not yet fully recognised by their own states, they have already taken their place on the international stage. “The fate of our farmers”, they insist, “is decided as much in Brussels, London or Geneva as it is in Bamako or Harare.” They have brought to the world scene a degree of power normally reserved for government officials, diplomats and experts. How can they make their voices heard?

“W”e are young, but we already have a history,” asserts Assa Para Diallo, a farmers’ leader in Guinea. “Farmers’ groups have really taken off in the Fouta Djallon region in the last twelve years, as cultivation of potato and onions has increased.” The aura of Diallo’s Farmers Federation of Central Guinea (FHG) now even reaches into neighbouring countries. The Senegalese farmers’ leader, Bara Goudauly, tells a similar tale: “We had to re-organise rice growing and self-sufficiency in the region before we could enter into a dialogue with the government or the World Bank”. These two leaders point to the fact that in most ACP countries, farmers’ organisations are seizing the opportunities offered by freedom of expression and association, and are organising themselves. This is reflected in the new names and acronyms: FUPRO, the Federation of Farmers’ Unions of Benin; the MVIWATA movement in Tanzania; AOPP, the Association of Popular Farmers’ Organisations in Malawi; CAM, The Circle of Farmers of Madagascar; and UNFA, the Ugandan National Farmers’ Association. These organisations are actively discussing and debating, and their meetings pour out declarations after declaration. They have experienced a common, a razor-sharp concern for the upcoming series of international meetings that affect them (see box).

At least three events loom large on the world stage: the re-negotiation of the current Lomé Convention, a process which started in September 1998, and should be completed before February 2000; the Convention of London, which regulates the food aid policies of donor nations and which is due to be renewed before June 1999; and lastly discussions on the agricultural component of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Confusion before coordination

“The machine just rolls on relentlessly” says a worried Antoinette Abba, a cocoa producer in Cameroon. “We and our governments must stop our ‘empty chair’ policy in international negotiations. Otherwise, others will decide upon our own future, and our children’s future, for us.” It is not easy, though, to have a say. “For years we have been knocking on the doors of power, and of the American and European negotiators,” says Antoinette Abba, “but they do not always respect us as worthy negotiating partners. And that while we contribute almost 60% of export earnings for every island from St Vincent to St Lucia.” Small wonder that farmers’ organisations are frustrated, harassed by their lack of information and government enthusiasm to involve them.

“It is not necessarily a lack of goodwill” retorts Maurice Diouf, a former delegate to the M inister for Rural Development of Benin. “I maintain a permanent dialogue with my farmers’ leaders. But, from what I know, if they ask me to produce documents about the results of the most recent debates of the WTO, I can’t. And from what I know of the situation in Africa in general, the case of Benin is typical.” On the side of the European Commission, people are keen to demonstrate their noble intentions. Commission spokesperson Philippe Darmuzay: “Take on the Green Paper, which lists proposals for renewing Lomé. It emphasises a desire for partnership with civil society - the decentralised stakeholders in our jargon – and in there we include, of course, farmers’ organisations.” A Senegalese farmers’ delegate, N’Diogou Fall, raises the stakes. “That’s encouraging, but how can we start this dialogue? I hope real interest is now to move from words to action. The Green Paper also says that the war on poverty is a central objective. Well it may be, but where in the fields of Africa can we see evidence of that?”

Reaching out without over-stretching

The strident efforts of farmers’ organisations to get farmers’ interests recognised and taken into account are helped along by many links to the world of non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Yannick Jadot, a member of the Solagral association, says it all. “What is at stake for our organisations in the upcoming negotiations is how to broaden the debate. The issue of agricultural liberalisation or freer and more rational organisation of food aid to adopting proper national policies for food security, and the respective roles of African and European bodies, are legion here too. Farmers’ organisations are inexperienced, and admittedly in need of training across the board. The pressure of sharing common goals leads some groups to fall by the wayside. In Central Africa, the farmers’ movement is breaking up and re-forming in ‘satellite groups’ despite the farmers’ leader Jean Avril Moukou of Cameroon.”

Then again, the few real ‘leaders’ of farmers’ organisations are often pulled away from their roots by demands on all fronts, sometimes even in their own countries. The president of the national cotton growers’ federation in the Central African Republic (FRCE) explains: “It is true that we are too vulnerable to the instability of the world markets for us to ignore the international dimension of the production chain. But at the same time, and I admit it hard, we have to deal with our immediate concerns. We have to try to get a better price for our farmers’ cotton.”

Daouda Diagne of Inter-Syndicat des Paysans et Modernisation en Afrique (APM-SEA) writes: “It is a powerful federation. We need to develop our stand-point. They also made a foray into ‘Euro-land’, to present their demands to the European Commission and the Committee of Agricultural Partnerships. And that while we continue negotiations.”

A S enegalese farmers’ delegate, N’Diogou Fall is a farmer in Risso, a small village near Thies. He is also secretary-general of the Federation of Senegalese NGOs (FONGS). The name sounds like it would be a voluntary sec-

• SPORE 78 PAGE 4 •• SPORE 78 PAGE 5 •

+237 20 50 20. His remarks were made during a seminar organised by the Senegal Textile Company (CMDT) and SYCOV.

2 See “A world of bananas”, Spore 74

3 See “Paniers payans” (September 1998), AFDI, 21 rue la Baume, Paris 75008, France. Fax: +33 142893816.

1 This meeting was supported by three NGOs: the Belgian Collective for Food Strategies, SOS Fair Belgium and SOS Fair Luxembourg.

The spirit of Lomé, seen from Senegal

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**IN BRIEF**

**All the village is a stage!**

The theatre is often seen as a mirror in which spectators can see their own reflection, and over the years, some playwrights have used it as a means of dealing with problems by poking fun at them.

In Chad, the farmers animating team of APICA (the African Community Initiatives Support) uses a theatre technique in villages to help pass on messages about health, disease, and agricultural development.

**Fewer fish landed in the Seychelles**

This year only 163 tons of fish have been caught in the Seychelles compared to 500 tons in the same period last year: a fall of 60%.

This means a financial loss for the Seychellians, above all, the consumers of fish. (African Agriculture, August 98)

**Biological control against locusts expands**

Negotiations with three companies have begun for the commercial production of Green Mussel®, the biological control for plagues of these insects. Green Mussel® has been developed by a group of international research organisations called LUBILOSA (Lutte Biologique contre les LOcustes et autres INsectes nuisibles), with headquarters in the UK.

The idea for an African IPM Forum was promulgated at ICWEA, an IPM communications and information workshop and forum. The network can offer the ACP farmer and researcher useful services. Its database is more usefully interrogated through its user-friendly web interface: they will willingly give relevant details of almost 600 research projects, a list that is growing at the rate of six per week.

Grain as collateral

The provision of loans using warehouse grain as collateral, could give Ghanaian, Ethiopian and Zambian farmers more financial breathing space in the future. (AIDS: The key issue for Commerce and Commodity (CFC) is supporting a new credit programme in the three countries. An important advantage is that the farmers can decide themselves when to sell the grain.

**Grain as collateral**

The provision of loans using warehouse grain as collateral, could give Ghanaian, Ethiopian and Zambian farmers more financial breathing space in the future. The CFC, an intergovernmental financial institution established by the UK, will only provide funds for technical assistance and capacity building. Overall, the provision of funds is conditioned on the CFC having developed a new credit programme. He has previously worked for a similar scheme in Ghana. In that programme around 4,000 tons of cassava (tapioca) was stored, the benefit of some 1000 farmers. Two local banks provided the loans.

**IPM gets organised**

In agriculture-oriented circles the world over, IPM has become a well-known catchword. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is defined by FAO as encouraging the farmer to use all available methods to control pests. Sometimes organic, sometimes non-organic, to each his or, as the case may be, her own.

Many IPM initiatives are under way in African countries. The network for IPM gets organised (a project of the UK Department for International Development) could give Ghanaian, Ethiopian and Zambian farmers more financial breathing space in the future. The CFC, an intergovernmental financial institution established by the UK, will only provide funds for technical assistance and capacity building. Overall, the provision of funds is conditioned on the CFC having developed a new credit programme. He has previously worked for a similar scheme in Ghana. In that programme around 4,000 tons of cassava (tapioca) was stored, the benefit of some 1000 farmers. Two local banks provided the loans.

**Mango sales soar**

World mango production has doubled in the last twenty years. In 1997, 22 million tonnes were produced, 10 million in India alone. In Europe, it is now the fourth tropical fruit imported after pineapple, avocado and banana, with half the region’s consumption of 70,000 tonnes being in the UK.

**Attiéché production is good business**

Attiéché is a delicious form of couscass made from couscass. In Bouaké (Côte d’Ivoire), a women’s cooperative group is achieving pleasing results with a semi-industrial processing unit, developed by the Ivorian Company for Tropical Technical Research (ITRT). They do not produce 2.5 tonnes of attiéché a week, and profits have risen by 25% compared with their previous production of 1 tonne of attiéché a week, using other, more difficult and probably less profitable techniques. The simple-to-use unit comprises a grinder with a capacity of 800 kilograms of attiéché a hour, and a cooker (500 kwh); a dryer (100 kwh) and a cooler (500 kwh). Including installation costs, this unit sells for the equivalent of $US 12,000 and is especially appropriate for women’s cooperative groups working in urban areas. In Côte d’Ivoire, the processing of casav in all its forms is almost exclusively done by women, and the large consumption of couscass is 20% of the country’s food production.

**AIDS hits home**

Everyone knew it would happen. The large-scale migration of workers is the main cause of the dumping phenomenon. AIDS affects many other countries. Most families have lost one or both parents, according to the Zimbabwean Farm News. The response – classified by Government BorderGuard of Malawi – has been partly preventive (telling young people that extreme discipline must be exercised), and partly reconstructive. The organiser of the conference was the Southern African AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SAfAIDS) and supporters included SIDA-Sweden, the World Bank, UNAIDS, ISNAR and CTA. The urgent call of the farming itself is easier made than done, with phrases like ‘actively respond to the needs of the emerging client, being used instead of recognising front that much of the productive population, female and male, has been demobilised by AIDS. Time perhaps to call the AIDS epidemic what it is: a human disaster that requires action, not empty phrases.

**IN BRIEF**
Research support: Slick city farmers

Millions of women and men are now farming in cities (see Spore 77). They are growing crops on unused land by road-sides and on perilous rooftops, raising animals in abandoned buildings, and recycling organic waste.

Most city farmers are very poor, and till away without any government policies or services to support them, nor access to credit and technology. Some of the methods they use are hazardous to health, economically less lucrative and socially inequitable.

A new research programme, AGROPOLIS, is part of the new Support Group on Urban Agriculture sponsored by FAO, UNDP, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and the Netherlands Development Agency (NEDAD formerly DGIS).

Contact: AGROPOLIS, c/o IDRC, PO Box 5550, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9.
Fax: +1 613 567 7749
Email: Agropolis@idrc.ca
Website: www.citybmer.org

Courses and conferences

- SYSTEMS SIMULATION IN ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION, UK
  26 April - 28 May 1999, UK
  Introduces participants to the theory, use and development of animal population and disease models.
  See address below.

- HERD HEALTH, FERTILITY AND NUTRITION MANAGEMENT, UK
  26 April - 28 May 1999, UK
  Designed to teach livestock production specialists and veterinarians the essential biological and economical principles of dairy production systems.
  See address below.

- LIVESTOCK PROJECT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT, UK
  26 April - 28 May 1999, UK
  Provides participants with an understanding of the process of change in livestock service delivery, and provides tools for analysis of project management issues, and improves understanding and skills for project planning and management.
  Contact: The Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics Research Unit (VEMEU), Department of Agriculture, University of Reading.
  PO Box 236, Reading, RG6 6AT, UK.
  Fax: +44 1 865 251060
  Email: veenu@reading.ac.uk
  Website: www.reading.ac.uk/veenu/

- RURAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
  11 April - 6 May and 29 July - 19 August 1999, the Philippines
  This course covers contemporary development issues, managing sustainable and people-centred development programmes and development organisations. It addresses aspects of project planning, budgeting, implementation and evaluation.
  See address below.

- TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
  20 June - 15 July 1999, the Philippines
  Designed for development practitioners who teach in sustainable agriculture.
  The course is organised with DAIS, Please write to the addresses given above, and not to CTA, if you are interested in participating in these events.

ETC-Netherlands, focuses on the management of training for sustainable agriculture professionals and farmer leaders.
Contact: Ms H M van Rome
International course programme
International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)
Fax: +63 46 4124240
Email: info@iirrsweden.net

- USER-OWNED, FINANCED AND MANAGED MICRO CREDIT SYSTEMS
  2 - 20 August 1999, UK
  This introductory course explores the issues and options for developing sustainable financial services for poverty reduction.
  Contact: \textit{The training office, Overseas Development Group, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ, UK.}
  Fax: +44 1603 505262
  Email: odg.train@uea.ac.uk
  Website: www.uea.ac.uk/edeq/edu/

- PLANT & SOIL ANALYSIS
  16 August - 24 September 1999, UK
  A 6-week course for laboratory managers, supervisors and senior technicians providing analytical services, information and advice for those involved in management of natural resources, environmental monitoring and research.
  Contact: Dr H Munteraney
  Faculty Analytical Laboratory
  The University of Reading
  PO Box 236, Reading, RG6 6AT, UK.
  Fax: +44 1 11 251060
  Email: hvm@reading.ac.uk
  Website: www.reading.ac.uk/mun/ana/

- INTEGRATED DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT
  SEPTEMBER FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
  19 September, 1999, South Africa
  A contribution to the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO.
  Contact: Conference planner, PO Box 82, Irene, 0026 South Africa.
  Fax: +27 11 1267 3681

African scientific journals now on Internet

Perhaps you would like to read the African Crop Science Journal or the Zimbabwe Veterinary Journal regularly, but have no access to hard copies of these journals?
Check out the African Journals Online Website and you have access to either the table of contents or the full text of journals via the Internet.
AJD is a new project of INASP, the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications. It will include journal issues published from 1997 onwards.
Photocopies of these articles can be ordered direct from INASP and profits from this will be re-invested in the journal concerned. At present eleven journals are available through AJD.

Contact: WAF 27 Park End Street, Oxford, OX1 1HU, UK.
Fax: +44 1 865251060
Email: info@ajd.org
Website: www.oneworld.org/ajd/index.html

ID21

The new ID21 site presents development research work in the UK, helping to link researchers, decision makers and practitioners. The Support Group for International Development, ID21 (which means Information for Development) in the 21st century is hosted by the Institute of Development Studies. It features an online searchable database of recent economic and social research projects.

Website: www.id21.org

AGRHYMET

During the rainy season the site of the regional centre of AGRHYMET (Niamy, Niger) carries up-to-date data on the meteorological, hydrological and agricultural situation in nine countries of the Sahel. It provides important information for the areas of food security and early-warning systems. It also features information on the state of crops, the vegetation cycle (for cultivated and grassland areas), and pest threats.

Website: www.agrhyметe

Communication for development in Latin America

A computer-mediated network of Communication for development in Latin America, set up by the FAO in Chile and Mexico, linking farmers with essential information about crops, inputs, prices, markets, climatic conditions, social services, and credit facilities. Farmers’ organisations share this information through the Internet and pass it on individually to farmers and local associations.

Website: www.bo.org/aiacent/waicent/index.html

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West African vegetables

This little jewel of a site offers information on a range of West African vegetables such as Petere fruit (pawpaw leaf), Yabila (Shallot), Green Leaf (Amaranth), Peanut, Kiri (green beans), Chiku (Kiri), and many more.

Contact: M. Solomon Musa, Division of Scientific Information, Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 23, Katsina, Nigeria.
Fax: +234 31 312743
Email: mathewc@wam.undu.edu
Website: www.wam.undu.edu/mathewc
Dr. Mawuena Y. Dieudonne Gumede of the University of Benin also writes in support of the future of plant virology in Africa. “Virologists have to make practical proposals to policy makers. It is a good idea that an African Centre of Excellence in Plant Virology should be established. We have to indicate the cost of such a Centre. What should be the linkages between the Centre to be established and other existing centres of CGIAR, the NARS and the NGO’s?” The objective of such a Centre will be to conduct fundamental and applied research in plant virology through training sessions and collaborative projects. The Centre should produce antiviral and develop diagnostic techniques for the NARS.”

Dr. Luther Bos of the Research Institute for Plant Protection, Wageningen, The Netherlands sent some critical remarks on the same article. “Why are you concentrating on sub-Saharan Africa? Is it to include South Africa, hoping that either it will now advance so rapidly that it could support other parts of Africa, or that the South African public will be made aware of financial support from elsewhere to aid it in aiding nearby countries? Would it not be more realistic to just talk about Tropical Africa? If not, then why not include the Moslem Northern part of the continent? Thanks to the ICARDA virology programme including continuing systematic surveys in the region (with various unexpected results), we now know a lot more about the viruses of the legume crops from Morocco to Iran and Turkey to Yemen, Sudan and Ethiopia.

You are ignoring the work that is being done in the tropical virology laboratory at Agropolis in Montpellier, France, by Thouvenel et al., which is a continuation of the work started at the Audoiposie research centre in Côte d’Ivoire. (...) As for your suggestion of a local ‘Centre of Excellence,’ good work on plant virology requires continuity for the building up of expertise and reliable facilities. It requires size and internal division of labour for justifying the purchase of expensive equipment, and for critical mass. Such a Centre also requires independence from national governments to keep local politics out and ensure continuity in independence from political winds that change direction each time a government falls. You just stressed that virology is characterised by particular needs. Administrators are mostly insufficiently aware how unique viruses are and how they pose special problems for research and control. You are also right in saying suitable overseas training courses for tropical staff are increasingly falling short because of lack of tropical experience in advanced countries.”

On our “mailbox” page we publish extracts from letters received by the editorial team at CTA. These letters have been selected for their potential interest to other readers of Spore. Readers are therefore invited to send us further information on subjects covered in Spore.

Spore will also publish the following short chapters and new items on agriculture and rural development in ACP countries; these will be considered for publication in our ‘In Brief’ pages. Finally, under the heading ‘Viewpoint’, we will continue to publish personal opinions on the subject of agricultural development in general.

Please send your correspondence to Spore at CTA in the Netherlands (see back page for our address) and please note that we are unable to return manuscripts.

**Mailbox**

**Viewpoint**

**Gender issues: not a power struggle**

As we try to define future co-operation and partnership options for EU and ACP States, we must emphasise the important role that women can play in agriculture. Basically survivors, women are central to the agenda as the primary processors and labourers in a sector still dominated by men. We have to make gender mainstream, and establish gender-sensitive management as an integral part of agricultural development initiatives.

The EU’s “Green Paper” of September 1997 gave several opportunities for change, referring to new instruments and partnerships, and to more active participation by non-governmental players. It embraced several complementary objectives, including combating poverty, promoting sustainable development and the progressive integration of ACP agriculture into the world economy. While urging economic growth through competition and private sector development through integration and trade development, the Paper tried to merge economic, environmental and societal interests, while identifying various stages of development of the ACP States that it is sought to differentiate.

The response of the ACP Group, in the Libreville Declaration of May 1997, was to call for greater unity and solidarity, and to focus on three priority areas: growth, competitiveness and capacity building; a gender-sensitive approach; and sustainable environmental management.

This strategic position was reaffirmed in the Accra Declaration of November 1997. As for the EC’s call for gender equality, timeliness, and of women in agriculture, the declaration referred to the importance of identifying targetting women and of the potential to turn targeting the poverty situation of ACP countries around.

CTA’s mandates in information management and rural development are aimed at improving access to technologies for increasing agricultural productivity, commercialisation, food security and rural development, as the Libreville Declaration explicitly stated. Central to these mandates is the empowerment of women in agriculture and rural development.

We recently decided to strengthen CTA’s work in the analysis of specific needs for supporting rural women’s organisations, in the emphasis of extension services and in the provision of rural development partnerships with institutions that have specific programmes on the role of women and poverty alleviation in agricultural and rural development. This programme is a continuation of the work which addresses the issue of targeting the right client and will serve as an example for others.

Dr. M. T. Afolabi, Director of the Agroeco-System Research Programme, IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria, writes in support of the Viewpoint article by Ms. Takani Ngomane, Director of Regional Services in the Department of Agriculture, Land and Environment of the Government of South Africa. She sees a central role for agricultural home economists in the struggle for gender equity in her nation’s agriculture. Currently vice-chair of CTA’s Advisory Committee, she is a strong voice in the post-Lomé debate about relationships between the 71 ACP States and the European Union after the existing Convention expires early in 2000.

**PLANT ViroLOGY IN AFRICA**

Professor Roger Hull, of Norwich, England, writes in support of the Viewpoint article by Dr. M. T. Afolabi, Director of the Agroeco-System Research Programme, IITA, Ibadan, Nigeria. “I strongly support the need for the enhancement of the input of virology in Africa. One only has to look at the problems in Uganda with ACMV - sweeping down from the north and BSV - advancing from the south. As you pointed out there are three important diagnosis, epidemiology and resistance or control. On the one hand, I consider it that the best approach is for there to be regional diagnostic centres say southern Africa, eastern Africa and western Africa. Having regional centres overcomes some of the weaknesses of quarantine. These can be set up initially targeted at one crop and then expanded to take in other crops. If they are linked to an industrialised country lab or labs the development of diagnostics can be done by cooperation. The epidemiology is best done in development in developing a crop, and the role of women is clearly beyond the need of international aid and development.”

**Gender issues:**

**Women: help the men!**

To the women out there! I urge you to reinforce our organisational efforts and assist our male partners in development to implement gender-sensitive management programmes. The agreements between the EU and ACP countries prove their commitment to take deliberate steps to involve women at all levels if the target of 2000 is to mean anything real. Let us see more capable women at the policy-making level, more women extension officers and home economists in research stations, training institutions, on the farms in the villages, at the processing plant, the boardroom, etc., at all levels of the agricultural chain.

Women researchers write in support of the Viewpoint article by Ms. Takani Ngomane. “Why are you concentrating on sub-Saharan Africa? Is it to include South Africa, hoping that either it will now advance so rapidly that it could support other parts of Africa, or that the South African public will be made aware of financial support from elsewhere to aid it in aiding nearby countries? Would it not be more realistic to just talk about Tropical Africa? If not, then why not include the Moslem Northern part of the continent? Thanks to the ICARDA virology programme including continuing systematic surveys in the region (with various unexpected results), we now know a lot more about the viruses of the legume crops from Morocco to Iran and Turkey to Yemen, Sudan and Ethiopia.

You are ignoring the work that is being done in the tropical virology laboratory at Agropolis in Montpellier, France, by Thouvenel et al., which is a continuation of the work started at the Audoiposie research centre in Côte d’Ivoire. (...) As for your suggestion of a local ‘Centre of Excellence,’ good work on plant virology requires continuity for the building up of expertise and reliable facilities. It requires size and internal division of labour for justifying the purchase of expensive equipment, and for critical mass. Such a Centre also requires independence from national governments to keep local politics out and ensure continuity in independence from political winds that change direction each time a government falls. You just stressed that virology is characterised by particular needs. Administrators are mostly insufficiently aware how unique viruses are and how they pose special problems for research and control.

You are also right in saying suitable overseas training courses for tropical staff are increasingly falling short because of lack of tropical experience in advanced countries.”

As we try to define future co-operation and partnership options for EU and ACP States, we must emphasise the important role that women can play in agriculture. Basically survivors, women are central to the agenda as the primary processors and labourers in a sector still dominated by men. We have to make gender mainstream, and establish gender-sensitive management as an integral part of agricultural development initiatives.

The opinions expressed in this Viewpoint are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the CTA.

**MAILBOX**

**VIEWPOINT**
Institutions learn to communicate better

Pesticide Management in the Pacific

A workshop held at the offices of the Institute of Research, Extension and Training in Agriculture (IRETA) at Alafu Campus, Samoa, from 7-11 September 1998 was attended by over 50 participants from the Pacific Islands and New Zealand. The objectives of the workshop were to review the situation of pesticide usage in countries of the region, to improve pesticide management at the national and regional level.

Participants came from diverse background; agricultural extension workers, researchers, teaches, school teaching, health services and the private sector. The pesticide situation in a number of countries in the south Pacific is particularly worrying, as all countries lack proper quality training in handling and safe use of pesticides, and to discuss ways of adapting and improving training in pesticide management.

The workshop concluded by drawing up a broad range of recommendations, among which were the following needs: improved national-level training on availability of training material in the region and encouragement of the private sector to become involved. Efforts are currently underway at IRETA/USP to develop a certificate course in pesticide management. Such a course should help to alleviate regional problems associated with pesticide management and go a long way towards addressing a number of issues recognised in the workshop.

Collaboration with Kenyan and Tanzanian publishers: two practical booklets

With CTA’s support, Friends of the Book Foundation and Stanton Publishers, based in Nairobi (Kenya), recently co-published English versions of the following two booklets originally produced in Kiswahili by the Kagera Writers and Publishers Co-operative Society in Tanzania.*

Learn how to make and use compost manure in farming

Also by P B Ng’esa, this practical booklet aims at encouraging farmers to use natural compost preparation methods that will result in better yields. The chapters cover composting, composting methods, compost benefi ts, and the benefit of using compost manure.

Artificial fertilisers and how to use them

Following introductory chapters on factors affecting plant growth and soil fertility, P B Ng’esa discusses natural and artificial fertilisers, the role of essential elements in plants, how to prepare fertilisers, and the benefits of using artificial fertilisers needed, how to apply them and to assess the benefits of using them.

Sustainable agriculture extension extension for Eastern and Southern Africa

Dr. Daniel Hunter, The University of the South Pacific, Fiji 23933; Email: hunter_d@samoa.net

Caribbean Plant Genetic Resources Network gets started

The Caribbean Agricultural Science and Technology System (PROCICARIBE) reports the establishment of the Caribbean Plant Genetic Resources Network (PGRN) which has three goals; Firstly, to establish links, through strategic alliances and partnerships, between the considerable resources within the Pan Caribbean region; to develop intellectual property and innovation, opening the way to product development through access to resources of the private sector; to provide access to the private sector, through strategic alliances and partnerships, between the considerable resources within the Pan Caribbean region; to develop intellectual property and innovation, opening the way to product development through access to resources of the private sector; to provide access to the private sector, through strategic alliances and partnerships, between the considerable resources within the Pan Caribbean region; to develop intellectual property and innovation, opening the way to product development through access to resources of the private sector. The PGRN will be convoked during the meeting, a small group of participants was charged with the responsibility of developing network priorities and a workplan to be submitted to the steering committee for approval. The working group is expected to complete its tasks by April 1999; shortly thereafter the second of the meeting of the CARICAN will be convoked.

Contact: Paul Compton, Executive Secretary, PROCICARIBE, c/o CARDI, Woburn, Bedford, UK.

CTA publications go on sale

Nearly 20,000 organisations and individuals who received CTA publications have registered their entitlement to receive limited quantities of CTA publications free-of-charge, and there are now almost 24,000 subscribers to Spore in the ACP countries and in the EU. However, CTA cannot extend these entitlements to others elsewhere in the world and some people in the ACP countries should receive more CTA publications than their other point allocations allow.

New CTA credit points each year

If you are a subscriber to the CTA Publications Distribution Service, you will receive new allocations of CTA credit points each year, on the anniversary of your registration. If you registered before December 1997, you should receive news of your allocation on a new publications order form with this or a future issue of Spore; others will receive details of their new allocations with future issues.

Details of how to register with the scheme can be found on page 13 of Spore 77 or on the CTA Website.
Market liberalisation and smallholders

The authors expound a ‘new institutional economics perspective’, which is an adjusted, more practical elaboration of existing free market ideas. This perspective incorporates problems of market failures and the incentives of smallholder producers to find institutional responses to these problems.

Smallholder Cash Crop Production under Market Liberalisation: A New Institutional Economics Perspective
Edited by A. Dorward, J. Kydd and C. Poulton.

The state of privatisation

Where two decades ago the state led the development process, now it is expected to be a facilitator. In agriculture and natural resources, monopolistic state management has been replaced by partnerships of public and non-public groups, ranging from the commercial to the community-based, practicing ‘common pool resource management’.

But decentralisation, privatisation and partnerships are not the sure way to poverty alleviation and redistribution of opportunities that was once promised. A government that is, in principle, more accessible, and often more responsive, to the needs of the poor and non-public groups, ranging from the commercial to the community-based, practicing ‘common pool resource management’.

The many sides of land tenure

Issues related to land tenure are becoming increasingly important worldwide. Basically, land is scarce. Urbanisation, soil degradation, nature conservation, land reform, conflicts over ownership and the conversion of pastoralist areas to arable lands are examples which indicate the variety and complexity of the issue. In terms of rubber production, poverty alleviation and maintaining social equity, land tenure plays a crucial role. This book reviews a multitude of aspects regarding land tenure. Although ‘the guiding principles on land tenure in development cooperation’ are intended to apply German development cooperation approaches more effectively, the book’s focus and practical values are broader. It can also be read as a resource guide and/or an introduction to land tenure in general. The book is peppered with examples from all over the world and includes a CD-ROM and a video featuring a land tenure model in Voi, Kenya. Land tenure in development cooperation: principles (illustrated by examples from impatia). GTZ no. 263. 1998. 103 pp. ISBN 3 88085 322 6

New in The Tropical Agriculturalist series

Three new handbooks have recently appeared in the Macmillan/CTA series The Tropical Agriculturalist. All are available from CTA for £10 CTA credit points each.

Tilapia

In this guide J. Antigny examines the needs, breeding and farming systems of this popular fish. He discusses the development and management of a tilapia farm and provides information on problems related to health, environment and farming practices.

Smallholder Cash Crop Production under Market Liberalisation: A New Institutional Economics Perspective
Edited by A. Dorward, J. Kydd and C. Poulton.

Forage Husbandry

This book by W. Bayer and A. Meiners-Bayer covers the principles of forage husbandry, the functions of forage resources and their integration into wider farming systems, the management of forage systems, and the conservation and uses of forage. A list of important forage species is included.

Camels

The topics covered in this guide to camel management include origins, domestication and distribution of camels, breeds, production systems, physiology, reproduction, nutrition and health. The author, R. T. Wilson, also reviews the uses of camels, particularly for milk production and as a means of transport.

The customer is always right!

This motto not only holds true for current commercial marketing strategies, but in the field of development cooperation approaches are being increasingly adopted as well. Bottom-up and participatory approaches are examples of this.

The Tropical Agriculturalist


Analysis of Pastoral Camel Husbandry in Northern Kenya
By R. A. Kaufmann. Hohenheim Tropical Agricultural Series 5. 1998. 144 pp. ISBN 3 8236 1206 7. £15.92. Margarit Verlag, PO Box 105, 97985 Weikersheim, Germany. Fax: +49 7934 81 56 Email: margarit@compuverse.com

Lupins as Crop Plants: Biology, Production and Utilization
By B. Kaufmann. Hohenheim Tropical Agricultural Series 3. 1998. 60 pp. ISBN 3 8236 1182 2. £7.98. Margarit Verlag, PO Box 105, 97985 Weikersheim, Germany. Fax: +49 7934 81 56 Email: margarit@compuverse.com

Agricultural Plant Genetic Resources

The dilemma of livestock and the environment

One of the greatest challenges facing mankind today is to satisfy the nutritional needs of the growing world population while at the same time preserving resources such as land, water, air and biodiversity. Livestock is a crucial element in this balancing process. Demand for livestock products (protein and milk) is increasing throughout the world, and the need to increase productivity continues. The increasing demand for livestock products is caused by a further increase in the world’s population and a more affluent middle class, especially in developing countries. Livestock are an important source of protein and milk production and as a means of transport. The customer is always right! This motto not only holds true for current commercial marketing strategies, but in the field of development cooperation approaches are being increasingly adopted as well. Bottom-up and participatory approaches are examples of this.
Radio, the major communication medium in many ACP countries, is changing fast. Since 1990, there has been a massive surge in the number of rural radio stations, now totalling more than 400, according to a recent survey for CTA. Urban stations have grown even more. Yet international stations continue to attract listeners, especially as they increasingly re-broadcast through local FM stations, in addition to short-wave, which is still used by more than 15% of radio listeners in Africa.

The longest-running agricultural programme in international radio is The Farming World, broadcast weekly on BBC World Service, with more than 2,000 broadcasts in the last 40 years. Equally useful information is provided by other broadcasters' 'magazine' programmes (station details are given at end): DW: Man and Environment; Coopération et Santé; WRN: Terres nourricières; RNZI: Innovations; VOA: Agriculture Report; RN: Earth and Sky.

Other stations, such as All-India Radio, Brazil's Radio Globo, Radio Japan or Radio Switzerland feature technical and agricultural stories in their news programmes.

ACP stations have growing international audiences, through broadcasting world-wide on the Internet, and exchanging programmes, sometimes with CTA support. Now that the Afristar1 satellite has been launched (October 1998), the USA-based Worldspace plans to (re)broadcast the programmes of 100 stations to Africa early in 1999, using digital broadcasts with high quality reception (which requires a special receiver). Ameristar1 and AsiaSat1 satellites will start later in 1999. Worldspace will carry several ACP stations (including stations in Benin, Kenya, Ghana and Uganda).

Another consortium, the World Radio Network, offers the selected output of 25 key international stations, such as South Africa’s Channel Africa.

The changing face of international radio

Suppose you are interested in learning how to grow a lot of food on a little land, by the use of organic fertilizers, local plants and natural pesticides, or how appropriate technologies can offer cheap alternatives to poor farmers. In which case, you might want to browse through a publication or follow a course at the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IRR).

IRR focuses international outreach activities around health care, agriculture and management of natural resources. The organisation works to improve the quality of life of rural poor people in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

This non-profit organisation produces a variety of publications on topics ranging from sustainable agriculture to community health care to environment and natural resources. Here, IIRR is an international resource. Their materials are written in simple, easily understandable language and are illustrated with numerous drawings. Many are produced in workshops that bring together farmers, representatives from governments and NGOs, with artists and editors.

This participatory approach is an important element of IIRR’s workstyle. For several years, IIRR has experimented with a 'cluster approach' for strengthening institutional capacity. A ‘cluster’ is a group of organisations banded together by sector, geography, common development focus or other affinity factors. The advantage of working in a cluster is that it stimulates a critical mass for mutual learning, sharing experiences and improving coordination, follow-up and impact.

IRR has provided participatory training courses to over 9,000 development professionals from more than 2,500 organisations working in 91 countries. Some upcoming courses are listed in the In Brief section of this Spore. IIRR also provides tailor-made courses and technical assistance services upon request. IIRR is based in the Philippines and has regional offices in Belgium, Ecuador, Kenya, Nepal, and the USA.

The International Listening Guide which provides details of 5,000 radio stations worldwide is available from AGI, PO Box 3121, 3456 AT Den Bosch, The Netherlands. Website: www.agi.nl

The OneWorld Radio News Network helps stations to exchange programmes, and broadcast them via the Internet. http://nt.oneworld.org

See also the radio pages on www.cta.nl

IRR: Assisting with teaching and learning