

SPORE

The magazine
for agricultural and
rural development
in ACP countries

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INTERVIEW
Adimaimalaga Tafuna'i,
WIBDI co-founder and
executive director

N°172
OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2014

CLIMATE-SMART
AGRICULTURE

A practical or
idealistic approach?

COFFEE

From the nursery
to the cup

REVOLUTIONISING
AGRI-FINANCE

Bridging
the gap



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Editorial

Building on a successful Fin4Ag conference



The Fin4Ag conference, which CTA organised with its partners in July 2014 in Nairobi, was a trendsetter in many ways. As the Nigerian minister of agriculture, Akin Adesina, said in his keynote address, bringing together the financial sector with the agricultural sector in the same room was a “revolution in itself”. Governors of central banks from several African countries debated whether they should support agriculture; learning from their Asian counterparts also present at the conference, the African banks were convinced it was a worthwhile investment. The Ugandan minister of finance, Maria Kiwanuka, challenged the ministers of agriculture present on whether their public institutions could effectively use the 10% of national budgets called for under the 2003 Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security. The response was a resounding “yes” but the debate demonstrated the need to get many more finance ministers to support the agricultural sector more fully.

The overriding message at the conference was that African farmers finance 90% of their production from their own resources, but they could do much more to increase their productivity and capture a bigger share of the value chain if they had additional financing from other sources. Opportunities for agricultural growth are enormous, with burgeoning African cities demanding more food and higher-quality produce.

CTA has benefited from the conference in many ways. It has helped us to connect with many entrepreneurs and innovators who are conducting exciting work in agricultural finance. It has also helped us to identify priority areas for our programming in the coming few years. We will continue to provide a platform so that more people can learn about financing models that work. In addition, CTA will support ongoing dialogue between the agricultural and financial sectors at the levels of policy and of working capital and investment finance. Finally, we will support capacity-building initiatives to raise the know-how of farmers in financial management and of financiers in agriculture.

Michael Hailu
Director – CTA

SPORE is the bi-monthly magazine of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). CTA operates under the Cotonou Agreement between the countries of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group and the European Union and is financed by the EU. • Postbus 380, 6700 AJ Wageningen, The Netherlands • Tel: +31 317 467 100 • Fax: +31 317 460 067 • Email: cta@cta.int • Website: www.cta.int • **PUBLISHER:** Michael Hailu • **EDITORIAL BOARD:** Krishan Bheenick, Isolina Boto, Thierry Doudet, Vincent Fautrel, Stéphane Gambier, Anne Legroscolard • **MARKETING:** Thérèse Burke • **EDITORIAL STAFF:** Executive editor: Joshua Massarenti, Vita Società Editoriale S.p.A., Via Marco d'Agate 43, 20139 Milan, Italy • Editor of English version: Susanna Thorp, WRENmedia Ltd, Fressingfield, Eye, Suffolk, IP21 5SA, UK • Editor of French version: Bénédicte Chatel, 12 avenue de Wagram, 75008 Paris, France • Editor of Portuguese version: Ricardo Bordalo, Tapada da Carvalha, Cabanões, São João de Lourosa, 3500 – 885 Viseu, Portugal • **CORRESPONDENTS:** The following contributed to this issue: N Ackbarally (Mauritius), O Alawode (Nigeria), M Andriatiana (Madagascar), B Bafana (Zimbabwe), K Bascombe (Trinidad and Tobago), B H Carreon (Palau), I Esipisu (Kenya), O Issa (Niger), J Karuga (Kenya), J C Kijana (Democratic Republic of Congo), M L Marna (Guinea-Bissau), N Mendes (Angola), E Ntungwe (Cameroon), C Njeru (Kenya), A C Santos (Cabo Verde), A Silva (Mozambique) • **OTHER CONTRIBUTORS:** N Brynaert, S Federici, O Frost, A Guillaume-Gentil, ISO Translation & Publishing, D Juchault, K Lohento, D Manley, F Mantione, A Perrin, M Protz, C Pusceddu, Tradcatts, G Zati • **DESIGN:** Intactile DESIGN, France • **LAYOUT:** Laimomo, Italy • **PRINTER:** Latimer Trend & Company, UK • © CTA 2014 – ISSN 1011-0054

A practical or idealistic approach?

Agriculture must be tailored to current and future climate change patterns to ensure tomorrow's food production. To meet this challenge, FAO and other organisations launched the climate-smart agriculture concept at the first Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change at The Hague in 2010. What does it involve?

“In recent decades, changes in climate have caused impacts on natural and human systems on all continents and across the oceans,” reports the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The future depends on the capacity of the agricultural sector to address this momentous challenge.

Climate change is already a reality for many smallholders. The AfricaAdapt network aims to share knowledge on climate change adaptation in Africa. It has collected testimonies from local communities throughout Africa - from Burkina Faso to Cameroon and from Malawi to Zimbabwe - on the impacts on family farming. Longer dry periods, shrinking water supplies, increased flooding, desertification, and unpredictable and changing seasonal weather patterns, causing lower crop yields and thus farm production, are a few of the impacts pointed out by these communities.

These communities have been coping with the situation by adopting techniques such as drip irrigation and water recovery, planting improved early-maturing varieties and using soil conservation methods. However, as a way of adapting or sometimes even surviving, some have also been forced to migrate and move away from farming activities. Some are, to a certain extent, practising climate-smart agriculture (CSA). The three main pillars of this concept are: sustainably increased agricultural productivity and income (food security); adaptation and enhanced resilience to climate change (adaptation); and reduction and/or absorption of greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation). FAO plans to apply this concept to develop the technical, policy and investment conditions necessary to achieve sustainable agriculture to meet food security challenges in the face of climate change.

Response to an emergency situation

This ambitious broad-scope CSA concept is still in its infancy. It is geared towards responding to the crisis situation facing many farmers, including the most

vulnerable, especially in Africa where rainfed agriculture is practiced on 95% of farms.

But not everything is new in CSA. Quite the opposite: many practices and/or technologies are based on



sustainable agricultural development, enhanced natural resource management and sometimes ancestral knowledge revamped for today's world. Practices inspired by conservation agriculture, agroforestry and agroecology enable farmers to adapt to climate change: introducing trees in farming systems to capture nitrogen; creating ponds, dams or basins to collect and retain water; adopting new seed varieties, e.g. a rice variety resistant to salt water or flooding, or a drought-tolerant maize variety; and setting up direct seeding mulch-based cropping systems.

Solutions are also possible to curb methane and carbon monoxide production linked directly to agricultural activities. The East Africa Dairy Development programme, which is helping some 200,000 farmers boost their milk production and gain access to markets, is striving to reduce the dairy industry's climate footprint by promoting alternative sources of cattle feed (improving fodder species, planting legumes for livestock feed, using agricultural by-products), while producing fertiliser and biogas from manure.

National and regional meteorological services could be improved and mobilised to optimise these practices. Several countries already issue weather reports to meet farmers' needs - these are, for instance, disseminated by SMS in Kenya and Uganda and/or via rural radio stations, while the African Center of Meteorological Applications for Development and the AGRHYMET Regional Centre publishes seasonal rainfall forecasts.

Reaching out to all farmers

Effective practices and innovations are being implemented in both developed and developing countries to cope with climate change in different value chains. It is essential to showcase and disseminate them, while ultimately ensuring that they are accessible, suitable and readily adaptable for farmers. The CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) is conducting several rural outreach initiatives to raise farmers' awareness on 'climate-smartness'. In Kenya, CCAFS reached over 3 million viewers through Kenya's weekly reality show 'Shamba Shape-Up', in Nepal, 1 minute jingles on climate change and adaptations are broadcast on the radio, and in Benin and Senegal community radio stations broadcast weather bulletins

on measures tailored to farmers' needs.

"Information on CSA is paramount. When conventional national extension systems are weak or have even completely crumbled in some countries, it is essential to come up with innovative ways to get the message out to farmers as quickly as possible. This is especially true since some techniques are emerging and/or are knowledge-intensive technologies," says Oluyede Ajayi, senior programme coordinator for agricultural policy and rural development at CTA.

CCAFS has also set up 15 Climate-Smart Villages in Eastern and West Africa and Southeast Asia which serve as centres to test different adaptation strategies, technologies and practices while promoting interactions between researchers and local communities.

Capacity building for farmers is an essential step in adaptation to climate change, but implementing policies to create a supportive and encouraging environment is also vital. "Some political and institutional arrangements in a given geographical area sometimes hamper CSA adoption. This is the case, for instance, when the land tenure system impedes the planting of perennial trees on farms, especially when farmers are tenants and hence do not have permanent property rights to ensure their long-term investment," stresses Ajayi. Based on a multi-sectoral approach, these policies should encourage farmers to invest in CSA.

A ragbag concept?

Some French, English and Dutch NGOs take a cautious approach to CSA. "This is a relatively vague concept that could potentially involve a very diverse range of practices, some of which are widely disputed, especially regarding their negative impact on the environment and communities. For example, genetically modified organisms (GMO) are used, in addition to intensive pesticide and chemical fertiliser applications," says Pierre Ferrand, agricultural and food sector development project officer for GRET, a French development NGO. He also feels that CSA overlooks agroecology, a field whose findings are proving, to an increasing extent, that the world can do without returning to the substantial use of chemical inputs and GMOs. Ferrand also questions the form of the future Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture, which was officially launched in September 2014 by Ban Ki-moon, secretary general of the United Nations, at the 2014 UN Climate Summit in New York. "On the governance as such, there is no transparency on who exactly will spearhead this famous Alliance, no definition of the rules or accountability of the different stakeholders, or the ability to control the investment practices that will be certified in this framework," says Ferrand.

The Alliance could be a way to mobilise financial resources required to cover the overall cost of agricultural adaptations to climate change, i.e. US\$7 billion according to the lowest estimates, but which could reach up to US\$14 billion a year. Otherwise there are solutions, but it is family farmers who must bear the brunt of their cost. ■

Anne Guillaume-Gentil

Remy Temba practices eco-friendly farming methods in the foothills of Kilimanjaro in Tanzania



© FAO/IS Maina

SOIL FERTILISATION

Aerial composting

Aerial composting is a low cost composting method developed by Niger's national agricultural research institute, INRAN. The technique involves mixing organic waste (plant residues, decomposable household waste and manure) directly into the soil and then watering copiously. The mixture has to be turned every 10-14 days and ferments within 4 weeks.

MARKET GARDENING

Biological pest traps

A team of scientists from several institutes, including the French research centre, CIRAD, and the US Agency for International Development, successfully tested vegetable nets with small-scale farmers in Benin and Kenya. These simple and easy to use nets enabled farmers to reduce insecticide sprayings on cabbage and tomato crops by 70-100%.

HEALTH

Tasty pills

Cocoa's health benefits are numerous. In 2013, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) recognised that cocoa flavonols contribute to improving blood circulation. EFSA now recognises that cocoa extracts have the same health benefits as cocoa powder and dark chocolate. An opinion on cocoa's health benefits still needs to be endorsed by the European Commission.

RESETTLEMENT

Angolan families return to their agricultural roots

While war took them from the fields, peace has allowed them to return to 'grow together' on land where crops have replaced land mines 'planted' by armed conflict.

Around 2,500 families in the northern Angolan province of Malange have escaped poverty with the success of the *Kikula Ku Moxi* (Growing Together) family farming project, created in 2010 by the Capanda Agro-industrial Hub Development Society. From a minefield 'planted' over decades of war experienced by Angola until 2002, the perimeter of the Capanda Agro-industrial Hub in the Cacuso municipality has become farmland, from which 35 t of diverse

products such as maize, rice, groundnut, cassava, sugar cane, sweet potatoes, potatoes, beans, millet and vegetables are harvested each month. As a result of this project, families' average monthly income will rise from 3,000 (€22.50) to 13,000 (€97.70) Angolan Kwanza.

Weighing up the impact of *Kikula Ku Moxi* over the past 4 years, Garcia Alves, deputy technical administrator of the Cacuso municipality, underscores the socio-economic improvement of these families, with benefits including an improved diet for more than 3,500 people, access to potable water for more than 11,000 citizens and the drastic reduction in 1-year-old infant mortality from 118 to 33 per 1,000 live births. Production is predicted to increase by 50 t by the end of 2014, thereby boosting product distribution in primary national and regional consumption centres (supermarkets, restaurants and cafeterias).

The purpose of the *Kikula Ku Moxi* programme, one of several different facets of the Capanda Agro-industrial Hub, is to promote and consolidate family agriculture in this region, which has major agricultural and agro-industrial potential due to its natural soil and weather conditions. Another goal is to increase the number of participating families. The desired increase in participating families is directly tied to the expansion of arable land in the Capanda Agro-industrial Hub, which covers 411,000 ha with 270,000 ha of arable land. ■



A woman planting seeds next to a minefield in Angola

SOLAR LAMP

Lighting for Cameroon's rural and urban dwellers

Over 1 million slum dwellers in Douala and Yaoundé, and over 200 rural farming households, are benefitting from a new source of indoor lighting during the day. Clear plastic 1 litre bottles are filled with water and a few drops of 'eau de javel', which bleaches the water and keeps it clean. The bottle is then inserted into the roof, with the top sticking out; when the sunlight hits the bottle, the water reflects it down into the house. The amount of light produced by one bottle is equivalent to a 50 watt electric light bulb, and each bottle costs around 1,500 FCFA (€2.30) to make and install. Lighting up dark areas should also help to keep mosquitoes at bay.

The amount of light produced by one bottle is equivalent to a 50 watt electric light bulb



GUM ARABIC

Improved techniques

The Gesforcom project, implemented in Madagascar, Mali and Niger, promotes techniques for improving the quality of gum arabic and increasing its market value. These techniques involve frequently pruning gum trees from an early age, and cutting the first small branches. The tree is then tapped when it is 3 to 5 years old (as gum production begins at this age) after it has shed its leaves. There are two ideal times for tapping: at the beginning of the cold season, around November, and during March. This process stimulates exudation and enables the trees to increase production by five or even six times. Gum quality is improved by cleaning, grading – sorting nodules by size – and drying in a shaded and dust free area. Finally the gum is packaged in 25–30 kg jute bags.

COOPERATIVES

Adapting to climate change

Smallholder farmers in Rwanda are adapting to climate change and boosting production by forming cooperatives.



Farmers at Ejo Heza Coop shelling maize before storing it in a common warehouse

With support from the Rwandan government, through development organisations and the Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA), smallholder farmers are able to access bank loans, sell their produce collectively for better profits, and invest more in food production. The government is now using the cooperatives to supply subsidised farm inputs to poor farmers, leading to considerable increases in yield. “Cooperatives are a potential vehicle through which members have created employment, improved food security all over the country, and through which farmers are generating income,” says Mugabo Damien, RCA director general.

It has also become easier for farmers to receive training on climate change adaptation and other areas related to food production and income generation. “With the changing climatic conditions, we realise that there is need to prepare farmers adequately, so that they have the right seed, and in good time. Experiences have shown that planting crops just 1 week late can reduce the yield by 50% or more,” Damien adds.

Mukankiko Odeth, a smallholder from Rwanda’s Kirehe district, says the changing climate has made it difficult to know exactly what type of seed to plant, when and how, without relevant information. “But that is the information we are getting from cooperatives, in addition to training, farm inputs and access to markets,” he explains.

By being members of a cooperative, farmers are also able to store their produce after harvest in a common warehouse. When it is sold, the farmers are paid and a small percentage is given to the cooperative which can then be used as an investment, or used as collateral to borrow money from a bank. This enables a farmer to source credit they wouldn’t otherwise be able to access.

“With climate change, population pressure and hard economic times, our country was suffering from food insecurity just a few years ago,” says Gasirabo Claver from the Rwanda Development Organisation, which works with the government and Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa to offer training and support to 122 cooperative organisations. “But now, farmers under cooperatives have enough for their families, and more for the market.” ■

BREWING

Mozambican farmers resist hybrid maize

The Mozambique Institute of Agricultural Research has developed high yielding cassava varieties that resist mosaic disease. The new, widely adopted varieties are being used by the brewing industry and are proving more popular than hybrid maize varieties, as they are considered better able to withstand tough climatic conditions and a lack of inputs.

STRIGA

Limiting the damage

Legume cover crops and crop rotation reduce damage from *Striga*, a parasitic weed that causes cereal yield losses. This method, which also enriches the soil with organic matter, has boosted rice and maize crop yields in Madagascar’s Hauts Plateaux region.

LOCAL PRODUCTION

Supplying school lunchrooms

The Cabo Verdean School Social Action Foundation recently supplied the island school lunchrooms with locally-produced agricultural products, replacing imported food. The use of ‘regional products’ in lunchrooms, which supply hot meals to more than 180,000 students per day, is encouraging farmers to boost production.

BIOGAS

Pay as You Go

In Kiambu County, Kenya, over 100 families have adopted a Pay-as-You-Go (PAYG) biogas system which costs 10,000 Ksh (€84) to install, compared to the €840 normally paid. Subsequent payments of €0.04 per unit of biogas are made via mobile phone. The PAYG system uses a communal digester, from which biogas is piped to clients’ homes, sufficient for the cooking needs of a five member family.

LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Banning commercial fishing in Palau

Currently earning only US\$5 million per year from commercial fishing, the Republic of Palau in the western Pacific is considering closing its exclusive economic zone to foreign fishing vessels and patrolling its waters with drones. Small-scale fishing and tourism-related sports fishing will still be allowed.

BOVINE SEMEN

Triangular cooperation

The Indian company, Aadicon Biotechnologies Ltd, is operating in Mauritius to produce bovine semen. The 'Frozen Semen Extraction Technology' has been brought from India, and cows and bulls are imported from South Africa. Their semen is collected, analysed and treated in Mauritius to be used for artificial insemination all over Africa.

GUARANTEEING THE FUTURE

Women committed to preserving fisheries resources

Cooperatives of women from northern Mozambique are developing public awareness campaigns to respect fisheries closures and expand sanctuaries for threatened species. "We feel that fish resources are dwindling, so we are getting involved to prevent the worst from happening," says Latiza Domingos, association manager of the Moma district.

SUN AND ICE

Fishing village uses solar energy to make ice

The fishing village of Salamansa, on the Cabo Verdean island of São Vicente, is able to produce its own ice thanks to a unit powered by solar energy, thereby reducing operating and production costs. Considered a pioneering experiment in Cabo Verde, this system has opened the doors to a new source of community income.

TILAPIA

Cross-cutting initiatives

A nationwide marketing campaign and programme to provide training on tilapia breeding and pond construction is boosting local production.

In early 2014, Trinidad and Tobago suffered an environmental disaster in the form of a bunker fuel (oil) spill which polluted fishing and breeding grounds, as well as coastal communities along the south western coastline of the country. The incident was a blow to the fishing industry, severely reducing the demand for fish and sea products as well as having a devastating impact on the fish stock.

The oil spill, while being an environmental tragedy, has helped springboard the demand for local tilapia. Prior to this incident, the Ministry of Food Production had mandated the Sugarcane Feeds Centre (SFC), a local research station, to improve the marketability of tilapia from aquaculture producers on the island. Through the programme, officials bought tilapia from local operators, which was then processed and sold to consumers. Since the spill, the interest in tilapia rearing has boomed.

"The industry was stimulated, allowing producers an outlet for their fish while

simultaneously giving coastal fisherfolk a possible option to continue their livelihoods, albeit in a different form," explains SFC project director Suresh Benny. "Consumers began buying more farmed-raised fish because of concerns about pollution following the oil spills." As a result, production of tilapia has increased from 225 kg per week to 900 kg per week, in terms of whole fish. It is hoped that such production levels will offset the high level of tilapia imports. According to the Ministry of Food Production, current imports stand at 100 t per year, whereas local production, annually, is only 12 t.

The increasing consumer demand for farmed fish has created an added incentive to encourage new fish farmers into the sector. In response, the SFC has joined forces with the Seafood Industry Development Company, a major stakeholder of the fisheries industry on the island, and with the Agriculture NOW Training Unit. Together, they have launched an aquaculture training programme, providing capacity building on equipment, breeding and pond construction. The programme began in May 2014 and has already trained approximately 40 new aquaculture producers.

To supplement these efforts towards increased production, the Ministry of Food Production has also constructed a hatchery to produce approximately 1.2 million fingerlings per year. This hatchery is expected to produce approximately half of the nation's annual demand for fingerlings. ■

Aquaculture staff sampling fish in Trinidad and Tobago



© Institute of Maritime Affairs Trinidad and Tobago

BIOFORTIFICATION

Fighting hidden hunger in the wake of climate change

To combat hidden hunger, a number of biofortified climate resilient crops are being developed.



Manually crossing pollen from a sweet potato variety rich in vitamin A to a high yielding variety

With many institutions aiming to increase agricultural production as a way of adapting to climate change, experts have warned of ‘hidden hunger’, where people have more to eat but the food does not contain the necessary micronutrients for sound health. To bridge this gap, HarvestPlus, is working with national research institutions, NGOs, governments and development partners to develop climate resilient crops that are biofortified with essential nutrients.

In Rwanda for example, about 700,000 smallholder farmers are already growing iron-rich beans, and in Nigeria three new vitamin A cassava varieties - which provide up to 40% of the recommended vitamin A intake for children under five - were launched in 2013 as part of the government’s Agricultural Transformation Agenda. “We are excited about these new cassava varieties and their potential to contribute to improved nutritional status among Nigerians, particularly among children and women,” explains Paul Ilona, the HarvestPlus Nigeria Country Manager. The organisation expects to reach more than 350,000 Nigerian households with vitamin A cassava in 2014. ■

DEFENDING THE FOREST

Community leader revives rule to stop desertification

A concern for deforestation in his community led Tomas Ebo, born in Quicabo, Bengo, in northern Angola, to revive an ancient rule that ‘requires’ a tree to be planted when another one is cut down. Thousands of trees are cut to manufacture charcoal, resulting in a risk of desertification of vast areas once covered by dense woodlands. Around 31.18% of Angola is threatened by desertification due to constant slash-and-burn, deforestation and agricultural practices. Ebo’s example is considered a success resulting from the awareness initiatives of the Forest Development Institute aimed at reducing the indiscriminate cutting of the country’s trees.

CONSERVATION

Saving the last trees

Civil society in Guinea-Bissau is mobilising to protect the country’s last stands of forest.

The Guinea-Bissau Anti-Deforestation Movement (MCDFGB) arose to ‘save the last stands of forest’ in the country after decades of unbridled deforestation due to ongoing political and military instability. The MCDFGB’s first step in stopping the indiscriminate cutting of trees was to create a report showing that the agreed quotas for national wood exploration are being largely surpassed by foreign companies. This document was sent to the UN Secretary General, the Beijing Government and international environmental protection organisations, warning that indiscriminate cutting of protected species has left Guinea-Bissau, a country once rich in forests, with just a few remaining stands of trees.

MCDFGB representative, Idrissa Yafa, says that deforestation in Guinea-Bissau

FRIENDLY SUN

Solar energy revolutionises Porto Novo

Farmers in the agricultural Valley of Ribeira da Cruz, on the Cabo Verdean island of Santo Antão, have had a photovoltaic power station installed, allowing solar energy to be used to pump irrigation water. The system has cut production costs and expanded the irrigated area.

particularly affects local populations, due to the “destruction of houses and harvests by winds that only occur after the forest has been devastated”. Yafa goes on to say that the Movement aims to achieve three main goals: “To stop the indiscriminate cutting of trees and to replant; to help affected communities; and to create a control system to protect the forest in the future, with international support if necessary.” ■

CLIMATE CHANGE

Nepal inspiring other countries

To combat climate change, Nepal has pioneered the development of ‘Local Adaptation Plans of Action’ (LAPA). LAPA is a village- or local-based approach which takes climate change impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation priorities into account by focusing on enhancing resilience. Run by District Development Councils at village level, LAPA aims to include vulnerable people, including the elderly, women, ethnic and religious groups. With representatives of the agriculture, health and education sectors, the District Development Councils review each new project, considering its impacts on climate. This approach is now inspiring other Asian and African countries. For example, Mozambique has started to implement structures to launch LAPA in 22 of its districts.

SOIL

Testing centre improves farmer knowledge

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics has opened a soil testing centre in Zimbabwe, to improve farmers' knowledge of soil fertility. The centre will offer advice on soil improvement, including how and when to select and apply appropriate and affordable fertiliser.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

A reference centre in DRC

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture has launched a new science facility in Kalambo, near Bukavu (South Kivu Province) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which will cover 14 African countries. The facility contains a fabrication unit, a processing centre for cassava and soybean, and a laboratory which is the largest and the most modern in Central Africa.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mauritius informs Eastern Africa

Mauritius has established a climate change centre for Eastern Africa in Port-Louis, which is a unique information desk that collects, keeps up-to-date and disseminates local and international data for free. It aims to foster awareness of climate change, and causes impacts and steps to be taken for mitigation and adaptation.

ICT

Scrutinising the soil

Four students from the University of Rwanda have developed software for analysing soil fertility. The software simply needs a picture of the soil to start the assessment process. The group of young people, known as Agristars, have developed this application during the Imagine Cup, a competition for students that is part of Microsoft's Youth Spark initiative.

INNOVATION

Farmer invents revolutionary method for growing yams

A new system for producing yams on Santo Antão means more profit for farmers from this Cabo Verdean island and more time at school for their children.

A young farmer from the small town of Tarrafal de Monte Trigo, on the Cabo Verdean island of Santo Antão, has created a new irrigation method for growing yams, and has become the largest producer of this tuber, a common food item eaten by the island's inhabitants. Just a short

time ago, yams were only grown in stream beds, requiring a lot of irrigation water. But everything changed when Armando decided to try planting yams in previously prepared beds, so that irrigation water could be reused through a system that connected the various crop areas. This method also shortens the plant's maturity cycle, allowing several harvests per year.

The system was so successful that it was adopted by other farmers in the town, who also began focusing more on this type of farming. Today, more than two dozen families from Tarrafal de Monte Trigo, a small town of around 900 inhabitants in the interior of the Porto Novo municipality, grow yams as their primary source of income. Money earned from selling yams, in addition to helping improve the quality of people's lives, has also allowed families to send their children to continue their education on the neighbouring island of São Vicente, with some children now attending university. ■



TOMATO

New variety holds promise for farmers

A new tomato variety is offering a tantalising opportunity for Solomon Islands' farmers looking to increase their yields.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) has recommended a new variety of tomato, MAL-SI/LE/01/14, to farmers in the Solomon Islands. The new tomato is the result of years of ongoing collaborative research and evaluation between MAL and AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center. "The line had been evaluated under varying conditions over a number of cropping seasons and has out-performed locally available tomato varieties in both yield and taste," explains MAL permanent secretary, Jimi Saelea. Rose

Sese, who participated in the initial stages of the evaluation, supports the Ministry's initiative to get more farmers to take on the new variety. "Before getting involved in the project, I had planted a variety of tomatoes on my farm. It was then that AVRDC got me and other farmers to carry out tests to choose the best tomato variety from the seeds they supplied," she explains. "I picked this variety because of its tough skin texture, sweet taste, and ability to grow in any soil type and condition."

Farmers are being encouraged to take on the new variety

Hotel owners in Honiara have also come to appreciate the new variety, with high demand from the tourism sector boosting its popularity. Over 230 seed packets of the new line have been distributed to interested farmers so far. AVRDC says that under local conditions the new variety can produce ripe fruits in approximately 56 days after transplanting, with average fruit weighing 190 g. Based on information from farmer field trials during 2013, the average marketable yield was 16 t per ha. ■

EXPORTS

Germany overturns kava ban

One of Germany's highest courts has ruled that Germany's ban on products containing kava is unlawful.

In June 2014, Germany's Federal Administrative Court (FAC) ended a ban on kava-based products. The roots of the kava plant (*Piper methysticum*), which is grown in the Pacific, are used to produce a drink with sedative and anaesthetic properties. However, in 2002, the FAC banned kava-based products because of public health authority fears that they caused liver damage. Reversing that decision, the court concluded that the risks from using kava were not unusually high.

Josepho Malang Buleban from Vanuatu has been expanding kava production

A Vanuatu-based researcher, Vincent Lebot, who provided scientific evidence at the trial, says that the victory came after a hard-fought battle which



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had a severe impact on exports to the EU and US. "This over-reaction cost hundreds of millions of dollars to the South Pacific kava growers. Not only did they lose the German market overnight, but also the whole EU market because countries like France and Switzerland decided to ban kava based on the German decision," Lebot explained in an interview with *Radio New Zealand*. "And the American market, which at that time was growing very fast, was severely impacted."

"What happened in Germany is a clear victory for all of us who know that when kava is properly used, with the right varieties cultivated with the right agricultural practices and processed in a reasonable way, it's not a dangerous product," Lebot added. "It has been drunk for millennia in the South Pacific and we know that there are no signs of liver toxicity - nothing comparable to alcohol." Speaking to *Radio New Zealand*, the chair of the International Kava Executive Council, Tagaloa Eddie Wilson, said that he expects supplies to be back to normal within 3 years: "Now we are going to have to work with our farmers to rebuild and set production up again. At the moment there are supplies ready, available now, but not in the quantities that the market will require."

But Lebot also acknowledged that the region's kava trade is still under threat as there are serious problems regarding the quality of kava being exported. "The wrong varieties and the wrong parts of the plants are being exported," he explains, warning that this is potentially very dangerous as exporting poor quality kava to the EU could result in further bans. ■

SORGHUM

Commercialising a cultural crop

A Ugandan company, Huntex Industries, is using sorghum to produce a health drink called 'Memera', which is currently being certified for export. More than 500 sorghum growers in Uganda's Kabale District are selling their sorghum to the company. Farmers are also planning to package sorghum flour for sale, following training in value addition.

TOMATO

Financing tomatoes

Tomato exporters in Kenya have formed a professional society which provides loans to help farmers expand their operations. The exporters are able to use their savings or produce as collateral and the repayment rate so far is 99.4%. The scheme has 6,000 registered tomato exporters; three-quarters of their produce is sold to European markets.

FAIRTRADE

Fairtrade certified cocoa from PNG

Club 3,000, a group of 629 cocoa farmers from the Madang Province in Papua New Guinea, has become the first Fairtrade certified organisation in the Pacific. The first certified cocoa consignment is scheduled to be shipped to Australia soon. Farmers are aiming to produce 120 t of certified cocoa in 2014 and should benefit from premiums worth US\$24,000.

FINANCE

Increased loans for mango exporters

As a result of lower interest rates, around 5,900 mango farmers have taken up loans in the last 2 years. According to the Central Bank of Kenya, banks have been charging between 8-10% and repayment rates have been as high as 97.6%. With their exports destined for Europe, all the farmers need as collateral is the produce, a piece of land, or both depending on which bank issues the loan. "I have had three loans from Equity Bank," explains Kimani Njogu, who owns a 2.5 ha mango farm. "The funds helped me purchase mango seedlings from suppliers. I was given 2 years to repay the loans at 10% interest and I have repaid all three in full." Kenya currently exports over 12,798 t of mango per year, according to the Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya, and the sector is growing at 16% per year.

These 6 pages were produced with contributions from: **N Ackbarally** (Mauritius), **M Andriatiana** (Madagascar), **B Bafana** (Zimbabwe), **K Bascombe** (Trinidad and Tobago), **B H Carreon** (Palau), **I Esipisu** (Kenya), **O Issa** (Niger), **J Karuga** (Kenya), **J C Kijana** (Democratic Republic of Congo), **M L Marna** (Guinea-Bissau), **N Mendes** (Angola), **E Ntungwe** (Cameroon), **C Njeru** (Kenya), **A C Santos** (Cabo Verde), **A Silva** (Mozambique).



Adimaimalaga Tafuna'i, WIBDI co-founder and executive director.

ADIMAIMALAGA TAFUNA'I

Reaping the benefits of mobile apps

The complexity and costs of ICTs can be a barrier for smallholder farmers. Women in Business Development Inc (WIBDI), an NGO in Samoa, has embarked on designing and commissioning a suite of mobile apps to assist its extension workers, farmers and markets.

Why is the use of ICTs for agriculture particularly relevant to the Pacific region?

ICTs offer economic and efficiency benefits for many Pacific nations because although we have small populations, these can be widely spread across multiple islands. Using ICTs can help increase our communication with farmers and also give farmers access to market and extension information. ICTs also help to amplify the voice of farmers because they may be able to use ICT tools to talk with each other and to raise issues.

The use of ICTs for agriculture is rapidly evolving, but many of these can be complex and the costs of these technologies prohibitive for smallholder farmers. How can these challenges be overcome?

At WIBDI, we are creating a suite of apps known as 'm-Link' to support our Farm to Table project, which is working towards the objective of providing hotels and restaurants in Samoa with 80% of their food needs through local production. Apps like these that target smallholder farmers need to consider their particular social, economic and cultural needs. It is a case of knowing that community really well and understanding their perspectives and this has mostly meant keeping the app simple and having much of it accessible offline, to reduce costs and increase uptake. We have also tried to involve mobile networks with limited success, although one network has offered discounts and is continuing to talk with us about the potential of ICTs in the agricultural sector.

How will the development of apps by WIBDI help to provide information and link farmers to new markets?

There are four apps planned, with one already completed. The first app is mExtension, which has been developed with our extension workers in order to meet their needs. It provides extension advice on crops, pests and diseases, and organic certification, and features profiles of all our farmers. The second is mFarm. Designed for the farmer, it will feature extension advice based on the queries we often receive from our farmers, organic compliance advice, a planting and harvesting calendar and basic book-keeping, including e-receipts for those who are involved in our livelihood programmes. This app is the next to be developed, in consultation with our 600 organic farmers and extension workers.

The third is mKitchen, which is an app for hoteliers and restaurants. It will have an ordering function, nutritional and seasonal information as well as recipes designed by chef Robert Oliver, who is the cuisine consultant on our Farm to Table programme. The last app, mTable, is focused on the consumer and will feature the restaurants and hotels where they can eat organic Farm to Table produce.

Once the apps are developed, we expect to see better organic compliance among our farmers, better communication between our extension workers, farmers and restaurateurs, better and more produce being supplied in a timely manner, better business literacy from our farmers and more produce being ordered from our clients. We

also expect to see more efficiency in terms of time and fuel, because our workers will be able to plan their work schedules with more up-to-date information. In the end, we expect to see the farmers earning more.

Do ICTs offer particular advantages or benefits for women?

The way WIBDI see development happening best in Samoa is to look at the whole family and make sure everyone benefits. Nevertheless, ICTs have the ability to show information that might normally only be discussed or revealed through mainstream media or through extension visits. So in terms of benefits for women, it may give them equal access to information and allow them to have a greater role in decision-making processes.

What advice or key lessons would you provide to others when considering the development of ICT applications?

Simplify and stay in charge - because you know your farmers, your workers and your markets better than the technical experts. In many ways it is not about the technology but about people. ■

Note: Supported by the Pacific Media Assistance programme and CTA, WIBDI launched the m-Link system at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in September 2014 in Samoa.

Susanna Thorp

Financing agricultural value chains is a major challenge in ACP countries. To promote access to credit and reduce financial risks, CTA co-organised an international conference (Fin4Ag) in July 2014 in Nairobi with over 750 participants. The reinvention of current business and regulatory finance models has begun.

REVOLUTIONISING AGRI-FINANCE

Bridging the gap



17 | VIEWPOINT
Esther Muiruri:
Inclusive access to finance

18 | FIELD REPORT FROM KENYA
Bagging a good deal
with onions



Unable to meet conventional collateral requirements, small and medium farmers across ACP countries often fail to secure bank finance. Perceived as high risk, having poor financial management and offering modest returns, their situation is compounded by the high costs of extending traditional banking to rural areas, which deters many lenders.

Agriculturally, Africa should be a net exporter, says Akinwumi Adesina, Nigerian Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development. Delivering a keynote speech at CTA's recent conference on "Revolutionising finance for agri-value chains" (Fin4Ag), Adesina reported that instead of this, African countries currently spend around US\$35 billion each year on food imports. With more than 750 people, including private sector executives, government officials and farmers' representatives from some 80 countries gathered at the event, the Minister emphasised that minimal irrigation, poor infrastructure, limited value-adding, high postharvest losses and - most importantly - lack of access to credit means that Africa's farmers are failing to fulfil their potential.

In Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, less than 10% of the population has formal access to credit and less than 4% have a bank account. Too many banks continue with a traditional and outmoded approach, warned Michael Hailu, CTA director, curbing farmers' profits and driving young people from agriculture. On average, a mere 5%

of domestic resources are allocated by most developing country governments to the agricultural sector. But Africa is at a tipping point, Hailu believes, and the time has come to focus on solutions and scaling up success.

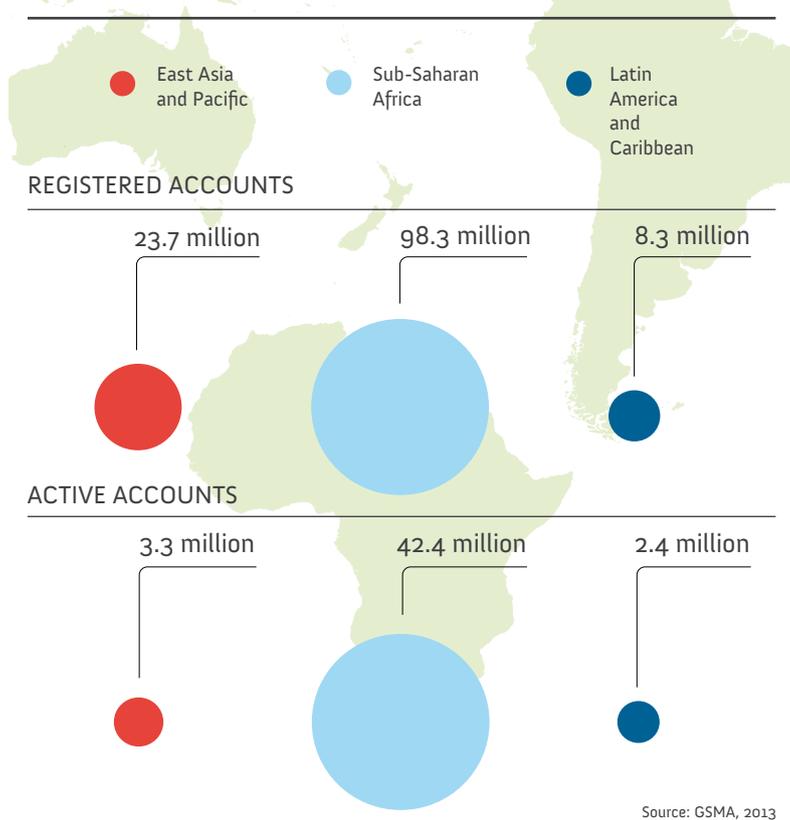
Currently, 90% of investments in African agriculture are made by farmers themselves. "This is not acceptable," said Lamon Rutten, CTA programme manager for policies, markets and ICTs. "Farmers are ready to see themselves as businessmen, rather than just subsistence producers, but investments need to increase for farmers to be more profitable and banks and financial institutions need to see farming as a business that is worth supporting." Theo de Jager, president of the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions concurred, asking why farmers should shoulder the burden of agricultural financing and not make money just like any other business. Nothing is possible in the modernisation of agriculture without agri-financing, he asserted, and whilst there are no easy solutions, the bridge between farmers and financiers needs to be better supported.

Understanding farmers' needs

Improved communication is a vital part of that bridge. Financiers need to understand the constraints faced by farmers and farmers need a better understanding of inclusive agri-finance products, something which was highlighted more than once during the 5-day conference.

Farmers in Nigeria redeeming vouchers for fertiliser

NUMBER OF REGISTERED CUSTOMER ACCOUNTS AND ACTIVE CUSTOMER ACCOUNTS BY REGION



In the case of Equity Bank (see p17, *Inclusive access to finance*), a holistic approach that combines lending with advisory services is helping the bank protect its portfolio whilst supporting customers to gain credit as well as build repayment records.

Training enables farmers to have a better understanding of the financial products and tools on offer. For example, the One Acre Fund provides a complete service bundle of seeds, fertilisers, credit, training, postharvest management and market support, which is enabling farmers to produce a surplus and achieve a profit of US\$250 in a year. Repayment rates are 98%, with field officers in Rwanda working to overcome transport and distribution problems and ensuring that farmers get the advice, support and credit they need. Currently working with 180,000 farmers, One Acre aims to support 500,000 farmers by 2016.

Understanding customers' needs underscores the approach used by MicroEnsure, which currently provides crop insurance to around 60,000 farmers in Eastern and Southern Africa. A further 1,000 farmers have taken out hurricane index insurance in the Caribbean. MicroEnsure's aim is to provide reliable protection with simple, innovative products at low or no cost. However, to make insurance more inclusive, more companies need to change their processes and accept thinner profits, says MicroEnsure's Agrotosh Mookerjee. Telecom companies

willing to offer a free product, for example, are helping to change market perceptions about the need for insurance. Value added products, such as crop advisories and weather forecasts, are also stimulating insurance uptake and allowing farmers to further mitigate their risks (for more on index insurance see *Spore 164 Dossier - Index insurance: managing risks*).

Evolving ICTs

Mobile phones and other ICTs are revolutionising the way in which agri-finance and insurance is delivered, ►

Haiti's three-pronged approach



A successful microfinance approach, known as the System of Agriculture Financing and Insurance in Haiti (Syfaah) is soon to be rolled out to Latin America and Africa. Funded by the Canadian government, where a similar system helped transform Quebec's agricultural sector 50 years ago, Syfaah brings together three components that Sylvain Dufour, credit counsellor at Développement International Desjardins (DID) states are key to its success. Smallholders are able to improve their yields and manage their risks through a combination of small loans, weather insurance products and technical assistance, all of which are tailored to meet farmers' needs. By March 2014, Syfaah was working with 6,300 Haitian producers providing €8 million credit. By 2018, it aims to have extended the system nationwide. "Employing agro-economists as credit officers means that lenders don't make the same mistakes as in the past – insisting for example, that a farmer make monthly repayments rather than repayments that are timed to coincide with the sale of his produce," says Dufour. "They understand producers and are able to adapt the product for what they need."

DOSSIER

► as demonstrated throughout the Fin4Ag conference sessions, including the Plug and Play Day. Since 2009, Zoono has processed nearly 1 million eVouchers to facilitate bulk payments for specific purposes. Clients for the service have included the governments of Malawi and Zambia, as well as WFP and FAO. In Malawi, eVouchers delivered via SMS or scratchcard enable 60,000 farmers involved in a subsidised farm input scheme to buy hybrid seed from local dealers.

In Ghana, the Visa-supported Rice Mobile Finance project is a mobile payment platform to support the rice value chain, increasing transparency, reducing side selling, facilitating money transfers and providing financial inclusiveness to thousands of farmers. In Nigeria, the electronic wallet system has helped reduce corruption in fertiliser supply schemes and farmers are now accessing subsidised farm inputs via their mobile phones. According to Nigerian minister Adesina, the system is now being adopted in other African countries, with interest also being shown by Brazil, China and India.

The first digital clearing house in Jamaica has recently been launched, utilising Web-to-SMS technology to connect small farmers to buyers. Using SMS, Agrocentral allows farmers to alert buyers when they have a crop to sell, via a central website. In the same way, buyers can post a request to buy a certain crop which is relayed to farmers via SMS. Middlemen are thus eliminated and margins increased.

A change in focus in the Pacific

From focusing on multi-national subsidiaries, the ANZ bank has recently started to provide more structured solutions by extending pre-export finance to nationally owned coffee and cocoa companies in Papua New Guinea (PNG) that have a proven track record. In 2014, ANZ also extended its pre-export finance to the Solomon Islands, to a small Asia-based cocoa trading company, to coffee growers in Timor as well as sugar producers in Fiji, where the nation's entire production is exported via the Fiji Sugar Corporation. "Funding against existing orders of sale is considered a palatable risk by the bank," says Gareth Coleman, of ANZ in PNG. "We also allow the traders to borrow in US dollars at a lower interest rate than if they borrowed in the local currency."

Legislation and enabling policies

However, whilst ICTs are certainly revolutionising agri-finance, they are not the panacea. In Madagascar, a simple but successful community inventory credit system

MOBILE MONEY



2.5 billion people

in lower to middle income countries are unbanked

more than 1 billion

people among the unbanked population have access to a mobile phone

219 services in 84 countries

mobile money is now available in most developing and emerging countries

9 African countries

have more mobile accounts than bank accounts

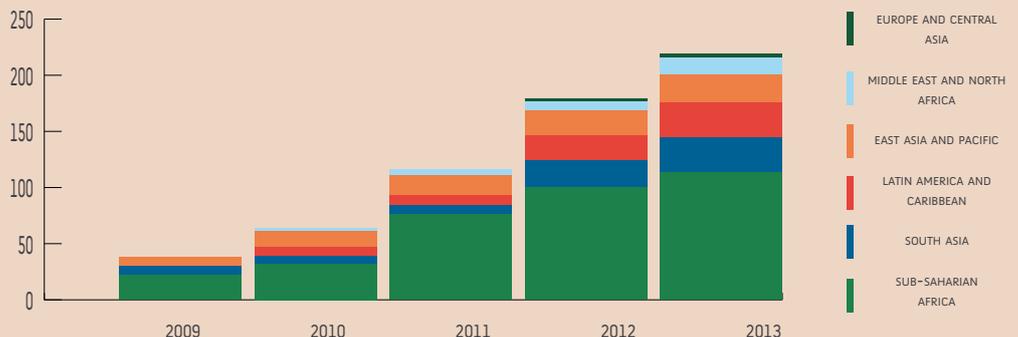
36%

of mobile money users are women

123 mobile insurance

credit and savings services are live of which 27 were launched in 2013

NUMBER OF LIVE MOBILE MONEY SERVICES FOR THE UNBANKED BY REGION



Source: GSMA, 2013

involves over 80,000 farmers storing their crops - mainly paddy but also cloves and coffee - at home in the family compound. The system has been wholeheartedly adopted by two leading microfinance institutions, resulting in close to 100% repayment rates and seasonal price stabilisation.

The success story was revealed as part of cross-country report which examines the lessons learned from community, public and private warehousing in Madagascar and eight other African countries. The report, commissioned by CTA, the French development agency, AFD, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, also examines the legislation that supports or constrains warehouse financing (see *Spore* Special Issue on Structured Trade). Uganda, for instance, introduced specific legislation in 2006 and 2007 to encourage public warehouses and could provide a model for other countries. But in practice, it depends on the enabling environment and, even if there is political will, as has been the case in Côte d'Ivoire, it can still take a long time to introduce enforceable legislation.

Daniel Gad, owner and managing director of Omega Farms, a leading vegetable producer in Ethiopia, insisted that legislation and enabling policies for agri-financing are key and warned that most policies lack full commitment and are subject to change. "The capital value of farmers is enormous," he said, valuing it as a US\$280 billion business opportunity. "So why is it so difficult for governments and bankers to take a risk?" (see box on p16, *A change of focus in the Pacific*). Gad emphasised that cultural perceptions need to change, and that central banks need to make lending easier, so that people, including the youth, move higher up the value chain.

In Brazil, government support for agri-finance has led to the development of farmer IOUs - Cedula de Produto Rural (CPRs) - which are issued on the basis of future crop or cattle sales. These have proved highly effective for medium-sized commercial farmers. A farmer with 100 head of cattle, for example, would not have the credit rating to attract a big bank, but can now enter a sophisticated financial market. Over the years, electronic CPRs have been developed and have now become the basis for many other forms of agri-financing. For example, CPRs can be auctioned through an electronic network or commodity exchange or bundled to sell to pension funds.

In 2013, over 600,000 CPRs were legally registered in Brazil, with billions of US dollars flowing to farmers. With agricultural production in Brazil more than doubling between 1991 and 2004, the World Bank has identified CPRs as one of the best ways forward for agri-finance. However, says Rutten, CPRs can only operate within an enabling environment, which may be country-wide, or if this proves too difficult, may be made specific to certain sectors where conditions can be met, associations are approved by government, and collateral registry and arbitration systems established. Nevertheless, the system is attractive to farmers and investors alike and inspires farmers to become more commercial. ■

For further insights and coverage into innovations presented at the conference, please see the Fin4Ag conference website: www.fin4ag.org

Susanna Thorp

Viewpoint

Esther Muiruri is general manager of agribusiness for Equity Bank in Kenya. Equity Bank's vision is to transform people's livelihoods socially and economically by providing modern and inclusive financial services.



Inclusive access to finance

Equity Bank has been very successful in agricultural financing with smallholder farmers. Why don't more banks take a similar approach?

With agriculture financing there are challenges and risks. However, instead of fearing the risks, we need to see the opportunities, work to mitigate the risks, and explore what interventions can be developed to help smallholder farmers. The reason why some organisations do not currently work like this is because of their perception of risk. But financing is a process and we need to work with farmers to develop an effective risk mitigation strategy.

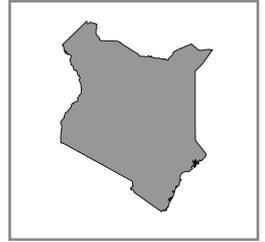
So how can bankers better understand farmers in order to provide effective financing?

Banks need to establish a relationship so that they understand the farmers, who also develop an understanding of banks. You then have a win-win situation and can develop solutions that are acceptable to both. In addition, we should bring in other players who work with farmers, who can work in partnership and support both farmers and financiers. This way, everybody understands the situation and can work to fix problems rather than leaving farmers on their own; working in partnership is a mitigation against risk. We also train our financiers in relationship management so that they not only visit the farm to talk about finances but they offer a level of extension service. The farmer then feels that we talk their language and understand their circumstances; we develop a working relationship by following their activities and supporting them to address any issue that arises.

What advice would you give to other banks who are developing financial tools for farmers?

Any tool that is developed needs to be understood by farmers. You can develop a very good insurance product but if farmers do not understand the concept of insurance then it becomes a challenge for them to take up the product. So every tool needs to be supported by really effective communication so that farmers understand exactly what are the pros and cons of each concept and how it works for them. Our approach has always been to start with a level of training to explain, to create awareness and to sensitise them so that by the time they are taking up the facility, farmers know what to expect and there are no surprises.

Susanna Thorp



Bagging a good deal with onions

Grouping together to form 'commercial villages' is allowing farmers in Nyeri, Kenya, to not only access markets but also obtain affordable credit, amongst other services. Contrary to traditional loans, where interest is paid during the life of the loan, farmers repay only after the products have been sold.

Since 2008-2009 farmers in the Kiambu West region of Central Kenya have been supported by Farm Concern International (FCI) to develop the onion value chain using new improved hybrid varieties, along with inputs of fertiliser and pesticides. The farmers are grouped in commercial villages (CVs), made up of small clusters of around 20 to 30 households, to form larger groups of over 300. Buying and selling in bulk, the groups are able to increase their bargaining power with traders to

obtain better prices for their onions, and purchase inputs, irrigation kits and quality seeds at discounted prices.

Like many small-scale farmers across the region, a lack of collateral and credit records is a major constraining factor in improving farmer investment and farm productivity. However, with the farmers grouped in CVs, they are able to co-guarantee each other and access credit from Taifa SACCO, a savings and credit organisation.

Prior to the intervention of FCI and Taifa SACCO,

Taifa SACCO provide training in financial literacy, entrepreneurship and record keeping



© Taifa SACCO/IM Kamau

the onion farmers traditionally grew low yielding open pollinated varieties (OPV) and staples including maize and beans. Prices for onions at the farmgate were low, reaching only 8 to 12 Kenya shillings (Ksh) (€0.06-0.12) per kg. To allow farmers to gain access to key markets in Central Kenya, FCI introduced superior hybrid seeds and provided links to seed and chemical companies, as well as buyers, enabling them to become more competitive.

However, although Taifa SACCO provided the loans for purchasing inputs and the CV members provided co-guarantee, some farmers were unable to afford the interest repayments. “Poor farmers obtained loans from other sources or sold household stuff to pay the monthly interest,” says Mugo Kamau, Taifa SACCO’s deputy marketing manager, who added that finding money to pay for farm labour was a further burden.

A creditable approach

To overcome the problem of making monthly repayments, Taifa SACCO created a loan package known as small micro-enterprise credit (SMEC), which was tailored to allow farmers to pay back the loan once the onions had been sold. According to Kamau, SMEC particularly helped young farmers interested in taking up onion farming but who lacked start-up capital for inputs and labour.

Taifa SACCO also provided training in financial literacy, entrepreneurship and record keeping. To date, Taifa SACCO has provided over 200 million Ksh (€1.7 million) to onion CV members. As the scheme has progressed, more farmers have overcome their previous financial reservations about taking out loans. “With increased incomes more people are becoming bankable,” Kamau states.

For example, the SMEC has helped 46 year old Daniel Gakuu to expand his onion farming from 1.6 ha to leasing another 1.3 ha since 2009. He initially took a loan of 200,000 Ksh (€1,700) payable after 6 months at 8% interest

to purchase inputs and hire local labour. However, when Gakuu’s onions were harvested, the 250,000 Ksh (€2,125) proceeds from 0.4 ha were enough for him to repay the loan before the 6 months elapsed. “There is money in onion farming,” enthuses Gakuu.

An expanding enterprise

Financing has also helped Grace Wanjiku Kingori significantly increase her onion farming from 0.05 ha to 0.8 ha. Previously, when growing three seasons of OPVs, Wanjiku harvested around 900 kg. In 2010, after obtaining SMEC for 10,000 Ksh (€85) she bought hybrid seeds and fertiliser for her small plot of land. Four years later, with the profits she had made, she has been able to expand her farm and production to harvest 6,000 kg during the peak harvest season between October to January.

After their first initial loan, Gakuu and Wanjiku have not needed further credit as their more profitable onion farming has provided enough income to become self-sustaining. However, to prevent other new, low-income farmers in Wanjiku’s CV becoming dependent on loans, there is a rule, made by the CV members, that farmers must first repay the loan and interest and to then prioritise using surplus income to buy inputs for the next year before the remaining money is spent. “It’s a rule to help instill self reliance,” says Wanjiku.

With investment in irrigation pumps and kits, farmers like Gakuu are able to consistently do three seasons in a year. “Onion farming has become commercial in Kieni West and its spillover effect is impacting over 10,000 people here,” says Muchiri. With improved bulking and marketing, buying prices have also improved. “Lately, the lowest we sell a kilogram of onion is 25 Ksh,” says Wanjiku when there is oversupply. When demand is high, according to Muchiri, 1 kg of onions sells locally for 60 Kshs (€0.5). ■

James Karuga

Left: With the help of a loan, Daniel Gakuu has been able to expand his onion farming
Right: When demand is high, 1 kg of onions can sell locally for 60 Kshs (€0.5)



From the nursery to the cup



Cameroon's export coffee sector has had trouble taking off. But stakeholders who believe in its future are readily integrating into the value chain – right to the consumer's cup.

Cameroonian coffee exports are not yet buoyant despite the range of incentive policies and projects that have been implemented. Export volumes even dropped from 26,664 t to 17,340 t between 2013 and May 2014, whereas 156,000 t was exported in 1990. Yet the national coffee sector is relatively vibrant, with both small and major stakeholders still - against all the odds - believing in its future.

Further up the chain, mechanisation is slowly making its entrance in coffee plantations. “We have been supporting mechanisation since 2012 as it enables us to readily expand our coffee-growing area and reduces labour. The

Ministry of Agriculture offered us a cultivator, which means we can till 3 ha a day, whereas it took us 2-3 weeks to till a single hectare manually. Moreover, mechanisation helps us increase our coffee yields,” says Rebecca Kamgue, President of COOPAFERLOS, a Cameroonian women farmers’ cooperative. “With mechanisation, we also don’t have to pay the very high *piapias* labour costs. Manually, it costs FCFA 40,000 (€60) to clear a 1 ha field, while only FCFA 30,000 (€45) is needed for fuel to mechanically clear a 2 ha field.”

Patricia Ndam Njoya heads one of the largest private coffee plantations in Cameroon, at Fouban, and she is also convinced that mechanisation is the way forward. The two cultivators she recently purchased in France reduce the cost of hired labour while also liberating her family from heavy weeding work. Experience has shown that manual labour provides employment but does not improve living conditions in the long run. “When cultivating with a hoe and machete, we have been living in the same type of houses for the past three generations with no improvement. With manual labour, we’re barely able to earn enough to sustain us throughout the year, but machines help us boost our production. This

Fouban coffee is roasted at the Maison du Café in Yaoundé

makes it possible for women, especially, to leave the plantation and become involved in other levels further up the value chain.”

Where could women, especially young people, find less strenuous, better paid and more rewarding jobs elsewhere in the coffee sector? What about becoming a *barista* (who prepares and serves coffee drinks)? This was one of the challenges taken up by Njoya when she launched the Maison du Café in May 2014 in downtown Yaoundé. Her daughter became a *barista* in this trendy café after being trained by Mbula Kaluki Musau, a Kenyan woman who is a licensed Q Coffee Grader.

‘From the nursery to the cup’ is the slogan of the Maison du Café because the coffee served comes from the Fouban plantation. It is roasted at the café, where young Cameroonians who appreciate good coffee gather.

Pods and Nescafé with a local flavour

Further down the value chain, the Cameroonian coffee sector has been bolstered by Nestlé’s announcement in May 2014 that it had decided to no longer import Nescafé from Côte d’Ivoire to then be sold in Cameroon or elsewhere in the Economic Community of Central African States (ECOWAS). Instead, Cameroonian green coffee will now be shipped to Côte d’Ivoire for semi-processing, to subsequently be brought back duty-free to Cameroon, where it will be processed into end products and sold on domestic and regional markets. This coffee should be able to better compete with Nescafé fraudulently brought in from Nigeria, which imports its Nescafé duty-free from Côte d’Ivoire, as these two countries are members of ECOWAS.

Finally, single-serve coffee pods are now the rage, and Cameroon is no exception. Cafés Pierre André, a local coffee company that also has a branch in Gabon, launched into this subsector in 2012. Empty pods are imported from Italy and filled with the company’s coffee in the Yaoundé factory using a machine specifically designed by Pierre André, the company founder. These pods are filled only with the best quality coffees - a winning strategy! ■

Bénédicte Châtel

Young people



CTA Youth Strategy 2013-2017

By CTA
CTA, 2014; 10 pp.
CTA no. 1781
2 credit points

Downloadable as PDF file from:
<http://tinyurl.com/pt4jd79>

goals, with capacity building for young people featuring throughout. The first goal addresses the need for effective policies on youth in agriculture and rural development, with the Centre supporting young people in their engagement with policy dialogue. The second focuses on the engagement of youth in value chains, and includes training to support entrepreneurship. Thirdly, CTA will continue its work to support networking and exchange of information through web-based knowledge sharing platforms, while also supporting young people's ICT innovations. The fourth goal is to support young professionals in agricultural science and innovation.

With 70% of Africa's young people living in rural areas, engaging them in agriculture through appropriate policies and interventions is clearly vital to the development of the sector and the prosperity of the continent. Implemented in partnership with like-minded organisations, CTA's goals deserve to be pursued with commitment and enthusiasm.



Around 11-12 million young people enter the labour market in Africa every year. Many fail to find jobs, lacking the practical skills or the business sense to do so, and join the already vast numbers of unemployed youth. CTA's *Youth Strategy 2013-2017* is driven by the Centre's desire to boost the engagement of young people (defined as 15-35 year olds) in agriculture and rural development. While CTA has been promoting youth engagement in agriculture for more than 15 years, this is the first attempt to bring these efforts into a comprehensive strategy.

The Strategy is based around four major

▼ Tenure

In West Africa, rural people's access to land is being transformed by ecological, demographic, economic and social change. Customary and statutory land management systems are evolving, but are often not responding adequately to the tenure insecurity these changes bring. This briefing documents lessons learned through action research in developing inclusive and locally rooted tools for securing land rights and shows how they can help implement and shape national policies.

Developing Tools to Secure Land Rights in West Africa

By M Djire, E Polack & L Cotula
IIED, 2014; 4 pp.

Downloadable as PDF file from:
<http://tinyurl.com/knwn65>

▼ Mobile applications



The latest edition of *ICT4Ag* explores how mobile applications have helped smallholder farmers improve their commercial farming practices and their access to information and markets. Innovations highlighted in this edition include applications such as FarmDrive, which help farmers to electronically maintain revenue and expense records, and Agrilife which provides farmers with access to finance, markets and agricultural inputs.

ICT4Ag: Linking Farmers to Markets

By CTA
CTA, 2014; 24 pp.
CTA no. ICT077E

Downloadable as PDF file from:
<http://tinyurl.com/nodk4mw>

Grassroots experience



Climate Change and Human Development

By H Reid
Zed Books, 2014; 304 pp.
ISBN 978-17-8032-440-1
£21.99 • €28

Zed Books
7 Cynthia Street
London
N1 9JF, UK
www.zedbooks.co.uk

■ The Working Group on Climate Change and Development, which first met in 2003, was formed to raise awareness of climate change as a development issue. In addressing this task, the coalition of 25 organisations - including Oxfam, Practical Action, World Vision and the International Institute for Environment and Development - has documented the experience of poor communities around the world, in both their experience of climate change and their responses to it.

This wide-ranging and well written book brings together findings and stories from those reports, under headings that include food and farming, water, health, energy, disasters and conflict. In the context of farming, it highlights how training of farmer-to-farmer agents, farmer exchange visits, and community action to share ideas and resources are helping many to cope with climate change. From a scientific standpoint, however, a claim that under conservation agriculture, 'yields typically increase tenfold' sounds alarm bells. This is certainly at odds with FAO findings, and should perhaps caution readers to be aware of the mandates and missions of the contributing organisations.

▼ Livelihoods on the move

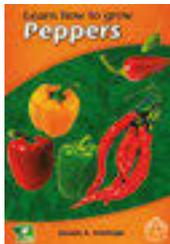
Taking the example of Maa-speaking herders in the Laikipia region of central Kenya as a case study, this paper considers how trends to accelerating livestock commercialisation and private investment in rangelands might change the dynamics of pastoral livelihoods and vulnerability. The experience of pastoralists in Laikipia suggests a future in which many will scrape-by or be pushed into doing other things, while a fraction will derive great advantage from economic transformation.

Into the Fold: What Pastoralist Responses to Crisis Tell us About the Future of Pastoralism in the Horn

By J Lind & L R Barrero
Future Agricultures, 2014; 20 pp.

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

Vegetable cultivation



Learn How to Grow Peppers

By D S Ashilenje
Phoenix Publishers Limited,
2014; 44 pp.
ISBN 978-99-6647-838-2
CTA no. 1760
5 credit points

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



Attempting to write a guide to the growing of peppers - both sweet pepper and chilli pepper - in a short publication of this nature is ambitious, and this book should best be viewed as a useful introduction to the enterprise. From its opening sentence - 'Pepper is a vegetable crop' - it takes a straightforward approach, and goes on to offer simple, basic information on the important stages of crop production. These include climatic requirements for growing pepper, crop establishment in the field, crop protection and harvesting.

Potential pepper growers are advised to take advantage of available plant health services and laboratories, for example in testing their soil for pathogens. Sterilisation of nursery beds through steam treatment, solarisation or pesticides, is advised where pathogens may be present. The writer also highlights the need for farmers to research the national and international competitiveness of the pepper harvest, and to carefully select those markets that are major consumers of pepper. A glossary of technical and some non-technical terms is provided.

Green growth

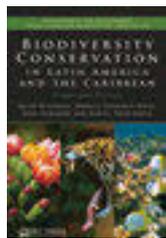
This special issue of UNEP's *Our Planet* magazine features stories on green growth, energy access, low-carbon development, and the conservation of water, forests and biodiversity. One article highlights how sustainable development of renewable raw materials found in native forests and plantations, and new processes and technologies, could play a part in a commercial planting and reforestation programme that would create 500 million ha of forests by 2050, sequester 65 billion t of carbon, and ease pressure on natural forests.

Our Planet: Greening Business

Edited by G Lean
UNEP, 2014; 36 pp.
ISSN 1013-7394

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

Policymaking



Biodiversity Conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean

By A Blackman, R Epanchin-Niell, J Siikamäki, et al.
RFF Press, 2014; 188 pp.
ISBN 978-04-1573-096-9
£65 • €82
RFF Press
2 Park Square
Milton Park
Abingdon
OX14 4RN, UK

The Latin American and Caribbean region, stretching from the Northern Hemisphere to the Antarctic, contains enormous biological diversity. While this underpins many human activities, including agriculture, aquaculture and nature tourism, biodiversity also generates a wide range of ecosystem services (from water purification to pollination) that are hard to put a value on, 'dampening' the economic incentive to preserve it.

Making policy recommendations for biodiversity conservation is therefore challenging, especially in a region that is home to great diversity in politics, culture and economics as well as ecosystems. The authors outline current regulatory policies, such as protected areas and forest management, and also market-based approaches such as payment for environmental services, highlighting the challenges they face. This leads to recommendations on five 'lines of action' for biodiversity conservation, including promotion of green agriculture, strengthening of protected areas and improving environmental governance.

Harnessing potential

Using three case studies, this report analyses the strategies, aspirations and constraints of the various types of farmers living around dams in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal. The report states that effectively harnessing the potential of these areas requires: selecting approaches that secure access to land for smallholders; building up farmers' capacity to govern irrigated areas; and taking family farms into account when designing and supplying agricultural services.

Specialisation or Diversification? Divergent Perspectives on Rice Farming in Three Large Dam-Irrigated Areas in the Sahel

By B Guèye
IIED, 2014; 38 pp.
ISBN 978-17-8431-059-2

Downloadable as PDF file from:
<http://tinyurl.com/m45ehpj>

Action research



Innovating with Rural Stakeholders in the Developing World

By G Faure, P Gasselien, B Triomphe, et al.
CTA/LM Publishers, 2014;
224 pp.
ISBN 978-94-6022-345-7
CTA no. 1783
10 credit points



Over the last 20 years, the concepts and practice of action research and participatory innovation development have transformed the way that much agricultural science and rural development are carried out. But there is an increasing realisation that the complex problems facing many rural communities require collaborative thinking and action by a large number of stakeholders, not just scientists and farmers. Partnerships, including with the private sector, are now the setting for research and development, and those facilitating such processes must be ready and equipped to manage multiple interactions.

Drawing on the experience of Francophone scientists (and originally published in French), this handbook to conducting action research in partnership will be invaluable to those working in this field. Clear and practical, it outlines basic concepts, provides numerous case study examples and discusses the key steps in the process, from defining the problem and assembling the stakeholder team to implementing the activities and monitoring the outcomes.

Sustainability

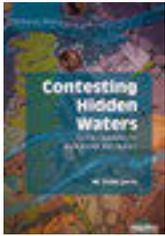
Growing financial, climate and social challenges in the Caribbean have sparked the search for new economic pathways that would better serve the region. This paper summarises diverse perspectives on green economy progress, needs and prospects, and proposes an 'action learning' agenda as a way to evolve green economy pathways for: small, medium and micro enterprises; multi-stakeholder mechanisms for developing green economy policy; and 'triple bottom line' reporting that assesses investments based on their potential environmental, social and economic benefits.

Green Economies in the Caribbean: Perspectives, Priorities and an Action Learning Agenda

Edited by T Goeghegan, N Leotaud & S Bass
IIED, 2014; 44 pp.
ISBN 978-17-8431-018-9

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

Dispute resolution



Contesting Hidden Waters

By W T Jarvis
Routledge, 2014; 192 pp.
ISBN 978-04-1563-293-5
£27.99 • €35
Routledge
130 Milton Park
Abingdon
OX14 4SB, UK
www.routledge.com

■ With nearly 30 years' experience as a consulting hydrologist specialising in groundwater dispute prevention and conflict resolution, Jarvis is keen to emphasise that this is not an easy subject. Unlike surface watersheds, groundwater resources are not static, and resolving conflicts over their use raises a large number of specific challenges. Mediators attempting to resolve disputes between different parties should, Jarvis advises, have some expertise in the subject - knowledge of mediation processes alone is unlikely to be sufficient.

Whether potential mediators might expect to gain sufficient expertise by reading this book, however, is open to question - and perhaps not the intention of the author. Jarvis writes as if to 'get off his chest' years of thinking, struggling and realising, and readers should not hope for a series of easily followed bullet points on groundwater dispute resolution. *Contesting Hidden Waters* is more interesting and much more personal than that, offering the patient reader a uniquely informed insight into a murky and complex subterranean world.

▼ Feeding the world

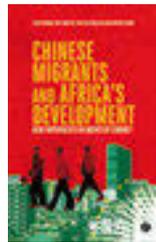
The latest edition of FAO's *State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture* reveals that more people than ever before are relying on fisheries and aquaculture for food as a source of income, but harmful practices and poor management are threatening the sector's sustainability. The report states that fish farming households hold tremendous promise in responding to surging demand for food, but to continue to grow sustainably, aquaculture needs to become less dependent on wild fish for feeds and introduce greater diversity in farmed culture species and practices.

The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2014

By FAO
FAO, 2014; 243 pp.
ISBN 978-92-5108-275-1

Downloadable as PDF file from:
<http://tinyurl.com/p5w5yh>

Social study



Chinese Migrants and Africa's Development

By G Moran, B Lampert, M Tan-Mullins, et al.
Zed Books, 2014; 185 pp.
ISBN 978-17-8032-916-1
£19.99 • €25
For Zed Book's address, see p21

■ Discussion of the Chinese in Africa tends to be seen either as 'bad' new imperialism or 'good' South-South cooperation. In popular coverage, China is typically seen as the rich powerful partner that can manipulate Africa, its laws and leaders, to its own advantage. This highly-praised volume, authored by four academics with British university links, seeks to offer a more nuanced account, based on interviews with Chinese migrants and the Africans with whom they live and work.

Key to its message is that the future of China's development impact in Africa will be determined by the interaction between the formal realm of politics and the informal social relations that exist between the in-comers and the local population. And while news coverage may focus on tensions between the two communities, the authors believe that many interactions at grassroots level point to a growing conviviality, cooperation and mutually beneficial relationship. As such, this volume makes interesting reading; academic in style, it will be particularly valued by students of Sino-African relations.

▼ Inclusive growth

After decades of neglect, drylands in the Horn of Africa are experiencing an unprecedented surge of investment. To ensure that investment reinforces poverty reduction and food security, the policy recommendation calls for large-scale public investments to be complemented by medium-sized infrastructure (rural roads, animal health delivery systems, and marketing and processing facilities) that are more likely to benefit the poor. Other recommendations include the need to climate-proof investment, and better coordinate private and public investments.

Investment in Drylands: Widening the Benefits for Food Security and Development

By I Birch & J Lind
Future Agricultures, 2014; 8 pp.

Downloadable as PDF file from:
<http://tinyurl.com/mzv29uq>

Urban development



Women and the Informal Economy in Africa

By M N Kinyanjui
Zed Books, 2014; 152 pp.
ISBN 978-17-8032-630-6
£21.99 • €28
For Zed Books' address, see p21

■ In 2009, while on a 'window shopping-spree' in Taveta Road, central Nairobi, the author noticed a surprising change. Fifteen years previously, the shops had been run by Asian men with male African shop assistants. Now, most had been divided into small stalls and kiosks belonging to African women. The dramatic change prompted this book, which describes how women in Nairobi are bringing the informal economy right into the heart of the city.

It makes for fascinating reading. Faced with patriarchal planning ideologies and gender inequality, women whose economic activity was once restricted to the city margins have 'infiltrated the central business district', using the strengths of the informal economy - mobility, solidarity, entrepreneurialism and collective organisation - to do so. While urban planners struggle to fit Africa's urban development experience (dominated by the huge growth of slum settlements) into developed world models, recognising the achievements of women traders in the urban environment should inspire new thinking about how Africa's cities might shape their future.

▼ Agricultural biodiversity

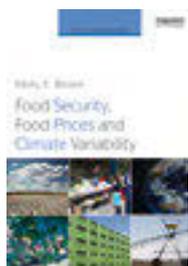
This policy brief highlights key roles that neglected and underutilised species (NUS) play in addressing conservation agricultural biodiversity, agricultural and rural development, climate change, food and nutrition security, and gender, culture and empowerment of women. The need for capacity development in NUS is stressed and recommendations of key actions to mainstream NUS into policies and progresses are outlined.

Realising the Promise of Neglected and Underutilized Species

By P Redebjer, G Meldrum, S Padulosi, et al.
Bioversity International, 2014; 12 pp.

Downloadable as PDF file from:
<http://tinyurl.com/llzj5uo>

Crisis prevention



Food Security, Food Prices and Climate Variability
By M E Brown
Routledge, 2014; 228 pp.
ISBN 978-04-1566-312-0
£29.99 • €37
For Routledge's address, see p23

■ It is increasingly recognised that food security crises are more directly linked to market failures and high food prices than to adverse weather such as drought or flooding. When local food production is affected by extreme weather, it is the lack of well-functioning markets that severely reduces people's ability to buy food at a reasonable cost. For policymakers, it is important, however, to understand how climate variability and weather shocks are likely to impact on food prices in order to develop effective responses to food insecurity.

Drawing on data used by the US Agency for International Development's Famine Early Warning System Network and the UN World Food Programme, based on three decades of satellite monitoring, this in depth study deserves careful reading by technical advisers in ministries, food security agencies and donor organisations. Unless, writes Brown, decision-makers can anticipate climate extremes and their impact, positive or negative, on agricultural production, well-intentioned policies have the potential to exacerbate household food insecurity across large areas.

▼ Adaptation

In the light of threats posed by changing climatic conditions, how can climate compatible development be used to build new urban futures in cities across Africa that are vibrant, inclusive and sustainable? The report details climate change risks and opportunities, including the pros and cons for urban agriculture, in addition to detailing an eight-step process as a guide for undertaking climate compatible development.

Strengthening Climate Resilience in African Cities

By A Taylor & C Peter
Climate & Development Knowledge Network, 2014; 20 pp.

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

Community development



Training for Transformation in Practice
By A Hope & S Timmel
Practical Action Publishing, 2014; 176 pp.
ISBN 978-18-5339-832-3
£15.95 • €20
Practical Action Publishing
The Schumacher Centre
Bourton on Dunsmore
Rugby
CV23 9QZ, UK
www.developmentbookshop.com

■ The Training for Transformation approach, first developed some 40 years ago and formalised in a 1 year, in-service diploma course in 2002, aims to empower marginalised communities and transform societies through a philosophy of justice that seeks the common good. Over the last decade it has been implemented and adapted in countries around the world, including places of civil unrest and international conflict.

This volume, described as 'a down-to-earth account of trials and errors, traumas and triumphs', gathers the personal experiences of 17 practitioners, who were asked to reflect on how they have adapted the approach in their work with marginalised communities. Contexts of the accounts include unity and peace building after conflict in Rwanda, justice, reparation and restitution in post-Apartheid South Africa, and 'unveiling the dependency syndrome' for rural marginalised groups in Zimbabwe. Edited by Anne Hope and Sally Timmel, who developed the diploma course, it will be of great interest to all working in community development.

▼ Fish

This working paper explores the potential role of aquaculture in meeting the global demand for fish in 2050, finding that aquaculture production will need to more than double. The paper examines scenarios of aquaculture's growth and environmental impacts in 2050 and closes with a series of recommendations for how to sustainably grow aquaculture production.

Improving Productivity and Environmental Performance of Aquaculture

By R White, M Beveridge, R Brummet, et al.
World Resources Institute, 2014; 60 pp.

Downloadable as PDF file from:
<http://tinyurl.com/prqp8gq>

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4 QUESTIONS FOR LAMON RUTTEN

The Fin4Ag conference organised by CTA in July 2014 and held in Nairobi succeeded in creating a forum for financiers, central bank governors, farmers, ICT entrepreneurs and others to come together and address the challenges of financing agriculture and to put forward workable solutions. Lamon Rutten, manager for policies, markets and ICTs at CTA provides his perspective on the outcomes of the conference.



1 *What are the relationships that exist between banks and ACP farmers? In your opinion, to what extent are these relationships likely to change after the conference?*

Agriculture is under-represented in bank portfolios, and only a very small minority of farmers have access to commercial loans. On the basis of previous unfortunate experiences - partly the result of poor government and development agency approaches - many banks think they are unable to earn reasonable returns from agriculture. The reality is that this is more the result of banks not knowing how to lend to farmers - how to create and manage tailored lending mechanisms - rather than the inherent lack of profitability in agriculture. There is no doubt that agriculture, even smallholder agriculture, can be profitable, and that global trends are rather favourable in this respect - although there are risks that need to be managed. So for financiers that learn

how to lend to farmers in a safe way, which is the case only if farmers are given the tools to be profitable, market-oriented business men and women, there are great business opportunities. The conference discussed many mechanisms that have proven to work, and many participants have already indicated that they went home with new ideas that they will be looking to implement. This may be enough to change the question that shareholders ask to financiers, from “Why risk our money to finance agriculture?” to “How can you miss the opportunities in financing agriculture?” Of course, we need to continue reinforcing the message that, as a financier, you really don’t want to miss out on these opportunities and that the time to build a presence in the market is now.

2 *The conference particularly focused on digital financial services. Is there an initiative that you were particularly impressed with for its innovative approach and its originality?*

There were many original and replicable ideas. If I have to pick just one, let me mention Umati Capital, a Kenyan company, which becomes involved in value chains where farmers reliably deliver but have to wait some time to be paid. After studying the value chain, Umati Capital equips the chain actors with a tailored digital platform (mobile technology and software) that demonstrates how the goods are moving through the value chain. On this basis, with investors’ money and taking out insurance against the risk of non-payment by the final buyer, the company is able to lend to farmers as soon as they deliver. It’s a simple product, but a game-changer for farmers, which brings a good return to investors, and builds the

evidence for more extensive financing in the future. Around the world, millions of farmers could immediately profit from similar enterprise ventures.

3 *Do you think that the ‘revolution’ of financing value chains is actually happening? And is it happening in the same way in ACP countries?*

The separate elements that are necessary for a radically new approach towards agri-finance - from data and risk management products to delivery tools, credit support systems and knowledge about supporting legal and regulatory structures - have been developed in recent years. ICT and the exchange of ideas and experiences are now allowing these elements to be brought together. This will move faster in Africa than in the other regions - in particular as banks in the region are better developed, and development agencies have been more involved in agro-financing - but as this is a win-win for all involved it will spread to the Caribbean and Pacific as well. One swallow does not make a summer...but if you’re willing to look, there are quite a few swallows moving here and there - summer can’t be too far away.

4 *What follow-up actions will CTA put in place?*

CTA will continue playing a catalytic role, bringing people together where we think that this can lead to cross-fertilisation of ideas, new partnerships and other significant results. We will also document best practices to facilitate replication and up-scaling and build capacity so that all value chain players can work together more effectively to develop and implement innovative financing approaches.

Coming up in the next issue

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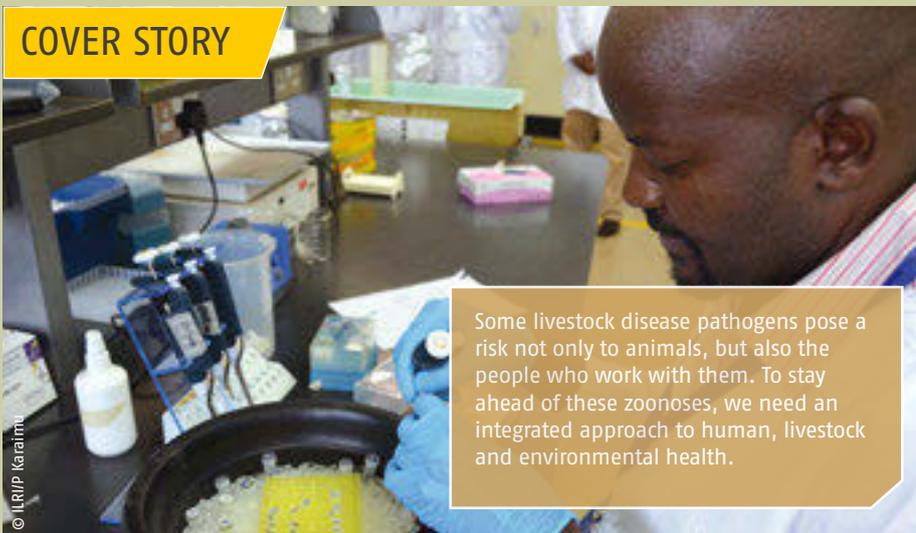
DOSSIER



© One Acre Fund/H. Tucker

Over half the food that is grown is produced by women, who are therefore central to global food security. Their contribution would be much greater, however, if they had the same access to resources as men.

COVER STORY



© ILRI/P. Karim

Some livestock disease pathogens pose a risk not only to animals, but also to the people who work with them. To stay ahead of these zoonoses, we need an integrated approach to human, livestock and environmental health.

VALUE CHAINS



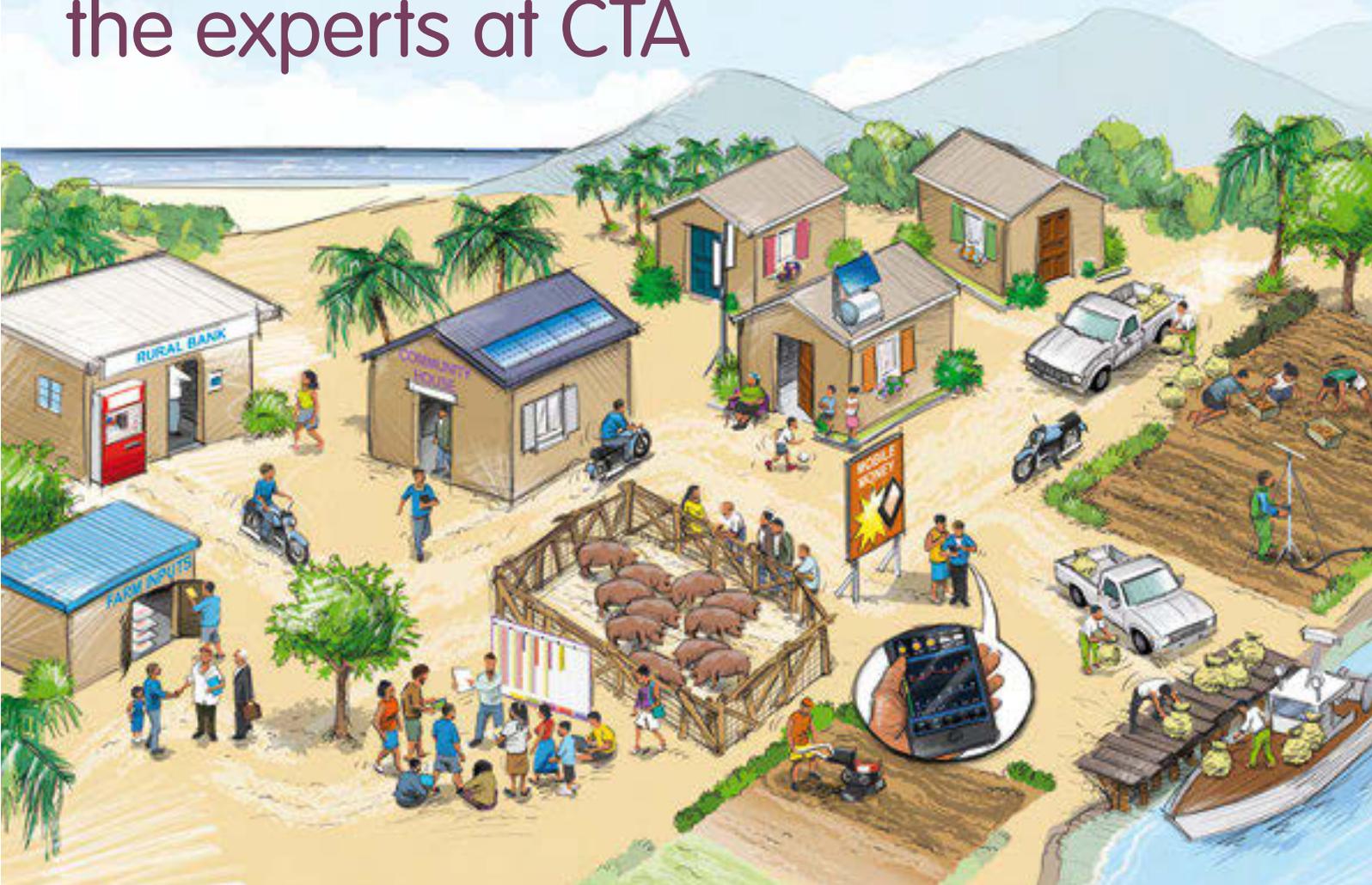
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With baobab now approved for use in food and pharmaceuticals in Europe and the US, work is underway to strengthen supply chains and commercialise production and processing of baobab for local and global markets.

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