



CABI Africa member country consultation

synthesis report

19-20 September 2007

NAIROBI, KENYA



CABI improves
people's lives
worldwide
by providing
information and
applying scientific
expertise to solve
problems in
agriculture and the
environment





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consultation goals

CABI's programmes are driven by the needs of our Member Countries. To reinforce this connection, CABI is establishing a series of direct dialogues in each region of operation. These aim to strengthen understanding of CABI's activities and capabilities in support of international development and to build close engagement with the regional priorities of Member Countries. These priorities will help to shape our strategic programmes and to help establish the particular forms of mutual commitment and financial resourcing required to deliver our mission.

The Africa Member Country Consultation was the first of three such dialogues. The second, for the Asia Pacific region, will be held in Beijing from 29-30 November and the third, for Latin America, is planned for early 2008. The areas of work mutually agreed through these consultations will be developed further and form CABI's strategic framework for the following 5 years. Member Countries will be asked to formally endorse the framework at the CABI 2009 Review Conference.

process

Liaison officers from 11 Member Countries attended (apologies were received from Gambia, Morocco, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and South Africa), together with two potential new members and an ASARECA representative. The meeting itself was a closed business session for Members. However, in the final session the outcomes were presented to a wider audience of partners and stakeholders from Embassies and institutions in Kenya.

Over the two days, the energy and enthusiasm of the Liaison Officers was invaluable in identifying key issues and priorities. As action plans were developed together, a spirit of common ownership and camaraderie emerged, which bodes well for CABI's future.

opening ceremony

Mr Dennis Rangi, CABI Executive Director for International Development, set the context in which CABI operates and elaborated the challenging environment in which we work. He highlighted the need to harness changing technologies in order to respond effectively to market access issues, to build and sustain human capacity, and to empower people.

Mr Rangi received the Guest of Honour, Dr Romano Kiome, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya.

Dr Romano Kiome, in his opening address was highly appreciative of CABI and the leading role we have played in agricultural science over many years as an information and knowledge organisation. He described CABI as a truly exemplary partnership organisation. Over the years, CABI had '...transcended boundaries' and 'worked tightly with partners...' Dr Kiome commended CABI's participatory decision-making approach and felt the model was worth replicating elsewhere. He encouraged CABI to grow more in sharing information and knowledge through building linkages with other organisations and countries.

Dr Trevor Nicholls, CABI Chief Executive Officer, presented an overview of our work and our business basis. Senior staff responsible for the three themes then described our International Development thematic focus: Commodities, Invasive Species and Knowledge for Development (a brief summary of CEO's presentation is given in Appendix 1 and each thematic focus in Appendix 2).



member country objectives

Where we want to go: national priorities and key sub-regional issues among CABI's Members

Three regional breakout groups worked in parallel, detailing priorities and sub-regional needs as below:

East Africa

main issues

- Create platform for information repository – this could have links to organisations like FARA and could be divided further by sub-regions
- Need environmentally sensitive interventions; e.g. better management of pesticides in Ethiopia. Focus could be on biological control and introduction of pest resistant varieties
- Increase market opportunities and market intelligence. In order to have an advantage along market chains, we need to develop capacity for policy formulation, for regional integration, etc. especially in areas where CABI works already; e.g. cross-border trade, harmonising phytosanitary issues in regional centres of excellence, safety standards compliance, etc.
- Identifying priorities in research and extension in horticulture
- Human capacity building in managing diseases such as banana bacterial wilt disease, and in managing coffee quality improvement



West and Central Africa

main issues

- The seven CORAF priorities already form the common framework for the region (Livestock & Aquaculture; Staple crops; Non staple crops; Policy market & trade; Natural resource management; Capacity Strengthening; Bio technology and bio-safety)
- Adoption of available technologies with focus on CABI areas of strength
- Emerging issues: 1) Biofuels is a new opportunity but informed input is needed; 2) Climate Change and its implications to cropping systems are now important; 3) Energy and water management are major issues in the region
- Spread of diseases is a serious concern; e.g. cocoa (Swollen shoot) and coconut (lethal yellowing disease mycoplasma). We need partners to strengthen capacity; these diseases are endemic and they strike the livelihoods of people who depend on such crops.
- Rehabilitation of Natural Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in 'fragile' countries: eight countries are concerned in West and Central Africa

Southern Africa

main issues

- Develop a framework for agricultural information systems for disseminating research and information to smallholders, e.g. farmer field schools, websites, electronic libraries, compendia. Also, information sharing and increased linkages between member focal points, e.g. community websites
- Promote local knowledge and innovations, and its replication in other countries, rather than pushing top-down scientific knowledge into developing countries
- Expansion of CABI commodity crops to include others, such as cotton
- Research and extension of irrigation and water harvesting systems
- Value addition – product development and quality assurance for export diversification; standards and measures
- Invasive (noxious weeds) management – water hyacinth, Lantana camara – need to broaden this list
- Climate change emerged as a major issue cutting across various areas



outcomes: action plans and responsibilities

The national and regional needs and priorities identified above by the Liaison Officers were clustered thematically into those areas in which CABI has relevant expertise, skills and comparative advantage. Through this process, three priority areas of activity of relevance across Africa were agreed:

i. Trade development and markets (good agricultural practices for market access)

- Information access/market intelligence
- Standards/compliance – SPS, Global GAP, industry codes
- Quality and quality assurance

ii. Institutional capacity strengthening and knowledge management

- Create a platform/framework to bring actors together to develop ownership
- Conservation, management and dissemination of institutional knowledge
- Strengthening organizational/institutional capacity for more effective research uptake
- Strengthening capacity in fragile states
- Monitoring and evaluation

iii. Biofuels and Climate Change

biofuels:

- Informed situation analysis for policy options around crop by-products, high dry matter crop development (cassava) and alternative biofuel crops for semi-arid zones (Jatropha)
- Exploration of sustainability of biofuels, and impact on food security or poverty

climate change:

- Development of farmer-centred early-warning systems and decision models for dealing with the implications of climate change, with invasive species and with water utilization

Each of the three areas were further addressed by a working group, to identify key areas of potential activity. In addition an action plan was developed identifying the steps to be taken, the roles of different players, and possible partner and funding organizations.

The following tables summarize the findings:



trade development and markets

Theme: Good agricultural practices for market access (this may need refining as it develops further)

Scope (needs, activities)	Steps (responsibilities)	Players (CABI, LOS, MC Institutions)	Partnerships & donors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information access/market intelligence • Standards: • SPS, Global GAP, industry codes, identifying standards & standards compliance • Quality and quality assurance <p>Other generic activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity strengthening (capacity building) • Tools and decision making support systems • Information systems and services • Harmonization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept/programme development + write-up • Promotion – inception/ planning workshops in sub-regions (for LOs and funding partners) and later regional • Inter-linkages • Briefing ExCo • Fundraising jointly with LOs 	<p>CABI-Coordination by GDs/RD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOs & CABI responsible for most of the planning, organization and implementation • National Ministries • Trade, Finance, Agriculture, Environment 	<p>Global, Regional and sub-regional bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergovernmental organizations (AU, NEPAD) • Global organizations (IPPC, WTO, OIE) • Trade blocs (COMESA, EAC, SADC, ECOWAS) • Sub-regional research organizations (ASARECA, CORAF, FANR) • Major commodity bodies (ICO, others targeting specific commodities) • Private sector • SPS Focal points <p>Donors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AfDB • STDF of WTO • EU • Private sector • Ministries of Finance (Co-finance)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information generation/ sharing • Concept/Programme development – to ensure ownership • Local promotion with CABI funding • Local coordination • Local fundraising 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to programme development 		

institutional capacity strengthening and knowledge management

Theme: Making research more effective in contributing to intended outcomes (ensuring knowledge, technology generation & application)			
Scope (needs, activities)	Steps (responsibilities)	Players (CABI, LOS, MC Institutions)	Partnerships & donors
Create an (innovation) platform / framework to bring actors together to develop ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional analysis / needs assessment • Skills in partnership • Skills in research into use • Ways of doing things within an organization (management, incentives etc.) • Infrastructure (labs, equipment, documentation) 	National to Pan-African NAR(E)S: Research, extension, NGOs Universities Policy makers FARA/SRO Liaison officers CABI specialists and others	
Conservation, management and dissemination of institutional knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of information repository • ICT infrastructure • Dissemination / Communication / Utilization of repository • Database develop mechanisms to use the database content for different end users (Farmers, Policy-makers, Media, Intermediaries) 		
Strengthening organizational / institutional capacity for more effective research into use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional analysis / needs assessment • Skills in partnership • Skills in research into use 		
Strengthening capacity in post-conflict countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure and technical back-stopping • Training, research, and extension 		

biofuels and climate change (1)

Theme: Biofuels – Integrating energy, ecosystems and livelihoods				
Scope (needs, activities)	Steps (responsibilities)	Players (CABI, LOS, MC Institutions)	Partnerships & donors	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy crops v. food security • Impacts of fuel crops on the environment • Value and sustainability of fuel crops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-concept paper for an 'umbrella' programme on energy, ecosystems & livelihoods • Pan-African conference on biofuels – SROs, CABI & LOS (Nov) • Biofuels and environment • Early 2008 sub-regional consultations on issues around each theme; CABI/SRO, NARI/LOS, (CABI CDF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CABI & LOS • Ministries: Energy, Agriculture & Environment, Trade & Industry, Science & Technology • CABI and wider partners • NARS • IUCN 	<p>Large interest from;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASARECA & IUCN • Multinationals Shell, BP etc., • State oil companies • Local energy supply companies 	
<p>Inform policy around biofuel options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crop by-products like bagasse etc; • High dry matter crop development – cassava • Alternative bio fuel crops for semi-arid zones – Jatropha • (Current situations vary – some countries are already promoting Jatropha) 	<p>Preparation of situation analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published information • National information • Unpublished information • Environmental information • Contributions from other partners <p>Feasibility and sustainability of technologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, develop & monitor the potential impact of expanded bioenergy development for agriculture, environment, health and trade • Promote international research on the social, scientific, technological, economic policies and environmental issues guiding bioenergy development • Establish internationally-agreed standards for production, conversion, use and trade of bioenergy systems to protect both society and the environment 			

biofuels and climate change (2)

Theme: Adaptation to Climate Change			
Scope (needs, activities)	Steps (responsibilities)	Players (CABI, LOS, MC Institutions)	Partnerships & donors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nexus between climate change, land degradation, and poverty Knowledge management issues Challenges for policy and institutional change at various levels: Challenge for agricultural research and extension Desertification and desert margin initiatives Planting times are changing Invasive species threat Water resource: domestic, irrigation etc also a big problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situation analysis Decision Support Systems Developing & delivering early warning system Decision making tool to help take advance steps Connectivity between climate change & biofuels Adaptation strategies – FFS type Risk management analysis of scenarios planning Learning networks: combining indigenous local knowledge with external knowledge for sustainable management of Climate Change Water Harvesting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendation for Action Plan at various levels: Regional National Local CABI & LOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CG centres ICRISAT
<p>Adapting to the impact of climate change has similar steps/partners to those outlined for the biofuels theme. CABI's main role will be that of Knowledge Coordination. LOs would be responsible for taking forward the Pre-Concept stage; and through consultation to get the buy-in of all key stakeholders; NARS would be responsible for getting Government approval</p>			



final session (with partners)

The final plenary session opened out the discussion to involve local partners, local donors and donors with local offices. It demonstrated how our plans were being shaped to reflect Member Country and regional needs and openly invited partnership from the organizations represented. The meeting also called upon development assistance partners to support these plans as being clearly responsive to national and regional Member Country agendas in Africa.



conclusion

The areas of activity agreed were a clear outcome of an open and transparent partnership. The consultation enabled CABI to identify priority activities in areas of comparative advantage, addressing the needs of Member Countries. CABI and our partners can take these plans forward confidently with a commitment to develop them into practical programmes in each region. As CABI operates on business-like, not-for-profit principles, both our Member Countries and those employed within the organization have specific responsibilities. Liaison Officers and CABI staff now need to work closely together to turn these ideas into fully funded activities. The Liaison Officers should make use of national and regional processes to help obtain development assistance funds and to mobilize and draw upon CABI's staff and information resources.

Overall, the consensus was that the meeting had been extremely positive and was conducted in an open, frank and participatory manner. Through the processes of the meeting:

- We critically examined our strengths and weaknesses as a membership organization and suggested improvements
- Our Liaison Officers understood the new directions in CABI and the current thematic focus
- We reviewed priority issues in agriculture and rural development for each sub-region
- We identified common thematic priorities where CABI has comparative advantage
- We developed 3 prioritised areas of activity



appendices: CABI presentations

Appendix 1 Summary presentation: Chief Executive Officer

Dr Trevor Nicholls, our Chief Executive Officer (CEO), gave an overview of CABI.

CABI was established in 1910 and currently has 45 Member Countries. We work globally with staff based in 16 countries. This consultation is an essential part of forward planning to ensure we stay relevant to our Member Countries. The CEO is delighted to be in charge at a time when CABI is going through an exciting change. The recent re-structuring and 'right sizing' of CABI's operations has helped reduce our debts and achieve financial stability. In 2006, the total value of our projects was £7.3m, £4.9m of which came from donors such as CFC, EU, ADB, UNEP, FAO, DFID, ACIAR and SDC with the balance from local, regional and commercial sources. In the global distribution of our projects, Africa has the most with projects worth £2.5m. CABI is not a donor organisation, and we operate on business-like, not-for-profit principles. We work efficiently in order to fulfil our mission. In this way, we are able to remain financially self-sustaining while delivering benefits to our members through not-for-profit development projects.

This meeting leads towards CABI's Review Conference, which meets every 3-5 years to determine our general policies and strategies and to review and endorse our work programmes. Between Conferences, authority is delegated to Executive Council (Ex-Co) which meets twice a year and a Governing Board that meets more regularly and guides the management of operational and strategic issues. Liaison Officers have a fundamental role to play in ensuring that Executive Council members (London-based) reflect the needs and priorities of our Member Countries into the governance decisions they make and Liaison Officers are encouraged to build a close relationship with their national representatives in Ex-Co.

Appendix 2 Where we are: Commodities, Invasive Species, Knowledge for Development

CABI, International Development presented the focus of our three themes.

Commodities

We work mainly with coffee, cacao, oil palm, bananas, cotton and high value horticultural crops. Globally the demand and prices fluctuate for commodities; the lack of market access, stringent food safety requirements and other concerns such as climate change, all have impact on smallholder commodity producers. Regionally, Africa's share of the global coffee market has declined from 30% in 1977 to 10% in 2005. The political context has sometimes exacerbated this trend and led to a decrease in research and development; for example, there are now less than 200 coffee scientists in Africa.

CABI has a rich history in environmentally-safe commodity production; our research and development is well known in this area. Currently we have 18 specialists dedicated to commodities, with many others having relevant skills and experience. The benefit of our work and projects is evident; for example, since the launch of a CFC funded project on capacity building in new processing techniques, Ethiopian and Rwandan smallholder coffee farmers have seen an increase in earnings of over 30% in the pilot areas.

Examples of projects we are working on: 1) Improving coffee quality in East and Central Africa through enhanced processing practices; 2) Developing myco-insecticides and Pheromones for Cocoa Mirids; 3) Enhancing the safe, sustainable production of cocoa; and 4) Adapting to demands for reduced pesticide residues.

Our work in the value chain assists in accessing markets; it supports sustainable commodity production; it helps in responding to new and persistent production constraints; and it enables producers to manage risks while responding efficiently to new opportunities.





Invasive species

Invasive species include plants, animals, and micro-organisms that are not native to specific ecosystems and whose introduction threatens biodiversity, food security, health and economic development. Invasive Species are a major cause of loss of biodiversity and agricultural productivity. Africa loses up to 50% of its crops to pests. Risks of IS are intensified with increased trade, travel, and tourism. Complying with the requirements of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement can be very expensive, but is necessary if trade is to drive development.

The challenge is balancing the needs of trade and development with the needs of preserving the environment. Invasive species have an enormous economic impact on agriculture and environment but this often is neglected as a development concern. CABI plays a key role in providing leadership in policy and strategy globally. We are a founding member of the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), and we work with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) providing information and technical assistance to underpin strategy. Recently UNEP awarded CABI the 2007 Partners Award for our work in phasing out the use of Methyl Bromide.

Examples of our work include providing training for COMESA SPS focal points and laboratory experts; working through GEF/UNEP on a large invasive species project in Ghana, Ethiopia, Uganda and Zambia; solving specific invasive problems, particularly through biological control. Other examples of Invasive Species work include the development of Green Muscle, a mycopesticide now available on the market, and community based pest forecasting which has saved farmers time and money.

Knowledge for Development (KFD)

Knowledge plays an important role in development, underpinning every aspect of life. CABI is a recognised leader in this domain. Our leading agricultural scientific database has a global reach. It is the basis on which KFD builds.

Knowledge is about agricultural practices, technologies and innovations. It is an essential element in all areas of decision-making, from the poorest rural areas through to researchers and national policy makers. The current global and regional context involves improved and faster decision-making processes to address a rapidly changing environment. New tools, such as the Internet and mobile technology, have radically changed the way information is accessed and used. The digital divide has become the knowledge divide.

CABI's historic strength is in underpinning skills and expertise in developing and managing global programmes such as the Global Plant Clinic and the Compendia. We also publish research, build capacity through training, and work extensively through networks of partners in international research. Our key strength lies in our approach to managing information electronically. Our success is evident in projects. For example, we have built, maintain and host the database for DFID research; e-governance is about transparency and the database helps make information available. Other examples include *COSTECH the Animal Health and Production Compendia* in Tanzania; the *Good Seed Initiative* work in Bangladesh. We make our information resources accessible free of charge to users in developing countries, through our participation in international information networks such as Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA) and The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library (TEEAL).



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