



**Third West and Central Africa Agricultural Science Week and
10th General Assembly of CORAF/WECARD**

May, 2012, N'djamena, Chad

Main Theme

**"Strengthening the adaptive capacity of rural poor
populations to climate change and variability in West and
Central Africa"**

Call for communications

Deadline date: 5th March, 2012

I. Introduction

The West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD), in collaboration with its partners, is holding its Third West and Central Africa Agricultural Science Week (3rd WCA-ASW) and 10th General Assembly in **N'djamena, Chad, in May, 2012**.

The main theme chosen for the 3rd WCA-ASW is: "*Strengthening the adaptive capacity of rural poor populations to climate change and variability in West and Central Africa*". This theme will be dealt with in the prospect of improving productivity, competitiveness and agricultural markets in order to reduce poverty and food insecurity in West and Central Africa.

The objective of the 3rd WCA-ASW is to raise awareness of the Scientific Community for Agricultural Development, on the constraints related to climate change and variability and on options that can enable rural poor populations to adapt to them.

This meeting will offer a framework for dialogue, experience sharing, and exchange, between stakeholders, leading to the identification of (i) appropriate technologies and innovations, (ii) strategic and political options, and (iii) partnership and knowledge management mechanisms, which can facilitate the adaptation of rural poor populations to climate change and variability.

More than 200 participants are expected to attend this Agricultural Science Week. They will comprise research scientists, experts on climate change and variability, extension agents and agricultural advisory services, representatives of producer and agribusiness organizations, technical and financial partners, decision-makers, and representatives of the private sector.

II. Activities of the 3rd WCA-ASW

Opening

An introductory presentation of the concept of this meeting will be delivered by the Chairman of the 3rd WCA-ASW.

An inaugural presentation that will be made by the main presenter will serve as an introduction to the main theme, and will be related to the important challenges of poverty, food insecurity and environment preservation in West and Central Africa.

Debate on the Sub-Themes

Four introductory presentations will be made by four presenters in parallel sessions. The aim of these presentations will be to establish a link between the main theme and the four result areas of CORAF/WECARD Operational Plan (2008 – 2013), through the following four sub-themes:

1. Research technologies and innovations that influence climate change adaptation strategies and practices;
2. Strategic and political options for improving adaptation to climate change;
3. Strengthening and coordinating partnerships between key stakeholders in order to consolidate the reflection on and the implementation of options for adaptation to climate change;
4. Efficient use of knowledge on climate change adaptation.

Twelve articles among which three dealing with each sub-theme, chosen from the proposals that will be submitted, will be orally presented after each introductory presentation on each sub-theme.

All of these presentations will be discussed by the panels of speakers and participants.

Poster presentations

An exhibition accompanied by oral presentations of posters will be organized. These posters will address achievements from research and development activities connected with the main or sub-themes.

Meetings of Partners

This concerns platforms offered to CORAF/WECARD's partners for exchange with the participants on themes of their choice. These themes must, however, aim at enriching the debates on the main theme or on one of the four sub-themes of the 3rd WCA-ASC.

Chad NARS day

All the categories of stakeholders of the Chad NARS will have the opportunity of sharing with participants, their initiatives and activities undertaken and research for development results delivered, in relationship with climate change and variability.

Exhibition of the products of agricultural research in the 22 countries of CORAF/WECARD

Throughout the Week, products resulting from agricultural research for development carried out by the NARS and their partners in the 22 countries in the CORAF/WECARD zone, will be exhibited in stands provided to them free-of-charge by CORAF/WECARD.

Presentation of conclusions and recommendations of the 3rd WCA-ASW

This plenary session will be presided over by the Chairman of the 3rd WCA-ASW. During this session the following presentations will be made: (i) conclusions of the partners' meetings, poster session and debates on the sub-themes, (ii) participants' comments, and above all, those of the Ministers of Agriculture that will attend the event. Finally, the conclusions and recommendations of the 3rd WCA-ASW will be validated by participants.

III. Call for submission of articles and posters

The agricultural research for development community in West and Central Africa is invited to submit articles and posters on any one of the above mentioned four sub-themes.

Guide for submission of articles and posters

A maximum of one-page summaries of articles written in *Arial 11* font and justified and posters submitted must contain the following information:

1. The theme of the paper or poster (to be selected from the list of the four sub-themes);
2. The title (it should not exceed 15 words in bold capital letters);
3. The names of authors written as follows: Author, A.B; Author, C.D; Author, E.F.; etc.
4. The surname and the first name of the contact person and his/her postal address (Street name and number; City/Postal

Code/Country; Telephone; e-mail);

5. The summary of the contents including the following sections: Introduction (challenges and objective); Methodology; Results; Discussions; and Conclusions.

The proposals will be studied in strict confidence by the members of the Selection committee. In case of acceptance, the summaries of the selected articles will be compiled in a brochure in French and English versions, which will be distributed to participants before the beginning of the activities of the Science Week.

The authors may be requested to further develop the summary of their articles into full articles that will be published in a special edition of the regional scientific journal, AGRONOMIE AFRICAINE.

The submissions (summary of article and poster) should be sent by e-mail, in separate files, to the following address: proposals@coraf.org, not later than **25th February, 2012**. Proposals received after this date will not be considered.

Only the candidates whose proposals would have been selected will be contacted and asked to further develop their summaries into full articles.

Copyright for the Presentations

In case of acceptance of an article or poster:

- All the material presented during the Science Week (slides, leaflets, sales brochures, booklets, PDF and Word documents, animation and video equipment) will be considered as their authors/presenters' original work and the latter will hold the copyright;
- All the authors and co-authors will keep the non-exclusive intellectual property rights on their work;
- The authors and co-authors accept the free dissemination of the documents produced in the framework of the Scientific Week on CORAF/WECARD Web Site and through other means of communication during and after the event.
- A declaration that prohibits the commercial exploitation of the documents presented during this event will be issued.
- An authorization in due form will be required for any partial or total use for non-commercial purpose of these documents.

Financial Support

The participation at the Scientific Week of authors, whose articles or posters will be selected for an oral presentation, either during the debates on the sub-themes or during the posters' session, will be taken care of by CORAF/WECARD (transportation, food and accommodation).

Incentive Prizes

The following incentive prizes will be awarded: (i) prize for the best poster (ii) prize for the best presentation delivered by a woman, and (iii) prize for the best presentation delivered by a young researcher.

Women and young researchers are strongly encouraged to participate in the Science Week by sending their communications.

IV. Call for the Organization of Partners' Meetings

NARS partners active in West and Central Africa are invited to submit concept notes on the organization of side meetings on the central theme or on one of the four sub-themes of the 3rd WCA-ASW. Each organization is responsible for constituting its panel and inviting the resource persons and participants to its meeting.

Guide for submission of concept notes

The maximum two-page concept notes written in *Arial 11* and justified, which will be submitted, must contain the following information:

1. The theme of the meeting (to be selected from the list of the four sub-themes);
2. The duration of the session;
3. The title (it should not exceed 15 words in bold capital letters);
4. The name of the organizing partner Institution;
5. The surname and first name of the contact person and his/her postal address (Street name and number; City/Postal Code/Country ; Telephone, e-mail);
6. The summary of the contents including the following sections : Introduction; Objective; Expected Results; Methodology; Participants (profile and number if possible); and Draft Programme.

The proposals will be studied in strict confidence by the members of the selection committee. In case of acceptance, the organizations will be requested to provide more information on their participants and on the programme.

The proposed concept notes should be sent by e-mail, in separate files, to the following address: proposals@coraf.org, not later than **25th February, 2012**.

Proposals received after this date will not be considered.

Only the Institutions whose proposals would have been selected will be contacted for more information on the organization of their meeting.

V. Call for Exhibition Stands

The NARS components and their partners in the 22 countries of the CORAF/WECARD zone are invited to submit their requests for stands that will serve for the exhibition of agricultural research for development products.

Guide for submission of requests for stands

The requests in the form of a letter addressed to the Executive Director of CORAF/WECARD must contain the following information:

1. The name(s) of the requesting institution(s);
2. The surname and first name of the contact person and his/her postal address (Street name and number; City/Postal Code/Country; Telephone; e-mail);
3. The theme and nature of the exhibition;
4. The area of the stand.

The requests should be sent by e-mail to the following address: proposals@coraf.org, not later than **25th February, 2012**. Proposals received after this date will not be considered.

Additional Information

For more information, please visit the portal devoted to the 2012 GA on: <http://www.coraf.org>.