

## The Year in Review: 2000

**T**HE YEAR 2000 was another busy one for WARDA and its many partners. Many of the activities were a direct extension of those started, or at least planned, in 1999. The momentum started by the recruitment of many new senior staff in the preceding three years (1997–1999), meant that ‘Y2K’ was a year for implementation of several new ventures.

The first ‘event’ of the year was a **Training Workshop on the Community-based Seed System (CBSS)**, held in Korhogo, northern Côte d’Ivoire from 17 to 19 January. The CBSS has become a powerful mechanism in integrating traditional knowledge systems into modern technologies, partnering with farmers and national extension services to respond to a major gap in the seed sector.

The Main Phase of WARDA’s **Fourth External Program and Management Review** took place from 19 January to 12 February. This built upon the Initial Phase that had taken place between 21 November and 3 December 1999. The Panel (chaired by Dr Mandi Rukundi of Zimbabwe) took on board a wide range of opinions, especially from our Member States, with visits to three sites in Côte d’Ivoire, plus Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria and Senegal. Contacts included national-program personnel, directors and farmers; in addition, the Panel interacted with ‘advanced’ partners such as CIRAD, IRD and PSI-CORAF. In Côte d’Ivoire, they also interacted with the Ivorian Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technological Innovation. The report of the EPMR was presented to the CGIAR Mid-Term Meeting in Dresden in May 2000 and well received. The overall assessment of the Review Panel was presented by the Director General and Chairman of the Board of Trustees in last year’s Report.

In February, WARDA staff **demonstrated** the first Ivorian prototype **thresher-cleaner**—based on the Senegalese ASI model (*see* Box ‘The thresher-cleaner in West Africa,’ page 50)—in the M’bé valley just outside WARDA’s main gate. After some minor field adjustments, the prototype performed up to the standard we have come to expect from these machines, and the demonstration was watched with interest by over 20 farmers on each occasion that it was demonstrated. Irrigated Rice Program Leader Kouamé Miézan was on hand to explain the machine’s advantages and to answer questions.



Thresher-cleaner demonstration, M’bé valley, Côte d’Ivoire, February 2000

The last two days of February saw the first project planning meeting of the new **Participatory Technology Development (PTD) Project** with Hohenheim University, at WARDA Headquarters. The project is being funded by Germany (BMZ through GTZ), and activities started in April 2000, after the recruitment of a project scientist. The project is operating in Benin and Nigeria with seven national partner institutions, plus farmers groups, at three key sites (1 in Benin, 2 in Nigeria). It aims to develop and adapt methodologies for ensuring participatory adaptation and dissemination of appropriate technologies for rainfed systems in the target countries. The project is also building national partner capacity in participatory research through on-the-job training and post-graduate fellowships. The third objective is to improve feedback of farm-level constraints, potential acceptability and adoption of technologies among farmers, extension agents and researchers.

On 2 and 3 March, WARDA managers and other key personnel took part in a **Strategic Marketing Consultation Workshop** at Headquarters. John Riggan of The Conservation Company and Richard Steckel of AddVenture Network, Inc. facilitated the meeting, which aimed at linking public-awareness and resource mobilization to increase the funding base of the Association.



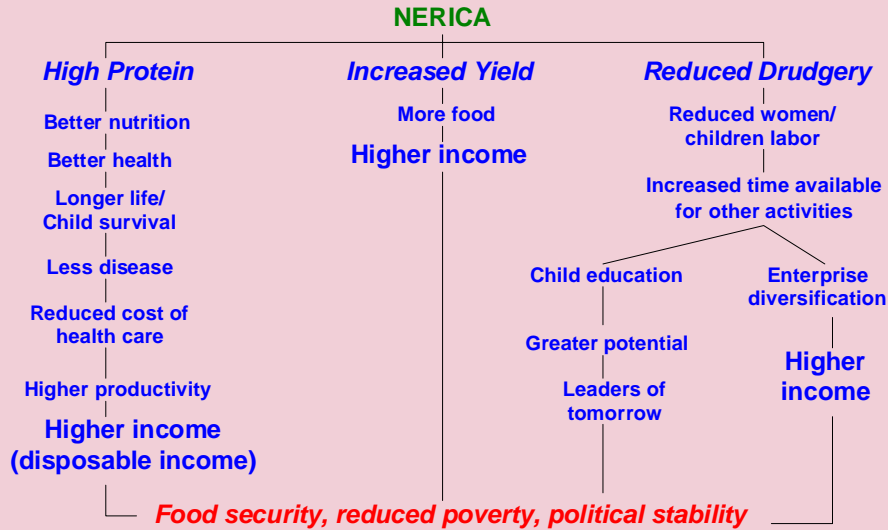
John Riggan (foreground), facilitating the concluding session of the Strategic Marketing Workshop (Richard Steckel is shown in the background)

Historically, WARDA has been funded by the public sector of donor countries and member states. However, with public money becoming increasingly scarce, there is an urgent need to diversify income sources. The workshop looked at both philanthropic and social-enterprise options. The principal outcomes were 'a platform for development and economic growth' based on NERICA, and a decision to pursue the establishment of a business plan for the Association.

Being an even-numbered year, the **National Experts Committee** met at WARDA Headquarters on 20 and 21 March. The National Experts Committee (NEC) comprises the Directors of the NARS of WARDA's member states. This Second WARDA/NEC Meeting was attended by representatives from 15 member countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Cameroon and Togo were absent. WARDA's Board of Trustees was represented by Dr Diomandé Mamadou, Chairman of the Board Program Committee. The purpose of this statutory meeting is to provide a regular forum for interaction between WARDA and its partners in the national agricultural research systems (NARS). This is particularly important as the starting point (that is, at the country level) in a multilevel stakeholder consultation process. The meeting reviewed a draft of WARDA's 2001–2010 Strategic Plan and progress at WARDA since the first NEC meeting in 1998, and made seven conclusions and recommendations. Further details of the meeting are available on our Web-site at [www.warda.cgiar.org/news/nec2.htm](http://www.warda.cgiar.org/news/nec2.htm).

The first meetings under Phase 2 of the **Inland Valley Consortium (IVC)** took place at WARDA Headquarters from 2 to 8 April. In fact, the agenda comprised three separate meetings: the Annual Workshop, at which results from the 1999 season were presented, along with plans for 2000 and beyond; the first Consortium Management Committee (CMC) Meeting; and the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) Project Coordination Meeting.

### A Platform for Development and Economic Growth



After the creation of the West and Central Africa Rice Research and Development Network (known by its French acronym of ROCARIZ) from the merger of the WARDA/NARS Task Forces and WECARD-CORAF Rice Network in 1999, April saw the First **Regional Rice Research Review** (4Rs meeting) for West and Central Africa being held at WARDA Headquarters from 10 to 13 of the month. The 4Rs seeks broad participation from rice stakeholders throughout the region, and beyond, so as to enhance the relevance and applicability of research and development activities coordinated by ROCARIZ. The first 4Rs meeting drew over 100 participants from West and Central Africa, other parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, and beyond. Further details of the meeting are available on our Web-site at [www.warda.cgiar.org/news/4Rs.htm](http://www.warda.cgiar.org/news/4Rs.htm).

The first 4Rs was immediately followed, on 14 and 15 April, by the first workshop of the **International Network for Genetic Evaluation of Rice in Africa** (INGER-Africa) since its relocation to WARDA from IITA in

1997. The meeting reviewed the achievements in germplasm exchange from 1992 to 2000; reviewed the mechanisms for nursery composition and planned activities for the coming three years; and provided a platform for the formal launch of the INGER-Africa Phase II project funded by DFID. Some 40 INGER-Africa collaborators and members of the Varietal Improvement and Mangrove Swamp Rice Task Forces (ROCARIZ) from all 17 WARDA member states, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania participated. The value of the Network in promoting germplasm exchange and testing is well appreciated by all collaborators, but the need for timely feedback of nursery results to the coordination unit at WARDA was stressed.

The business of April did not let up even then, as the members of the Regional Network for Participatory Varietal Selection (PVS) met at WARDA Headquarters from 17 to 21 April for the third **Participatory Rice Improvement and Gender/User Analysis Workshop**.

The workshop brought together PVS practitioners from all 17 WARDA member states to discuss the progress in their work, and to formally establish the Network. In addition, representatives were sent by donors to the PVS research, namely the Rockefeller Foundation, the CGIAR Program on Participatory Research and Gender Analysis for Technology Development and Institutional Innovation, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), and the UNDP Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC). The summary proceedings of the workshop were published in October as *Participatory Varietal Selection: The Flame Spreads into 2000*.

From 23 to 25 May, WARDA hosted key stakeholders, plus representatives from the donor (IFAD), for the first regional planning workshop of the **Participatory Adaptation and Diffusion of Technologies for Rice-based Systems (PADS)** project. The project aims to work with and strengthen the capacities of national and local partners to evaluate, adapt and disseminate improved rice technologies through appropriate participatory methods. Four countries are involved—Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana and Guinea—within each of which, WARDA is bringing together key rice stakeholders, namely national research and extension, NGOs, private sector and farmers. In addition to the regional planning workshop, national planning workshops were held in participating countries to establish networks of key partners and identify the best available technologies from all sources (WARDA, national research and extension, farmers themselves) for inclusion in the project process. During the year, key constraints to rice production and marketing were identified through rapid rural appraisals, and a first round of research and training activities was conducted.

On 30 May, we hosted a meeting with representatives of the FAO's **World Food Programme (WFP)** to review and plan collaborative activities in our host country, Côte d'Ivoire. In particular, WARDA and WFP are collaborating in developing low-cost technology options for small-holder farmers, and participatory varietal selection (PVS). New PVS trials were started at two WFP

sites in 2000—Bouna (in Zanzan) and Dabakala (in the Bandama Valley). In addition, WARDA provided training in community-based seed systems (CBSS) and general rice production to the project; full agro-ecological characterization of the Bandama Valley, and socio-economic characterization of all WFP sites in the country.

From 26 to 30 June, the full WARDA **Board of Trustees** met at M'bé for the first of their biannual meetings. High on the agenda was a thorough review of the EPMR report. The Board endorsed many of the recommendations of the report, including the need to reduce the number of Board meetings. Until then, the full Board had met twice a year, usually in June and November, but at this meeting the Board members agreed that the full Board should meet only once a year, and then the Executive and Finance Committee (of the Board) should return later in the year for their second meeting.

June and July saw a final in-depth evaluation of the **Interspecific Hybridization Project** by UNDP. The two-man team started by meeting our partners in Cornell University, USA, and IRD, France—two advanced research institutions that have proved vital links in the Project's activities. The team then visited Headquarters for in-depth discussions with WARDA scientists involved in the project, before visiting partner national programs in Guinea and Nigeria. The final report was submitted to UNDP in July. The report commended the work done in Phase 1. Subsequently, UNDP funding was received for the first year of Phase 2 in 2000. Given the uptake of NERICAs in Guinea, the report projects that some 400,000 tonnes of NERICA could be produced in the region (annually) by 2005, potentially saving US\$ 100 million that would otherwise be spent on rice imports.

On 13 July, WARDA's '**Employees of the Year 2000**,' Mahaman Moussa (GIS Research Assistant) and Ogo Frédérick (Internal Audit Assistant), attended the Annual Gala of the *Jeune Chambre Economique (JCE)* of Bouaké at the Bouaké Ran Hotel, where they were presented with certificates and commemorative plaques.

During the year, news of WARDA reached the **Harvard Business School (HBS)**, prompting an extremely positive reaction. Between 7 and 11 August, HBS sent Senior Researcher Cate Reavis to WARDA headquarters for discussions with key personnel, with a view to developing a case study on WARDA for use in their own program. The final case-study document was discussed in two 80-minute sessions at an HBS Agribusiness Seminar, where it was well received by over 200 senior officials (including many chief executive officers) drawn from multinational and private companies world-wide, and the US State Department. The document will provide a useful tool to help prepare a business plan in 2001.

From 23 August to 1 September, a **PRIGA/PVS Monitoring Tour** visited Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. The team visited seven upland, lowland and irrigated sites, meeting 23 NARES partners (including a UN Volunteer in Burkina Faso) and about 80 farmers.

In August and September, we ran a series of **Basic Rice Production Courses** for farmers in Côte d'Ivoire as part of the collaborative work with the World Food Programme. The courses covered the rice life-cycle and recommended cultural practices. The first of these was at Bodokro on 10 August, followed by Dabakala on 8

September, Bondoukou on 14 September, and Bouna on 18 September. Some 202 farmers took part, including 66 women.

From 11 to 14 September, a team from WARDA traveled to Bamako (Mali) for the first CGIAR **inter-center collaboration** meeting with counterparts from IITA and ICRISAT as the three centers with major investments in West and Central Africa. This was part of an ongoing process, started in 1999, when IITA and WARDA expanded discussions related to the signing of



The PRIGA Monitoring Tour team at Sébéry, Niger



Standing: first and second from left, Mahaman Moussa and Ogo Frédéric, WARDA's '**Employees of the Year 2000**' at the Annual Gala of the *Jeune Chambre Economique* of Bouaké

a new 'Memorandum of Understanding.' Since then, the ongoing discussions on the role and structure of the CG System as a whole has added impetus to our desire to make the most of available resources. Our counterparts at IITA share our views and we are working towards certain common services, shared resources and activities, and overall closer collaboration in our efforts to alleviate poverty in our mandate region. The meeting identified priority areas for joint action: integrated natural resource management (INRM); socio-economic and policy research; integrated pest management (IPM); crop improvement, including the use of transgenics; bionomics and biosafety; and, genomics. In addition, it was agreed that an inventory of centers' activities with national and international research organizations should be established.

Despite the postponement of a few scheduled regional and international meetings around the time of the presidential elections in our host country (September and October), the impetus was maintained with a **Monitoring Tour** from 4 October to 3 November. **PRIGA/PVS** activities in Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Senegal, Mauritania and The Gambia were monitored and evaluated by the six-person monitoring team consisting of WARDA and UN/WARDA staff, and a PhD student from Cornell University (working on the Interspecific Hybridization Project). They visited 28 PRIGA/PVS sites, interacting with at least 281 farmers; they worked with, or met, at least 27 NARS representatives and 2 JOCVs.



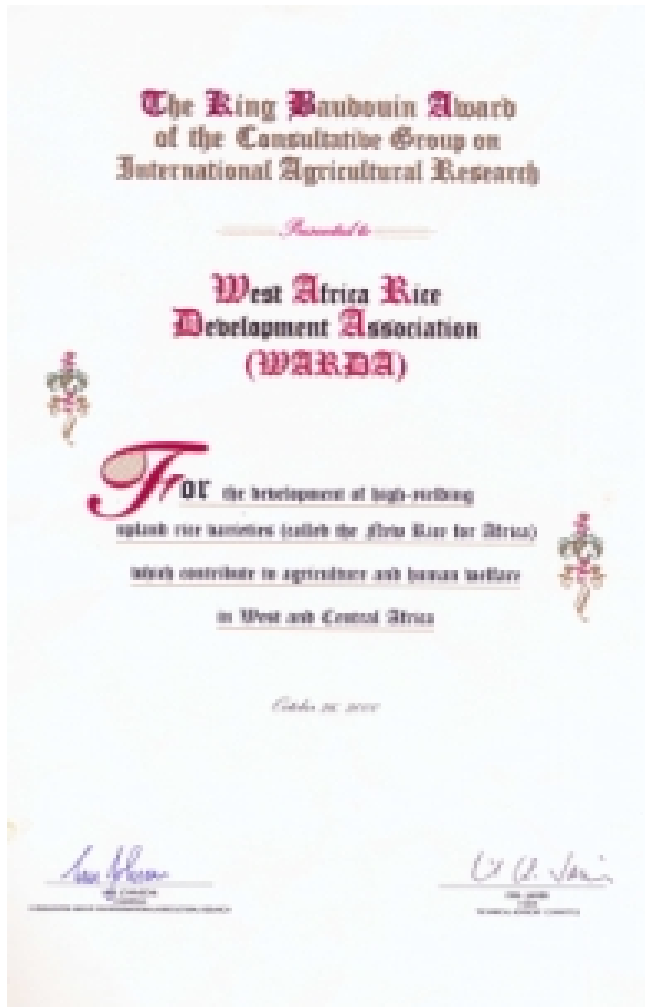
The PRIGA Monitoring Tour team assessing NERICA field of farmer Bidifayi Essohanen, at Amou-Oblo, Togo

Farmers assessing PVS trials, forest zone, The Gambia



As WARDA reaches towards its goal of becoming the hub of a rice research, development and information system for the region, so we connect with new partners. On 12–13 October, WARDA took the first steps in broadening its network of partners, at a preliminary **Workshop on Partnerships between WARDA and Ivorian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)** at its Headquarters. The meeting's objectives were for WARDA and the NGOs to "get to know" each other, to raise the awareness of WARDA's perceived need to broaden its partnerships to include NGOs, and to discuss possible areas of, and modes for, future collaboration. Some 35 NGOs were represented, covering a range of interests, including rural and social development, farmers' organizations, and women's and child concern. WARDA presented an overview of its existing partnerships, and its participatory research and development activities. We are looking forward to future fruitful work with some of the organizations we met that day.

During the CGIAR's International Centers Week in Washington, DC, Thursday 26 October was a 'Red Letter Day' for WARDA. On that day, we received the prestigious **CGIAR King Baudouin Award** for our development of the 'New Rice for Africa' (NERICA). The Award was established in 1980, when the CG System received the King Baudouin International Development Prize from Belgium "for its contribution to the qualitative and quantitative improvement of food production in the world." The CG Award has been made biennially ever since. In his presentation speech, CGIAR Chairman Ian Johnson said that TAC (the Technical Advisory Committee of the FAO and CGIAR) had "selected NERICA as a major scientific breakthrough from three perspectives: high-quality science; impact; and, partnership. TAC noted, in particular: the use of cellular biology techniques in interspecific hybridization to overcome hybrid sterility barriers; rapid adoption of the new varieties by over 20,000 farmers in Guinea alone...; close and effective partnerships by WARDA with farmers, NARIs, other centers, and advanced research institutions." We con-



The King Baudouin Award Certificate

sider it a particular honor to receive the Award at the turn of the millennium, and on the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Award.

Further **Monitoring Tours** were conducted in November. From 8 to 24, a **WARDA/IVC** team visited Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria and Cameroon. This completed a ‘tour’ of 8 of the 10 IVC member countries, as

earlier trips had been made within Côte d’Ivoire, and to Burkina Faso and Mali. The team met with the National Coordination Unit (of IVC) in each country, which include extension services, universities and farmers’ organizations, in addition to NARS. Discussions were held on progress made in disseminating IVC phase I results, and the need to initiate the new (Phase II) research themes at the earliest opportunity. These visits precluded upcoming planning meetings on these same subjects in early 2001.



Adeta inland valley at the foot of the Atacora mountain range, Togo

The IVC Monitoring Tour in the Bendeh valley, southeast Nigeria



IVC Regional Coordinator, Marie-Jo Dugué discusses with SPIRIVWA Project Coordinator, Doffangui Koné, Guessihio inland valley, Côte d'Ivoire

From 13 to 20 November, a **ROCARIZ Monitoring Tour** visited Mali, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire to evaluate the implementation of ROCARIZ irrigated-rice activities in Burkina Faso and Mali and on-going national research activities; to evaluate farmers' technology needs and problems, and their perceptions of available technologies through discussion; to assess irrigated-rice production status and constraints as background to updating research priorities; to bring together national and WARDA scientists, extension agents and farmers to identify research needs and share relevant experience; to evaluate the performance of technologies in ROCARIZ trials and identify new areas of collaboration. Five WARDA scientists were involved, along with a consultant from the donor, USAID, and 11 NARS partners from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal and Togo.

From 20 to 23 November, WARDA and the World Food Programme (WFP) organized a **Training Course on Rice Production** for 3 WFP Project staff and 32 ANADER (the Ivorian extension service) supervisors (representing 10 of the WFP project locations in Côte d'Ivoire). The course covered an introduction to WARDA, rice biology, cultural and post-harvest practices recommended to farmers by WARDA, and constraints to rice production in the region. Additional discussion points included the INGER-Africa and CBSS mechanisms of seed distribution and production, and the use of PVS in technology transfer. Directly related to the on-going collaboration with WFP and ANADER, another, shorter program was held the following week, on 28 and 29 November, to train ANADER extension agents in rice production. The 33 participants from Beoumi, Bouaké, Bondoukou, Dabakala, Katiola and Sakassou discussed rice life-cycle, cultural practices and major constraints to rice production, including a full day of practical exercises in the field. Both courses were well received by their respective participants.

From 21 to 24 November, the WARDA-based Human Health Consortium co-organized the **International**



Scenes from the ROCARIZ Monitoring Tour, November 2000: meeting with farmers in Côte d'Ivoire (top); in the field in Burkina Faso (bottom)

**Conference 'Water & Health—Ouaga 2000,'** subtitled *Health and Nutritional Impacts of Water Development Projects in Africa*, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The other co-organizers were the *Centre national pour la recherche scientifique et technologique* (CNRST, Burkina Faso), the *Institut de recherche pour le développement* (IRD, Burkina Faso and France), and the *Ecole inter-états d'ingénieurs de l'équipement rural* (EIER, Burkina Faso). The meeting brought together 156 participants from 18 African countries, 3 European countries, Canada and Sri Lanka. As noted last year ('Perception is Reality,' *WARDA Annual Report 1999*, pages 38–45), this conference effectively marked the end of phase I of the Health Consortium; however, 10 papers reporting results from the Consortium's research are scheduled to be published in a supplement to the *Journal of Tropical Medicine and International Health*, in 2001.

From 22 to 24 November, the **Executive and Finance Committee of WARDA's Board of Trustees** came to Headquarters for their second meeting of the year. As mentioned above, this was the first year that the full Board did not meet twice. The Board was thereby implementing a cost-cutting measure on itself, in addition to following a recommendation from the EPMR.

The **Ivorian National [Varietal] Release Committee** met at the offices of *Project national riz* (PNR) in Bouaké on the morning of 20 December, under the chairmanship of Dr Sery Georges of PNR-Abidjan. WARDA was represented by consultant Technology Transfer Agronomist Amadou Moustapha Bèye. The meeting considered and then formally released two WARDA-developed varieties:

- NERICA 1 (WAB 450-I-B-P-38-HB), named *Bofani* meaning “good perfume” in the Agni language—the name relates to the aroma of the variety

- NERICA 2 (WAB 450-11-1-P31-1-HB), named *Keah* meaning “old man” in the We language—the name refers to the awns of the variety that look like an old-man's beard.

These are the first two interspecific rice varieties to be released by registration within the region. Particular advantages of NERICAs 1 and 2 are: high productivity; short growing cycle (95–110 days); good acceptability with farmers, and grain quality. NERICA 2 scored very well in consumer tests because of its aroma. At the request of PNR, WARDA agreed to produce *Fiches techniques* (single-sheet leaflets with agronomic details) of the varieties through the PADS project.

“The events of year 2000 attest to WARDA's three-pronged vision,” concludes Director General Kanayo F. Nwanze, “as a center of excellence, a model regional institution, and as the hub of an efficient technology and knowledge delivery system. It is gratifying that our achievements and outputs confirm that Vision.”