

Conclusions

In relation to WARDA's 30-year history, and more specifically the role it has played in WCA over the last decade, this Strategic Plan represents both continuity and change. Thus, WARDA will continue to:

- focus primarily on rice with priority on WCA
- invest in the development of new germplasm and complementary technologies
- address the key constraints in the major rice production systems
- rely on a network model for regional rice research collaboration
- work in partnership with research institutes throughout the world.

At the same time, in opening new ground, WARDA will:

- work within a more integrated understanding of rice as a component of farming,

natural-resource management and livelihood systems

- seek opportunities to contribute on a continent-wide scale by expansion of activities into the ECSA region, in line with its designation as 'The Africa Rice Center'
- place significantly more emphasis on post-harvest, policy and institutional questions
- engage much more directly and vigorously with the rice development sector
- seek to make maximum appropriate use of recent advances in biotechnology.

The Members, Board of Trustees, Management and staff of WARDA believe that this combination of continuity and change will enable WARDA, working in partnership, to make a significant contribution to the goals of poverty alleviation and increased food security in Africa.