



ON DIT quoi?

A newsletter from Africa Rice Center (WARDA)

EPMR optimistic about WARDA's future

After doing an extensive review of WARDA's performance, the Fifth External Program and Management Review (EPMR) Panel predicted a bright future for WARDA.

"The Panel is optimistic about WARDA's future and visualizes a stronger and larger rice research Center serving all of SSA, in collaboration with IRRI and CIAT, and WARDA's many NARS and international partners," the Panel Chair Prof. Eric Tollens stated during his presentation on the EPMR report to WARDA staff members.

WARDA's performance was reviewed from all angles: its

research program, relevance and quality of science, partnerships and linkages, capacity building, adoption and impact, and governance and management. Eighteen major recommendations have been made to help the Center improve its performance.

Congratulating the Panel for accomplishing its enormous task, Director General Dr Papa Seck said, "For WARDA, the 5th EPMR is a good tool to move forward and the implementation of the EPMR recommendations will help the Center to be a better provider of international public goods."



Gates Foundation invites WARDA

WARDA was invited by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to take part in a meeting on rice, 10-11 July 2007, Seattle, USA.

In response to this invitation, Drs Aliou Diagne and Sié Moussa attended on behalf of WARDA and made presentations on the Center's research agenda and achievements. A big delegation from IRRI also took part in this important meeting.

The objective of the meeting was to provide the Foundation with the opportunity to learn from a panel of rice experts on:

- How will rice influence global development? and
- What are the critical issues that need to be addressed in the next 5 years to ensure that benefits are realized by smallholder farmers in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa?

As a follow-up of the meeting, IRRI and WARDA were invited to immediately submit joint proposals to the Foundation which has assured its support to rice research.



Visitors to WARDA

Mrs Penda Cissé, President, Federation of Women Producers' Groups, visited WARDA-Saint Louis in June. Standing next to her are Souleymane Gaye, Research Assistant and Dr Karim Traoré, Irrigated Rice Breeder (PDF).

Dr Hideo Yonezaki, Chief of West and Central Africa Division, Department of Africa, JICA HQ visited WARDA-Cotonou on 10 July. He met with the scientists from JICA at WARDA and made a courtesy call on ADG-R.

Events

- Impact Assessment Training Workshop, Accra, Ghana, 23-25 August
- ARI and JICA training on seed multiplication techniques, Porto Novo, Benin, 27-30 August

Seminars at WARDA-Cotonou

- "Conservation of African rice (*Oryza glaberrima*) biodiversity: linking the interests of crop breeders and local communities" by Laurence Becker, Oregon State University on 3 July
- "Learning in Innovation Systems: socio-technical institutions and the shaping of technology adaptation and diffusion processes in rice production systems in West Africa (A case of ASI thresher)" by Philip Idinoba, Student, on 26 July
- "Criblage des NERICAs et de leurs parents pour leur résistance aux insectes des stocks : Cas de *Sitohplilus oryzae* (Linnae) et de *Rhizopertha dominica* (Fabricius)" by Carline Christelle Joanne Santos, Student, on 27 July

Hearty congratulations to Kone



WARDA is immensely proud of Koné Brahim, WARDA Research Assistant, Soil Science Unit, who received his PhD with distinction on 28 July from the University of Cocody, Côte d'ivoire. Koné brilliantly defended his doctoral thesis, for which he received "Mention Très Honorable" from the jury. Well done indeed, dear Koné!

... and to Gustave

Gustave Djedatin, student under Dr Marie-Noelle Ndjiondjop, Biotechnology Unit, had earlier received a fellowship from the Generation Challenge Programme (GCP) to do research at WARDA. As part of his research, he is now working at IRD, France. In addition, Gustave has just been selected to receive a Travel Grant from GCP that will allow him to attend the 2007 GCP Annual Research Meeting in South Africa. Bravo!

My family!

On dit "Bye Bye" to:

Michiel de Vries, APO, WARDA-Saint Louis, 31 July

On dit "Congratulations" to:

Jonne and Hawa Rodenburg on the birth of their son Kees Boubacar

African Proverb!

Lack of knowledge is darker than night!

Conserve Energy!



ON DIT

"Person of the Month" Dr Khady Dramé



Khady Dramé is one of the 15 winners of the 2006 L'Oreal/UNESCO Women in Science fellowship. Fortunately for WARDA, Khady chose to do her post-doctoral fellowship at WARDA.

Khady is Senegalese and obtained her PhD in France at the University of Paris 12 in 2005. She said that returning home to Senegal after 9 years in France proved to be challenging as the opportunities for professional advancement within her field were limited.

So when the opportunity for work at WARDA presented itself she was happy to take it up. Her success has brought honor to her family and her country.

Khady is interested in sharing her experiences with young African students and encourage them to strive for excellence in their chosen field of science. She juggles successfully the roles of mother, wife and career professional in science.

(By Mrs Heather Grey, HR Manager)