



ON DIT quoi?

A newsletter from Africa Rice Center (WARDA)

September 2007: A “happening” month

It was a month of high-level meetings – meetings in Japan (9-13 September); the Board Executive and Finance Committee meeting (23-26 September); National Experts Committee meeting (27 September); the Council of Ministers session (28 September) and the Africa Policy Research and Advisory Group meeting (29 September).

But it was also a month of several “firsts”:

For the first time, Dr Seck visited Japan, one of WARDA’s most cherished partners, and met with top officials to discuss about the future of rice research and development in Africa in the context of Japan-WARDA partnership.

For the first time since 1986, the WARDA map changed with the admission of four countries from Central and Eastern Africa: Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo and Uganda. The admission of these countries was approved at the 26th Ordinary Session of the WARDA Council of Ministers. With the addition of these countries, the number of WARDA member States has gone up to 21.

For the first time, representatives of several stakeholders groups were invited as observers to the meetings held as part of the Council of Ministers session: farmers’ organizations, CTA, CGIAR Alliance, UEMOA, CMA/AOC.



Member States of Africa Rice Center (WARDA)

21

Japan extends a special invitation to WARDA DG



Japan extended a special invitation to Dr Papa Abdoulaye Seck to meet with top Government Officials and Research Directors, 9-13 September. During his visit to Japan, Dr Seck was accompanied by Drs Akintayo and Sié.

The visit was organized with full support from Professor Takeshi Horie, President of the National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (NARO) and former WARDA Board Member and Dr Kiyooki Maruyama, Director General of National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) and current WARDA Board Member.

The delegation met the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA),

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) and Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development (FASID).

Dr Seck also took part in the International Symposium on “Contribution of Japanese agricultural scientists toward the Millennium Development Goals”. The Symposium was jointly organized by the Japan Forum on International Agricultural Research for Sustainable Development (J-FARD) and JIRCAS. Page 2.

Bravo!

Abibou Niang and **Abou Togola** who have returned from Japan after finishing their respective training programs:

- Abibou Niang on “Soil diagnosis and conservation” at the JICA Obihiro International Center in Hokkaido, 14 May to 2 August, and
- Abou Togola on “Integrated Pest Management” at Kobe University, 21 May to 1 September.

“I am very thankful to JICA, for affording me the opportunity to be trained in IPM at very reputable agricultural research institutions in Japan,” said Abou Togola, after his return from Japan.

Describing his own experience, Abibou Niang said, “I learnt a lot from this training and I am very thankful to the Government of Japan through JICA”.

In addition to their coursework, the training programs offered them a unique opportunity to learn about the Japanese culture through lessons in calligraphy, flower arrangement, and Japanese cuisine, among others.

Emmanuel Onasanya successfully completed a professional training course on Graphic design and layout at the Concept Interactive College, Cape Town, South Africa, 15-31 August.

Abubakary Kijoji has successfully completed a training course at IRRI on “Rice breeding”, 20-31 August

Iliyath A. Bello, Student from Abomey-Calavy University, successfully defended her MSc thesis on “Lowland rice improvement” under the supervision of Dr Sie. She had the highest score for her thesis and was highly praised by her panel of examiners.

My family!

On dit “Congratulations” to :

Silue Lassina on the birth of his daughter Noura
Baboucarr Manneh on the birth of his daughter Sohna

On dit “Get well soon!” to our dear and respected colleagues:

- Moussa Mahaman, and
- Aline Lisette-Vidal

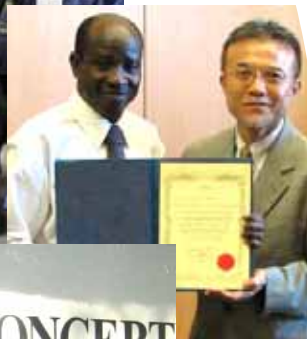
Medical Services Center opens at WARDA

A Medical Services Center under the charge of Dr Omua Oikeh has been opened at WARDA. The Center, located next to the Purchasing Unit, will operate from 09h00 to 14h00 on weekdays. For more information, please contact Dr Oikeh (extn 433) or the Human Resources Unit.

Welcome back, Dr Wopereis!



Dr Marco Wopereis has been appointed WARDA’s incoming Assistant Director General, Research & Development. Dr Wopereis will take up his new functions in December 2007.



WARDA photo on CGIAR front cover



CGIAR used WARDA’s award-winning photo for its Annual Report front cover. Even the inside back cover of this publication has a WARDA photo.

African Proverb!

The hunter in pursuit of an elephant does not stop to throw stones at birds (Uganda)

Japan extends a special invitation to WARDA DG

Dr Seck made three important presentations during his visit, describing his new vision as well as his perspective on the current world rice situation and its impacts on Africa.

1. “How to increase the agricultural research for development in Africa: the case of NERICA” at the J-FARD & JIRCAS International Symposium
2. “How can Japan-Africa partnership increase support for rice development in Africa” at MOFA
3. “Rice in Africa and WARDA’s new strategies” at FASID (Drs Akintayo and Sie were also invited to make presentations at FASID)

Dr Seck’s presentations and views were keenly noted and appreciated as part of a new partnership between Japan and WARDA. A major part of the discussions in Japan related to the organization of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) IV, which will be held in May 2008.

The NERICA partnership will be particularly highlighted during TICAD IV as was the case in TICAD III held in 2003. TICAD is one of the most important global frameworks dedicated to African development.

During this visit, the WARDA delegation also met with the Ambassadors of Burkina Faso and Senegal to Japan who were introduced to WARDA’s research and development activities.