

Inland Valley Consortium



Consortium Bas-fonds

s/c WARDA – Africa Rice Center
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**Minutes of the CMC Meeting held on the 9th April 2005
at the IITA station, Cotonou (Benin)**

Present

Members:

Mama Vincent, UNC Benin (President)
Worou Soklou, UNC Togo
Tucker Moses Joseph, UNC Sierra Leone
Alabi Martins Gbenga, UNC Nigeria
Youm Ousmane, ADRAO
Lidon Bruno, CIRAD

Members absent:

FAO (excused)
CORAF (excused)

Observers:

Yté Wongbé, former President of IVC
Kiepe Paul, Scientific Coordinator RCU
Morant Philippe, Regional Coordinator RCU

Introduction by the President of the CMC

The president welcomes the members and explains the attendance of Dr Yté Wongbé as observer. As the former IVC president he will contribute to the meeting, he replaces S. Lamine, the former National Coordinator for Sierra Leone who passed away last September,.

Proposed agenda for the CMC meeting of 9 April 2005

- 1) Approval of the last CMC meeting minutes (Accra September 2004)
- 2) Analysis and implementation of the CCER recommendations
- 3) IVC Budget 2005
- 4) IVC projects for 2005
 - o Research projects
 - o Activities to be funded
 - o Development of projects
- 5) Divers
 - a. The Gambia offers to organize the next annual workshop at Banjul in 2006
 - b. Adhesion of new members

The proposal is approved.

1) Approval of the previous CMC meeting minutes (Accra September 2004)

After reading the minutes of the previous CMC meeting (18 September), the following clarifications were given and the execution of the recommendations were checked :

- According to the tradition and rules of IVC, the coordinators (regional and scientific) only observe during the CMC meetings. Therefore they can not vote. The regional coordinator is entrusted with writing the minutes
- Concerning the SPIRIVWA project, about 50% of the allocated money has not been used yet. The project leader will visit the sites and will consider the proposed and updated work plans and budgets in order to complete the project, if possible in all 3 countries. With this recommendations, a no-cost extension can be authorized by the board of CFC.
- About the representation of the NCU of Cameroon at this years annual workshop (2005): contacts with IRAD resulted in the presence of Julius Takow at this workshop. The regional coordinator did send a letter to the DG of IRAD with a request for information on the NCU and their activities in the inland valleys of Cameroon; last year the CMC decided that the DG of WARDA had to write this letter, this recommendation was not implemented, still the Cameroon have participated to this years workshop as was the target of this recommendation.
- The members expressed the need for the involvement of the international institutions who are members should be more involved in the new phase of IVC. To ensure this, they need to find advantages in contributing to the consortium. To mobilize the international institutions to participate in the development of new projects, the DG of WARDA will be asked to send them letters with IVC's new strategic plan. (role of the RCU).
- Concerning the external review, IVC must define their expectation from WARDA, as host institution and IVC must express complaints if expectations are not met.
- In December 2004, a workshop was planned for the preparation of the phase III ; but it was combined with the annual workshop in order to save money.

- As in the case of the decease of our late colleague Lamine, a letter of condolences will be sent to Ghana where our colleague Otoo deceased. A visit to his family and colleagues is planned.

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted.

2) Analysis and enforcement of the recommendations of the CCER

The final report as written by the CCER experts (in French and English) was submitted to WARDA's board of trustees in March.

A document combining the remarks and answers on the recommendations of the external review has been compiled. It was noticed and regretted by the President that the NCUs and the international institutions had sent in few remarks on the review.

The final version of the responses has not been sent to the CMC members. This document is submitted to the direction of WARDA and to its board for approval.

The final document will be sent to the CMC members as soon as possible ; they can then send in their remarks within two weeks after which the document will be updated and finalized. ;

3) IVC Budget 2005

The proposal of the IVC budget for 2005 has been examined. This proposal was done according to the WARDA rules and was the same as in 2004 and based on the available money in the "core budget". The core budget is funded by grants from the Netherlands and France through WARDA (the donors promised to maintain the grant in 2005 at the same level as in 2004) ; WARDA has the responsibility to manage IVC's functioning.

Until then, no notification had been done by WARDA.

A suggestion was made to invite the head of the financial services of WARDA to the next CMC meeting.

Globally, 100.000 \$ are provided for the URC (annual workshop and coordination) and 100.000 \$ for the NARS grants (operating costs and research projects).

If we use the traditional rules, the amount for the NCUs is insufficient to support operating costs (11*7000 \$) and research projects (23.000 \$). In 2005, the NCUs have to use funds to prepare new projects for phase III.

Some remarks has been made on distributing equal amounts to each NCU :

- the CCER has recommended to modulate the operating costs according to each NCU
- the case of Nigeria must be examined separately on the following points:
 - o feasibility for NCU to operate in one state, not in all the states of Nigeria
 - o to provide funds to organize state level meeting and national level workshop
 - o that RCU give an additional support
- the grant can be modulated with the specific activities of the NCU and according to his dynamism.

Many suggestions were expressed for the use of the NARS grants :

- 2005 is a transition year between phase II and phase III ; only a few projects can be funded after a rigorous screening
- the grants can be used for valorization of the outputs
- the operating costs can be reduced to increase the budget for research projects
- to take in account the expenses for creating new projects and existing projects.
- propose an animation project in the NCU and begin the marketing process
- to propose a minimum budget to support national meetings (5.000 \$) and add funds for specific activities
- when NCU mobilize special funds (projects like SPIRIVWA), the operating cost grant can be reduced if the funds of the project could be used for meetings and animation

For special projects :

- in the IVC budget 2005, the column CFC (300.000 \$ for NARS grants) shows the necessary amount to complete the project in good conditions. It was discuss about the availability of the mission of the project manager in Ivory Coast because of the banning for FAO staff to go to this country.
- The column Neth 2 is for the cost of the 2 APO
- The EU project (benchmark areas) is completed, but 50% of the funds were not consumed. For the moment an extension is not available. At the last meeting of the CORAF on the PARAO project (including IVC), the members concluded that the funds of this project were not paid-out because of the belated grants and delays on justifications. This can give problems for new projects funded by the EU.

The following decisions have been reached:

- To write a request for additional funds (100.000 \$) in order to be able to share 200.000 \$ among the NCU.
- To use the following key of distribution for 2005 activities :

- o no operating costs fixed like as before
- o 50 % for synthesis and valorization of past activities
- o 25 % for new research projects that provide outputs in a short time
- o 25 % for building new trans-boundary projects
- the project proposals for 2005 sent to RCU before and during the workshop will be examined by the CMC members as soon as possible
- for the CFC project, the workplan will be sent within 15 days.

4) 2005 projects

Workshops and seminar planned for 2005 are :

- GIS workshop (promise to fund)
- Workshop for technical aid setup, scientific writing and project proposal : this workshop will be beneficial if the participants bring in their own elements. The funds are not yet found but contact with CTA will be made; the training unit of WARDA will be mobilized.

The phase III planning need funds the following actions :

- Meetings managed by RCU for the development of the common projects (transboundary)
- Costs for the development of projects like :
 - o To participate in Challenge programs
 - o To organize meetings with 2 or 3 persons to write proposals
 - o To take in account the participation of the international institutions (plane, hotel) in writing proposals
 - o To mobilize the APOs, to contribute to the proposals and write the first draft.

For the valorization of the outputs, we must define a IVC format and take in account the national formats used in the different countries.

5) Divers

- A letter of the NCU of the Gambia proposes to organize the next annual workshop at Banjul (2006). There is no opposition, but funding will be made according to the 2006 IVC Budget (because the workshops held outside of the WARDA headquarter are more expensive).
- Membership of IVC is possible for new members according to the common rules : an official request must be sent to WARDA. From Worldfish, an official letter has been received in 2001, requesting for their participation in the workshop and for their involvement in the IVC activities.
- At the annual workshop (2005) the participation of a scientist from Senegal has been decided upon, after a mission of the regional coordinator at Dakar ; the DG of ISRA will send an official letter to express his wish for membership ; this request will be examined by the CMC after which it can be approved by the National experts committee.
- The CORAF is a status member and excused for not being able to come to the workshop this year.
- Benchmark areas : the RCU will send the initial documents on this subject to the partners or it will use the internet to make these documents available.
- The IVC website can be used by the NCU ; NCU can insert pages with country information if requested upon (country card and web sites)
- A second meeting of the CMC is suggested in 2005 to discuss the institutional status and governance for the phase III. Also to steer the preparation of the NEC meeting
- The possibility to revise the rules of IVC, in particular IVC's relations with WARDA ; in the first step a discussion will be engaged with the managers of WARDA. The partners of IVC expressed difficulties to be involved in some projects, which seem to be too much "labelised" as WARDA
- A project to write and disseminate a newsletter will begin as soon as possible. The suggestion is made for a quarterly newsletter.
- The absence of NCU Ghana is explained by the lack of the nomination of a new national coordinator, after the decease of Ernest Otoo. A letter has been sent to CSIR, but we didn't receive any answer. Laurence Narteh, employed by WARDA as ROCARIZ Coordinator took part to the annual workshop, but not officially for the NCU. A new letter will be sent to announce a mission of the RCU to Ghana, to meet the Institutes in charge of IVC (central level (CSIR) and operational level (CRI and SARI)

6) Conclusion

In conclusion the President of CMC made a summary of the principal points of the meeting :

- the lack of reactions of the NCUs and partners on the recommendations of the phase II evaluation
- The need to mobilize and use the new human resources (APO)
- The planning of a new CMC meeting in 2005
- The obligation to be in contact again with the NCU of Ghana
- To engage the reflection on the visibility and legibility of the Nigeria NCU, at the national level or at the state level

Made at Cotonou the 9 April 2005

Reminder of the main themes for phase III :

Theme 1 : Improving livelihood of resource poor farmer by optimizing IV production system

Characterization (targeting poor)

- classical (new countries)
- dynamics

Adaptation/testing technologies

- locally successes
- modern technologies
- water use efficiency, labor saving

Technology development

Diversification/specialization . Livestock, high value

Post harvest technologies and seed management

Processing – adding value

Socio-economic impact

Theme 2 : Sustaining (agro) biodiversity in IV lowlands

Effect of climate change on IV production

- new partners
- climate data series (regional)
- change production systems (in areas with clear indication of changes)

Inventory biodiversity (base line information see also IUCN)

Ecological+ Production (economic) functions + Cultural + Social

Impact development on biodiversity

Balance uses

- research on sustainable IV management system
- conflict management

Agro-biodiversity maintaining (germplasm conservation)

Theme 3 : Capitalization of results + transfer

(For user's farmers, development agents, scientists, students)

Synthesis

Manuals

Scientific publication

Development of national and regional databases + GIS

Decision support systems

Research on transfer methods

(institutional problems, approaches, funding support level)

- institutional problems
- methods
- across country PLAR evaluation
- spatial distribution of extension services and methods for transfer

Theme 4 : Capacity building and institutional changes *(all stakeholders)*

NCU capacity /Networking

Scientists involved in IVC research (gender and poverty, interdisciplinarity, participatory)

Extension services, NGOs, Private sectors

Farmers and farmer organizations ; empowerment/networking

Enhancing and involvement of policy makers