

MEETING OF NATIONAL WEST AFRICAN FARMING SYSTEMS  
RESEARCH LEADERS

24-26 October 1988, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

THEME : "EXCHANGE AND COLLABORATION IN WEST AFRICAN  
FARMING SYSTEMS RESEARCH"

THE WAFSRN

The West African Farming Systems Research Network is an association of researchers working in the farming systems evaluation and improvement in the region. It was created during a workshop held in 1982 at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), in Ibadan, Nigeria. Under a memorandum of agreement with the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission of the Organization of African Unity the Network was able to establish its secretariat in November 1987 in the Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development (SAFGRAD) Project in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

The objectives of the network are: (i) to promote and facilitate cooperation among national, international and foreign researchers, research programmes and institutions working in West Africa in the area of farming systems research; (ii) to support researchers and to strengthen national programmes through training, exchange of experiences, collaborative research and better access to information.

The 1988 - 1989 programme includes the following activities: establishment of a scientific and technical information system, training in FSR and scientific writing, technical workshops, one symposium and support to national research systems.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The major goal of the meeting consists in creating a continuous dialogue between all those who play an essential role in the planning, the organization and management of research aimed at studying and improving West African farming systems.

The meeting will bring together (1) FSR leaders from the national agricultural research systems, (2) FSR leaders from the international agricultural research institutes operating in West Africa; (3) coordinators of networks involved directly or indirectly in FSR research and; (4) the members of WAFSRN Steering Committee.

The first objective of the meeting will be to exchange information on the work in progress and planned activities. For this purpose each participant is requested to write a report presenting the institution(s) practising FSR, the research and training programmes implemented in this area, the researchers involved and the publications issued, the technical workshops and the seminars anticipated.

WAFSRN secretariat intends to use these reports in starting up the creation of a computerized data base on FSR institutions, programmes and scientists as well as on publications in FSR field.

The second objective will be to examine the relevance of the services and support offered by the research networks and IARCs, their adequacy in relation to the needs of national researchers, programmes and organizations and the possible improvements which should be brought about. The strong points of the national systems which could serve as a basis for collaboration will also be considered.

The third objective will be to discuss matters on which exchange and collaboration is desirable and define their implementation. This should make it possible to coordinate and harmonize the activities proposed by networks, IARCs and national systems, to avoid the duplication and sometimes unexpected requests directed at national researchers and programmes. WAFSRN needs to have in each country a liaison person who may facilitate the participation of national researchers and to ensure a regular flow of information between its secretariat and the national research system. A liaison person in each IARC would also be useful. We hope that the national leaders and the representatives of the IARCs participating in the meeting will be able to play the role of network correspondents or propose someone for this purpose.

The fourth objective will be to examine the specific needs of national FSR leaders and how these needs could be met. In particular, we consider that regular exchange of information, a common reflection and possibly training workshops organized for a working group or a sub-network would be useful. The constitution of a working group on "FSR Planning, Organization and Management in National Research Systems" will be proposed and discussed.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME OF THE MEETING

Monday October 24  
Morning

15 H - 18 H

Arrival of Participants

Opening of the meeting.  
Introduction by Dr. Dunstan SPENCER,  
WAFSRN Chairman.  
Presentation and WAFSRN work programme  
by the Coordinator.  
Presentation of IARCs FSR activities by  
their representatives.  
Discussion.

Tuesday October 25  
8 H 30 - 12 H

15 H - 18 H

Presentation of the activities of the  
invited networks by their coordinators.  
Intervention of national leaders: presen-  
tation of national activities and first  
reactions to WAFSRN, IARCs, and invited  
networks programmes.

Theme Discussion

- I. Adequacy and relevance of activities  
proposed by WAFSRN, IARCs and other  
networks to the needs of national  
agricultural research systems : infor-  
mation, documentation, technical  
support, etc.
- II. A framework format for the organi-  
zation of exchange and colla-  
boration : national correspondents,  
working groups, harmonization and  
coordination of exchange and  
collaboration, etc.

Wednesday October 26  
8 H 30 - 12 H

15 H - 18 H

Discussion continued

- III. Specific needs of FSR leaders.
  - IV. Constitution of a working group on  
"FSR planning, Organization and  
Management within NARS" : activities  
and animation.
- Presentation and discussion of  
recommendations.

## INFORMATION TO PARTICIPANTS

As soon as you are nominated by your institution to participate in the meeting, you may please inform us by telex or telegram to avoid any delay.

This information note will allow you to get prepared for the meeting. More details will be sent to you at the beginning of October.

### Organization of the meeting

- The participants are scheduled to arrive in Ouagadougou on Monday morning, October 24 or at the earliest on Sunday, October 23 and leave between Wednesday 26 and Friday October 28. The transport will be ensured between the airport and the hotel. We would like to host all the participants at the Independance Hotel to facilitate their transport and to better follow their working schedule.

- The air ticket fee and per diem for the national participants and the Steering Committee members are paid by the network and upon the receipt of the confirmation we shall make all the necessary reservations and send the PTA for the return air ticket. The representatives of IARCs and Network Coordinators are kindly requested to take care of their expenses themselves.

English and French will be the working languages of the meeting and simultaneous translation will be available during the working sessions.

### Communications

Every participant (except the Steering Committee members) is requested to prepare a report regarding FSR and related to FSR activities of his institution. These reports are aimed to spread the mutual information on the on-going activities in the national programmes, international institutes and networks in the West African countries. This will also allow the participants to discuss the possible exchange and the future ways of collaboration.

The scientific and technical information unit would like to use these reports as the raw material in order to create an computerized data base on the research institutions, programmes, researchers and publications covering the FSR activities in the West Africa. These data will be annually up-dated and published as a research repertory on farming systems in West Africa.

Indications given below are meant as a guide to participants who are expected to prepare a report. All of you are requested to send your reports before the deadline which is fixed at October 10, 1988.

Meeting of National West African  
Farming Systems Research Leaders  
24-26 October 1988  
Ouagadougou

#### LIST OF INVITATIONS

##### NATIONAL WEST AFRICAN FSR LEADERS

- |                   |                 |                   |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Senegal        | 6. Mauritania   | 12. Togo          |
| 2. Cabo Verde     | 7. Mali         | 13. Côte d'Ivoire |
| 3. Gambia         | 8. Liberia      | 14. Benin         |
| 4. Guinea Bissau  | 9. Sierra-Leone | 15. Burkina Faso  |
| 5. Guinea Conakry | 10. Ghana       | 16. Nigeria       |
|                   | 11. Cameroon    | 17. Niger         |

##### INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES

IITA	ICRAF	CIRAD/DSA	ORSTOM
ICRISAT/Niamey	ILCA	SAFGRAD	
ISNAR	WARDA	IIMI	

##### NETWORK COORDINATORS

Alley Farming (IITA)  
Network "Recherche-Développement" (France)  
Network R3S (INSAH)  
West and Central African Sorghum Research Network (ICRISAT)  
West and Central African Cowpea Network (SAFGRAD/IITA)  
West and Central African Maize Network  
West African Animal Traction Network

##### STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dunstan SPENCER (IITA - Nigeria)  
Firmin ADJAHOSSOU (Présidence République du Bénin)  
Ray P. UNAMMA (RCRI - Nigeria)  
François A. TCHALA (Université de Dschang, Cameroun)  
Mamadou GOITA (IER - Mali)  
Paul KLEENE (CIRAD/DSA)  
Bezuneh TAYE (SAFGRAD)  
Jacques FAYE (Coordonnateur RESPAO)  
Thomas EPONOU (CIRES - Université d'Abidjan)

##### OBSERVERS

- IDRC, Regional Office for West and Central Africa
- FORD Foundation, Regional Office for West and Central Africa
- French Ministry of Cooperation, Research department
- FIDA
- CTA
- USAID Ouagadougou

## SUGGESTIONS FOR THE WRITING OF NATIONAL REPORTS

The following questionnaire which each programme is invited to fill carefully, will save you the trouble of drafting a too long report : 10-15 pages should be sufficient.

### I. Presentation of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS)

- Short historical background of the agricultural research
- Different institutes involved in the NARS
- Ministries responsible
- Mandates of each institute (including the Centers of Higher Education conducting research)
- Origins and magnitude of financial and human resources
- Agricultural policy orientation and research priorities

### II. FRS within NARS

- Background of the establishment of FSR activities within the NARS
- Essential stages, causes
- Pioneers : role of nationals (decision makers, researchers), donors, IARCs and technical assistance agencies
- FSR organization, management and coordination within the national system
- Organization (to draw up a chart indicating the place of FSR within the system)
- Method of planning, management and funding
- Research activities (using the essential elements of the questionnaire, filled by each FSR programme)

### III. FSR Evaluation and Perspectives

- The objective here is to briefly analyse the difficulties encountered and the results obtained in :

The institutional and organizational sphere.  
Management, funding, financial and human resources.  
Technical field.  
Collaboration between researchers and between the organizations within the NARS with external organizations, with extension organizations.  
Expected exchange and collaboration.

Based on the strength and weaknesses of the NARS, the areas will be identified where collaboration and support are expected from WAFSRN, IARCs and other networks as well as the contributions which researchers and national structures can bring.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Identification of Farming Systems Research Programme in West Africa (Please fill a separate form for each programme in your country)

1. Name of programme leader :

Address of programme leader :

2. Name and address of the programme :

3. Sites and zones of the programme activities and their ecological characteristics

Sites or zones	Altitude	Ecological characteristics(1)	Major crops

- (1) 1 = Evergreen forest                      3 = derived savannah  
2 = Semi-deciduous forest                4 = semi-arid  
5 = arid

4. Start of the programme :

Proposed duration :

5. Institutional aspects :

5.1. Does the programme form part of a larger organization?  
(Institute, university, regional development scheme,  
etc.)

If yes, which ?

5.2. Under which national ministry does the programme belong?

5.3. List other institutions (research institutes,  
universities, etc) which collaborate actively in the  
programme.

5.4. List sources from which the programme is financed  
(national, bilateral, multinational; indicate  
proportions of contributions)

6. Composition of FSR team

6.1. Names, specialisations and location of the principal staff of the programme

Name	Specialization	Location (1)

1) Indicate: research station, administrative (programme) center, substation, village, etc.

6.2. Number, position, education and location of other programme staff

Number	Position	Education/Training	Location (1)

1) See 5.1

7. Implementation phase of the programme (cross relevant position)

Theme	Already executed		Being executed
	published (1)	non-published	
Environmental description			
Survey of existing farming systems			
Identification of productivity constraints			
Component technology development (on station)			
On-farm testing			
Large scale pre-production (pre-extension) testing			
Others (specify below)			

(1) Please attach list of reports, publication, etc.

8. Opportunities for training in FSR, provided by programme  
(complete)

	<u>Type of training</u>		Duration of training	Number of participants per year	Source of finance(1)	Physical facilities (incl. accommodation)(2)
	Theoretical percentage	Practical percentage				
<u>University level training</u>						
a) Undergraduate						
b) Postgraduate						
<u>Technical training</u>						
a) Research assistants						
b) Field assistants						
Other (specify)						

1) 1 = fully financed by the project  
 2 = partially financed by the project  
 3 = financed by the participants' sponsors

2) 1 = adequate  
 2 = deficient

SUGGESTED OUTLINE AND POINTS TO BE CONSIDERED  
IN PREPARING PAPERS FOR RESEARCH NETWORKS

Background :

Type of network (agriculture, forestry, research support, information, etc.)  
Historical background and origin  
Objective  
Extent of "problem" network designed to help  
Countries and institutions involved  
How it fits into national programs and priorities

Organisation and Operation :

General Model (eg. hub and spokes, matrix)  
Membership  
    Criteria for selection  
    Extent of their involvement  
Coordination Mechanism  
    Role of Advisory Body  
    Role of National Programs  
    Role of Coordinator  
Agreements (MOU's etc.) with Centers and National Programs  
Planning and Review Process  
Financing  
    From Centers  
        Direct - Indirect  
    Commitment of National Programs  
Use of Consultants  
    From Centers, Local , International  
Linkages  
    Existence, type of contact, and extend of contact  
    - Within network  
    - With other networks  
    - With other agencies  
Methods of Linkage  
    Correspondence  
    Electronically  
    Travel (amount possible)  
    Visits of Coordinator  
    Workshops  
    Travelling seminars  
    Monitoring tours  
    Planning meetings  
    Exchange of germplasm

Output:

Exemples of results (data bases, materiel, technology)  
Mechanisms for dissemination and use of information and material generated by the network.

Form and availability of data bases

Publications

Extent of exchange of information and data within and outside network

Method of introduction of material and information to farmers

Through extension services

On-farm testing

Seed production

Other means

Effectiveness of Network :

What are expectations of national programs, Centers, and donors ?

Are these expectations met ?

Does network distort national research priorities ?

What is the driving force of the network ?

What are some strengths and weaknesses of the network ?

What are some indicators of progress ?

What components make the network successful ?

What components need strengthening ?

If possible, please provide an indication of the cost benefit of the network.

Future:

Expected changes in organization or direction

Expected life of network

SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR PREPARING PAPERS FOR IARCs

I. Presentation of the institute

Historical background

Mandates and research strategy of the institute

Organization

II. FSR within the institute

Its place in the research strategy

Conducted activities : research programmes  
training  
documentation  
etc.

III. Support provided to NARS and networks

IV. Planned participation in the WAFSRN activities

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Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA)

African Union Specialized Technical Office on Research and Development

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1988-10

# EXCHANGE AND COLLABORATION IN WEST AFRICAN FARMING SYSTEMS RESEARCH

UA-SAFGRAD

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