

Practical information

Venue: The Conference will be held in Kigali, Rwanda. Kigali offers a safe environment and is easy to reach by plane.

Registration fee: The registration fee is 400 USD. An optional field visit is 100 USD and participation in the conference dinner costs 50 USD.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Timing: The conference will be held from 24-27 October 2011 with optional field visits on 26 October. Half a day will be reserved to further the development of the Consortium Research Programme on the Humid Tropics.

Submission of abstracts: Abstracts will be accepted for oral or poster presentation. All abstracts and posters may be in English or French. Scientific papers must be written in English.

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT ABSTRACT

Language: The conference will be in English and French, simultaneous translation will be available.

Timeframe:

28 February 2011: Submission of abstracts

31 Mar 2011: Second and final flyer

31 Aug 2011: Final programme

Scientific committee

An Ansoms UA, Belgium

Andre Bationo AGRA, Ghana

Bernard Vanlauwe TSBF-CIAT, Kenya

Foma Mazibo IRAZ, Burundi

Guy Blomme Bioversity, Uganda

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The Consortium for Improving Agriculture-based Livelihoods in Central Africa (CIALCA) is a Consortium of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Bioversity International, and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and their national research and development partners, supported by the Belgian Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGDC), and aiming at improving livelihoods through enhancing income, health, and the natural resource base of smallholder farmers in Central Africa.

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International Conference: Kigali, Rwanda, 24-27 Oct. 2011

**CHALLENGES AND
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
AGRICULTURAL
INTENSIFICATION
OF THE HUMID
HIGHLAND SYSTEMS
OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

FIRST FLYER | CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Justification

The humid highlands in sub-Saharan Africa are characterized by high population densities and require intensification. Unfortunately, many communities lack easy access to the means to achieve this. Specific constraints to intensification include: (i) high poverty and generally poor food security, (ii) lack of agricultural inputs due to long distances to ports, (iii) high erosion risks due to steep slopes, (iv) lack of organic resources for supplementing fertilizer, (v) lack of a systems approach to agricultural intensification, and (vi) insufficient capacity of stakeholder networks to disseminate knowledge-intensive technologies and approaches.

The CIALCA Consortium

The Consortium for Improving Agriculture-based Livelihoods in Central Africa (CIALCA), led by IITA,



Biodiversity, and TSBF-CIAT, has set up a research for development platform in various mandate areas in Central Africa, aiming to identify improved production, market, and nutrition options and to facilitate the access for development partners to these options. This platform is supported by capacity building, multi-stakeholder dialogue, and monitoring and evaluation efforts.

In the context of the CGIAR reform process, and more particularly of the Consortium Research Programme (CRP) on the Humid Tropics, the CIALCA platform has been selected as one of the initial Action Areas.

Thematic areas

I System components: Farming systems consist of different units including crop and livestock ventures; overall farm productivity, ecosystem service provision, and ultimately farmer well-being depends on the performance of each of these components. Most components have specific constraints that prevent them reaching their potential productivity and addressing these through site and farmer-specific interventions is crucial towards improving rural livelihoods. This also applies to the provision of key ecosystem services.

II System integration: Components of farming systems interact with each other and with common property resources, especially in environments where production resources are in short supply. Trade-offs between investments in specific system components are common and more so for farming households that are less resource-endowed. Overall farming system analysis models are important tools for analysing trade-offs and exploring profitable scenarios towards farming system intensification. Integrated soil fertility management, integrated pest management, and crop-livestock integration are approaches to make full use of positive interactions between system components through integration at the farm and community level.

Conference aims

- i** to take **stock of the state of the art of agricultural intensification** in the highlands of sub-Saharan Africa
- ii** to **chart the way forward for agricultural research** for development in the humid highlands, specifically in the **Humidtropics CRP** and the **CIALCA Consortium**, through keynote presentations, oral and poster presentations, and strategic panel discussions.

III Drivers and determinants for adoption:

Adoption of strategies for increased farm level productivity often requires specific enabling conditions. Such drivers and determinants may operate at different scales and affect specific system components. A clear understanding of those drivers is important to determine adaptive strategies that can contribute to intensification of important farming systems and prioritize development-oriented investment and policy needs.

IV Knowledge-intensive approaches:

System approaches and interventions are often knowledge-intensive and therefore specific dissemination approaches are needed. This is especially relevant for areas with relatively low levels of literacy and formal education. Identification of fast-track, simple interventions that can be disseminated within the lifetime of most projects are needed within the context of more knowledge-intensive approaches. Tensions exist between knowledge-intensive approaches and the need to reach many households.