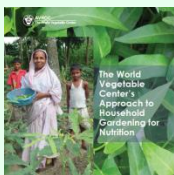


Welcome to the third edition of our AIRCA Newsletter. In this edition, we have articles from all AIRCA members, on highlights of their work, a new section on awards and recognitions, and in the third section news from the AIRCA secretariat. We hope you enjoy the read! Clicking on "[read more](#)" leads to the full articles

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM AIRCA MEMBERS



### The World Vegetable Center's Approach to Household Gardening for Nutrition

Targeted interventions to optimize household garden production and consumption practices show great potential to reduce malnutrition. The World Vegetable Center has been involved in household gardening since the 1970s and has accrued a wealth of practical experience from various locations, crops, production systems and target groups. The Center published [The World Vegetable Center's Approach to Household Gardening for Nutrition](#) [Read more](#)

### CABI – Plant Health Talks at G20 Agricultural Chief Scientists Meeting

CABI's Executive Director of Global Operations, Dr Ulrich Kuhlmann, spoke about the importance of agricultural innovation and sharing plant health knowledge at the 5th meeting of the G20 Agricultural Chief Scientists. Dr Kuhlmann said, "Plantwise is meeting a real need among smallholder farmers in developing countries. Plantwise has reached 4.5 million farmers to date". [Read more](#)



### CATIE – MAP and CCAFS present innovative idea at GACSA Meeting in Rome

CATIE's Mesoamerican Agroenvironmental Program (MAP) and the CGIAR's Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) took first place for presenting the most innovative idea at the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA) annual forum, which was held in Rome on June 14-17th. [Read more](#)

### Crops for the Future – GAPAD Round Table Forum

The first Roundtable Forum in a series of Planning Symposia for the Global Action Plan on Agricultural Diversification (GAPAD) was held at Crops For the Future (CFF) Headquarters, Malaysia from 21-22 March 2016. The two-day event was co-organized by CFF and University of Nottingham in Malaysia, with support from the British High Commission Kuala Lumpur and AIRCA. [Read more](#)



## Crops For the Future – Agri-Innovation Workshop

CFF and the Walker Institute for Climate Research of the University of Reading hosted the Agro-Innovation Workshop from 14 to 18 March 2016. The programme involved a total of 33 early career research leaders across a range of disciplines and from a number of leading research institutes in both Malaysia and the UK. [Read more](#)



### ICBA – New paper on quinoa’s potential in marginal environments

Access to nutritious food is one of the prerequisites for achieving food and nutrition security. Despite the significant progress made in improving food production, demographic challenges along with low agricultural productivity due to soil salinity, drought and climate change are putting additional pressure on the natural resources to meet the future demand. Quinoa could provide solutions for the global food and nutrition security. [Read more](#)

## ICBA – Global action needed to save soils

In a recently published article, an international team of scientists urge more action to save soils globally. They note that as stores of soil organic carbon are critical in the global carbon balance, national governments must set specific targets to stabilize or ideally increase soil organic carbon stores. [Read more](#)



### ICIMOD – Upgrading Ginger value chain

ICIMOD’s Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation in the Himalayas (Himalica) pilot project in Myanmar has facilitated linkage between private sector actors and communities. This is expected to overcome key constraints in ginger value chain and build trust among actors working at different nodes of the value chain [Read more](#)

## ICIMOD - Pilot village bee farmers from Bhutan and Nepal learn about honeybee management

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development conducted a hands-on beekeeping training for Apis cerana bee entrepreneurs from Bhutan and Nepal in Kaski, Palpa and Rupandehi districts. The objective of the visit was to provide opportunities to observe commercial beekeeping of the indigenous honeybee, beehive making enterprises, interact with bee farmers and bee entrepreneurs, and to learn from their experiences. [Read more](#)



### icipe - \$10.35M initiative to reach 12,500 Ethiopian youth

The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology and The MasterCard Foundation launched a US\$10.35 million USD project aiming to create employment opportunities for young people through beekeeping and silkworm farming. The five-year project is expected to directly benefit 12,500 unemployed and out-of-school youth, and provide opportunities to an additional 25,000 people involved in the value chain from harvesting, to processing, packaging and marketing honey and raw silk. [Read more](#)

## icipe – New initiative on climate change adaptation

icipe and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland have launched a new initiative aimed at supporting the ability of smallholder farming families living around fragile mountain ecosystems in eastern Africa to adapt to the impacts of climate variability and change through research-based interventions has been launched. Known as the Adaptation for Ecosystem Resilience in Africa (AFERIA), the two-year project will disseminate and communicate research findings, insights and interactions of climate change and food security. [Read more](#)



## IFDC – 2<sup>nd</sup> West Africa Fertilizer Stakeholders Forum

On May 18-20, 2016, IFDC hosted its second West Africa Fertilizer Stakeholders' Forum, in Abuja, Nigeria, to provide a platform for public-private dialogue on topics relating to fertilizer accessibility and use in West Africa. More than 300 delegates discussed practical approaches for achieving increased supply, distribution, and use of quality fertilizers in West Africa. The forum was hosted by IFDC's West Africa Fertilizer Program, which supports the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in aligning regional fertilizer policies to increase agricultural productivity levels. [Read more](#)

## INBAR – Bamboo for post-earthquake reconstruction in Ecuador

On April 16th 2016 Ecuador was hit by a massive earthquake. Directly impacting 6 provinces located on the northern coastal area this disaster was responsible for claiming the lives of 660 people. Forcing 7,600 families or around 30,000 people into temporary shelters the earthquake also had a devastating effect on more than 560 schools and 7,000 other buildings. Destroying many roads, it led to the isolation of rural communities from aid. INBAR swung into action: [Read more](#)



# AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

In the first half of 2016, a number of prestigious international awards recognized the importance of AIRCA centers initiatives as well as achievements of the staff. Some of them are:

- Outgoing AVRDC's DG honored with the Order of the Brilliant Star [Read more](#)
- CABI Plantwise won OECD development innovation prize [Read more](#)
- CABI Chief Information Officer Andrea Powell won non-profit best in class data award [Read more](#)
- ICBA received the international date palm award [Read more](#)
- icipe's Director General received an honorary degree from the University of Tel Aviv [Read more](#)
- icipe's Director General was chosen as a jury member for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Rolex Award [Read more](#)



# FROM THE SECRETARIAT

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## Farewell to Dyno Keatinge

After a long and successful career in International Agricultural Research and Development, Dr Dyno Keatinge retired in April 2016 as Director General of the World Vegetable Center, and consequently also ended his tenure as Chairman of AIRCA. The World Vegetable Center is one of the nine founding members of AIRCA and Dyno led AIRCA as member of the Steering Committee, Deputy Chair and Chair since 2013. [Read more](#)



## First AIRCA M&E workshop in Taiwan

AVRDC recently hosted a workshop at its headquarters in Taiwan on the use of Theory of Change in project planning and implementation. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Boru Douthwaite, a renowned scientist in the field of theory of change and participatory impact pathways in agricultural research for development. Twenty participants from five AIRCA centers participated in the workshop. [Read more](#)

## The Global Action Plan for Agricultural Diversification (GAPAD)

From over 500,000 plant species on the planet, we currently rely on just 4 crops – wheat, rice, maize and soy bean) for more than 70% of our food supply. We also depend on these crops as raw materials for livestock and aquaculture feeds as well as bioenergy systems. GAPAD is an AIRCA initiative intends to change that... [Read more](#)



## AIRCA joins GODAN – Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition

The Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) initiative seeks to support global efforts to make agricultural and nutritionally relevant data available, accessible, and usable for unrestricted use worldwide. The initiative focuses on building high-level policy and public and private institutional support for open data. [Read more](#)

## 5<sup>th</sup> AIRCA DG meeting in Costa Rica

In February 2016, directors and representatives of all members attended the 5<sup>th</sup> AIRCA Steering Committee Meeting. The meeting was hosted by the Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza ([CATIE](#)), one of the founding AIRCA members, at their beautiful compound in Turrialba, Costa Rica. [Read more](#)



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