

AICCRA Ghana to unlock climate-smart innovations for farmers

The Ghana cluster of the AICCRA (Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa) project recently hosted a workshop to unlock the potential for inclusive, climate-smart innovations and finance for healthier crops, environment, and humans.

Discussions highlighted the challenges Ghanaian farmers face in agriculture concerning the climate and proposed climate-smart solutions to improve farmers' livelihoods in Ghana and other African countries.

The AICCRA project works with the Food System Resilience Program, the Biorisk Management Facility (BIMAF), the West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WE CARD), and many strategic stakeholders. They acknowledge that climate and agricultural solutions must be sought collectively as the world grapples with COVID-19, the Ukrainian crisis, and other adversities.

The World Bank funds the AICCRA project, recognizing the importance of innovations, partnerships, co-generation of knowledge, and scaling of generated

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Participants at the event.

IITA-Mali receives Norad Director General



The delegation listening intently to the presentation on CSAT activities.

[IITA](http://www.iita.org) received a delegation from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Mali on 4 April.

The visit's objective was to understand better the different activities financed by the Norwegian government and executed by IITA in Mali and Niger for the Climate Smart Agricultural Technologies (CSAT) project and Ghana, Niger, and Mali, for the Black Soldier Fly (BSF) project. Norad Director General Bard Vegar Solhjell led the delegation.

IITA-Mali, through the CSAT project, is an important partner in implementing Norway's agricultural cooperation programs in Mali. The visit followed a first field visit of CSAT activities in September 2021, led by May-Guri Saethre, Norad's special advisor for climate change and food security activities in Mali and Niger.

Coordinators of the two projects shared insights with the Norad delegation, showcasing the evolution and impact of the projects.

IITA Sahel Africa Hub Director [Tahirou Abdoulaye](#) explained how the Institute and its partners are working to improve rural livelihoods through a detailed presentation of the achievements of the CSAT projects. IITA Molecular Entomologist [Rousseau Djouaka](#) highlighted the BSF project, especially IITA's strategy for the biocircular economy (BCE), whose objective is to reduce, reuse, and recycle organic waste. The project uses black soldier fly larvae to produce a range of poultry and fish feed products and high-quality compost to fertilize the fields.

A presentation of local products produced to promote youth and women's entrepreneurship development of the CSAT project and a demonstration of the BSF mobile unit also marked this visit.

Abdoulaye thanked Mr Solhjell and the delegation, noting that the visit was an indication of the Norwegian government's support in tackling climate change and food security, which IITA is committed to fighting daily. *Contributed by Fatoumata Dolo*



Top: BSF mobile unit presentation by Dr Rousseau Djouaka. Bottom: Displaying local products produced as part of the promotion of youth and women's entrepreneurship development of the CSAT project.

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technologies for cross-country adoption. World Bank Lead Agriculture Economist Michael Morris stressed that for “Africa’s food systems, climate change is the single greatest threat. Hence, the World Bank is devoting about 35% of its funds to climate-resilient actions.”

Pierre Laporte, Director of World Bank for Ghana, lauded AICCRA’s capacity to deliver climate-smart innovations and technologies to boost farmers’ productivity in the face of global challenges. He said, “The AICCRA project is ideally placed to fill the missing middle between upstream research partners and downstream development and delivery partners to strengthen the resilience of the agricultural sector to threats posed by climate change and public food system shocks.”

Speaking at the event, Ghana’s Minister for Food and Agriculture, Owusu Akoto, said Ghana’s agri-food system is increasingly susceptible to multiple shocks: droughts, increasing temperature, decreasing rainfall, pests, and diseases, which cause enormous loss of food. He called on international donors and low and middle-income countries to increase spending over the next 10 years on resilient agri-food systems to achieve zero-hunger and other Sustainable Development Goals.

AICCRA Ghana promotes agricultural technologies that are climate-smart and gender-smart. Marie Derenoncourt, CGIAR Gender-Smart Investment Specialist, spoke about gender-smart investing to scale climate-smart agriculture. She said, “If measures are taken to reduce constraints women farmers in Ghana experience compared to their men counterparts, there will be a 4% increase in agricultural output and a reduction of hunger by more than 17%.” She added that women’s engagement in climate-smart agriculture would ensure adoption and long-term sustainability.

Another critical angle of the AICCRA intervention is the One Health Approach, where interventions are designed to cover the interconnected

areas of soil, water, plant, animal, and human health.

During a panel discussion, Osman Damba, a lecturer at the University of Development Studies in Tamale, Ghana, identified seed, the organic amendment to soil, biopesticides, and seasonal weather climate concerns, as cross-cutting issues affecting Ghana’s agricultural value chain products—maize, cowpea, potato, tomato, and pepper.

Other panelists identified capacity and infrastructure development, integrated pest management, scaling, and gender and climate financing as useful intervention components for increasing the productivity and output of Ghanaian farmers. *Contributed by Folake Oduntan*



AICCRA-Ghana Commodity Value Chain Bundles

Top right: Panelists at the event. Bottom: A presentation highlighting AICCRA Ghana Commodity Value Chain Bundles.

IAA takes nutrition interventions to the barracks

The USAID-funded Feed-the-Future Nigeria Integrated Agricultural Activity (IAA) has flagged off a nutrition campaign focused on improving food diversity and nutrition for families of military personnel in Yola, Adamawa State. Military men of the 23 Armored Brigade and their wives attended the event, jointly organized with the Nigeria Army Officers' Wives Association (NAOWA) at the Gibson Jalo Cantonment.

At the flag-off ceremony, the Activity displayed improved seed varieties, poultry, cosmetics, and briquettes. The nutrition team also demonstrated several meal production procedures, including producing the signature orange-fleshed sweet potato juice.

In his opening remarks, IAA Market Systems and Livelihood Specialist Bassey Archibong explained that the Activity's aim in bringing such an intervention to the Barracks is to improve the lives of soldiers' wives who may not have a steady source of income. He added that the women would be trained in home gardening and other nutrition-beneficial processes to assist them economically.

IAA Chief of Party Prakash Kant Silwal, who declared the event open, praised the collaboration and hoped that the joint effort would produce lasting financial results for the families at the cantonment. The NAOWA 23 Brigade Coordinator, Mrs Fauzihat Garba, was enthusiastic about the partnership and promised to ensure that the women benefited maximally from the intervention.

The 23 Armored Brigade Commander, Brigadier-General Aminu Garba, was also present at the event to support the women of the cantonment. *Contributed by Joke Fayemi*



Top: 23 Armored Brigade Commander, Brigadier-General Aminu Garba (right) and his wife, Mrs Fauzihat Garba inspecting one of the nutrition stands at the flag-off of the campaign. They are accompanied by IAA Chief of Party Dr Prakash Kant Silwal and Field Security Coordination Captain (rtd) Palash Abul-Kawser. Bottom: 23 Armored Brigade Women waiting to visit the exhibition stands during the flag-off ceremony.

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Always clean your hands; practice physical and social distancing; wear face masks properly; avoid crowds and public places; keep a 2-meter distance from the next person; and practice general sanitation and hygiene.

NIHORT to increase partnership scope with IITA

[IITA](#) partners with both international and national organizations to transform African agriculture. [National Horticultural Research Institute \(NIHORT\)](#) is one of the national institutes that has been in partnership with IITA for years, as both institutions have the mandate to improve livelihoods through agricultural research.



Dr Lawal Attanda, highlighting the purpose of NIHORT's visit to IITA.

On 1 April, the new NIHORT Director and CEO, Dr Lawal Attanda, visited IITA to strengthen the existing partnership between the two institutions and propose new areas of collaboration. Senior staff members from NIHORT accompanied Attanda.

Welcoming the delegation, IITA Deputy Director General, Partnerships for Delivery, [Kenton Dashiell](#), noted that although both institutions already have a strong partnership, IITA is open to new areas of partnership. "IITA has a major program in research, and we hope you will find areas that interest you," he said.

In his response, Attanda explained that NIHORT's research aims for competitive agriculture, resulting in a market-driven exchange of knowledge and products viable in domestic, regional, and global markets. This responsive agriculture must address multiple challenges of smallholder farmers and agribusiness, leading to a food- and nutrition-secure nation.

He highlighted the relationship journey between IITA and NIHORT over the years, stating that the partnership has thrived based on the network between individual scientists. "It is my utmost desire that these collaborations go beyond individual scientists to a symbolic institutional relationship," he said.

The team identified multiple partnership possibilities, including plantain and banana suckers, Aflasafe, capacity building in grant sourcing and solar power generation, [Start Them Early Program \(STEP\)](#) under the Youth Project, equipment upgrade and maintenance, irrigation, aeroponics, and forestry.

Dashiell assured the team that IITA would prepare and share a formal proposal to capture these collaborative activities with NIHORT.

The NIHORT team toured the Institute's facilities, visiting places like the IITA Forest, Business Incubation Platform, Youth in Agribusiness, Genetic Resources Center, Plantain and Banana

Breeding, Irrigation and Farm Office, Virology Laboratory, and the Bioscience Center. They also drove through the campus to view the environment of the Institute. *Contributed by Favour Eleta*



Top: The NIHORT team visiting the aeroponics facility. Center: Touring the irrigation site. Bottom: IITA representatives meeting with NIHORT team.