

Crop improvement needs IPM as a backup for food security

Research on crop improvement needs a backup of integrated pest management options to contain the negative effects of emerging pests.

Dr Irmgard Hoeschle-Zeledon, Coordinator of the Systemwide Program on Integrated Pest Management (SP-IPM), said the backup with IPM was a necessary strategy for sustainable development.

Her position comes at a time when climate change has induced the emergence of new pest species across the world with models predicting worse scenarios in the future.

Zeledon, in a seminar in Ibadan titled "Invigorating the CGIAR SP-IPM," called on stakeholders to give attention to IPM to guarantee food safety and security.

"This is the right thing to do," she emphasized.

She praised the founders of SP-IPM, adding that over the years the team on board has been successful in reorienting the SP-IPM program, and has brought together a group of more than 90 scientists willing to collaborate across the borders of their centers.

"This is a significant achievement in times of high competition for visibility and resources. Multi-center research under the umbrella of SP-IPM is a good move," she added.

Other achievements recorded by the program included the creation of partnerships and awareness on the activities of SP-IPM among others.



Zeledon during her R4D seminar in Ibadan

She reminded stakeholders that the SP-IPM was established out of an appreciation of the need for a system-wide approach to crop protection, and urged the CG centers never to abandon the approach because it was already producing results.

AVEC-BF holds meeting to strengthen cowpea value chain



Participants at the meeting

A stakeholder meeting aimed at strengthening the cowpea value chain was held in Burkina Faso on 16 February under the auspices of AVEC-BF project.

The meeting was attended by 38 participants including IITA and INERA scientists, policymakers, project-trained seed producers, representatives

of cowpea associations, NGOs, and agricultural input dealers.

The meeting aimed to strengthen the linkages between stakeholders in the cowpea chain and address issues surrounding inputs use.

Researchers at the meeting helped farmers to understand the importance of

improved seeds and fertilizer application in cowpea production.

The meeting also provided farmers the opportunity to know where to access genuine inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, and seeds.

Processors of cowpea were also linked with farmers.

Haruki Ishikawa, IITA scientist, welcomed participants to the meeting and said the essence of the meeting was to strengthen linkages with a view to increasing incomes and improving livelihoods.

He said the proper use of manure and agricultural chemicals in the field could help improve productivity.

Farmers, processors, and other stakeholders raised several questions on cowpea processing, marketing, and cultivation.

Participants at the meeting later formed a network to facilitate information sharing.

The Role of Sound Financial Management in IITA Research

Financial management brings together planning, budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, internal control, auditing, procurement, disbursement, and the physical performance of an entity with the aim of managing its resources properly and achieving the planned objectives. Sound financial management is a critical ingredient for program success, and, as broadly defined, it is more than an administrative and control process.

Sound financial management provides the following:

- essential information needed by those who manage, implement, and supervise programs and consequently provides the basis for better decisions.

- assurance to donors that funds are used efficiently and for those purposes intended.

- an effective internal control environment and the ability to identify quickly any unusual occurrences and deviations.

IITA has over the years maintained stable financial health and a strong financial position; and met all of the CGIAR-prescribed financial parameters. The Finance Office, as a support function to R4D, has the primary responsibility for ensuring sound financial management within IITA.

The continuing support of all staff (scientists, administrators, budget officers, Project Managers, etc.) in IITA's headquarters and stations is required to ensure a strong and sound financial management system.

...Getting to Know the Finance Office Team

CFO's Office:

Provides strategic financial planning and management, the formulation of financial policies, and general coordination of financial functions. The



Shalewa

Chief Financial Officer, Shalewa Sholola, heads the Institute's Finance Office and is assisted by the Senior Financial Officer, Jacqueline Musiimenta, and the Executive Assistant, Napoleon Okoronkwo.

Treasury Unit: Handles all treasury-related functions, including the Institute's portfolio of investments, processes payments via check, cash, electronic transfer of funds, and deals with inquiries regarding disbursements. The Unit also provides foreign exchange information and reconciles bank, investment, and cash accounts. The Unit is headed by the Treasury Manager, Solomon Ogunade.



Solomon

the Project Manager, Ali Adeleke, who is assisted by the Project Accountant, Deola Akintoye, and a team of Project Financial Analysts.



Adeleke



Deola



Jacqueline



Napoleon

Payroll Unit: Processes staff payrolls (IRS, NRS, consultants, and casuals) and ensures that salaries are paid accurately and in good time. In addition, the Unit monitors and handles all inquiries regarding staff's personal accounts. It closely works with Human Resources

to process staff allowances and benefits. It also handles personal income tax issues, and the annual tax returns of staff and the Institute. The Unit is headed by the Payroll Manager, Kayode Oladokun.



Kayode

Corporate Accounts Unit: Provides support in budgeting and monitoring of the Institute's unrestricted funds and in reporting. It also manages all corporate accounting functions, including fixed assets management, insurance, charge-backs, expense claims, and the on-campus imprest at HQ. This Unit is headed by the Corporate Accounts Manager, Ahmed Yusuf.



Ahmed

Projects Accounts Unit: Provides support to Principal Investigators (PIs) of projects on budgeting, project financial monitoring, and reporting. The Unit works closely with the Contracts and Grants Office to monitor the performance of implementing partners and ensure that reports are submitted in accordance with donors' requirements. It monitors stations' imprest. The Unit is headed by

Mail Room: Provides postage services for incoming and outgoing mails and parcels through DHL or UPS. It handles pouches going in and out for the Institute and staff, and oversees IITA's mail boxes allocated to IRS. It also handles fax operations. The Unit is headed by Peter Amajuoyi.



Peter

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- (1) Powered off all unnecessary electrical office/lab equipment;
- (2) Turned off air conditioners; and
- (3) Switched off all lights.