



Joint IITA/WARDA Report to ExCo 12

Report on Programmatic, Corporate Services & Structural/Governance Alignment

May 2007

This is the report to ExCo on actions by IITA and WARDA on the programmatic, corporate services and governance/structural alignment initiative of the CGIAR. It covers the period October 2006 to May 2007.

Programmatic Alignment

A. Progress on WCA Regional MTP (Regional Plan for Collective Action)

- Commentary of the Science Council (SC) on the WCA MTP submitted in June 15 was received in July 2006.
- In November 2006 a meeting of 18 scientists from five focal points represented by five Centers and lead center (WARDA) met in Cotonou to:
 - address SC commentary
 - ascertain progress in defining research projects relative to System Priorities
 - decide on first phase of implementation
 - develop recommendations on management and governance
 - define next steps and assign responsibilities

B. Accomplishment between November 2006 and March 2007

A document to guide the programmatic operation of the MTP was produced.

- WCA MTP conceived a 3-year fixed term with some flexibility built in and not a rolling plan
- Research partnerships to emphasize:
 - Equity, transparency, recognition
 - MoUs or other contractual arrangements
 - Task groups and joint programs
- Interactions across centers to involve
 - Inter-center partnership analysis
 - Commitment and endorsement
 - Comparative advantage analysis
- Research activities to be driven by
 - Grass roots involvement in program development
 - Technical committee for impetus and cohesion
 - Task groups for each research area
 - Participatory proposal development

C. Five Major Programs Agreed Upon:

- Program 1: Fostering Conservation and Sustainable Use of Genetic Resources (SP1) led by Bioversity
- Program 2: Producing more food at lower cost through genetic improvements (SP2) led by IITA
- Program 3: Reducing rural poverty through diversification and high-value commodities and products. (SP3) led by ICRISAT
- Program 4: Sustainable management of water, land and forest resources (SP4) led by ICRAF

- Program 5: Promoting market development and access to international markets (SP5) led by IFPRI

D. Other Areas of Agreement

- The process of programmatic alignment to be evolutionary.
- Programs to take into account the priorities of WECARD and SSA-CP.

E. Major Decisions taken

- Regional plans to use the guidelines of Center MTPs
- Each program to include less than three projects and 4 outputs
- Activities for 2007 will be drawn from Center MTPs
- A log frame based on Center MTPs to be developed
- WCA to keep close interaction with ESA problems.
- The WCA plan to show sections on process and implementation
- Steering Committee to be established
- WCA MTP to be called Regional Plan for Collective Action

F. Actions Taken by WARDA Since January 2007 to Date

- An Interim Coordinator as been appointed.
- A Cotonou Ad hoc group formed to start the process.
- Discussions initiated with FARA on linkages with the SSA-CP
- Discussions initiated with IWMI on links to the Water and Food Challenge Program
- Budget for 2007 submitted to AE
- Workplan for 2007 revised
- Quarterly newsletter published in April 2007

G. Outstanding Issues

- Fine-tune Priority Projects 1a and 5c
- Develop fully Priority Projects 2, 3 and 4
- Complete formation of Steering Committee
- Complete WCA MTP for submission in June 2007

H. Joint IITA-WARDA Research Activities

IITA and WARDA are also collaborating in Cotonou and Ibadan on research activities as follows:

- Rice-maize stratification
- Improving producer income (WARDA/IITA/AVRDC)
- Plant quarantine and containment facilities
- Genebanks
- Integrated Pest Management

Corporate and Research Support Services Alignment

A Memorandum of Agreement on the alignment of Corporate Services between WARDA and IITA was signed on 16 April 2007. The agreement leads to the elimination the duplication of Corporate Services in Cotonou, and lays a framework for the provision of corporate services between the two centers all over Africa. I.e., in Nigeria and Tanzania where WARDA and IITA have joint operations IITA will provide corporate services, while WARDA will handle the services in Benin. Once the alignment is fully in place, cost savings of about 15-20% are expected from 2009 onwards.

Milestones

1. A WARDA/IITA request for support was approved by the CGIAR Secretariat.
2. The Centers have met with staff to explain the process. Repeated explanations will be needed.
3. **An MOA between WARDA and IITA was signed on 16 April 2007.**
 - a. Defining principles of accountability and responsibilities.
 - b. Both entities retain their legal status and assets
 - c. The objective is to eliminate duplication and increase cost-efficiency.
 - d. The CGIAR Secretariat funds 40% (IITA) and 60% (WARDA) will be used to reduce staff displacement costs.
4. The timeline fixed is as follows:
 - a. **Design** phase: (Mar/Apr 2007) to develop a staffing plan, plan of action, budget
 - b. **Proposal** phase: (May/June 2007) final proposals to managements for approval
 - c. **Notification** phase: (July/August 2007) Notifications and explanations to staff
 - d. **Implementation** phase: September to December 2007.

Structural/Governance Alignment

- **Consultative Meetings Between IITA and WARDA:**

The Executive Committees of IITA and WARDA met on 27 April 2007 (teleconference)

- **Concrete Achievements in Structural/Governance Alignment**

i) Common IITA/WARDA Board members attended both IITA and WARDA Board meetings in March 2007 in Ibadan (Nigeria) and Cotonou (Benin), respectively. They now serve in committees of both Boards.

ii) CVs and profiles of WARDA Board members have been provided to the Chair of the IITA Nominating Committee for consideration by IITA against existing vacancies and required competencies.

iii) An extraordinary meeting of the Joint IITA/WARDA Nomination Committee comprised of the two chairs of the IITA and WARDA Nominating Committee and two chairs of the IITA and WARDA Program Committee was held during the March 2007 WARDA Board meeting in Cotonou, Benin.