



**FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS AND
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR
DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

**Roles, complementarity with other stakeholders,
and institutionalization of partnerships**

Summary report of the workshop of 27 September 2011

organized within the scope of the PAEPARD project

by **Collectif Stratégies Alimentaires (CSA)**

October 2011

Julie Flament



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| TABLE OF CONTENTS..... | 2 |
| PREAMBLE..... | 4 |
| INTRODUCTION..... | 5 |
| <i>The PAEPARD project</i> | 5 |
| <i>Role of the CSA within the PAEPARD project</i> | 5 |
| <i>Objective of the workshop</i> | 6 |
| Outcomes of the September 2010 consultation..... | 6 |
| September 2011 consultation..... | 6 |
| SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS..... | 8 |
| Session 1. What role for FOs and what complementarity with other stakeholders for the translation of farmers' needs in terms of research, the dissemination of research findings, and the capitalization and exchange of indigenous knowledge?..... | 8 |
| Session 2. How can partnerships between FOs and other stakeholders be formalized? What are the mechanisms for funding, governance, and the choice of research topics to be put in place?..... | 9 |
| Session 3. Presentation of international initiatives for the mobilization of stakeholders and capitalization of innovations..... | 10 |
| A few conclusions..... | 11 |
| RECAP OF DISCUSSIONS..... | 12 |
| <i>Roles of farmers' organizations on agricultural research for development</i> | 12 |
| Diversity of FOs and diversity of roles in agricultural research for development..... | 12 |
| Policy-making and research priorities..... | 12 |
| Governance, implementation, and assessment..... | 13 |
| Dissemination of findings..... | 13 |
| Research and innovation..... | 13 |
| <i>Conditions needed for sustainable inclusive research partnerships</i> | 14 |
| Dialogue between FOs, public research bodies, and governments is a must..... | 14 |
| Coherence of agricultural research projects and policies..... | 14 |
| So what are the financing mechanisms needed now?..... | 14 |
| Financial autonomy..... | 14 |
| <i>A number of constraints</i> | 15 |
| Representation of FOs..... | 15 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Earnings level differentials..... | 15 |
| <i>Implications for stakeholders</i> | 16 |
| Implications for governments..... | 16 |
| Implications for researchers..... | 16 |
| Implications for FOs..... | 16 |
| Implications for NGOs | 16 |
| WHAT'S NEXT? | 17 |
| ANNEX 1. PROGRAMME OF CONSULTATION | 18 |
| ANNEX 2. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS | 19 |
| ANNEX 3. BIOGRAPHY OF SPEAKERS | 21 |

PREAMBLE

This report sets out to summarize the discussions held during the workshop entitled: « **Farmers' organizations and agricultural research for development in Africa: roles, complementarity with others stakeholders and partnerships institutionalization** » organized in Brussels on 27 September 2011 by the CSA within the scope of the PAEPARD project.

This was the second consultation of European NGOs under this PAEPARD project, the first having taken place in September 2010. It was attended by some fifty participants, most of whom were representatives of European NGOs. Also present were representatives of African and European farmers' organizations, the private research sector, and Belgian and European governments.

Chairing this workshop was Mamadou Cissokho, Honorary President of the '*Réseau des organisations paysannes et de producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest*' (ROPPA), in collaboration with Marek Poznanski and Julie Flament of the CSA.

This report, the agenda, list of participants, biography of the speakers, as well as texts and videos of the presentations are available on the CSA website at: <http://www.csa-be.org/spip.php?article736>.

The CSA wishes to thank all participants and speakers for their contribution to this workshop, as well as Annick Schubert (Gembloux Agro-Bio-Tech/Ulg) and Denis Félicité Zulma (ColeACP) for their input to this report.

INTRODUCTION

THE PAEPARD PROJECT

PAEPARD (*Platform for African-European Partnership on Agricultural Research for Development*) is a project financed to 80% by the European Commission with the objective of consolidating cooperation between Africa and Europe in the area of agricultural research for development (ARD).

The second stage of this project (PAEPARD II, 2010-2013) now under way aims in particular to foster research partnerships that are more balanced and better targeted to meet users' needs thanks to the inclusion of stakeholders other than researchers, especially farmers' organizations (FOs), non-government organizations (NGOs), and the private sector.

This general objective embraces a number of concrete actions:

- mobilizing researchers and non-researchers alike, both in Africa and Europe, to promote ARD cooperation;
- uniting all stakeholders around pilot partnerships;
- empowering the various stakeholders so that they can work together within research partnerships;
- advocating for support from donors, including the national governments of African countries, in order to sustain inclusive and balanced partnerships.

To meet more specific objectives, the PAEPARD project comprises 7 'work packages' (WPs): WP1 for mobilization of European stakeholders; WP2 for mobilization of African stakeholders; WP3 for information and communication systems; WP4 for capacity-building; WP5 for partnerships; WP6 for advocacy for policy/political framework cohesion; WP7 for coordination and management.

These are taken in charge by members of the PAEPARD consortium bringing together European and African partners from three families of stakeholders, i.e. researchers, the private sector and civil society, and more particularly FOs and NGOs. For further information: <http://paepard.blogspot.com/>

ROLE OF THE CSA WITHIN THE PAEPARD PROJECT

Within the PAEPARD consortium, the CSA has been mandated by CONCORD (*European Confederation of Relief and Development NGOs*) to facilitate the mobilization of European NGOs in order to promote agricultural research for development and partnerships in this area.

The CSA will also be endeavouring to facilitate the involvement of European professional farmers' organizations in the PAEPARD project, primarily via AgriCord.

Further details are available on the CSA website:

http://www.csa-be.org/spip.php?page=reseau&id_rubrique=14&id_mot=179.

OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKSHOP

Within this framework, the CSA organizes internal consultations for European NGOs and PAOs (Professional Agricultural Organizations) in the form of workshops such as this one with the aim:

- firstly, **to provide input for the PAEPARD project** on the basis of the experiences and considerations of NGOs and PFOs in the area of agricultural research and partnerships;
- secondly, **to generate the interest and commitment of European NGOs and PAOs** in issues concerning agricultural research and the PAEPARD project;
- and finally, **to foster mutual understanding of the issues at stake** between various families of stakeholders, given that the CSA is striving to open up NGO discussions to others, particularly African farmers' organizations, researchers, and the private sector.

Outcomes of the September 2010 consultation

A first workshop entitled « How can European NGOs reorient research towards more demand-driven approach for African family farmers? » was organized in September 2010 and addressed three main topics:

1. the general conditions for setting up balanced partnerships;
2. the role of NGOs in reorienting ARD;
3. the inclusion of farmers' organizations in research partnerships.

A summary report of these discussions is available¹. It is to be noted here that the involvement of FOs in research partnerships had been recognized by the participants as being essential for orienting research towards the needs of African family farmers. Certain factors favouring the participation of smallholder farmers in such partnerships had also been identified, e.g. the presence of structured and professional farmers' organizations, consultation between researchers and FOs as of the initial phases of a project to develop a joint vision of the objectives to be achieved, involvement of FOs in the governance of research projects, capacity-building of FOs to enable such involvement, and the existence of appropriate funding mechanisms.

Some of the conclusions and recommendations arising from this internal consultation, along with the recommendations of similar consultations conducted at research, FO, and private sector levels, served as input for discussions within PAEPARD and contributed towards orienting the activities developed by the project. However, the involvement of FOs in research partnerships under the PAEPARD project itself is still far from being generalized and not without its challenges.

September 2011 consultation

The aim of the September 2011 consultative workshop was therefore to look more closely at the role of farmers' organizations in agricultural research and at the mechanisms through which they could be included in research partnerships.

The programme (annexe 1) was compiled accordingly with Mamadou Cissokho, Honorary President of ROPPA, and covered three main questions.

¹Please see the CSA website: http://www.csa-be.org/spip.php?page=collaborer&id_article=736&id_mot=179

1. ***What role for FOs and what complementarity with other stakeholders for the translation of farmers' needs in terms of research, the dissemination of research findings, and the capitalization and exchange of indigenous knowledge?***

This question, raised during session 1, was based on the observation that for ARD to be truly effective it must be guided by the needs of farmers/producers. This necessarily implies their participation, either through direct contacts with them individually or via their representative organizations. Both of these approaches do have their advantages and can be complementary, but in all likelihood it is farmers' organizations that can provide a 'value added' when it comes to identifying agricultural producers' needs and how these can be met in terms of research, communication of research findings, and transmission of farming know-how (or endogenous knowledge). Session I was thus devoted to assessing the 'value added' of FOs and its implications at these various levels.

2. ***How can partnerships between FOs, researchers and other stakeholders be formalized? What are the mechanisms for funding, governance, and choice of research topics to be put in place?***

Session 2 then proceeded to look at the mechanisms that could be instrumental in establishing sustainable long-term partnerships involving all stakeholders engaged in agricultural development, particularly research institutions, farmers, producers, their representative organizations and, of course governments.

Finally, session 3 focussed on ways and means to mobilize all those concerned by agricultural research for development, which is a main thrust of the PAEPARD project.

Each session allowed plenty of time for debate and was preceded by speakers' presentations so that experiences and analyses could be shared and thus provide further basis for discussion.

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

The speakers' presentations, in power point format and on video, are available on the CSA website <http://www.csa-be.org/spip.php?article828>.

Session 1. What role for FOs and what complementarity with other stakeholders for the translation of farmers' needs in terms of research, the dissemination of research findings, and the capitalization and exchange of indigenous knowledge?

The session opened with a presentation by **Kati Partanen**, herself a farmer and executive member of the MTK (*Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners of Finland*). Standing in for the Principal Lecturer of the Savonia University of Applied Sciences, she spoke about the long-standing cooperation in her country between public research departments and agricultural producers made possible due largely to close relations between producers' organizations and the government, i.e. the Ministry of Agriculture. There are thus mechanisms in place in Finland allowing research centres to work on regional projects at the request of producers, and this process is greatly facilitated when the latter are represented within a steering committee. The same is true for the dissemination of research findings through scientific reviews, regional or local publications, as well as through student participation in projects.

Next to take the floor was **Cheikh Oumar Ba**, Executive Secretary of IPAR (*Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale*) in Senegal. He outlined the historical background of relations between the CNCR (*Conseil National de Concertation des Ruraux*) and national agricultural research, which has been closely associated in the construction of the CNCR, and of its relations with the Senegalese government. Involving farmers' organizations in public agricultural research is at the heart of the CNCR's struggle and underpins the strength of its proposals to have demand-driven agricultural research enshrined in law within the framework of the PSAOP agricultural policy. This is what enabled structuring of the partnership between researchers and farmers' organizations and general dissemination of information and knowledge. It also allowed FOs to form part of the management committee of the ISRA (*Institut sénégalais pour la recherche agricole*) and to participate in the creation of ANCAR (*Agence nationale de Conseil Agricole et Rural*) and of the FNRAA (*Fonds National de Recherche Agricole et Agro-alimentaire*). The FNRAA was governed by the CNCR, with Mamadou Cissokho as first president. This fund was initially intended to provide independence from donors and privately-financed research, but was 'diverted' by the government. Cheikh Oumar Ba then also presented the RVOP, a federation seeking to implement initiatives at sub-regional level.

The third speaker was **Annick Sezibera**, Executive Secretary of the CAPAD (*Confédération des Associations de producteurs Agricoles pour le Développement*) in Burundi, who related a concrete experience of cooperation between researchers, farmers' organizations and the government, whereby a partnership was set up to make quality rice grain available. She outlined the role played by all concerned, emphasizing the efforts of the CAPAD in transmitting research findings on pre-sowing rice grain quality and providing various forms of help to growers for grain propagation, storage, dissemination, and the promotion of new varieties. General capacity-building, overall assessment of the campaign and sharing of research findings were also undertaken by CAPAD as initiator of this partnership. Having been involved in every stage of the process, this Confederation was also able from the outset to recommend the best choice of research-led varieties for Burundian rice growers to adopt.

Djibo Bagna, President of the PFPN (*Plate-forme paysanne du Niger*) and of ROPPA (*Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest*), then recalled what farmers' organizations expected from research emphasizing several areas of particular concern to them. These include climate change, means of modernization, problems associated with the seasonality of production, and the higher value added of products and marketing/packaging. A major constraint is research funding which gets little political support. Donors have their own priorities, which are not necessarily those of Africa. Furthermore, the dismantling of outreach services by the World Bank is impeding the dissemination of research findings - when they do exist. Finally, Djibo Bagna spoke about the fruitful experience of a competitive fund set up in Mali with Swiss cooperation.

Jacques Morineau, President of the RAD (*Réseau Agriculture Durable*), presented this network of 30 groups of breeders – some 3,000 in all - in the mid-western France who are striving to achieve autonomy as regards animal feed, inputs and management. They conduct their own empirical research based on small-scale tests on several farms and then pool the findings. Knowledge is shared between members during training sessions with a view to transposing – but not copying – ideas under other conditions, for each farm-holding is unique. Experiences and know-how are also exchanged within this network through technical and educational publications. Members' findings as regards sustainable farming, which is defined here as farming that is economically viable, ecologically responsible and socially fair, have recently led the public authorities and researchers to show an interest in this network.

Mariana Wongtschowski, adviser on sustainable economic development at the KIT (*Royal Tropical Institute*) in The Netherlands), gave us a definition of farming innovations wherein these are neither inventions nor the outcome of pure research, but 'property' resulting from the sharing of different forms of knowledge between various stakeholders. Such exchanges can be spontaneous or take place via multi-actor platforms. Mariana recalled the role of farmers, and particularly that of their organizations, in these exchanges and in the emergence of innovations: facilitating farmers' involvement in the innovation processes, liaison between farmers and other stakeholders, i.e. researchers, advisors and the private sector, provision of advisory services, and expression of farmers' opinions at political level. She also highlighted the roles of the different levels of farmers' organizations in the process and the challenges encountered by them, e.g. dominance of « top-down » models of sustainable agricultural research for development, and difficulties in ensuring representativeness of the diversity of smallholder farmers.

Session 2. How can partnerships between FOs and other stakeholders be formalized? What are the mechanisms for funding, governance, and the choice of research topics to be put in place?

Ann Waters-Bayer (ETC AgriCulture and Prolinnova) spoke of the need to question conventional mechanisms of research funding. She then presented the experiences of Prolinnova (*Promoting Local Innovation*), whose aim is to try out complementary systems of financing. Particular mention was made of the LISF project (*Local Innovation Support Funds*). It has been tested in eight African and Asian countries, where research funds are placed under the control of farmers so that it is they who decide what research is to be undertaken and with which partners. These funds are administered by local management committees and similar criteria are used for their allocation, i.e. demand-driven projects, soundness of the innovation in economic, environmental, and social terms, the possibilities for low-cost application of an innovation, the value added of the LISF to the

innovation, candidates wishing to share findings, etc.. Ann Waters-Bayer outlined the advantages and drawbacks of the two management committee models tested, i.e. centralized multi-actor committees and decentralized committees run by the farmers themselves, the challenges faced by LISF in involving formal researchers and in disseminating research findings, as well as LISF results and future prospects.

Then **Giel Ton** (AGRINATURA – LEI Wageningen UR) presented the ESFIM programme (*Renforcer les Capacités des Petits Producteurs pour un Meilleur Accès aux Marchés*), and in particular the collaborative research projects conducted in 11 countries aimed at establishing a research-advocacy interface with national smallholder farmers' organizations based on the observation that FO often lack data to uphold their cause. The prime objectives here are to integrate research into the advocacy efforts of these FOs, to link up farmers' organizations with researchers in their country, and to build up synergies with other similar research projects. Giel cited a few examples of ESFIM actions in the Philippines, Kenya, Peru and Uganda, pinpointing some of the challenges faced by the project and the lessons to be learnt by PAEPARD.

Session 3. Presentation of international initiatives for the mobilization of stakeholders and capitalization of innovations

Nicoliene Oudwater (ETC Foundation) presented INSARD (*Including Smallholders in Agricultural Research for Development*). This programme aims to ensure wide-reaching participation of European and African civil society in the drafting and implementation of ARD policies. To this end, it is based on three pillars: (i) to develop a mechanism of consultation and involvement of civil society in ARD decision-making, (ii) to deploy this mechanism within various social dialogue processes at regional and international level, and (iii) to identify research priorities from the viewpoint of smallholder farmers' organizations and NGOs. Nicoliene detailed the first stage of the INSARD programme, which consists in mapping the stakeholders engaged in RAD and the resources-allocation processes, and then mentioned the difficulties encountered.

Henri Rouillé d'Orfeuil (Fondation de France) presented the FACTS initiative (*Field ACTions Science Reports*), which aims to reinforce a development knowledge-base. Innovations are at the heart of development and in order to speed up and safeguard them they have to be characterized, validated, assessed, disseminated and enhanced. The FACTS initiative sets out to capitalize on the knowledge of those involved in development and on the innovations stemming from 'rural know-how' and 'hands-on' farming. The plan is to develop these field actions science reports at global and national level so that, after validation by scientific circles and peers, such knowledge and innovations can be passed on. Henri called on those present to collaborate within the scope of FACTS, and in particular to assist in looking for innovators, capitalization, editorial networkers, etc.

Marygoretti Kamau (EAFF) spoke about the process of building and objectives of the PAFO (*Pan-African Farmers' Organization*). It was officially launched in October 2010 bringing together the regional networks of smallholder farmers' organizations such as EAFF (East Africa), ROPPA (West Africa), SACAU (South Africa), PROPAC (Central Africa), and UMAGRI (North Africa). She then outlined the role of the EAFF within PAEPARD, specifically as regards the mobilization of African stakeholders, the aims of such mobilization, and the strategy envisaged to achieve these objectives.

Thierry Helmer, (CIRAD), as co-leader of the PAEPARD Work Package 3 (*ensuring European and African stakeholders' access to up-to-date and relevant information and promoting their active commitment to sharing knowledge about ARD partnership opportunities and good practices*),

presented this electronic platform project developed by the CIRAD within PAEPARD. The objective here is to promote and facilitate ARD partnerships. The current prototype combines a website, an information system, and networking links. In his presentation, **Thierry** explained all three components and the hoped-for outcomes.

A few conclusions

The day's proceedings were summed up by **Cheikh Omar Ba** (IPAR) as follows:

- shared observations: discussions today have served to highlight interesting and varied experiences in Senegal, Burundi, Finland and France, based on the involvement of all stakeholders. Such undertakings do, however, come to a halt when financing runs out. Yet, in spite of this, the current context is relatively favourable for inclusive partnerships.
- Joint challenges for the north and south: account has to be taken of the diversity of stakeholders, for neither farmers' organizations nor researchers are monolithic. Efforts must focus on capitalization/memorization of experiences in the north and south, maintaining human resources (turnover of researchers), the issue of funding, and on the importance for research to respond to the needs of those actually working the land.
- Lessons to be learned: these include the need to share knowledge, through the capitalization of experiences and publication of the research findings of farmers' organizations and of the research projects carried out with them, as well as the need to strengthen the capacities of the weakest stakeholders in the research and development process and to build up mutual recognition and acceptance.

Cheik Omar Ba also tabled a list of unresolved issues still to be addressed:

- the cost of representation/issues of remuneration of smallholder farmers when attending training sessions, meetings, etc.;
- indicators of success (how is impact to be measured?);
- the mechanisms for overall concerted development, testing and assessment (what place for leaders of FOs within R & D units? Presidency? Ordinary member status?);
- how can the balances of power be tipped in favour of farmers' organizations? The factors to be considered are 'selling points' (support for research, technical support for FOs), social mobilization (the work of FOs to defend their "causes"), complicity with politicians and donors (at the time of launching of the PSAOP in Senegal, strategic alliance to be formed within the scope of this present PAEPARD project).

RECAP OF DISCUSSIONS

This workshop served to reassert the need for greater involvement of farmers' organizations in partnerships centred on agricultural research for development. Also discussed, on the basis of African and European experiences, were the various roles to be played here by farmers and their organizations, as well as the difficulties encountered along the way. Similarly addressed were the conditions to be put in place, transversally, to facilitate this for all concerned.

This chapter summarizes the day's discussions according to the general main topics and, while not claiming to be exhaustive, aims to provide a working basis for further constructive thought and actions.

ROLES OF FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT

The many projects, initiatives, and personal experiences - at both European and African level - presented provided an overview of the many ways in which farmers' organizations can, and do, contribute to agricultural research for development.

Diversity of FOs and diversity of roles in agricultural research for development

An aspect not to be overlooked here is how very diverse farmers' organizations are. In Africa, farmers' organizations are to be distinguished particularly in terms of their levels of local, regional, national, and international integration and action. There can be no denying that those actually working at local level are best placed to identify farmers' research needs, while those at higher levels of integration are more apt to voice such needs further on within arenas and debates where agricultural research policies, priorities and strategies are ultimately determined. Consequently, the challenge for FOs in this context is to make sure there is ongoing liaison between the 'grassroots' and other various echelons of integration.

Policy-making and research priorities

Since FOs do have 'their ears close to the ground', so to speak, they are fully aware of the agricultural, social, economic, and cultural realities of rural populations... hence the importance of them 'having a say' when it comes to pinpointing the problems to be resolved and the research priorities to be undertaken.

Clearly then, it is all-important that they, as representatives, 'stay in touch' with their members – and not least the poorest and women. In reality, this is alas not always the case.

Experiences in Finland and Senegal² have shown that setting up exchange structures at national level between governments, researchers and farmers' organizations, is fundamental in allowing farmers' organizations to fulfil this role. The issue of sourcing and governance of research funds is similarly a decisive factor (see below).

² See http://www.csa-be.org/spip.php?page=art-seminaire&id_mot=187&id_article=828

Governance, implementation, and assessment

Farmers' organizations also have roles to play in carrying out research programmes.

- As was already highlighted during the September 2010 workshop/consultation, their involvement in the **governance** of research programmes is a must for fruitful partnerships. This implies having them participate from the outset in defining research programmes and where farmers/agricultural producers fit into them. This, in turn, means that researchers must be open to sharing this role with others and that strong farmers' organizations able to assume such a role must be involved.
- Farmers' organizations can similarly participate in the **implementation** of stages of research projects and production of relevant findings, in particular by coordinating efforts at 'grassroots' level and centralizing results.
- Equally possible and desirable is the involvement of FOs in the **assessment of outcomes** to ensure the subsequent use of results and findings at 'grassroots' level. A constraint here, however, is establishing criteria or indicators to measure actual outcomes. This is because producers' criteria – based on the 'hands-on' side of farming – are not those of researchers, whose criteria are based on verification of a theory. The 'levels' of assessment can also differ, given that producers are interested in the overall, or 'macro', performance/output of their farm holding, while researchers are sometimes more geared towards 'micro' results, such as genetics for example. This is a matter that merits debate.

Dissemination of findings

The experience of CAPAD (Burundi)³ shows that FOs have or can develop mechanisms to reach a large number of farmers and thereby pass on relevant findings to their members. This said, FOs must not be regarded merely as 'transmitters', for they are indeed fully-fledged stakeholders in the upstream research process.

Research and innovation

Not to be overlooked either is the fact that farmers are both 'users' and 'originators' of research. The example of France's *Réseau Agriculture Durable*⁴, shows that networking can be a driving force for those actually active on the land to conduct empirical research in their quest for new and improved farming practices, particularly by allowing for the sharing of risk associated with development of an innovation. Facilitating farmer-to-farmer exchanges about empirical research findings and innovations via formal training sessions is also an important role for farmers' networks. It is also possible for these networks to publish their know-how, although this 'capitalization space' is often taken up by others.

³ See http://www.csa-be.org/spip.php?page=art-seminaire&id_mot=187&id_article=828

⁴ Ditto

CONDITIONS NEEDED FOR SUSTAINABLE INCLUSIVE RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

Dialogue between FOs, public research bodies, and governments is a must

Successful experiences of partnerships between FOs and public agricultural research stem historically from co-operation between farmers' organizations, the government, and the realms of research.

This means that there must be political resolve to respond to needs at grassroots level, just as there must be strong farmers' organizations in the 'balance of forces' between the State and producers. Also needed is the 'complicity' of researchers.

Coherence of agricultural research projects and policies

To ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of research projects, these have to be made part of national and regional agricultural policies.

So what are the financing mechanisms needed now?

Given the decisive impact of funding mechanisms on the orientation of research, there are two major factors to be considered, i.e. the source and governance of funds.

The first of these is the **source of research funding**. National governments are today tending to cut back on public financing of research. For Africa, this means greater dependence on foreign and international institutions. It also raises the question of how research priorities are to be defined, for those of foreign and international institutions are not necessarily those of rural populations... And what then becomes of the sustainability of development projects and partnerships? More serious still, governmental disengagement from publicly-funded research runs the risk of leaving such major issues as food security and natural resources' management in the hands of private research interests/corporations. This in itself is a societal argument warranting the allocation of public funds to agricultural research

The second factor to be considered is the **governance of funds**. Conventionally-speaking, research funding is in the hand of researchers, in spite of recent changes and trends pointing towards competition-based funds and more participative research. However, alternative financing mechanisms have been developed at both European and African level whereby the 'users' of research, and particularly farmers, can be directly involved in the governance of such research funds, as well as in the definition of research priorities and choice of beneficiaries. Some initiatives are being developed locally, others nationally, and they often stem historically from co-operation between farming communities, the government, and the realms of research. There are many ways of administering alternative funds, but the mechanisms presented during the workshop refer to those run by a management committee integrating farmers.

Financial autonomy

Financial independence has broader implications for FOs than for ARD, but the availability of equity, or 'own funds', is fundamental for ensuring the long-term sustainability of research actions that can be undertaken and financed by FOs. The introduction of systems, such as for example some form of levy on produce marketed by farmers via FOs, would improve the financial autonomy of FOs and strengthen their capacity to participate in and influence ARD.

A NUMBER OF CONSTRAINTS

Discussions during the workshop served to address some of the constraints standing in the way of the formation of inclusive ARD partnerships.

Representation of FOs

The representation of farmers is a problem, and one that is not unique to ARD. How can a 'hands-on' farmer afford to 'take time out' to attend meetings? How should she/he then be fairly recompensed for taking on the role of FO representation? And what about the risk of 'losing touch' with what is actually happening at local level, on farms?

Earnings level differentials

Differences in levels of earnings are similarly problematic when it comes to establishing partnerships between researchers and farmers, or between researchers from diverse institutions. This issue becomes all the more acute in the case of Europe-Africa partnerships, where the cost of 'research' is sometimes not disclosed to farmers to avoid tensions. What also often happens is the 'upping' of salaries of experts from Africa. They are then attracted to go and work for international institutions and the cost of implementing projects increases. Whilst unable to provide answers to this dilemma, the workshop did nevertheless bring to light that it warranted further consideration and debate.

IMPLICATIONS FOR STAKEHOLDERS

From the foregoing, it can be seen that there are a number of implications here for the various stakeholders.

Implications for governments

- willingness to respond to 'grassroots' needs ;
- allocation of public research funding, e.g. on the basis of the Senegalese example, legislative measures to promote the setting up of financing mechanisms independent of the political powers/parties in office;
- mechanisms for dialogue between farmers' organizations and agricultural researchers;
- other forms of structural support for rural/agricultural networking and general interaction;
- integration of agricultural research at policy-making level;
- provision 'in law' for the creation of a research fund, i.e. an independent financing mechanism.

Implications for researchers

- sharing of the role of governance in ARD;
- willingness to co-operate with farmers' organizations;
- cohesive working approach according to national priorities;
- adaptation of existing technologies to new agricultural/ecological zones ;
- putting into effect research on institutional and political constraints.

Implications for FOs

- structuring and building-up of forces as regards proposals to be put forward;
- ongoing liaison with the 'grassroots';
- continued advocacy towards governments, researchers and donors.

Implications for NGOs

- pursuance of their key role in ensuring the recognition of farmers' organizations by other stakeholders such as governments, donors and research institutions;
- general back-up and support in terms of networking;
- cohesive working approach according to national priorities.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Several calls for co-operation were made during this workshop. One came from the FACTS initiative (search for innovators, fresh capital funding, editorial networking, etc.), and another from INSARD (mapping of civil society organizations involved in agricultural research development in Africa/Europe and potential new ways of engaging such organizations in setting a course for future development efforts). PAEPARD, for its part, called on participants to assist with the improvement and use of the electronic platform.

Moreover, a number of actions will be undertaken by the CSA following this workshop:

- organization of case studies to deepen some of the experiences presented at the workshop, in particular the partnership under way in Senegal at national level via the FNRAA, and the research being conducted by farmers themselves in France via the *Réseau Agriculture Durable* (RAD) to promote sustainable farming through this network;
- advocacy at PAEPARD level for greater involvement of FOs in the processes developed;
- use of elements of the debates and discussions to support the advocacy work that will be carried out within the scope of PAEPARD.

Finally, the CSA will be keeping European NGOs and professional farmers' organizations abreast of the activities and progress of PAEPARD.

ANNEX 1. PROGRAMME OF CONSULTATION

PROGRAMME – 27 SEPTEMBER 2011

- 8h30 Welcome of participants
- 9h00 Introduction: presentation of the workshop and the PAEPARD project
- 9h30 -12h30 **Session 1**

The role of FOs and complementarity with other stakeholders for

- **the translation of farmers' needs in terms of research**
 - **Kati Partanen**, Finland. Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK); Substitute Principal Lecturer (Agriculture Economics), Savonia University of Applied Sciences
 - **Cheikh Oumar Ba**, Senegal. Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR).
 - Discussion.
- **the dissemination of research findings**
 - **Annick Sezibera**, Burundi. Confederation of farmer's associations for development in Burundi (CAPAD).
 - **Djibo Bagna**, Niger. Farmers and Agricultural Producers' Organizations of West Africa (ROPPA).
 - Discussion.
- **the capitalization and exchange of indigenous knowledge**
 - **Jacques Morineau**, France. Réseau Agriculture Durable (RAD).
 - **Mariana Wongtwosky**, Netherlands. Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen (KIT).
 - Discussion.

12h30-13h30 Lunch

13h30-15h00 **Session 2**

How can partnerships between FOs, researchers, and other stakeholders be formalized? What are the mechanisms for funding, governance, and choice of research topics to be put in place?

- **Ann Waters-Bayer**, Netherlands. Prolinnova, ETC Foundation.
- **Giel Ton**, Netherlands. Agricultural Economics Research Institute Wageningen.
- Discussion.

15h00-15h30 Coffee break

15h30-16h30 **Session 3**

Presentation of some international initiatives focused on the mobilization of stakeholders and capitalization of innovations

- **Nicolienne Oudwater**, Netherlands. INSARD.
- **Henri Rouillé d'Orfeuille**, France. CIRAD.
- **Elisabeth Atangana/Marygoretti Kamau**, Cameroon/Kenya. PAFO
- **Thierry Helmer/Joël Sor**, France. PAEPARD.

16h30-17h00 Conclusion

Moderator: **Mamadou Cissokho**, Honorary President of ROPPA

ANNEX 2. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| Name | First name | Organization | Country |
|----------------|----------------|--|-------------|
| Allaverdian | Céline | GRET (Groupe de recherche et d'échanges technologiques) | France |
| Assogba | Claude-Gervais | PhD Université de Liège - Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech | Belgium |
| Ba | Cheikh Oumar | IPAR (Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale) | Senegal |
| Bagna | Djibo | ROPPA (Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest) -PAEPARD | Niger |
| Bastin | Evelyne | SOS Sahel International France | France |
| Blokland | Kees | Agriterra | Netherlands |
| Cissokho | Mamadou | ROPPA (Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest) | Senegal |
| Coussement | Ignace | AgriCord | Belgium |
| Del Debbio | Stefano | IAO (PAEPARD) | Italy |
| Desgain | Stéphane | CNCD-11.11.11 / PFSA | Belgium |
| Dewitte | Lynn | ULB student - Université Libre de Bruxelles | Belgium |
| Felicite Zulma | Denis | ColeACP (Comité de Liaison Europe-Afrique- Caraïbes-Pacifique) -PAEPARD | France |
| Flament | Julie | CSA (Collectif Stratégies Alimentaires)-PAEPARD | Belgium |
| Fontaine | Damien | DGD (Direction Générale de la Coopération au Développement) | Belgium |
| Gallot | Estelle | AgriCord | Belgium |
| Gianvenuti | Arturo | Terra Nuova | Italy |
| Graham | Ellen | HelpAge | Belgium |
| Guichard | Catherine | ColeACP (Comité de Liaison Europe-Afrique- Caraïbes-Pacifique) -PAEPARD | France |
| Gustin | Philippe | EUCORD (European Cooperative for Rural Development) | Belgium |
| Helmer | Thierry | CIRAD (Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement)-PAEPARD | France |
| Henriques | Gisele | CIDSE (International alliance of Catholic development agencies) | Belgium |
| Kalders | Joseph | DGD (Direction Générale de la Coopération au Développement) | Belgium |
| Kamau | Marygoretti | EAFF (PAEPARD) | Kenya |
| Kiaya | Victor | Action Contre la Faim | France |
| Kouangpalath | Phimthong | phD Université de Liège - Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech | Belgium |

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------|--|-------------|
| Lebailly | Philippe | Université Catholique de Louvain | Belgium |
| Leenaerts | Yves | European Commission - DG Dev | EU |
| Mergeai | Guy | Ulg- Université de Liège | Belgium |
| Morineau | Jacques | RAD (Réseau Agriculture Durable) | France |
| Ndiaye | Ken | Diaspora | Belgium |
| Oliver | Oliveros | Agropolis foundation | France |
| Oudwater | Nicoliene | INSARD (INcluding Smallholders in Agricultural Research for Development) | Netherlands |
| Partanen | Kati | MTK (Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners) | Finland |
| Petithuguenin | Philippe | EIARD (European Initiative for Agricultural Research for Development)/European Commission - DG Dev | Belgium |
| Poznanski | Marek | CSA (Collectif Stratégies Alimentaires)-PAEPARD | Belgium |
| Radcliffe | David | European Commission - DG Dev | EU |
| Rolot | Jean-Louis | CRAW (Centre wallon de Recherches agronomiques) | Belgium |
| Rouillé d'Orfeuil | Henri | Fondation pour la nature et l'homme | France |
| Schubert | Annick | Gembloux Agro-Bio-Tech / Ulg | Belgium |
| Sezibera | Annick | CAPAD (Confédération des Associations des Producteurs Agricoles pour le Développement) | Burundi |
| Sor | Joël | CIRAD (Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement)-PAEPARD | France |
| Stepman | François | FARA (Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa)-PAEPARD | Belgium |
| Ton | Giel | Wageningen University | Netherlands |
| Van Damme | Julie | PhD Université Catholique de Louvain | Belgium |
| Van Der Steen | Dany | CSA (Collectif Stratégies Alimentaires)-PAEPARD | Belgium |
| Waters Bayer | Ann | PROLINNOVA (PROmoting Local INNOVation in agriculture and natural resource management) | Netherlands |
| Willoughby | Robin | Concern Worldwide UK | UK |
| Wongtschowski | Mariana | KIT (Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen) | Netherlands |

ANNEX 3. BIOGRAPHY OF SPEAKERS

Mamadou Cissokho, is the Honorary President of *Farmers and Agricultural Producers' Organisations of West Africa* (ROPPA) and the *National platform of Nigerian farmers' organisations* (PFPN). Mamadou Cissokho is an unusual farmers' leader. His life is intimately linked with the Senegalese associative movement for which he played an important role. He is also the first president of the National Fund for Agricultural and Agro-food Research (*FNRAA- Fond national de recherche agricole et agroalimentaire*) of Senegal.

Kati Partanen is substitute Principal Lecturer in Savonia University of Applied Sciences in Iisalmi, Finland, where she is working e.g. in project *Training of Agricultural Advisors* in Kosovo. She is also farmer and a member of board in *Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners* (MTK) of Finland. In 2008-2010 she was President of Young Farmers' Committee in *International Federation of Agricultural Producers* (IFAP).

Cheikh Oumar Ba is a Senegalese social anthropologist and is the former director of the ISRA (*Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute*) desk for macro-economic analyses from 2001 to 2004. He worked as member of the Scientific Committee of *Observatory of World Agriculture* (OAM) and as founding member of the CREPOS, the *Center for research on social politics in Senegal*. He is currently the executive secretary of the IPAR, *Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale*, an institution which supports reflection, dialogue and proposals for cooperative agriculture and rural policies in Senegal and West Africa. The IPAR was initiated by specialists in agriculture and rural areas which offer a support for the farmer's organizations and which were interested in creating permanent spaces for forward strategic thinking. This initiative was formalized in 2005 by four public (DAPS and ISRA) and private (CNCR and ENDA GRAF) institutions.

Annick Sezibera, doctor by training, decided to renounce to practice her profession and to engage to the Burundian peasant movement. In 2000, she contributed to the creation of the CAPAD, the *Confederation of farmer's associations for development* in Burundi (in French *Confédération des Associations de Producteurs Agricoles pour le Développement*) an umbrella farmers' organization which now counts over 150 000 members. She was president of the CAPAD for several years, and she is currently the executive secretary.

Djibo Bagna, Nigerian farmer, is the president of the *National platform of Nigerian farmers' organisations* (PFPN). From this position, he was elected in May 2010 as the head of the network *Farmers and Agricultural Producers' Organisations of West Africa* (ROPPA). The ROPPA includes different organizations from 12 countries in West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo). Djibo is also member of the CORAF/WECARD board, the *West and Central African Council for Agriculture Research and Development*.

Jacques Morineau, French farmer located in Vendée, is the president of the RAD, le *Réseau Agriculture Durable* (in English, the "Sustainable Agriculture Network"). The RAD is a network of approximately 3000 farmers in the West of France engaged in self-efficient and land-related agriculture. These farmers, critical to the dominant agricultural models, are looking for new ways of farming with low levels of inputs. The RAD represents the link between those pioneer farmers and ensures their knowledge's capitalization and dissemination.

Mariana Wongtschowski is a Brazilian agronomist, with a MSc on Rural Development Sociology from Wageningen University, The Netherlands. She has recently joined the *Royal Tropical Institute* (KIT), where she is an advisor on sustainable economic development and focuses on coaching, distilling lessons from and document experiences about partnerships for agricultural innovation. Before joining KIT, she has

worked for the *ETC Foundation*, in the Netherland, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and for a number of researches for development projects with rural community development and natural resources management back in her home country.

Ann Waters-Bayer is an agricultural sociologist with *ETC Foundation*, a Dutch NGO. She specialises in socio-institutional aspects of research and development, especially innovation processes that enhance local capacities to adapt to change. After working in Nigeria with the International Livestock Centre for Africa and in postgraduate training in Germany, she joined ETC in 1989. She is in the International Support Team for PROLINNOVA (*PROmoting Local INNOVAtion in agriculture and natural resource management*), a community of practice in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and is team member in two EU-funded projects: JOLISAA (*Joint Learning in Innovation Systems in African Agriculture*) and INSARD (*Including Smallholders in Agricultural Research for Development*).

Giel Ton studied agricultural economics in Wageningen University. Since 2006, he works in the *Agricultural Economics Research Institute LEI*. He undertakes research on smallholders in value chains and farmers' organisations. He combines his work on impact evaluation methodologies of complex change processes with empirical research on innovation grants, sector policies and certification initiatives. He links research with the advocacy efforts of farmer organizations and coordinates the global ESFIM programme, *Empowering Smallholder Farmers in Markets* (www.esfim.org). Before joining LEI, he worked for 15 year in Latin America (Nicaragua and Bolivia) in support of farmer organizations.

Nicoliene Oudwater has worked in the field of sustainable livelihoods, agricultural development and the management of natural resources, in its institutional, socio-economic and political arenas. She is the unit manager of *ETC AgriCulture*, and involved in various programmes and assignments around Agricultural Research and Development and food security. Before joining ETC in 2008, she worked with *Concern Worldwide* (INGO) as a Livelihoods Advisor based in Bangladesh, as a Gender and Biodiversity Programme Officer at FAO working on gender, agro-biodiversity and food security and at the *Natural Resources Institute* (NRI, UK) as a researcher in various DFID and EU funded international multidisciplinary natural resource management projects with a strong poverty and gender focus and with a local NGO in Zambia. Nicoliene has working experience in Asia (India, Bangladesh) and in a number of African countries including Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Henri Rouillé d'Orfeuil is an agricultural engineer with a PhD in economics. He worked for the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the *World Bank* and the *French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development* (CIRAD). Henry had a very active position in civil society as president of the *Coordination SUD*, a French platform of NGOs, but also as head of various NGOs and foundations. Currently, he is working on endogenous knowledge with the *Fondation de France*, the *Fondation pour la nature et l'homme*, as well as with the FACTS initiative (*Field Actions Science*) which aim to enhance, capitalize and disseminate the knowledge resources produced by field actions and foster their take up by all in routine actions.

Marygoretti Kamau is a Kenyan agronomist and has recently diversified into the field of Environmental Sciences where she is currently pursuing her MA in Environmental Planning and Management at the University of Nairobi in Kenya. She is currently working for *Eastern Africa Farmers Federation* (EAFF) as the Knowledge Management Officer, where among her duties is to develop, analyse and generate pertinent agricultural information to the members of the organization as well as partners. Within the PAEPARD program, Marygoretti is the focal point and is the "brains behind the wheel" in ensuring that the African stakeholders are effectively engaging in the programme under the "work package 2" framework.

Previously she worked in a consultancy firm dealing with issues revolving around disaster management, agriculture as well as climate change issues.

Elisabteh Atangana, farmer by profession, was elected in October 2010 in Malawi, the first President of the *Platform of the Pan-African Farmers' Organisations* (PAFO). Her involvement in community life, including the creation and animation of development associations, professional organizations and farmers began in 1979. Since 1998 she has been involved in the establishment of the National Peasant Movement through the National Coordination of Peasant Organizations of Cameroon (CNOP-CAM) and in the process of creating the PROPAC (sub-regional *Platform of Peasant Organizations of Central Africa*) in 2005. She is currently the president of the PROPAC.

Thierry Helmer is Project manager on Information system and **Joël Sor** is Head of Information System (CIO) at the *French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development* (CIRAD). Both are involved in PAEPARD project, Thierry as project manager and Joël as co-leader, in the “*work package 3: information and communication*”, that aims to develop a communication strategy for African and European stakeholders to access timely to relevant information and to actively share knowledge on ARD partnership opportunities and best practices.