France and ICRISAT
Together we make lives better in the Semi-Arid Tropics

French Nationals in the ICRISAT Family

Governing Board Members:
- F Bour, 1972-77
- GJ Vallaeys, 1978-83
- C Charreau, 1984-90
- P Dubreuil, 1991-97
- Marc Latham 1992 - 2003

Past staff members:

A Billard, French Editor (1981)

Present staff members:

Farid Waliyar, Director-West and Central Africa, has been working with ICRISAT in various capacities since August 1986.
Vincent Vadez, Assistant Research Program Director-Dryland Cereals & Principal Scientist (Plant Physiology) has been with ICRISAT-Patancheru since 2004.

PCs Traore, Manager-GIS (Resilient Dryland Systems) since 2000

Cécile Grenier, Research Scholar, Genetic Resources, Virology, 1990-1992
Michel Peterschmitt, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Virology, 1988-1990

Past CIRAD staff at ICRISAT:

In West and Central Africa:
- Benoit Clerget, Crop Physiologist, 2000-2009
- Fabrice Sagnard, Agronomist, 2005-2008
- Jacques Gigu, Agronomist, 1994-1997
- Patrick Salez, Agronomist, 1989-1992
- Jacques Chantereau, Sorghum Breeder, 1993-1997
- C Luce, Sorghum Breeder, 1989-1993
- G Hoffman worked on weeds including Striga management in Mali, 1989-1994
- A Mayeux, Project Manager - Groundnut CFC funded project in India:
- Fabrice Pinard, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Tissue Culture of pearl millet, 1989-1991
- François Poul, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Virology, 1990-1992
- Cécile Grenier, Research Scholar, Genetic Resources, 1997-1999

About ICRISAT

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is a not-for-profit, non-political organization that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners throughout the world. Covering 6.5 million square kilometers of land in 53 countries, the semi-arid tropics have a population of over 2 billion people and 460 million of these are the poorest of the poor. ICRISAT and its partners help empower these poor people to overcome poverty, hunger, malnutrition and a degraded environment through better and more resilient agriculture.

ICRISAT is headquartered in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India, with research centers and processing systems in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

IMOD
Inclusive Market-Oriented Development
Innovate • Grow • Prosper

Visits - 2010: In June 2010 a five-member Marseille-Provence team visited ICRISAT-Patancheru with the purpose of discussing possible collaborative activities with French companies and research organizations in the areas of functional and therapeutic foods made from ICRISAT mandate crops.

Dr Robert Habib, Director for continental West Africa of the DDG Research and Strategy at CIRAD visited ICRISAT-Patancheru in 2009 as well as Dr Michel Partiot, CIRAD’s Regional Director for continental West Africa.

In 2009 Dr Rolland Guis, Advisor for Africa of the DDG Research and Strategy at CIRAD visited ICRISAT-Sadoré, to review CIRAD-ICRISAT collaboration in West Africa in the field of pest management in diversified agro-ecosystems.

A delegation from IRD-BIOCRUST visited Sadoré station in 2009 as they were interested in the use of ancient fallows there as a reference site to research basic processes and properties of biocrusts.

Dr Michel Partiot, CIRAD’s Regional Director for continental West Africa

Introduction

France was a founding member of the CGIAR in 1971, and her ties to the CGIAR system are well established. In particular, France has a strong interest in the agricultural development of West Africa. ICRISAT has enjoyed support from France for over three decades, starting with a contribution in 1979 towards the establishment of ICRISAT’s Sahelian Center in Niamey, Niger. An extremely welcome contribution was in 1996 when France contributed additional funds to help ICRISAT tide over its financial crisis.

Along with research for development, ICRISAT sees the need for more effective social assistance programs to help the poorest of the poor connect to markets, but in a way that builds their own resilience rather than creating dependency. ICRISAT’s Inclusive Market-Oriented Development (IMOD) strategy focuses on helping the farming poor in the drylands to move from a subsistence to market-oriented agriculture, thus improving their incomes and livelihoods.

Interactions between France and ICRISAT

Over the last few years there have been a variety of interactions between France and ICRISAT.

Visits - 2010: In June 2010 a five-member Marseille-Provence team visited ICRISAT-Patancheru with the purpose of discussing possible collaborative activities with French companies and research organizations in the areas of functional and therapeutic foods made from ICRISAT mandate crops.

Dr Robert Habib, Scientific Director of CIRAD in charge of the Performance of Tropical Production and Processing Systems (Persyst) visited ICRISAT-Sadoré.

2009 and 2008: In 2009 Dr Rolland Guis, Advisor for Africa of the DDG Research and Strategy at CIRAD visited ICRISAT-Sadoré, to review CIRAD-ICRISAT collaboration in West Africa in the field of pest management in diversified agro-ecosystems.

A delegation from IRD-BIOCRUST visited Sadoré station in 2009 as they were interested in the use of ancient fallows there as a reference site to research basic processes and properties of biocrusts.

Dr Michel Partiot, CIRAD’s Regional Director for continental West Africa

The Marseille-Provence delegation with Team ICRISAT at Patancheru.
visited Sadoré in both years to review the research work done there. Other: Internship agreements between ICRISAT and Montpellier SupAgro, France, saw two interns – Emile Le Floch and Ramstein Guilla – work on ICRISAT projects in 2010 and 2009, respectively. Université Paris-Sud and ICRISAT implemented a nine-month project, Quantification of genetic differentiation between early and late millet varieties in Niger – Contribution to multicausal strategies, from June 2010 to February 2011, with Dr Bettina Haussmann as coordinator.

Research Projects

ICRISAT has a long history of association with researchers from the Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD), Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA) and Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), especially in West Africa. Many collaborative projects have been successfully implemented in the past with telling effect. Some of the projects are as follows:

- CIRAD: Sustainable management of agricultural biodiversity in Mali (2010-2013): The objective of this project is to implement FAO-TIRPAA (Traité International sur les Ressources Phytogénétiques pour l’Alimentation et l’Agriculture) principles concerning indigenous genetic sorghum resources; and to promote breeding programs, manage front and protection activities relating to sorghum in order to promote close cooperation between local farmer organizations, NGOs, and established research centers in Mali. CIRAD is the implementing agency and ICRISAT, IRD, Institut d’Économie Rurale (IER), Comité National de la Recherche Agricole (CNRA), Association of Professional Farmer Organizations (AOPP), Association Malienne d’Élevage au Développement Durable (AMEDDD) and Groupe de recherche d’actions et d’assistance pour le dèv’t communautaire (GRAADECOM) are partners in this project.

- CIRAD: Sweet sorghum: an alternative energy crop (2009-2014): CIRAD leads this project and partners include ICRISAT, Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (EMBRAPA), KWS (KWS SAAT AG, Germany), Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IFEU), University of Bologna (UNIBO), University of Piacenza (UCSC), Agricultural Research Council – Grain Crop Institute, South Africa (ARC-GCI), Universidad Autónoma of Nuevo León, Mexico (UANL), and Renewable Energies WIP KG, Germany (WIP). The purpose of this project is to develop bio-ethanol production in temperate and semi-arid regions from sweet sorghum through genetic enhancement and improvement of cultural and harvest practices.

- IRD-CIRAD-INRA-SupAgro: The Agropolis Resource Center for Crop Conservation (ARCAD) project (2009-2013) is supported by the Agropolis Fondation and the Region Languedoc-Roussillon. Its aim is to set up a new open multi-function platform devoted to the assessment and improved use of plant agro-biodiversity in Mediterranean and tropical regions. ICRISAT is one of the international partners of the research component on crop adaptation to climate change. Other partners are IRAG (Guinea), FOFIGA (Madagascar), FOSTAD (Sierra Leone), CIRAD, INRA and SupAgro.

- IRD-CIRAD-INRA-SupAgro: The Agropolis Resource Center for Crop Conservation (ARCAD) project (2009-2013) is supported by the Agropolis Fondation and the Region Languedoc-Roussillon. Its aim is to set up a new open multi-function platform devoted to the assessment and improved use of plant agro-biodiversity in Mediterranean and tropical regions. ICRISAT is one of the international partners of the research component on crop adaptation to climate change. Other partners are IRAG (Guinea), FOFIGA (Madagascar), FOSTAD (Sierra Leone), CIRAD, INRA and SupAgro.

- IRD-CIRAD-INRA-SupAgro: The Agropolis Resource Center for Crop Conservation (ARCAD) project (2009-2013) is supported by the Agropolis Fondation and the Region Languedoc-Roussillon. Its aim is to set up a new open multi-function platform devoted to the assessment and improved use of plant agro-biodiversity in Mediterranean and tropical regions. ICRISAT is one of the international partners of the research component on crop adaptation to climate change. Other partners are IRAG (Guinea), FOFIGA (Madagascar), FOSTAD (Sierra Leone), CIRAD, INRA and SupAgro.

- IRD-CIRAD-INRA-SupAgro: The Agropolis Resource Center for Crop Conservation (ARCAD) project (2009-2013) is supported by the Agropolis Fondation and the Region Languedoc-Roussillon. Its aim is to set up a new open multi-function platform devoted to the assessment and improved use of plant agro-biodiversity in Mediterranean and tropical regions. ICRISAT is one of the international partners of the research component on crop adaptation to climate change. Other partners are IRAG (Guinea), FOFIGA (Madagascar), FOSTAD (Sierra Leone), CIRAD, INRA and SupAgro.

- IRD-CIRAD-INRA-SupAgro: The Agropolis Resource Center for Crop Conservation (ARCAD) project (2009-2013) is supported by the Agropolis Fondation and the Region Languedoc-Roussillon. Its aim is to set up a new open multi-function platform devoted to the assessment and improved use of plant agro-biodiversity in Mediterranean and tropical regions. ICRISAT is one of the international partners of the research component on crop adaptation to climate change. Other partners are IRAG (Guinea), FOFIGA (Madagascar), FOSTAD (Sierra Leone), CIRAD, INRA and SupAgro.