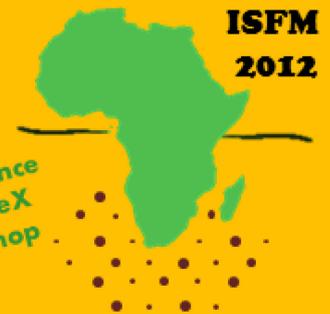


# Integrated Soil Fertility Management in Africa: From Microbes to Markets

hosted by CIAT-TSBF and the University of Nairobi

22-26 October 2012, Nairobi, Kenya

Including  
AfNet Biannual Conference  
15th AABNF Conference  
2nd AFRINOM Workshop



## 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNOUNCEMENT CALL FOR ABSTRACTS EXTENDED DEADLINE



### PURPOSE

The Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility Institute of CIAT and the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Nairobi invite participation in an innovative conference intended to critically analyze agricultural technologies, innovative products and land management strategies benefiting small-scale agriculture in Africa. This conference assembles the strengths of several organizations and collaborative research projects committed to designing, refining and delivering potent solutions to food insecurity and agricultural resource degradation in sub-Saharan Africa. A particular focus of this conference deals with the comparison and scaling-up of candidate breakthrough technologies, monitoring and evaluation of their impacts within rural settings and along agricultural value chains and strategies to increase human and institutional capacities in Integrated Soil Fertility Management. Examples of these breakthroughs include better management of Biological Nitrogen Fixation and other beneficial biological processes; strategic combination of biological, organic and mineral resources in the management of soil fertility and land quality and the commercialization and adoption of new biotechnologies. The conference will feature invited keynote speakers in plenary sessions, followed by sessions of related thematic oral and poster presentations. The conference will result in electronic proceedings that include its presentations and posters, and short papers based upon them; and is intended to provide guidance to the agricultural research, extension and development community working with African small-scale farmers.

## THEMES

The conference seeks to improve both scientific and practical understanding of how **biological, organic and mineral resources are best integrated in the management of agricultural soils by African small-scale farmers**. Specific themes include:

**1. Advancing plant-microbe interactions in crop nutrition.** This theme includes symbiotic and plant growth promoting microorganisms relating to crop mineral nutrition, but not those relating to plant protection and health. The sessions relating to this theme constitute the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop of the African Network on Mycorrhiza (AFRINOM).

**2. Enhancing biological nitrogen fixation in African smallholds.** This theme explores the use of elite rhizobia, improved legume varieties and management and effective inoculant delivery systems. Sessions in this theme constitute the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the African Association of Biological Nitrogen Fixation (AABNF)

**3. Exploring options for sustainable intensification and diversification of farming systems.** This theme examines the efficient use of human and agricultural resources in the restoration, protection, maintenance and improvement of soil fertility with particular reference to technologies and practices accessible to small-scale farmers cultivating degrading soils.

**4. Identifying bottlenecks and opportunities for implementation of ISFM.** This theme addresses issues pertaining to governance, policy formulation and implementation, tenure, access to markets and credit and perceptions and countermeasures toward risk.

**5. Commercializing breakthrough technologies.** This theme explores how proven scientific findings are best translated into commercial products and practical land management technologies for dissemination to, and adoption by African smallholders. This theme also examines mechanisms of quality assurance related to new products and lessons learned through entrepreneurial pursuit.

**6. Building capacity in Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM).** This theme explores how best to develop capacities among farmers, development agents, researchers and educators in Africa to better manage soil fertility and agricultural resources. Preference is given to case studies describing success stories at the farm, community and institutional levels.

There will be 3 parallel sessions at the conference organized as follow:

Session A covers **Mycorrhiza and commercialization** (Themes 1, 5)

Session B covers **Biological Nitrogen Fixation** (Theme 2)

Session C covers **ISFM – options, bottlenecks and capacity building** (Themes 3, 4, 6)

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations will be accepted until **May 31 2012**. Instructions for registration and abstract submission are available on the conference website: [www.ISFMAfrica2012.org](http://www.ISFMAfrica2012.org)

The submitted abstracts will undergo a review process and authors will be notified if their abstract has been accepted for poster or oral presentation. Guidelines for authors will be communicated after papers and posters have been accepted for presentation. A special issue of a peer-reviewed journal and a high-quality book of proceedings will be important outputs of the conference. Kindly note that abstracts for oral or paper presentations will only be accepted for presentation after payment of registration fees.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The following speakers have tentatively confirmed to give keynote addresses at the conference:

- Dr Joanna Dames (Rhodes University)
- Dr Rachid Serraj (ICARDA)
- Prof Ken Giller (WUR)
- Prof Bernard Vanlauwe (IITA)

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAM: IN BRIEF: 1 KEYNOTE PER THEME, 28 ORAL PRESENTATIONS PER SESSION, 1 POSTER SESSION PER THEME, 1 DAY EXCURSION**

Time	Monday October 22			Tuesday October 23			Wednesday October 24			Thursday October 25			Friday October 26											
8-9	Registration						<b>Excursions</b>																	
9-9.20	Opening Ceremony			Keynote theme 3						Keynote theme 5														
9.20-9.40				Coffee						Keynote theme 4									Keynote theme 6					
9.40-10	Q & A Theme 3,4									Q & A Theme 5,6														
10-10.20	Keynote theme 1			Coffee and poster session theme 3 and 4						Coffee and poster session theme 5 and 6									Coffee					
10.20-10.40	Keynote theme 2												A			B								
11-11.20	Q & A Theme 1, 2			7						7			7			Theme 1 Theme 2 Theme 3 Theme 4 Theme 5 Theme 6								
11.20-11.40	Poster session theme 1, 2			8						8			8											
11.40-12				9						9			9											
12-12.20				10						10			10											
12.20-12.40	Lunch			Lunch						Lunch			Lunch											
12.40-13	A			B						C			Conference statement											
13-14	1			1						1														
14-14.20	2			2						2														
14.20-14.40	3			3						3														
14.40-15	4			4						4														
15-15.20	5			5						5														
15.20-15.40	Coffee			Coffee						Coffee			Coffee											
15.40-16	6			6						6			Coffee											
16-16.20	7			7						7			Conference awards and closing ceremony											
16.20-16.40	8			8						8														
16.40-17	Wrapup			Wrapup						Wrapup									Wrapup					

## FIELD TRIP

Optional field trips will be organized for Wednesday October 24, tentatively to Western Kenya or Central Kenya. More information will be available through the website [www.ISFMAfrica2012.org](http://www.ISFMAfrica2012.org)

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION and PAYMENT

Please check the conference website for detailed information; [www.ISFMAFRICA2012.org](http://www.ISFMAFRICA2012.org)

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

**Venue:** The conference will be held in Nairobi, Kenya. Nairobi offers an interesting and friendly environment and is easy to reach by plane. All participants travelling by air will be welcomed at the airport and transported to their hotel. The conference venue is the SAFARI PARK HOTEL, Nairobi.

**Language:** The conference will be held in English and French, with simultaneous translation in French and English

## SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

TSBF-CIAT and the University of Nairobi serve as conference hosts. Other sponsoring organizations include AABNF, AfNet, COMPRO, FiBL (Switzerland), N2Africa Project, the US International University and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences through funding from the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs as part of its special allocation on global food security (UD40).

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Dr J.J Adu-Gyamfi, IAEA; Austria - Prof Bá, IRD/AFRINOM; Senegal - Dr André Bationo, AGRA - Dr Yolanda Dalpé, ECORC, Agriculture and Agri-food; Canada - Prof Felix Dakora, Tshwane University of Technology; South Africa - Dr Joanna Dames, Rhodes University/AFRINOM - Prof Stéphane Declerckx, UCL; Belgium - Dr Anders Ekbohm, Gothenburg University; Sweden - Prof Emmanuel Frossard, ETH; Switzerland - Prof Ken Giller, WUR - Dr Erik Karlton, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences; Sweden - Prof S. Keya, University of Nairobi; Kenya - Dr Paul Mäder, FiBL; Switzerland - Mrs Anne Mbaabu, AGRA - Prof Roel Merckx, KUL; Belgium - Prof Ingrid Öborn, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences; Sweden - Prof Sheila Okoth, University of Nairobi; Kenya - Dr Tabo Ramadjita, FARA; Ghana - Dr Rachid Serraj, ICARDA - Dr Prem Warrior, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation - Dr Christian Witt, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation - Prof Inamoud Yattara, AABNF.

## LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Dr Ken Dashiell, IITA Co-chairperson

Dr Saidou Koala, CIAT-TSBF/AfNet Co-chairperson

Dr Joyce Jefwa, CIAT-TSBF (Coordinator of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AFRINOM Workshop)

Prof James Kahindi, US International University (USIU)

Prof Nancy Karanja, University of Nairobi (Coordinator of AABNF 15 Sessions)

Dr Kristina Röing de Nowina, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Dr Cécile Thonar, FiBL

Dr Paul Woomeer, N2Africa and AABNF

## CONTACTS

For further information on the conference, please see [www.ISFMAfrica2012.org](http://www.ISFMAfrica2012.org) or contact [isfmafrica2012@cgiar.org](mailto:isfmafrica2012@cgiar.org)

### **Additional contacts:**

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