

CGIAR RESEARCH IN AFRICA EVALUATION SURVEY ANALYSIS

Evelyn Katingi, November 2009

Introduction

This report summarizes findings of the CGIAR Research in Africa survey conducted between September and October 2009.

The map, a project database of the research projects carried out by CGIAR Centers in Africa was launched and made online to CG centers staff and other users in February 2009 with the aim of making research information publicly accessible to all CGIAR staff and other key stakeholders in the region in order to facilitate information sharing, promote partnership opportunities and collective action.

Besides trying to get feedback from the users on the map, the survey also sought to establish the level of awareness on the map, harmonize the key primary areas of research as well identify new areas of improvement.

Response Rate

A total of 192 questionnaires were sent out to scientists in 13 CGIAR centers. The table below shows the number of questionnaires sent to each center, the response rate and how many of the scientist in the centers reported to have interacted with the map.

Table 1

Center	Questionnaires sent	Response rate per center (%)	Respondent who have used the map		Total
			Yes	No	
Africa Rice Center	3	67		2	2
Biodiversity International	17	41		7	7
CIAT	12	33		4	4
CIFOR	7	43		3	3
CIMMYT	11	46	1	4	5
CIP	12	50	2	4	6
ICRAF	21	38	1	7	8
ICRISAT	13	39		5	5
IFPRI	16	31	1	4	5
IITA	26	39	1	9	10
ILRI	41	49	10	11	21
IWMI	6	51	1	2	3
WorldFish Center	7	57		4	4
Total	192		17	66	82

Agricultural Commodities

There were 11 categories of research areas for the respondents to choose from. The table below shows what different respondents from different centres indicated to be their primary areas of research. (Each respondent could choose more than 1 category)

Table 2

	Cereals & legumes	Climate Change	Eco-system management	Fisheries	Forestry & Agroforestry	Land Management	Livestock	Policy & Law	Roots & Tubers	Soils	Water Management
Africa Rice Center	2	1									
Bioversity Int.	4	2	2				1	3	2		
CIAT	4	2	2			1				3	1
CIFOR		2	1		2						
CIMMYT	5	1								2	
CIP	1		2				1	5	5	2	2
ICRAF	1	5	7		8	5	1			5	3
ICRISAT	5	1				1				1	1
IFPRI								1	1		
IITA	4	3	1		1	2		5	5	2	
ILRI	1	5	5			7	18			1	2
IWMI		1	1			1					3
WorldFish Center		1		4							1
Total	27	24	21	4	11	17	21	14	13	16	13

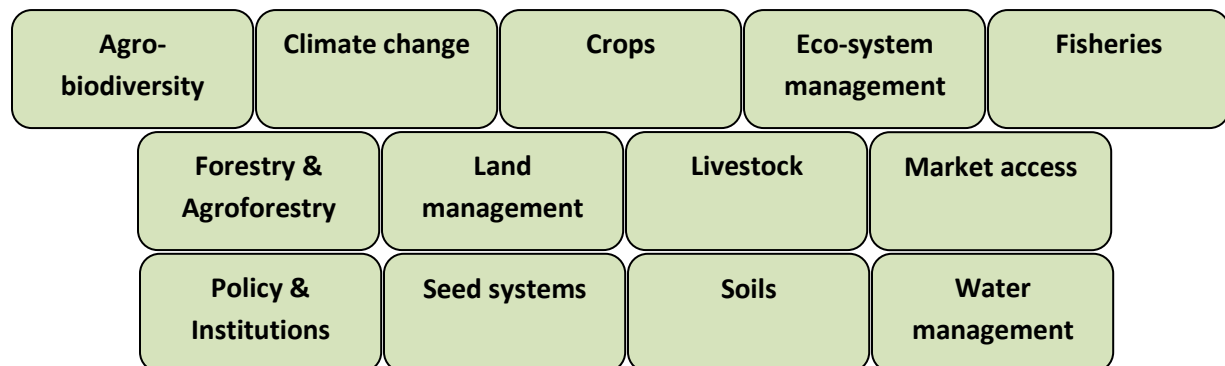
The respondents also identified other key primary areas of research not in the above table. The majority listed;

1. Seed systems / seed security
2. Marketing / marketing access / value chain analysis (cross cutting – all centres)
3. Genetic resources, plant breeding, biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity (mostly Bioversity)
4. Banana, plantain systems (key component of IITA research)
5. Food safety /security, nutrition (IFPRI, CIP, ILRI)
6. Vegetables

Recommendations

1. Combine cereals & legumes and roots & tubers to form one category called **Crops**
2. Create 3 new categories namely; **Agro-biodiversity, Market access and Seed systems**
3. Incorporate all the above 11 categories to the online research map

Broad classification of research areas



Crops can further be sub-categorised into;

1. Cereals
2. Legumes
3. Vegetables; Roots and leafy vegetables
4. Fruits

Reasons for using the map

Respondent who had interacted with the map listed the following key reasons for using the map

- *Browsing – find out what research is being undertaken, where and by whom. See which projects are active in a country*
- *To populate the map with project information*
- *Looking for additional information on previous work done for proposal write up and project reporting*
- *To look for potential partners, particularly during development of new proposals*

Others reasons include;

- *Curiosity, at the time heavy bias towards East Africa*
- *Determine what other CG centers may be undertaking work on food crop intercropping with coffee in Eastern and Central Africa*
- *Search CIMMYT projects, review of the research Map*
- *To be aware of other research activities done at ILRI by who and where*
- *To have information about projects in Mali and Niger*

New areas of improvement

The following are the additional features that respondents said they would want to see in the map;

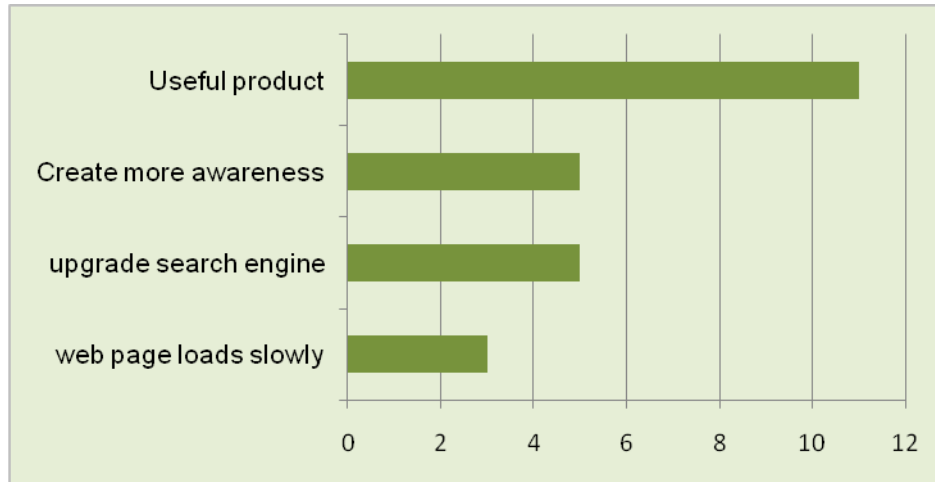
1. More searchable fields
2. Map legend to;
 - a. Explain what the bubbles
 - b. Explain how to update the map
3. Additional project details including;
 - a. Project objectives and activities
 - b. Project outputs and achievements
 - c. Hot links to projects home page, key publications and other related documents
4. Research partners institutional email addresses
5. Project donors
6. Country level information is not detailed enough. As most data are now geo referenced, it would be good to show the exact location of project sites (e.g. district, or below), and not only country level
7. Highlights on achievements of collaboration
8. Option for users and potential users to receive news or updates when site is updated on particular areas of interests (once phase II is launched)
9. Scientific information needs to be consolidated for more use by NARS. More training modules materials and other database could be made available for our colleagues in the NARS
10. Highlight the different countries where projects are conducted, when scrolling over you can see an overview. Should be easy to use with Flash Media
11. As we move towards Mega programmes in the CGIAR, I imagine that the map might well have to be updated to allow an easy access to identify work within any given mega programme in any given country / area

View and Comments

Much as most of the respondents had not interacted with the tool, they thought that it was a great initiative and a useful tool for information and knowledge sharing within the CGIAR.

The graph below shows the 4 most listed comments.

Graph 1



Others comments included;

1. Eager to use it
2. Carry out a proper launch so as to make everyone aware of its existence
3. Need for more orientation on use of the map once fully developed
4. Many projects are not included since they are not in the MTO
5. Rebrand, since it covers the whole of Africa, the title on the map should read Africa and not Eastern and Southern Africa only
6. There should be a more efficient way for people/scientists to access your research map
7. I doubt this analysis will yield the info you want; better to contact 1 person within each center that gives you the information, rather than individual scientists

Conclusion and recommendations

- As a result of the survey we were able to reach out to more scientist evident of the additional projects entered into the map during the survey period
 - New and emerging agricultural research areas identified could be used in the policy making process of the CGIAR
 - improve the map to incorporate some of the features identified thus making sure that we are meeting the user requirements
 - Carry out more awareness campaigns on the map as many potential users are still not aware of its existence (both in the CGIAR and its partners). This can be through institution seminars and workshops
 - Carry out proper branding of the tool together with the preparation of brochures and other materials that can be used to explain how the map works
 - Make the map more accessible by having different centers put a dominant link from their websites to the map
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For more information on CGIAR projects visit http://ictkm.cgiar.org/cgmapTemplate/ESA_map.html

CGIAR Collective Action for Eastern and Southern Africa (<http://www.ilri.org/regionalplan/index.php>)

