

**PAEPARD and the African Diaspora in the agricultural sector**

Update 06/07/2012 of F. Stepman

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# Possible Activities of PAEPARD II

Work Package 1 is to take the lead to organize an internal consultation around the Agricultural Diaspora. A number of activities are possible

## Take stock of the PAEPARD partners’ experiences with the African Diaspora

In particular the European partners of PAEPARD have different types of experiences to work with the African Diaspora. Sometimes this has led to interesting initiatives but in other cases the engagement with African Diaspora representatives have resulted in mixed feelings about the added value of this Diaspora.

A first exercise could consist of taking stock of positive experiences of the European PAEPARD partners.

## Mobilize the Diaspora for agricultural research

Work Package 3 of PAEPARD II (CIRAD) could organise an online questionnaire (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/> to profile ARD Diaspora initiatives.

An online discussion can be organised on the role of the Diaspora in ARD.

PAEPARD could promote a joint study on *How Agricultural research in Africa can be supported by its Diaspora of agricultural research scientists* and link up with other others who have Diaspora oriented research activities:

* Oxford Leverhulme Diasporas Programme: <http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/research-projects/oxford-leverhulme-diasporas-programme> .
* The African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) – see below

In 2012 following questionnaire was prepared by IAO (PAEPARD member) in English, French and Italian: It was sent to 9 diaspora associations in 4 European countries: France, UK, Italy, Belgium. Only one association replied (Sunugal Association: Senegal/Italy).

**Questionnaire**

1. Are there many Researchers/Students/Professors engaged in Agricultural research for Development among the members of your Association?
2. Have the members of your Association ever implemented any research projects with their own Country of origin?
3. Are you in touch with Researchers/Students/Professors that are implementing or participating to training or Master degree courses with African institutions?
4. Which are, in your opinion, the main and most urgent issues the agricultural research should face at present?
5. Which could be the impact of a partnership research program involving Diaspora members and researchers in the Country of origin?
6. In your experience, are these kind of joint activities very common? Which are the main problems encountered during their implementation?
7. Do you already know PAEPARD Project?
8. Would you be interested in participating to PAEPARD activities? Which could be the main reasons?

## Involve ARD stakeholders from the Diaspora in innovative ARD partnerships

See call for applications:

<http://paepard.blogspot.com/2010/12/call-for-applications-for-support-to.html>

## Organize an expert consultation

Depending on the European PAEPARD partners experiences an internal consultation could be organized about the African Diaspora active in the agribusiness sector.

* Identify carriers (or potential carriers) of economic initiatives in the agricultural field, eager to turn them into projects
* Foster the participation of the African ARD Diaspora in innovative partnerships in ARD in line with the needs of rural communities they originate from, and in line of the needs of the farmers and the small farm units with whom they relate.

# Annex 1: Is there a role for the African scientific Diaspora?

The African Diaspora in Europe is a community as complex as varied and divided by educational status, economic capacity, ethnic background, age, political, religious and ethnic predilections, area of specialisation, interest, concern, commitment, capacity, nepotism and ego to contribute to national development.

While there have been numerous complaints about the migration of African ARD experts very little has been written on how agricultural scientists who work outside Africa can and do contribute to agricultural research and activities in their country of origin. The research with the most practical recommendations is probably *Scientific Diasporas[[1]](#footnote-1)* (Jean-Baptiste Meyer, 2004).

Research indicates that African researchers and academicians feel that experts from their own regions understand better issues pertaining to research, teaching and the like (Damtew Teferra, 2003:6)[[2]](#footnote-2). This does nto necessarily undermine the valuable contribution that is made by non-African scientists and development experts.

While others say that a greater effort must be made to retain in their countries of origin current and future generations of African scientists. This reasoning for historical reasons rather than empirical evidence has been attributed to be the main cause of brain drain. Therefore it has been viewed to be counterproductive in trying to regain the current African scientific Diaspora. Evidence shows that the priority aim should be to cultivate young African scientists rather than expect senior academics and researchers to leave the Diaspora and return permanently to Africa. (Inter Academy Council: 2004) [[3]](#footnote-3).

# Annex 2: Typology of the ARD Diaspora

We want to differentiate between:

* The economic activities in the agricultural sector supported by the African Diaspora in their home country
* The involvement of the African scientific Diaspora in ARD research with Africa.
* The contribution of the African scientific Diaspora in identifying relevant ARD research for support by the host country, other funding agencies and connecting the rest of the scientific community interested in working in Africa but not having any know how

## The Diaspora investing in agricultural activities

In recent years, associations help migrants wishing to resettle in their home country by creating an economic activity. *Europe's ties with countries of origin of immigrants and the solidarity that have forged between the people of both continents are an asset that is essential to maintain and develop, both through collaborative projects with a social purpose, and through individual projects with an economic role.[[4]](#footnote-4)*

A number of initiatives have supported African migrants to undertake – among others - agricultural activities in their home countries.

* The Migration and Economic Initiatives Program (France): This program began in 2001 and accompanies economic reintegration of migrants in their countries of origin. <http://www.pseau.org/pmie/>
* The Agrican Diaspora Development Marketplace in Europe (see [http://www.dmade.org](http://www.dmade.org/)) selected in 2008 following initiatives:

The Agrican Diaspora Development Marketplace in Europe

Leveraging the textile bio-fair channel in Mali. Establishment of a textile channel (spinning, weaving, dyeing, tailoring and embroidery) with high value-added labeled as biological, fair and environmental. The aim is to produce high-end extiles which meet the quality criteria of Ami & Co market (France, Europe and USA). The project builds on women's associations supervised by RAC (Support and Counseling Network, Malian NGO specialized in assisting artisans). The promoter holds a Special Master in Marketing Management obtained at ESSEC Paris, spent 20 years in French international companies, including 5 years in the decoration and 5 dedicated to the creation and management, in France, of a publishing company of decorative objects from Zimbabwe.

Micro brewery in Burkina Faso. Implement a micro brewery in Burkina Faso to brew mil “sorghum” beer. This cereal has been a brewing study for 4 years in Belgium before reaching very satisfactory results on all fronts namely: taste, color, characteristics and conservation. Lager beer 5.3% alcohol (white sorghum), amber beer 6, 6% alcohol (Red Sorghum). This beer is brewed and already marketed in Belgium under the name “METISS.” ([www.metiss.biz](http://www.metiss.biz)).

The semi – artisanal shelling of cashew nut. The project involves setting up a semi – artisanal cashew nuts processing with a capacity of one hundred tons of raw cashew nuts, based in the town of Bondoukou. The promoter is Doctor of Economics (Specialty: local development) and head of a local project to support the shelling in Côte d’Ivoire.

Culture and extraction of Jatropha Curcas for the biofuel industry. Micro-enterprise for culture and extraction of oil from Jatropha Curcas for biofuel industry (renewable energy). The promoter holds a master’s degree in Earth sciences; has a degree in geophysics and also holds a DES in Development Management. He is also an external consultant on environment and development for several structures in sub-Saharan Africa.

Improving economic conditions of women through the use of shea butter. This project builds on the effort of gathering women's groups to ensure regular production of shea nut and its transformation into butter for local sale and export. The company KariPlus + SARL with its local partners will produce and market a range of shea based products namely improved shea butter, soap and shea-based ointment.

Lobi Fruit and Vegetable Production Using Solar Energy. The business involves working with rural Malawian horticulture community in Lobi area, establish and improve their technical viability and economic efficiency by installing a solar irrigation system and linking the farmers with national and regional markets.

Raising goats and ducks in order to diversify vocational training and income-generating sources. The center “La Providence” initiates income generating activities through which it finances training of girls to its charge. The idea is then to launch, in addition to existing laying hens, breeding goats and ducks for a sale and animals in a state of consumption and derivatives.

Sustainable vegetable cultivation and marketing in the Great Rift Valley. Vegetable cultivation and marketing in the great rift valley of Ethiopia. In collaboration with FAMIX the project will provide more sustainable crop production and irrigation technologies which are practiced in other countries. The project will be coordinated by two brothers Mr Redwan Haroon and Mr Elias Haroon. They have business experiences in Netherlands which helped them to engage in horticultural business in lake Ziway where their family had originated.

Improving the livelihood of Mabayla fishmongers through fish preservation. This storage facility will provide service to the numerous fish and marine resources women sellers who earn a living through fish selling. The promoter is an expert in Marketing, Food Security, Management, development work and Project cycle management, with a wealth of experience in Africa and the Netherlands.

Coordinated cultivation of Jatropha for Poverty Reduction in the Northwest Province of Cameroon. The aim of this concept is to build a network of 5,000 households, which in exchange of jatropha seedlings, will supply

jatropha nuts at market prices to a local partner called AIFCIG.

* The African Union - Africa Diaspora EU Chapter (see [http://www.auads.info](http://www.auads.info/)). The African Union- African Diaspora Sixth Region (AUADS), European Chapter, was created by African Diasporas representation of 13 European countries to acts as a Central organization for African diasporas organizations in European countries, to coordinate intra–European related activities. At the moment it appears that only the AUADS Germany is active.
* The Migration for Development in Africa Program (MIDA) is a capacity-building programme, which helps to mobilize competencies acquired by African nationals abroad for the benefit of Africa's development. <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/mida-africa/>
* The European Commission and the United Nations supported a three year Joint Initiative on Migration and Development that reflects the emerging acceptance of a strong nexus between migration and development. This initiative is being implemented by UNDP, with one of the first activities the compilation of good practices and lessons learned, together with the African Diaspora Policy Centre.

Initiative on Migration and Development

Développement durable de l'agro élevage au Cap Vert

Migrants Skills Transfer in Aquaculture and Fisheries: The case of Greece and Egypt

Sankofa Family Poultry, Ghana

<http://www.migration4development.org/content/about-jmdi>

* The Initiative on Migration and Development launched [a call for proposals](http://www.migration4development.org/content/project-profiles) on 1 December 2008 and closed on 27 March 2009. 54 projects have been selected and are currently funded under this Call. Each consortium includes a partner based in the European Union and one in one of the sixteen target countries: Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt; Cape Verde, Nigeria, Ghana, Mali, Senegal, Ethiopia; Ecuador; Jamaica; Georgia; Moldova; Sri Lanka and the Philippines. Following projects are directly related to agriculture:
* The African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) is an independent organisation which was established in The Netherlands in 2006. On **22-27 November 2010**, the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) organized in Accra the [first training workshop](http://www.diaspora-centre.org/Migration__Development/Expert_Meetings/Capacity_Building_for_Policy) for African policymakers serving in the newly-formed diaspora-oriented ministries in Africa. Successful diaspora-oriented programmes have been implemented by Ethiopia and Rwanda with the development of a national Migration and Development Strategy Paper (MDSP) that can be translated into feasible strategic interventions and realisable actions.
* The multilateral Trust Fund to improve African migrant remittances created by the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group, the French government and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). It is managed by the AfDB, the Fund has an initial capital of more than €6 million, and is open to contributions from other donors and institutions. It aims at providing financing to:
	+ Enhance knowledge on African migrant remittances through thematic and sectoral studies;
	+ Improve regulatory frameworks and transfer conditions with a view to reducing transfer costs;
	+ Provide financial products that meet migrant needs and those of their families;
	+ Encourage the continent’s Diaspora to invest in individual productive initiatives and in the development of their countries of origin.

African Diaspora Marketplace I.

[Green Acres Goat Farm](http://www.diasporamarketplace.org/about-adm#green), Agribusiness, Ghana

[TAF BioTechnology](http://www.diasporamarketplace.org/about-adm#taf), Bio/Agribusiness, Ethiopia

[Uza-Mazao](http://www.diasporamarketplace.org/about-adm#uza), ICT/Agribusiness, Kenya

[AACE Foods](http://www.diasporamarketplace.org/about-adm#aace), Agribusiness, Nigeria

[Palm Fruit Processing](http://www.diasporamarketplace.org/about-adm#palm), Processing/Agribusiness, Sierra Leone

* The [African Diaspora Marketplace.](http://www.diasporamarketplace.org/sites/default/files/adm_event_only.pdf) A first ADM was held in **January** **13-15, 2010.** The outcome of[the second ADM](http://paepard.blogspot.be/2012/07/winners-of-african-diaspora-marketplace.html) was announced on **June 25, 2012.**

**ADM** is jointly funded by USAID, the Western Union Company, and the Western Union Foundation. Other contributing partners include Ecobank, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), George Washington University Center for International Business Education and Research, the Tony Elumelu Foundation, the U.S. Department of State and Irv Barr Management. A number of projects are directly related to agribusiness.

African Diaspora Marketplace II: 25/06/2012

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Country** | **Sector** | **Business Name** |
| **Kenya** | Agribusiness  | African Boreholes Initiative, Ltd. |
| **Ghana** | Agribusiness | Gonja Meat Company |
| **Uganda** | Agribusiness | ORIBAGS Innovations (U) Ltd. |
| **Kenya** | Agribusiness | Pork Delights Limited |
| **Nigeria** | Agribusiness | Poultry Health Products Nigeria Ltd. |
| **Nigeria** | Agribusiness | RIOL Enterprises |
| **Ghana** | Agribusiness | Sardis Enterprises |
| **Ghana** | Agribusiness | Viable Vision Industries |

* Some initiatives focus on employment opportunities for the [African] like the  Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM) – a joint initiative of the GTZ and the German Federal Employment Agency <http://www.cimonline.de/en/aspirant/61.asp>
* Several African Diaspora communities have created online their virtual networks according to the recipient country: for example, the website for Nigerians in Diaspora Organization (NIDO) in Germany : [www.nidogermany.de](http://www.nidogermany.de)

## The Diaspora active in agricultural sciences

It is assumed that African ARD stakeholders being part of the “scientific diaspora” can support the submission of high quality proposals depending on their field of expertise and whether they are still active in agricultural research. But like all groups they also need support in order to be competitive in the field of science

There are different types of African Agricultural Scientific Diaspora groups: (a) PhD fellowships, (b) alumni, (c) returnees, and (d) scientific networks of the African Diaspora.

**PhD fellowships**, although more expensive than those for taught courses, are essential for building the depth of expertise and range of skills required for effective research in many scientific and technological subjects. But presently no single effort is undertaken to bring together all doctoral students who happen to be in a particular country. It is typical that Congolese agricultural scholars who undertake doctoral studies in agriculture in different universities in Belgium during the same academic year will miss the opportunity to meet one another if this information is not circulated. But with an African European Diaspora Network with country chapters or regional chapters this could be addressed.

**Alumni.** An acute problem for many African alumni is a feeling of isolation on their return often because of a lack of equipment or other facilities. Steps can be taken to improve the environment to which award holders return on completion of their studies, for example by establishing “ICT enabled professional networks” for alumni with similar interests, and through the introduction of Institutional Capacity Grants. This can start to build a community of researchers who have similar training opportunities and better funded research. More expectations and responsibility should be placed on Northern Universities offering training in tropical agriculture by encouraging more reward systems for professors continuing to work with their former students.

ICT allows for a relatively cost effective and easy update of tracer studies of alumni and to dispose of a Directory of Agricultural African Scholars and Fellows. Such databases help in conducting an analysis of the experiences of the alumni. Consistent with the fact that candidates sign an undertaking to return to their home country, the documentation of particular examples can demonstrate which percentage of alumni has returned to their home country and could also indicate how many alumni are working in higher education and thus effectively contributing to capacity building.

**Returnees.** The MIDA program of the IMO demonstrated that temporary returnees are perceived as competitors, especially if they receive salaries paid by special returning programs and above the average wages for academic staff in agricultural research departments. On the other hand one should not underestimate how the access to information and communication triggers the return of some African scientists. A cardiologist who after spending several years in France is now teaching at the University of Ouagadougou. One of his major motivations was that he remained in contact with his peers in the international scientific community of cardiologists thanks to the ICT facilities of the Campus Numérique of AUF.

**Scientific networks of the African Diaspora**. Quite a large number of websites hosted by Diaspora communities or individuals feature their universities, colleges and research institutes or provide links to those institutions. These days with value chains and agribusiness at the forefront of development agendas, postgraduate degrees in agric economics, environmental economics, food science and food technology, rural development all are claiming a considerable interest. International Network for Young Scientists (INYS) can encourage and facilitate the mobility of, and direct contact between, young researchers in Africa. This is also the case for postgraduate diploma and Master degree level students. The African Scientific Institute (ASI), a California-based networking organisation can share experiences their experience with the EU based African scientific communities.

# Annex 3: The African agricultural professionals

A new organization links African agricultural professionals abroad and in Africa together to strengthen the continent's agricultural and rural development. The Association of African Agricultural Professionals in the Diaspora is a nonprofit organization registered in Massachusetts. AAAPD is the implementer of a grant to Iowa State University from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Association of African Agricultural Professionals in the Diaspora, or AAAPD, wants to help transform African smallholder agriculture into an engine of economic growth in the continent. They are partnering with other on-going initiatives in Africa such as CAADP and NEPAD . In addition to providing opportunities for networking among Africa's professionals, AAAPD will mobilize resources, promote the exchange of information and technology, and encourage public-private investments in agricultural research, extension and training.

*"Our role is to become a bridge to African agricultural institutions, play a catalytic role in agricultural development and provide a mechanism to harness African Diaspora experiences toward Africa's agricultural and rural development," AAAPD President Peter Jeranyama said. "In this quest, we plan to work in collaboration with 'Friends of Africa' -- people who share a common interest of facilitating Africa's development."*

A multi-disciplinary team of African professionals founded AAAPD in July 2008. The team includes Andrew Manu (Iowa State University), Stephen Machado (Oregon State University), Thandiwe Nleya (South Dakota State University), Samuel Essah (Colorado State University), Felicitas Katepa-Mupondwa (Agriculture AgriFoods, Canada), Edmund Mupondwa (Agriculture AgriFoods, Canada), Dianah Ngonyamo-Majee (Monsanto Company), Daniel Karanja (Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa) and Peter Jeranyama (University of Massachusetts Amherst).

Similar information activities could be set up as the activities developed by the Association of African Agricultural Professionals in the Diaspora (see 3.3: Relationship with any other organisations involved in implementing the Action). (See: <http://paepard.blogspot.com/2010/12/is-there-role-for-african-diaspora-in.html>)

1. Jean-Baptiste Meyer. 2004. Institut de Recherche pour le Développement *“La diaspora scientifique : un chemin vers un développement durable ?”.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. TEFERRA D., **2003** - *Scientific communication in African universities: external assistance and national needs*. New York : Routledge, 259 p. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Realizing the Promise of African Agriculture (2004) Creating and Retaining a New Generation of Agricultural Scientists; <http://www.interacademycouncil.net/CMS/Reports/AfricanAgriculture/6978/7811.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Déborah Galliot & Yaya Kane Guide pratique pour l'appui aux migrants porteurs de projets économiques ; Décembre 2005 94 pages <http://www.pseau.org/outils/biblio/resume.php?docu_document_id=299> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)