Cirad’s approach on Geographical indications...

to promote local products

In the face of globalization, greater competition on the major export markets, and price instability, promoting reputed, highly specific local products is an approach worth exploring. It responds to consumer demand in the North and also, increasingly, in the South. It serves to guarantee outlets and allows producers to move into increasingly profitable niche markets.

The recognition of geographical indications (GIs) by the World Trade Organization in 1994 led many countries to establish a legal framework to protect their traditional local agricultural and craft products.

In Europe, and particularly in France and Italy, where they go back a long way, GIs and designations of origin (PDOs) have allowed many products to be recognized and appreciated for their specificity. They have helped sustain activities and jobs in less favoured areas. Contrary to other specific quality approaches (organic, fair-trade, etc), in this case, it is the producers who determine the relevant specifications. Unlike brand names, it is not necessary to go to court to ensure those specifications are respected (at least in the EU, but also in many other countries).

However, to what extent is the approach suited to developing countries, and is it useful in alleviating rural poverty? How can the target products truly be protected and promoted?

**Tackling the challenges of rural development and poverty alleviation**

CIRAD has worked in a range of situations and with various partners, enabling it to acquire substantial experience, which is also the object of research work and training operations.

It has participated in research projects, and produced or supervised theses on the range of GIs worldwide: India, East Africa, Brazil and Southeast Asia.

This work has shown that the “geographical indication” legal device is not suited to some situations and that certain conditions are required if it is to benefit sustainable rural development.
For instance, there are several vital stages when building a GI:

> the prior reputation of the product and awareness among producers of its specificity and value;

> the identification and construction of dialogue between producers, leading to the founding of a representative organization;

> the collective drafting of specifications, supervised by such an organization, taking care not to exclude the poorest or most disadvantaged farmers (technical support, schedules, etc);

> the implementation of an internal auditing system, validated by external audits, so as to generate and sustain confidence among producers.

**Tailor-made training courses**

Each year, in partnership with the Swiss REDD team, UMR Innovation organizes a two-week training course for staff responsible for recording GIs at the authorities in charge of intellectual property, professional leaders from the supply chains concerned, and rural development leaders and experts (www.intergi.org). The course covers legal as well as economic, social and organizational aspects. It centres on interactive methods: the participants present their experiences and work in groups on case studies. They visit two GIs during each session and benefit from contributions from top-level European and international experts. The course is held in English and has attracted participants from many countries, including Brazil, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, China and Vietnam. Other courses could be organized on the same bases, maybe shorter or for specific audiences (notably French speakers).
CIRAD’S EXPERIENCES ON GI:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PAMPIG: Project to Support the Establishment of Geographical Indications</th>
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<tr>
<td>Projet d’Appui à la Mise en Place d’Indications Géographiques</td>
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</table>

Date: 2010/2013  
Client: African Intellectual property organization (OAPI) – Funding from AFD  
Countries: Ivory Coast, Guinea, Cameroon  
Partners: -  
Amount: 250k€  
Website: -

Signs of quality related to product origin are among the few symbolic attributes that producing countries and regions can appropriate themselves. Under the name of geographical indications, appellations of origin are recognized internationally. GI encourage these quality efforts of producers and processors, open up export markets for traditional products and build trust and credibility of regional quality products. Since the entry into force of the Bangui Agreement in 1977 (first framework for legal recognition of appellations of origin), the African Intellectual Property Organization (AIPOI) has received no request for Registration for products originating from its member states.

The PAMPIG project objective is to support AIPO member states (16 states) in the conquest of niche markets because of geographical indications, and thus contribute to rural development by improving and securing the earnings of the producers.

The project specifically aims to:

- Accompanying the producer countries in an exercise of identification and recognition of domestic products eligible for geographical indications.

- Establishing a process for 4 GI pilot products: white pepper and honey of Penja Oku (Cameroon), denim of Korhogo (Ivory Coast) and coffee of Ziama (Guinea). At these products we may add three others, from the identification issued by AIPOI in 2008.

- Contributing to capacity building of AIPOI and national public and private partners to ensure the promotion and protection of GIs and to promote export markets for the region.

The PAMPIG project results in (i) the raising of the awareness of producers with information workshops on the GI process, (ii) the strengthening of producer groups (set up of common standards, structuring the organization), (iii) specifications, inspection procedures and marketing strategy for supporting the installment of a national committee of GI.
ECHALOTE AU PAYS DOGON: Feasibility study for a geographical indication on the Dogon shallot and proposition of action plan

Date: 2009/2010
Client: World Bank
Countries: Mali
Partners: -
Amount: 33k€
Website: -

Within the project agricultural competitiveness and diversification (PCDA), the subcomponent "Improving the quality of products" is intended to publicize the brand image of quality agricultural products and promotes the adoption of standards and quality criteria clearly identifiable by consumers. In this context, valuing the shallot Dongon Plateau, Mali, (third worldwide producer) by the establishment of a Geographical Identification (GI), would develop an export market (demand for this shallot by the great French and Italian food) while facilitating recognition of its value and quality.

The project aims at conducting a scoping study to assess the desirability and feasibility of introducing recognition of identification for protected shallot Plateau Dogon and at proposing a plan of support of at least two groups of producers of shallot in the process of obtaining recognition of GIs around the Plateau Dogon shallot if the study is favourable opportunity.

The project targets an economic evaluation of the feasibility of introducing a GI and a program budgeted for installation of a GI shallot Plateau Dogon. It concluded the feasibility of a GI on the shallot plateau Dogon: "Given the characteristics of products, markets and production systems, a quality related to the origin is indeed desirable. But this presupposes that are implemented in specific jobs: the definition of products and markets, the development of specifications; the implementation of control devices; the legal recognition and protection of the designation; the structure of an organization bearing the process."

Moreover, effective collaboration has been established with FAO (Rome and Bamako), which implements a project on the Dogon plateau with the same objective of geographic labeling. More very large meetings (110 villages represented, many authorities ...) have enabled progress towards a better coordination of interventions on the Dogon Plateau.
Could the geographical indication concept become a global operational measure for the recognition and promotion of agrifood products whose features are linked with the physical and human environment of the production sites?

Geographical indications (GIs) for agri-food products are a major asset of the European model of agriculture, acting not only as a tool for protecting consumers’ interests and reinforcing confidence in high-quality and typical products, but also as a legal and commercial basis for the development of rural areas, the preservation of cultural heritage as well as the promotion of SMEs. GIs are also a global issue, regulated in international law by the WTO and warranting increasing attention world-wide. However, no comprehensive analytic framework and data set is yet available to assess their effects.

The objective of the Strengthening INternational Research on Geographical Indications (SINER-GI) project, based on international case studies, is to build and share a coherent scientific basis world-wide, regarding economic, legal, institutional and socio-cultural conditions of success of GIs, in order to support their legitimacy in the framework of WTO negotiations.

The project approach builds on a review and typology of products bearing a GI under different institutional and market frames in new member states, candidate states and in Third countries. This database will lead to the formulation of a robust analytical framework and of internationally relevant monitoring indicators. The conceptual model will then be applied to in-depth analysis of selected case-studies in extra-EU countries compared to EU. Long-term scenarios will be assessed; policy recommendations will address improvements needed to maximize GIs contribution as a driver for rural development and consumers’ confidence.

Practical recommendations will be put forward to better account for the advantages and conditions required for the success of this product qualification strategy giving effective support for successful EU policy.
The aim of the present project is to assess interactions between instrument dispositions and associated standards, as well as local biodiversity management representations and practices. This issue will be dealt with through an interdisciplinary (anthropological, geographical, economic, ethnobiological, ecological and legal) and comparative evaluation involving a diverse range of study sites and subjects, in Africa (GI and diversity of the coffee forest in Ethiopia; ecocertification and labeling of ocean and mangrove products along the West African coast; in Niger, local products, park label and “Niger label”; GI and specific ecosystems, i.e. fynbos, in South Africa), in South America (GI and agro biodiversity in the Brazilian Amazon) and in Asia (GI and agroforestry coffee systems in India).

Considering the environmental and social change processes under way in the study areas, the focus will be on analyzing local biodiversity management viewpoints and methods and to assess how labeling instruments could be tailored to meet the expectations of local people, while also fulfilling biodiversity and cultural conservation objectives. The main targets of this project are to identify relevant biodiversity management elements and to take them into account in the application of these instruments, to develop indicators to support local and national decision making on certification tools and reference frameworks for negotiations accompanying the formalization and application of these instruments.

One of the follow up of the BIODIVALLOC project is the organization of the international symposium “Localizing products: a sustainable approach for natural and cultural diversity in the South?” (Paris, 9th-10th-11th of June 2009, in UNESCO) organized by CIRAD, l’IRD, Mab/UNESCO and the MNHN and supported by FFEM, the Fondation d'Entreprise Hermès, the FRB, and IDDRI. The symposium gathered 175 participants, from North and South, from various scientifique disciplines, international and national organizations, ONG... A reflection work, funded by the AFD, will be about "Southern localized productions: among markets, identities and biodiversities".
In a context of increasing trade liberalization, Tunisia has opted for agricultural strategy based on the promotion of quality products, modernization of farms and increasing exports. Valorization of typical products and soils (‘terroirs’) through the use of distinctive signs such as labels or protected geographical indications may be an interesting strategy to maintain certain production methods and products uncompetitive in international markets including Europe.

The Tunisian Republic wants to promote Tunisian agricultural exports through the establishment of sustainable agriculture focusing on the diversity and quality of local products in Tunisia. In this context, the Tunisian Republic aims at achieving (i) international recognition (European Commission) of two or three products by geographical indication registrations, (ii) the strengthening of the capacities of the General Direction of Agricultural production (Ministry of Agriculture) in charge of the management and the replication of the quality signs in Tunisia. An essential work of capitalization on advisory approaches applied on the selected pilot products in terms of traceability and geographical indications IG in order to guide intervention strategies in other export sectors nationally will be carried out.

Two complementary components are identified in the PA-IG project:

(1) An institutional component includes the implementation of a project coordination unit (UGP – Unité de Gestion du projet) as a network lead by the Tunisian Direction of agricultural production in order to facilitate exchanges between the different stakeholders (ministry, farmers’ organizations, interprofessional associations, investment agencies, quality services, etc.)

(2) An operational component is focused on 3 pilot products: Grenades from Gabès, Olive Oil from Téboursouk and Deglet Nour Dates from Tozeur and Kébili. This initial choice takes into account the progress level of existing feasibility studies: these pilot products are recorded at national level and farmers associations are currently being set up.

In addition, different actions are planned in the PA-IG Project: communication and animation, training, specific studies on value chains, promotion and marketing actions of the products, especially on international places.
GIs in VIETNAM, ASIA: Research and Expertise on Geographical indications

Dates: 2014-
Client: MALICA Research Consortium:
Countries: Vietnam
Partners: Research Institutes member of Malica
Amount: 886 000 euros (AFD)
Website: http://www.malica-asia.com/


Research activities:

3. Project SuperChain: How supplying supermarkets and other quality chains, may also generate increased income opportunities for small farmers if they take advantage of their specific location and savoir-faire in terms of food commodities of special quality: case of Hoa Vang sticky rice from Hai Duong province, 2009. P. Moustier

Workshop/Training/Seminar:

1. EFTA – VIETNAM SEMINAR ON (GIs), Hanoi, 27th May, 2014 : one day presentation by Malica expert (D. Marie-Vivien) on all legal issues regarding GIs within the negotiations of the bilateral free trade agreement.
2. Workshop Malica on costs/benefits of GIs and Trademarks protection on Friday 18 January 2013 at Ipsard. The workshop combined presentations on legal aspects and presentation of management schemes and examples by researchers of Malica involved in GIs and Trademarks projects. D.Marie-Vivien
3. Malica promoted a joint Workshop on Geographical Indications policies in Vietnam, co-organized by the National Office of Intellectual Property (NOIP), VAAS, IPSARD and CIRAD, on 07.09.2011: This meeting opened a useful space for debate on GI management and implementation. D. Sautier; D.Marie-Vivien
4. Three Vietnamese expert participated in InterGI in France/Swizerland (from NOIP, Ipsard)
To develop its exports and contribute into its global policy of poverty reduction, Laos’s government wishes to develop approaches highlighting the quality and the specific characteristics of its most famous products. Several potential products were assessed for registration for a label displaying the origin: coffee from the Bolaven plateau, tea from Pakson, Lao silk, aromatic “small chicken” sticky rice from Xieng Khouang and Houaphan provinces, and dried algae from Luang Prabang.

Besides, the project aimed at strengthening the legal framework on the official recognition and enforcement of geographical indications in Laos.

The project includes three components:

1/ recognize geographical indications: i) develop the legal framework, ii) carry out communication and awareness raising actions on GI for different sectors of the public, iii) support the creation of groups that can apply for the registration of GI;

2/ promote geographical indications and develop markets: i) characterize pre-selected products, ii) selection of pilot products, iii) implementing two pilot cases, one for Bolaven plateau coffee and one for “small chicken” rice from Xieng Khouang;

3/ define the rules for geographical indications: i) propose a geographical delimitation area for production and a proposal of product specifications and control plan, ii) test and adjust the rules.

Under CIRAD orientation, PEIG project identified the core zone for high-quality production, and the Good Production and Post-Harvest practices associated with the expected quality. Leading producer groups were identified and the basis laid for a regional organization that could monitor these good practices. Marketing and packaging tests were conducted in Vientiane. At the end of the project, both specialty products, Bolaven coffee and Xieng Khouang plateau small chicken rice, have the capacity to file a GI application as soon as the legal framework is completed.
Development of geographical indications for Arabica coffee in Indonesia

Dates: 2002/2004
Client: French Embassy in Indonesia
Countries: Indonesia
Partners: INAO, ICCRI
Amount: 110k€
Website: -

This pilot project aimed at supporting the legal and institutional framework on GI in Indonesia through (i) the identification of the role of agricultural professional organizations in production, post-harvest processing and marketing, (ii) value-chains and export circuits analyses, (iii) mapping of geographical regions of high-level Arabica coffee production, (iv) sensory analyses of the coffee produced in those areas and the definition of a procedure for the definition of geographical indications.

Study missions have been undertaken by CIRAD’s agents. A researcher from ICCRI, Dr Surip MAWARDI, provided backing for all these field missions and received additional training at the CIRAD centre in Montpellier. Coffee samples have been taken from the target production zones and analyzed at ICCRI and at the CIRAD centre in Montpellier (measure of chemical composition and quality). The production, post-harvest preparation and marketing sectors have been analyzed. Recommendations have been made for Arabica coffee production, post-harvest treatment and marketing. A procedure for the introduction of geographical indications is currently being implemented and a legal framework for GI from now on.

A group aimed at defending and managing the GI on Arabica coffee has been created. The reputation of Indonesian Arabica coffee is raising and a value-chain for quality coffee was created.

Strategic contacts has been established with coffee buyers: the Kintanami coffee began in 2005 the most expensive Indonesian coffee, providing interesting prices for producers (2,5-2,6 USD per kg; 12% humidity).
GI-JA: External Evaluation of the Geographical indication project in Jamaica (GI-JA)

**Dates:** 2010

**Client:** Federal Intellectual Property Institute

**Countries:** Switzerland

**Partners:** JIPO

**Website:** https://www.ige.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/JuristischeInfos/e/summary_external_evaluation_Jamaika.pdf

By publishing the GI Act in 2004 and joining the group “Friends of GIs” within the World Trade Organization (WTO) arena, Jamaica expressed a direct interest in taking a step towards the protection of the country’s Geographical Indications (GIs). However, as of 2007, the 2004 GI Act had not yet allowed the registration of any GIs due to the absence of regulations.

At the request of the JIPO (Jamaica Intellectual Property Office), the IPI (Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property) agreed to finance and implement a cooperation project with the aim of supporting the establishment of a legal system and a GI registration procedure, as well as the training of officers and producers to support the registration of several GIs in Jamaica.

The project’s objective was to assist Jamaica in establishing a functional and effective protection system for GIs, in order to contribute to a better positioning of Jamaican quality products on national and international markets through distinctive signs.

CIRAD was mobilized to provide a final evaluation GI-JA project. The Geographical Indications Project between Jamaica and Switzerland project has succeeded in creating a strong dynamic for GI registration in Jamaica. The project was effective due to the fact that Jamaica was very committed to the protection of GIs from its start, but did not have operational procedures available or specifically qualified personnel to implement it. The main result of the project is that the legal GI system exists with functional procedures. Several products are on their way to being registered. Agencies have qualified professionals and services which are operational. Producers are informed and supported in the process of GI application and the first GIs are about to be registered in Jamaica.

The lessons learnt from the project deal with the importance of demand-driven cooperation: the registration of GIs must be a political and/or economic need at the country level. The direct local partner institutions should be convinced from the outset of the usefulness of GI protection in their country. Cooperation projects often have a short length, two to three years, compared with the time often necessary for the negotiation of the quality attributes and the code of practices of pilot products, which can easily take five to six years. Therefore, it is recommended to deal with already organised supply chains and to start working with fairly organised producer groups at the outset of the project. The selected pilot products should have a strong reputation and encounter problems of usurpation or counterfeiting. Their protection must represent a major policy and/or economic issue. The higher the stakes, the more ownership can be expected. The choice of pilot products contributes to the selection of the agencies to be integrated into the project, particularly the agencies of the Ministry of Agriculture. To finish, a project-closing scenario should consider how each institutional partner could integrate the new functions dedicated to GIs and the officers trained during the project. Moreover, a sufficient number of officers trained within each institutional partner improves the sustainability of a GI project.
**GI-Colombia:** - Training and facilitation exchange of experience in the area of handicraft Geographical Indications (GIs) for Artesanías de Colombia (AdC)  
- Development of procedures and related manuals in the field of GIs for the Superintendencia de Industria y Comercio (SIC)  
**Swiss-Colombian Intellectual Property Rights Project “COLIPRI”**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates:</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Client:</td>
<td>Federal Intellectual Property Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries:</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partners:</td>
<td>SIC Colombia, Artesania de Colombia</td>
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</table>

The Colipri’s Project’s objectives are:

A. to support a process reform within the Superintendence of Industry and Commerce (SIC) regarding an improved quality management of the patent and trademark examination as well as the offering of new demand driven IP-search services and trainings;

B. to increase knowledge and technology transfer by developing a national knowledge and technology transfer strategy, establishing a regional and/or sectorial pilot technology transfer office or an innovation cluster;

C. to enable private and public stakeholders in developing tools, know-how and networks on geographical indications (GIs), and supporting two pilot GI supply chains (Bocadillo veleño and Artesanías de Colombia producers) to implement a collective development strategy to apply for GI registration and to market nationally and internationally; and

D. to strengthen the traditional knowledge (TK) protection system to provide tangible benefits for indigenous and black communities by supporting the development of a national TK policy and providing awareness-raising among indigenous and black communities.

Within the project, the first objective of the consultancy was to support the SIC in concretising its procedures, rules and regulations regarding the application for registration, authorisation and control plans approval for the use of Denomination of Origin.

The second objective is to increase the general knowledge level on GI and Denomination of Origin (DO) for handicraft among the employees of AdC in its regional offices by providing relevant training and facilitating the exchange of experiences with Ethnonetwork, a Serbian organisation being active in similar fields as AdC.
Some training on GI...

<table>
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<tr>
<th>INTERGI:</th>
<th>International Training Module - Geographical Indications, a way forward for local development</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dates:</td>
<td>Annual session since 2007, alternately in Switzerland and France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organizing institutes:</td>
<td>Joint Research Unit INNOVATION (CIRAD, INRA, MONTPELLIER SUPAGRO) and REDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount:</td>
<td>70k€/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.intergi.org/">http://www.intergi.org/</a></td>
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</table>

Geographical Indications are currently a thematic of great relevance. The protection of geographical names for original local productions raises an increasing interest from farmers, processors and governments. The internationalization of agro-food markets leads to a greater importance of property rights and other related concerns.

The preservation of traditional knowledge, the power that the image of the region exerts on consumer attractiveness, the local synergies with other economic sectors are further arguments for this increasing attention. On the European continent, the concept is well known by consumers and implemented in a number of countries with largely positive impacts. In the new world and in developing countries, a growing interest is also visible, mainly because many drivers and trends playing at the international level are the same. Geographical Indications are one of the most debated Intellectual Property Rights at the World Trade Organization. This generates an intense activity at the level of intergovernmental negotiations.

However, the need to create various technical forums with regulators in charge of applying the legal frameworks and with rural development practitioners is becoming more evident.

The objective of this training course is to strengthen the skills and knowledge of professionals from diverse professional and geographical backgrounds involved in the development of GIs in their respective countries and thus to help maximize the impact of GIs on local and rural development and rural producers’ livelihoods: local development agencies and experts, GI registration administration, GI producer organizations, supply chains or inter-professional bodies.

This course is based on interactive methods. Participants are asked to present their experience, and exchange with other participants and trainers. Exercises are performed in groups on different case studies. Field case studies are based on documents review, interviews of the actors of the supply chains, producers, processors, directors of inter-professional bodies of GI products. They contribute to the in-depth comprehension of concepts and real case situations.
The international training « AFICA GI » was held in 2010 and 2011 in answer to OAPI in the framework of the PAMPIG Project. The joint research unit INNOVATION was the project manager. The objectives of this training were (i) to strengthen capacity building of the persons in charge of GI in their countries and (ii) to create information, exchange and collaboration network between them and the OAPI.

36 professionals from the 16 OAPI’s countries took part to the training that was held in the Grande Motte (France) from October 4th to 15th, 2010 and in Sète (France) from Mars 14th to 25th, 2011. The participants have been initially selected by the PAMPIG Project in order to balance stakeholders’ representation (professionals on IP from national services linked to OAPI, from agriculture ministry and from producers’ organizations.

The training was in particular built to answer (i) the needs of competences for the elaboration, registration and the management of the quality sign “geographical indication” and (ii) the objectives of the PAMPIG Project.

The training was composed of experts’ talks, field visits, presentations per countries, working groups and discussions. Each presentation has been put in perspective with represented African countries. The training has presented the different steps needed for the registration and the valorization of African GI:

- Legal and framework
- International and OAPI’s countries’ legal framework
- GI registration process and role played by national commissions and committees
- The specification of products
- Certification process
- Marketing of products under GI

The field visits have been thought as illustrative situations linked to talks and presentations. New questions were brought by these in situ steps (coherence of GI strategy, adaptation in African context…). Participants have been often involved and invited to describe their national situation.
CIRAD’S PRESENTATION
THE DEPARTMENT, UNIT AND TEAM OF OUR EXPERTS

CIRAD (Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement)

CIRAD is a French research centre working with developing countries to tackle international agricultural and development issues. CIRAD is a public industrial and commercial enterprise (EPIC) under the joint authority of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

CIRAD works with the whole range of developing countries to generate and pass on new knowledge, support agricultural development and fuel the debate on the main global issues concerning agriculture. CIRAD is a targeted research organization, and bases its operations on development needs, from field to laboratory and from a local to a global scale. CIRAD’s activities involve the life sciences, social sciences and engineering sciences, applied to agriculture, food and rural territories. CIRAD works hand-in-hand with local people and the local environment, on complex, ever-changing issues: food security, ecological intensification, emerging diseases, the future of agriculture in developing countries...

CIRAD centres its operations on six priority lines of research: Ecological intensification (Inventing new types of agriculture that optimize yields and preserve biodiversity) ; Biomass energy and societies in the South (Studying how we can ensure that the emergence and development of bioenergies favour people in developing countries) ; Accessible, quality food (Innovating to make food accessible, varied and safe) ; Animal health and emerging diseases (Foreseeing and managing the infectious disease risks linked to wild and domestic animals) ; Public policy, poverty and inequality (Supporting public policies aimed at reducing structural inequality and poverty) and Agriculture, environment, nature and societies (Understanding the relations between nature, agriculture and society better so as to manage tropical rural areas sustainably).

CIRAD has a global network of partners and of twelve regional offices, from which it conducts joint operations with more than 90 countries.

In East and southern Africa, CIRAD and its partners are working to support public policy, design tools and methods for managing agro systems and the environment sustainably, and boost agricultural product quality and animal health, in relation with human health. CIRAD has been building national and inter-regional partnerships in central Africa for more than 50 years, and continues to be actively involved in building research and scientific debating
capacity. In the coastal countries of West Africa, CIRAD’s commitments as regards national and regional bodies and universities are geared towards guaranteeing food security for local people, grounded in diversified agricultural development, and preserving natural resources from degradation. Continental West African countries are particularly badly affected by the impact of climate change and population growth. CIRAD and its partners are thus devoting a large part of their research operations to ensuring the food and energy security of local populations, while respecting the environment. While sub-Saharan Africa is the continent with which it has the most and the oldest links, over the past twenty years, the number of scientific agreements and joint research programmes with other parts of the world has grown substantially.

**Environments and Societies Department (ES)**

The Environments and Societies Department centers its research on the relations between agriculture, natural resource management and social dynamics, and the links with public policy.

It works on an individual farm, forest, region, country and even global level, studying the processes of innovation and coordination between players and social groups, and territories as the best places for implementing regulation. This means conducting surveys, polls and inventories and using specific techniques to represent and model complex systems. Its research draws upon concepts and tools from various disciplines and sets great store by the human and social sciences. It addresses the ways in which renewable resources—water, forests, rangelands and wildlife—are exploited and managed collectively, in relation to production. It also looks at the establishment and impact of public policy in terms of agriculture and the environment. Among other things, the aim is to enlighten decisions on public asset management and market organization, by establishing norms and supporting talks between players.

**The Joint Research Unit “Innovation and Development in Agriculture and the agrifood sector” (INNOVATION)**

The UMR INNOVATION develops research work on the innovation processes considered as individual and collective action processes including technical and organisational innovations. It looks at the series of processes, from actors’ aims to innovate up to the effects induced by these innovations on the development. Within the UMR’s interdisciplinary scientific project we associate skills in the areas of biotechnical sciences (agronomy) and social sciences (economics, sociology, anthropology, geography, management science, law).

The UMR INNOVATION carries out research on: (i) farming systems to evaluate, understand and accompany the transformation process; (ii) food production systems, specifying the relationships developed between production, market exchanges and food consumption and (iii) agri urban projects, studied as a process of territorial innovation.

The ALISTAR TEAM includes researchers in economics, sociology/anthropology, geography and law. The research team focuses its efforts on four processes that enable family farms, in the North and South, to cope with globalization: product certification and an internationalization of quality certifications; renewal of producers’ organizations and cooperatives; a search for equity in the social development of markets and the development of local agrifood systems (SYAL). The main instruments currently being assessed in developing countries are geographical indications (GI), ecocertifications, park labels and fair trade labels. CIRAD is involved in several initiatives (both research and development projects and trainings) on geographical indications all over the world, especially on the African continent.