NARES-CGIAR partnership and collaboration: Feedback from West African

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Genetic Innovation: The Second Leadership Consultation Meeting: NARES-CGIAR-Aide Memoire

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Progress on what is working well

Genetic and innovation support

- Excellent support and team networking on Genotyping & and phenotyping;

- Access to cutting-edge technologies, tools, research facilities, and advanced approaches for breeding programs to a stakeholder demand (PPD, MS, Core Elite lines defined close to Elite germplasm pool, QTL, genotypic QA/QC on F1, MAS, RGA, TRICOT approach”) for more accuracy and efficiency and better performance;
Progress on what is working well

Breeding Infrastructure Modernization and Capacity Development

- Funds being distributed or raised with NARES for the facilities (lab equipment, green/screen house, field testing, irrigation systems, fencing, soil improvement, cold chamber)

- Human capacity development on the value chain/team of stakeholders
Progress on what is working well

Germplasm and technology exchange

- Good levels of germplasm exchange NARS-CGIAR like ICARDA, IITA, AfricaRice, CIMMYT, ICRISAT, and World Vegetable Center) for fast development / adaptation and deployment innovation

Training

- Training on Continuous Improvement
- Training on modern Breeding methods, techniques, and tools to achieve higher genetic gains
What needs further improvement

• Decision making
  • WCA and ESA steering committees created with the NARs
What needs further improvement

Accelerate upgrading NARES facilities

- Fencing station for security;
- irrigation system,
- screening facilities,
- mechanization of operations,
- lab and cold chamber,
- field testing land ... by easing slowing procedures even though a lot of planning has been done;
What needs further improvement

Training
- Possibilities for scientific stays in CGIAR laboratories for capacity building,
- Maintenance & use of infrastructures and equipment including SOPs writing;
- More face-to-face training less virtual

Resource availability and fundraising
- Co-development of research projects with more resources and leadership by NARS and the backstopping by CGIAR;
- Clear discussions on budgeting activities as allocated funds a too small for NARES and without overheads;
- Motivate researchers with consistent staff time;
- Timely release of funds for research
Thank you