



# cirad support for scientific information

## A participatory process for tailored action training

As part of its mandate to provide scientific information and to support agricultural research in developing countries, CIRAD designs training programs to enable its Southern partners to access, produce and disseminate scientific information. The first step for CIRAD is to analyze partnerships, institutional means, and external resources available at a national, regional or international level. Then, in close collaboration with the institutions concerned, CIRAD designs a package comprising both specific and complementary products and services.

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### Partnership activities

#### CIRAD has wide-ranging and varied experience in information management

- Question and Answer Service (QAS)
- Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI)
- Library management
- Information management and digitalization
- Scope statement for projects in the library environment
- Open source and free software for information management
- Expertise in library resources

#### CIRAD'S participation in international cooperation projects

**IMARK:** is an international e-learning initiative lead by FAO with many different partners. IMARK learning materials are in the form of a series of modules available online and on CD-ROM

**SIST:** this scientific and technical information system is a federated search portal based on open-source software and is supported by the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. The portal provides access to scientific resources and to free tools such as forums, wikis and web content management software

**Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI):** supported by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) in partnership with CABI for the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

**K4D (Knowledge for Development):** a CTA website fed by Cirad in partnership with CABI international

#### CIRAD is a favored partner of Agricultural Research Centres

- Good knowledge of partnership research systems
- Customized relationships with information specialists in Southern and Northern countries



### Users' Needs and CIRAD's Training Programs

#### Needs expressed by Southern institutions

- Information products and services adapted to the local and institutional context
- Defining a scientific information strategy
- Managing Scientific information
- Use of free tools to manage information
- Setting up digital libraries

#### Main constraints of Southern partners

- Lack or distinction between human, technical, organizational and financial means
- Difficulty in accessing the information market
- Lack of or mismatch of information flows for collecting, conserving and disseminating national scientific publications
- Digital divide

#### Contents of CIRAD's tailored training programs

- Dissemination of knowledge
- Skills transfer
- Professional exercises in situ
- Experience sharing
- Designing tailored solutions to fit the specific needs of Southern partners
- Identifying information resources such as international programs and projects

