

>WHAT'S ON IN MONTPELLIER

G20 agricultural research systems address food security

Held on 12 and 13 September in Montpellier (Agropolis International) at the initiative of the French Presidency of the G20 and under the food security pillar of the development action plan, the first meeting of the G20 Development group on Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) was devoted to the promotion of scientific partnerships for food security.



▲ French minister for Cooperation **Henri de Raincourt** addresses the conference.
▶ The conference was attended by more than a hundred participants from G20 countries, invited countries and international organizations.



© Agropolis International

The conference received financial support from the Regional Council of Languedoc-Roussillon, Agreenium, CIRAD and IRD, and was organized by the French ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE) and Agropolis International.

High-level representation

The conference was attended by over one hundred participants from the G20 countries, the guest countries (Spain, Ethiopia, Singapore) and seven international organizations: the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

(FAO), the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), the World Bank (WB), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the International Foundation for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

David Nabarro, the Special Representative for Food Security and Nutrition of the Secretary-General, of the United Nations, attended both days of the conference.

Food security, the priority of the French G20 Presidency

The French Minister for Cooperation, Henri de Raincourt, closed the G20 conference on Agricultural Research for Development by pointing out that food security would be an even more pressing issue in the future in the light of current demographic trends. Food security is currently one of the priorities of the French G20 Presidency, and the Montpellier conference was part of that agenda.

Promising results

The meeting agenda and concept note, which presented the four sessions and the issues under discussion, were prepared by a steering committee chaired by France (MAEE) comprising Brazil, Canada, Japan and four international organizations (CGIAR, FAO, GFAR and WB).

The key points on which progress was made at the conference, as presented by Bérengère Quincy, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of France to FAO, IFAD and WFP (the World Food Programme), are as follows:

- The G20 needs to be part of the dynamic of cooperation implemented pursuant to the GCARD* conference held every two years by GFAR and CGIAR.

- Since its reform, CGIAR has been playing a decisive role in the development and implementation of global research programmes to meet the major challenges posed by global issues on food security, fight against rural poverty, and sustainable management of natural resources.

- There is a need to develop innovative partnerships, such as triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships (PPP), based on the G20 countries' voluntary commitment.

■ The implementation of the following platforms was proposed and has been widely supported:

- a neutral platform to discuss global foresight exercises under the responsibility of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR),
- a platform on tropical agriculture to provide capacity building for stakeholders in the South and serve as a tool for distance learning and information sharing.

The Minister for Cooperation said that the concrete results of this conference would also appear in the recommendations of the first G20 ministerial meeting on development, to be held 23 September, and in the **late 2011 Cannes declaration**.

The holding of this conference in Montpellier has meant that G20 delegations were received in the city chosen to host the headquarters of the CGIAR Consortium.

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For further information:
www.agropolis.org/news/2010-headquarters-cgiar-consortium.php

* GCARD: Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development.
www.agropolis.org/gcard/gcard-2010.php

CGIAR Consortium becomes an international Organization

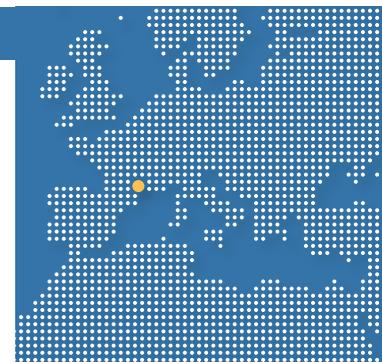


At this conference, the French Minister for Cooperation, along with the Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary to France, signed the agreement, prepared by the MAEE, establishing the CGIAR Consortium as an international Organization.

He was glad that France has been hosting the CGIAR Consortium headquarters since March 2011, thanks to synergies developed between the Regional Council of Languedoc-Roussillon and the State.

The agreement, of which France is the depositary, is now open for signature in Paris.

For further information :
www.agropolis.org/news/2010-headquarters-cgiar-consortium.php



French agricultural research to work with CGIAR to address global challenges

The French Commission for International Agricultural Research* (CRAI), together with the Consortium of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research** (CGIAR), has signed a declaration seeking to better coordinate the efforts of the different organizations concerning research and partnerships.

On the occasion of the G20 Intergovernmental Conference on Agricultural Research for Development held in Montpellier on 12 and 13 September 2011 (*see opposite*), the CRAI and the CGIAR Consortium signed a declaration of common intent at Agropolis International.

By signing the declaration, the research organizations involved in CRAI and CGIAR Consortium commit themselves to better coordinate their efforts to meet global challenges such as poverty reduction, food security and the management of natural resources. This coordination will take place at the level of research projects, partnerships, and each partner's frameworks and strategic visions. It will tend towards an orchestration of global agricultural research to promote effective development.

For further information :
www.agropolis.org/news/2010-headquarters-cgiar-consortium.php

* The French Commission for International Agricultural Research (CRAI), chaired by Bernard Hubert, also President of Agropolis International, is a consultative body linking some French research organizations (Agreenium, Cemagref, CIRAD, INRA, IRD), the Agropolis International association and the following French ministries: Agriculture, Food, Fisheries, Rural Affairs and Land use Planning; Foreign and European Affairs; and Higher Education and Research.
www.agropolis.org/cooperation/crai-international-agricultural-research-commission.php

** The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) comprises 15 international agricultural research centers around the world specializing in the main food crops (rice, wheat, potatoes, forests, tropical agriculture, livestock, etc.). The reform of the CGIAR, launched in 2010, enabled the regrouping of the 15 research centers into a unique worldwide Consortium to coordinate and support their programming.
<http://consortium.cgiar.org>

>AGROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



A new director for Agropolis International

Paul Luu has been the new director of Agropolis International since 2 May 2011. Mr. Luu was seconded from the French Ministry of Agriculture; he succeeds Michael Salas, director of Agropolis since 2002, who has been appointed CIRAD Regional Director in Languedoc-Roussillon.

Paul Luu, age 48, formerly chief engineer in the bridges, water and forests administration, holds an agronomy engineer degree and a doctorate in the biology of individuals and populations.

He began his career in research and development positions at the international level, and subsequently exercised ministerial responsibilities relating to cooperation with foreign countries and French overseas territories.

During the past six years, he was director of the *Office de développement de l'économie agricole d'outre-mer* (ODEADOM).

Mr. Luu has set himself the goal of enhancing the clarity and positioning of the Montpellier agro-environment cluster at the international level, in research and training alike. His international experience, both in foreign countries and French overseas territories, is a real asset in his new duties.



Montpellier Languedoc-Roussillon
World centre for agricultural,
food and environmental sciences

>COOPERATION

The Department of Hérault and the Chilean Region Coquimbo pursue their cooperation



P. Dias © Agropolis International

■ During the visit of a Chilean delegation to Montpellier (June 2011), the Agreement "For a sustainable Decentralised Cooperation between the Conseil général de l'Hérault and the Regional Government of Coquimbo" was renewed in a public meeting by André Vézinhet, President of the Conseil général de l'Hérault (CG34), and Sérgio Gahona Salazar, President of the Coquimbo government.

The preferential exchanges that have been developed since 1997 between CG34 and a few regional governments in Chile are considered by the MAEE¹ as a model of decentralised cooperation (*between territorial authorities*).

Agropolis International is the operator of the CG34 for several components of these interactions: research, innovation and support to territorial development. AI is thus in charge of promoting and facilitating scientific exchanges between Chilean and French teams on subjects of common interest.

The major cooperation fields are currently water and environment management, aquaculture, biotechnology, viti-viniculture and oenotourism.

This has allowed so far 57 crossed missions of French and Chilean teams, 25 exchange of trainees, 12 training periods for Chilean researchers in France, recruitment of 3 French post-docs or researchers in Chile, 7 common projects for international applications, 25 participations to French-Chilean ateliers and workshops and 3 workshops co-organised in Chile.

This delegation included 13 persons representing the Regional Government (GoRe²) of Coquimbo, INIA³ (National Institute for Agriculture Research), CEAZA⁴ (National Centre for Advanced Studies in Arid Zones), SERNATUR⁵ (Tourism National Service) and the Faculty of Medicine of the Northern Catholic University⁶ (UCN).

In specific meetings and field trips, the visitors have met several members of Agropolis International (INRA, Montpellier SupAgro, IRD, IFREMER, Cemagref, CNRS, Université Montpellier 2), the Regional Academic Hospital Centre of Montpellier-Nîmes (CHRU), as well as differences structures related to water governance (VERSeau Développement, IWRA⁷, Pôle de compétitivité EAU, Syndicat Mixte de la Vallée du Lez, Observatoire Départemental de l'Eau et de l'Environnement, Syndicat des

Etangs Littoraux, Conservatoire des Espaces Naturels Lacustres, Site de l'Etang de Thau).

They also met Paul Luu, Director of Agropolis International in order to assess the contribution of Agropolis International to this agreement.

This mission was followed by a visit of Professor Mario Edding, Director of CIDTA⁸ (UCN), who met several regional scientific entities with the aim of developing between Hérault and UCN both scientific cooperation (oceanography and marine sciences, biotechnology and technological platforms, exploitation of seaweeds) and academic cooperation (teachers and students mobility, exchange of experience on training courses and on the structure of the scientific community in Coquimbo and Montpellier).

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For further information:
www.herault.fr/international/chili-iveme-region-coquimbo

1. MAEE: Ministère des Affaires étrangères et européennes (France)
2. GoRe: Gobierno Regional de Coquimbo
3. CEAZA: Centro de Estudios Avanzados en Zonas Áridas
4. INIA: Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria
5. Servicio Nacional de Turismo Chile - Sernatur
6. UCN: Universidad Católica del Norte
7. IWRA: International Water Resources Association
8. Centre de recherche de biologie marine de la Facultad Ciencias del Mar, Universidad Católica del Norte (UCN), Coquimbo, Chili

>COOPERATION

Cooperation between Algeria and the regional scientific community



© Agropolis International

■ A framework agreement between ENSA and Agropolis International on "restoration and construction of tropical greenhouses", "training engineering", "research engineering", and a project to create a national "agropole" was signed at the beginning of 2011.

ENSA, which is responsible for higher education, scientific research and technological development in various fields related to agriculture and the food industry is, as a school outside the university, the only organization in Algeria dedicated to engineering education in the agricultural sciences. Its main medium-term

challenge is to establish the material, human and organisational preconditions for quality training to be delivered and so to consolidate its new status and its brand image among higher education institutions in Algeria and the Mediterranean basin.

The purpose of the ongoing reform at ENSA is to ensure, as soon as possible, that the conditions are in place for it to train high-level executives able to help tackle Algeria's many challenges in the areas of food safety and sustainable development of rural areas. Three major projects are being launched: the scientific and educational reorganisation of the school and the recasting of its curriculum, the upgrading of its experimental and research platform, and the strengthening of its relations with its scientific, institutional and economic partners.

Agricultural training and research institutions in Montpellier that belong to Agropolis International (AgroParisTech, Cemagref, CIRAD, IAM.M, ICRA, IRD, Montpellier Sup-Agro, Universities, etc.) occupy a special place in this new strategy because of their ongoing traditions of cooperation.

A visit by eight lecturers and researchers from ENSA in late September 2010 allowed concrete actions to be mapped out for the short and medium term to spark cooperation between ENSA and the Agropolis community, that cooperation having since been formalised by means of a framework agreement. Since then, several missions have been conducted on either side, reinforcing the already existing links. In late June 2011, the ENSA managerial team came to Montpellier to discuss the recasting of the school's curriculum according to the LMD architecture (Licence-Master-Doctorate) and to advance the research and training components of the cooperation.

A delegation of five researchers will attend at the end of October 2011 a seminar organized by the French Association of Plant Protection (AFPP) at La Gaillarde Campus, Montpellier.

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For further information:
www.ina.dz

International mobility for researchers

■ "Hosting PhD students and researchers at your establishment: hosting agreement, visa and residence permit, social security and taxes"—24 June 2011, Agropolis International, Montpellier: a one-day session organized by the Languedoc-Roussillon Euraxess Services Centre (the regional hosting centre, officially recognised by the French ministry for higher education and the European Union), in partnership with the Alfred Kastler Foundation.

The session was attended by some one hundred people whose responsibility it is to manage the arrival of a foreign PhD student, professor or researcher

at a research or higher education institution belonging to the scientific community of Montpellier and environs.

The purpose was to take stock of the regulations in effect and to let participants know where to find the information they need to handle the requisite administrative procedures for international researchers to stay in France (more than 50 different nationalities every year).

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For further information:
www.agropolis.org/practical/scientists.php

>TRAINING

Montpellier SupAgro, in conjunction with Agropolis International, is to endow a chair in World Food Supply with official UNESCO sanction



N. Briceas © CIRAD

■ At the initiative of Montpellier SupAgro, a number of Agropolis International members are banding together to endow a World Food Systems (ADM) chair in Montpellier. Officially approved by UNESCO in May 2011, the chair should begin its activities as of autumn 2011 with financial support from Agropolis Foundation.

Montpellier now has some thirty training groups and research laboratories working in the field of food. The UNESCO World Food Systems chair will be part of a UNITWIN network bringing together a dozen foreign universities.

The project, entrusted to Jean-Louis Rastoin, emeritus professor at Montpellier SupAgro, was developed by a multidisciplinary working group made up of lecturers and scientists at several Agropolis International member establishments (CIHEAM/IAM.M, CIRAD, INRA, IRD, Montpellier SupAgro and the three Montpellier universities).

The ADM chair's activities will revolve around three concepts: the right to food, food security and food sovereignty. The chair's purpose is to contribute to the construction of more sustainable food systems worldwide. Hence, it will develop a knowledge base by mobilising the research of biotechnological and social science laboratories belonging to its UNITWIN network. Some of

the chair's potential projects are: the establishment of ECTS-based learning paths at Montpellier SupAgro and at French and foreign institutions belonging to the UNITWIN network; the launch of a mobile continuous training module on food security; the organisation of an annual international seminar on a topic related to world food supply and of course the creation of a website.

Official UNESCO approval for the World Food Systems chair came about through the active support of the French National Commission for UNESCO and of Agropolis International members, foreign universities, the Agropolis Foundation, the Regional Council of Languedoc-Roussillon, and civil society stakeholders.

For further information:
www.supagro.fr/filagro/sites/files/file/11/CP_Chair%20Unesco%20avril%202011_VF_16mai2011.pdf

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>WHAT'S ON IN MONTPELLIER

A visit to France by Elinor Ostrom, Nobel Prize in Economics in 2009



Invited to France for a tribute to all of her work, Elinor Ostrom, professor of political science at Indiana University (Bloomington, USA), and founding member of the Center for the Study of Institutional Diversity at the University of Arizona (Arizona State University, USA), was welcomed in Montpellier on 20 and 21 June 2011.

During her visit to Montpellier, Ms Ostrom gave a public lecture (Corum, Montpellier), "Towards a third way between the State and the market for collective and supportive management of the environment and resources", which attracted upwards of 600 people. She also held discussions with French and foreign PhD students and scientists in a master class and research school on the theme of "Collective Action: Epistemology, Theory, Methodology." Agropolis International, CIRAD and Université Montpellier 1 were mandated to organise this event with the support of the Languedoc-Roussillon region.

For further information:
www.agropolis.org/news/elinor-ostrom.php

On 12 October 2009, the Nobel Prize in Economics was awarded to Elinor Ostrom, the first female recipient. Essentially, this great scientist's work is concerned with the concept of "common pool resources"; she formulates in scientific terms the concept of collective governance of natural resources, in the North and the South alike, in the face of such major issues as global change, sustainable development and the knowledge economy. Moreover, Ms Ostrom conceives of collective action and self-organisation as a third way of action in human societies, between privatisation and State management.



>WHAT'S ON IN MONTPELLIER

Agropolis International joins the Consortium of Scientific Partners (CSP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB)

This international consortium, created in 2006, now comprises 18 biodiversity institutions. Its mandate is to bring its members' expertise to bear on political decisions taken pursuant to the Convention on Biological Diversity.



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Agropolis International's decision to join the Consortium attests to the excellence of the regional scientific community in the area of biodiversity (31 research units comprising more than 1,200 scientists and 400 PhD students), which had already been illustrated by the CEMEB LabEx (Laboratory of Excellence of the Mediterranean Centre for Environment and Biodiversity). This decision is also in line with the energetic biodiversity endeavours of the City of Montpellier.

For further information:
www.agropolis.fr/actualites/2011-adhesion-consortium-partenaires-scientifiques-convention-diversite-biologique.php

The City of Montpellier, an Agropolis International community member, has been chosen as France's "Biodiversity Capital" for 2011

The City of Montpellier has been chosen as France's "Biodiversity Capital" for 2011 in a competition offering rewards for local authorities committed to preserving biodiversity. This year's theme for the competition, organized by Natureparif (the regional agency for nature and biodiversity in Île-de-France), was "Biodiversity and Town Planning", and its emphasis was on policies designed to protect both the natural world and the built environment. The competition is held under the auspices of the French environment ministry and is supported by numerous partner associations (LPO, OPIE, ONF, UNAF, WWF) and networks. It also enjoys support from the European Commission (Life+ programme) and is held simultaneously in five countries: Germany, Spain, France, Slovakia and Hungary.



For further information:
www.montpellier.fr/3313-biodiversite.htm

LPO: Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux / OPIE: Office Pour les Insectes et leur Environnement
 ONF: Office National des Forêts / UNAF: Union Nationale de l'Apiculture Française
 WWF: World Wildlife Fund

>JUST PUBLISHED

An English version of the Agropolis International thematic series

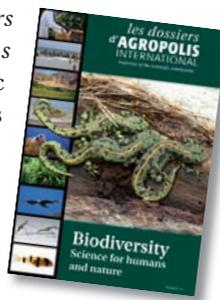
«Biodiversity—Science for humans and nature»

■ No. 13 (84 pages, October 2011).
 Coordinators: Serge Morand (UM 2) and Chantal Dorthe (INRA).

The regional community involved with this theme has an impressive array of expertise, with 31 research units comprising more than 1,200 scientists and 400 PhD students. The research being done in ecology, evolution and social sciences covers all fields of biodiversity science, with a strong emphasis on Mediterranean and tropical environments, both land and sea.

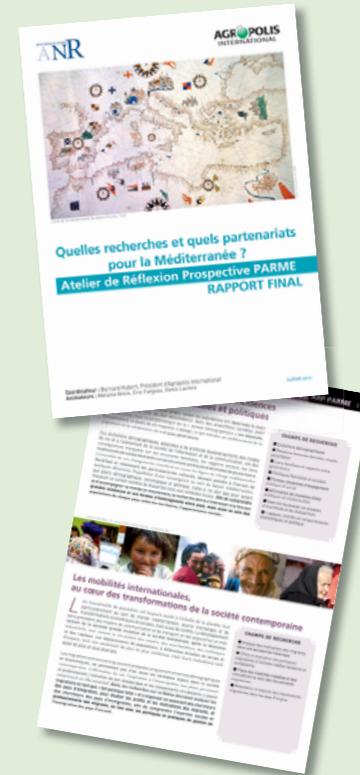
The *Dossiers d'Agropolis* are thematic directories that serve as a ready reference to all the laboratories, research teams and units at Agropolis International member institutions that are working on a given topic.

For further information:
www.agropolis.org/publications/thematic-files-agropolis.php



>JUST PUBLISHED

Final report of the ARP PARME Forward-thinking Workshop: "What research and what partnerships for the Mediterranean?"



■ This report (July 2011, 194 pages), a project of ANR (Agence nationale de la recherche), was coordinated by Agropolis International.

This multi-stakeholder project, focusing on four broad themes (agriculture/ food/ health, energy demand, cultures and societies, space/resources/land), mobilized 136 experts from the northern, southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean, belonging to some sixty organizations (research and training bodies, economic development players—competitiveness clusters, experts and enterprises), with strong involvement of scientists of the regional community.

ARP-PARME synthesis is available online in French, English and Arabic.

To learn more and to download:
www.agropolis.org (search on "ARP PARME")

Agropolis International is responsible for the secretariat of the European Society for Agronomy (ESA) for a two-year term*

First realisation:
www.european-agronomy.org

Agropolis International's coordination and hosting of an English website, which will be a platform for exchanges between ESA members...

The site has a twofold function:

- As an internal platform for ESA members; designed as a forum for sharing knowledge and tools, open to researchers, teachers, development and business engineers, and students involved in crops, cropping systems and agro-ecology.
- As a tool for promoting ESA activities to raise the profile of European excellence in the field of agricultural research.

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* A decision recorded at Agro 2010, the Agronomy International Week held in Montpellier in 2010 by Agropolis International in partnership with French research and agricultural education organisations and the French Association for Agronomy (AFA).



The European Society for Agronomy, created in 1990, is intended to:

- promote European research in agronomy and international agronomy links through biennial conferences and international symposia,
- promote the dissemination of information by means of the European Journal of Agronomy, a newsletter and a website,
- strengthen links between agricultural researchers and European stakeholders and rural people as well as those with its partners in the South.

ESA has national representations in almost 20 European countries.

A MOBILE SITE FOR AGROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL



The Agropolis International association publishes a mobile version of its website (in French) that puts the emphasis on current events and the skills of the regional scientific community. French and Spanish versions will be available at the beginning of 2012.

<http://m.agropolis.fr>

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