



International Trypanotolerance Centre

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Development of a 10-year Strategic Plan An International Trypanotolerance Centre (ITC) E-Forum

[Invitation to an Electronic Forum]

Dear Colleagues,

You are invited to participate in a moderated Electronic Forum organized by the International Trypanotolerance Centre (ITC) from August 20th to September 14th 2012.

1. Context

The International Trypanotolerance Centre (ITC) is an autonomous, non-profit-making research for development institution, established by an act of Parliament of The Gambia in 1982. It was conceived to serve the West African region, particularly the sub-humid and humid zones, with the original main objective being research on the unique N'Dama cattle breed in its traditional habitat in West Africa.

In May 2009, ECOWAS Heads of States and Governments, during their 10th Summit held in Yamoussoukro, made a far reaching decision to transform ITC into a West African Regional Centre for Livestock Research and Development. The process to bring about this transformation involves among others, the development of a new Strategic Plan that will address contemporary issues of importance to livestock research and development in the region, and the adoption of a governance structure and institutional arrangements that reflect this wider regional reach.

The development of this strategy and its implementation plan comprise a number of stages:

- A Stakeholder and Experts consultative planning workshop (held in The Gambia, 6-8 June 2012)
- A dedicated Stakeholders dialogue with livestock farmers' organisations, other Civil Society Organizations e.g. NGOs working with farmers in West Africa (held in The Gambia, 11-12 June 2012)
- **This e-forum process**
- Drafting of the Strategic Plan
- Validation workshop to review the emerging draft Strategic Plan
- Finalisation of the Strategic Plan based on the feedback
- Financing and implementation of the Strategic Plan, scheduled to start early 2013

2. Objectives and expected result of this Electronic Forum

This e-forum is intended to provide an opportunity for those who were not able to participate in the consultative workshops to have their say and to help shape new ITC Strategy, and is open to everyone interested in sustainable animal genetic resource management in Africa.

Participants at the two stakeholder consultative planning workshops will also have the opportunity to reflect further on the key issues that emerged from the conclusions and recommendations of the workshops and make further inputs to enrich the Strategic Plan being developed.

The main expected result of the e-forum is the collection of additional materials to be used as inputs for the development of the 10-year Strategic Plan for the new ITC.

3. Organization of the forum

The e-forum will focus on the following four major thematic areas that emerged from the two consultative workshops held in June 2012:

- Diversity conservation, improvement and use
- Capacity building along the value chain
- Knowledge management
- Institutional and partnership brokerage

An Executive Summary of the workshop reports will be sent to subscribers before the forum kicks off, and will be available on the e-forum platform and on the ITC website.¹

Each session will be introduced by the facilitator of the e-forum who will orient the debates. At the end of each session, the results of the discussions will be synthesized and shared to be used as inputs for the following sessions. If needed, within the course of a session, the facilitator will provide guidance with regards to the e-forum objectives.

The participants will post their messages in English or French or in both languages.

In order to orient the debate so as to meet the objectives of the e-forum, some key elements will be identified for each topic. These elements are not exhaustive and one can reflect on other aspects one considers important for the debate. At the beginning of each session, an introduction will be posted to start the discussions.

At the end of the e-forum, a synthesis document will be prepared by the facilitators. This document will contribute to the development of the Strategic Plan.

The e-forum will be facilitated by Dr Mamadou Diop, National Coordinator, PROGEBE-Senegal (mamadou.diop@progebe.sn) and Dr Richard Osei-Amponsah, Department of Animal Science, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana, West Africa (roamponsah@ug.edu.gh).

4. E-forum platform

The electronic forum will use the discussion group entitled **DAD-Net West and Central Africa** “Domestic Animal Diversity Network (DAD-Net) for West and Central Africa”. It is hosted by Dgroups of FAO DAD-NET at: <http://next.dgroups.org/fao/DAD-Net/DAD-Net-West-Central-Africa/>.

¹www.itc.gm

The website gives details of all the members of the group, as well as all messages that have been posted. Any of the participants can post documents on the website and these are available to everybody else who visits the site. If you wish you can add to or amend your personal details which are on the website.

To subscribe to the forum, visit: <http://next.dgroups.org/fao/DAD-Net/DAD-Net-West-Central-Africa/>.

Once you have registered, you may participate in the discussion at any time by sending an email to: DAD-Net-West-Central-Africa@dgroups.org. You can also hit reply to any message received from the discussion group.

When intervening for the first time, please identify yourself (name, qualification, position) and indicate your complete address including e-mail and phone numbers. It will also be appreciated if you indicate if you took part in any of the two workshops held between 6th and 12th June, 2012 in the Gambia.

You can gain access to the help desk by visiting the website <http://next.dgroups.org/> using your username and password. Two other sites you can visit for help are:

- <https://dgroupshelp.pbworks.com/w/page/17663960/English>
- or <https://dgroupshelp.pbworks.com/w/page/17663984/Français>

For technical problems please contact Mr Alassane Diallo, Regional Information and Communication Expert, PROGEBE at alassane.diallo@progebe.net.

5. Participation at the Validation workshop to review the emerging draft Strategic Plan

Active participation in the e-forum and especially the level and quality of contributions will be part of the determining criteria in the selection of the participants for the planned validation workshop to review the emerging draft Strategic Plan.

We express in advance our sincere thanks to all those who will actively participate in this exercise.

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