



ON DIT quoi?

A newsletter from Africa Rice Center (WARDA)

Father of NERICA among the world's most influential people



Father of NERICA Dr Monty Jones has been voted among the world's most influential people by the US Time magazine. Dr Jones is one of just five Africans on this year's list of 100 names.

Known as TIME 100, the selection is based on individuals whose ideas and achievements have changed the world and made history. The selected persons are grouped under five categories: Leaders & Revolutionaries, Builders & Titans, Artists & Entertainers, Scientists & Thinkers and Heroes & Pioneers.

Explaining the selection, the Time editorial stated "Yes, there are Presidents and dictators who can change the world through fiat, but we're more interested in

innovators like Monty Jones, the Sierra Leone scientist who has developed a strain of rice that can save African agriculture."

On receiving congratulations from WARDA, Dr Monty Jones replied, "This is an honor to all of us."

The Time article on Dr Jones and his NERICA breakthrough is written by none other than the world renowned economist Prof. Jeffrey Sachs. (You can find the article at http://www.time.com/time/specials/2007/time100/article/0,2880,4,1595326_1595329_1616316,0.html)



CORAF/WECARD honors DG



WARDA Director General Dr Papa Abdoulaye Seck recently received a Certificate of Honor "in recognition of his significant contribution to partnership in agricultural research for development in West and Central Africa."

The award was presented by the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (WECARD/CORAF) during its 20th anniversary celebration, 28-31 May 2007,

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Dr Seck was until recently a member of Executive Committee of WECARD/CORAF.

Because of its historic ties with the countries of West and Central Africa and CORAF/ WECARD, WARDA was specially invited to exhibit its activities and achievements through posters and publications. Dr Sitapha Diatta, WARDA Representative in Côte d'Ivoire and other team members, helped set up the WARDA booth for the celebration.

Bravo to WARDA Scientists and Research Assistants

- A book, "Market and economic development" edited by Ysuyuki Sawada and Tetsushi Sonobe (in Japanese) received "The 23rd Masayoshi Ohira Memorial Prize of 2007". WARDA scientists – T Sakurai and K Futakuchi – have authored a chapter in this book which was published in 2006.
- An important review paper "Increasing rice production in sub-Saharan Africa: challenges and opportunities" by V. Balasubramanian, M. Sié, R. J. Hijmans and K. Otsuka has just been published in Advances in Agronomy (Elsevier), Volume 94. This joint scientific publication in a leading reference serial heralds a new era of WARDA-IRRI partnership.



- Five Research Assistants have been selected to attend training courses in Japan with support from JICA:

1. Abibou Niang - Soil diagnosis and conservation (May-August) at Obihiro, Hokkaido
2. Abou Togola - Integrated pest management (May-September) at Kobe, Hyogo
3. Boubakary Cissé - Upland variety selection techniques (July-November) at Tsukuba, Ibaraki
4. Moussa Mahaman - GIS technology for sustainable management of natural resources and agricultural production (August-September) at Nagoya, Aichi
5. Mamadou Fofana - Plant physiology (January-November) at Tsukuba, Ibaraki

**ON DIT
"AKWABA"**

Matty Demont
Agricultural Economist
2 May 2007

Saidu Bah
Research Assistant
09 May 2007

Visitors to WARDA

- An Evaluation Team from the European Commission -- Drs David Coombs, Geneticist, and Rudy Ooijen, Economist -- visited WARDA-Cotonou, 7 - 9 May, to review EU-funded projects.



- Dr Edwin Nuijten, Department of Social Sciences, Technology and Agrarian Development, Wageningen University, visited WARDA-Cotonou, 21 May-1 June, as part of his study on the connection between rice genomics and resource-poor rice farmers in West-Africa.
- Mr Prosper H.M. Monde, Coordinator of the Question and Response Service (SQR), Benin visited WARDA-Cotonou on 25 May to meet with Dr Paul Van Mele and the WARDA Communications Unit in order to explain the activities of his program. SQR Benin is an initiative of the National Office of Support to Food Security (ONASA) of Benin and CTA.
- Catherine Mgendi, CGIAR Media Specialist, visited WARDA-Cotonou, 2 - 4 May. WARDA is one of the seven CGIAR Centers which have recruited her and a visit to each Center is part of her program. She interacted with the WARDA Communications Unit to develop her annual communication plan for the Center and interviewed researchers for possible media stories. During her visit, a meeting of journalists representing local, regional and international media agencies was organized in Cotonou to strengthen collaboration between research organizations and media.



As part of their work with the International Centre for Development-oriented Research in Agriculture (ICRA), France, Drs Toon Defoer and Marie-Josèphe Dugué visited WARDA-Cotonou on 14 May to explore possibilities for collaboration. Drs Defoer and Dugué are former staff members of WARDA.

Workshops

- A workshop to support the agricultural value chain was organized jointly by the Belgian Embassy and the Ministry of Agriculture in Benin, 10-11 May, in Cotonou. About 50 participants representing research organizations, universities, local and international NGOs, farmers' associations, the private sector and donors participated. Dr Paul Van Mele and Jonas Wanvoëké actively participated in this meeting and made a presentation on WARDA's activities.
- The Regional Methodological Workshop relating to the project on "Stratification of rice and maize production systems in support for investment decisions in West Africa" was held at WARDA-Cotonou, 28 -30 May. Project coordinators from WARDA and IITA as well as national scientists from project member countries attended.
- An in-house Proposal Development Course titled "How to develop clear and persuasive proposals" was held at WARDA-Cotonou, 29 May to 1 June. About 25 participants, including scientists and research assistants attended.
- Dr Yoshimi Sokei, Thematic Group Leader of Technology Transfer organized a workshop on "Problem Analysis of NERICA Dissemination for ARI Coordinator in ARI SC" on 27 April 2007 at WARDA-Cotonou. The participants were ARI coordinators in each pilot country, their staff and ARI secretariat.



Did you know?

Soul Shava from Rhodes University's Environmental Education Unit, South Africa, is a Borlaug-Leadership Enhancement in Agriculture Programme (LEAP) doctoral fellow who was on a one month (April/May) research visit to WARDA under the supervision of Dr Paul Van Mele. Soul was studying the application of local community knowledge in participatory social learning approaches for rice farming in West Africa.



Seminars

- "Linking agricultural research and media, with particular reference to Eastern Africa," by Catherine Mgendi, CGIAR Media Specialist, 3 May
- "Genomics for the Poor? The Rice Genome, Green Revolution Heritage and Food Security" by Dr. Edwin Nuijten, Department of Social Sciences, Technology and Agrarian Development, Wageningen University, 21 May

My family!



African proverb!

A ripe melon falls by itself (Zimbabwe)

Events

- ECARRN Regional Rice Production Course, Kilimanjaro Agricultural Training Institute (KATC), Moshi, Tanzania, 18-28 June
- ECARRN Regional Steering Committee Meeting, Arusha, Tanzania, 29 June

On dit "Long Live Augustine!!"

Augustine, who went on a mission to Ibadan, Nigeria, narrowly escaped a mishap on 31 May. The WARDA family appreciates his courage and wishes him "safe journey" in his future assignments.

On dit "Congratulations"!!

- Cisse Boubakary, Research Assistant, African Rice Initiative (ARI)
- Théotime Adouhoun, Observer, Genetic Resources Unit (GRU).

for the new arrivals in their houses

On dit "Condolences"

Mr Imourana Abdoulaye, WARDA Senior Accountant, on the death of his senior brother.

Football Match 2007*



Sports fosters interaction and dialogue among people. It helps bridge the social divide and allows communities, peoples, nations or individuals to compete with mutual respect.

This is the rationale for hosting the football tournament every year since 2006 between the international research institutions operating on the IITA–Benin Campus.

This year the football tournament started on 15 May, bringing together four teams.

We thank Felix Houinsou, who has provided this brief report on the tournament.

1. ADMIN = SECURITY + CAF + ADMINISTRATIONS (IITA & WARDA)
2. AGRODEV = AGRONOMY + SOCIO ECONOMY + RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (IITA & WARDA)
3. PO = PPS + OPERATIONS (IITA & WARDA)
4. BIO = BIOTECHNOLOGY + BIOCONTROL + BIOVERSITY (IITA & WARDA)

In the tables below are the results of the various matches played and how the teams fared:

Dates	Teams		Scores	Observations
15 MAY 2007	ADMIN	▶ PO	1▶ 0	Clean goal
18 MAY 2007	AGRODEV	▶ BIO	1▶ 0	Spot kick
22 MAY 2007	PO	▶ BIO	0▶ 1	Clean goal
25 MAY 2007	AGRODEV	▶ ADMIN	0▶ 1	Clean goal
29 MAY 2007	AGRODEV	▶ PO	1▶ 0	Clean goal
1st JUNE 2007	BIO	▶ ADMIN	2▶ 1	Clean goal and spot kick

Ranking

Teams	Points	Goals scored	Goals conceded	Types of goals	Rank
ADMIN	6	3	2	2g1sk	1
BIO	6	3	2	2g1sk	2
AGRODEV	6	2	1	1g1sk	3
PO	3	0	3	0	4

The grand finale will be a clash between ADMIN and BIO on 15 June. We welcome all the WARDA & IITA football fans and cheerleaders to support their favorite teams.

May the best team win!!!

