



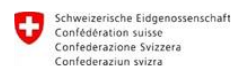
International Conference Resilience, Research and Innovation Djibouti, 26–28 October 2015



Presentation Note



MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH OF DJIBOUTI



I. Presentation of the conference

The Ministry of Higher Education and Research of Djibouti took the initiative to contact the IGAD Secretariat and FAO with a proposal to organize an international conference in Djibouti to review the role that research and innovations can play in guiding and enhancing the interventions aimed at building resilience to drought and other shocks and stresses.

Scientific capital can be built by increasing the men and women trained in science, who form the human capital upon whom the creation of new knowledge and its practical application depend. In this connection, there is need to strengthen the centers of research which are principally the universities, colleges and research institutes in the region, which provide the environment conducive for scientific Research and Development (R&D) activities, the overall goal of which is to gain and apply knowledge, covering basic research, applied research and development. Applied research is carried out in anticipation that its results will be useful to technology; and development is concerned with transforming technological knowledge and innovations into concrete operational hardware. Applied research uses the ideas generated by basic research in making inventions which, in turn, are made practically viable through development. Thus for science to serve as a powerful factor in the welfare of the IGAD member states and respond to the practical problems of the region, e.g. in the implementation of IDDRSI (IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative), applied research must be made vigorous. It should be noted that scientific research is already helping to improve understanding of the phenomena of resilience and formulating appropriate responses. But the contribution of science to resilience remains relatively unknown, not systematized, fragmentary and incomplete.

There is much that we do not yet know about the dynamics of resilience in drylands systems, particularly approaches that combine the social and ecological components. Given the peculiar constraints of the drylands in the IGAD region, within a framework of livelihood options, there is need to prioritize natural resources and other areas of the IDDRSI Strategy as our principal research base and recognize points of entry for developmental initiatives to be able to determine the region's research needs. A series of projects based on critical targets for research will need to be identified and used to attract the involvement of researchers in the region on themes that address livelihood advancement, resilience building and sustainable development.

Africa's inability to attain sustainable growth and development is widely thought to result largely from the failure to establish and entrench resilience and development-oriented policies and programs. While universities and research institutions worldwide are recognized as vanguard institutions for innovations, African institutions continue to face various challenges, which prevent them from fulfilling their role in contributing to the innovations for development.

The objectives of the conference

The conference is intended to take stock of the research involvement towards building resilience for the population of ASAL (Arid and semi-arid lands) region as well as to analyze and discuss some of the key challenges, innovations and research experiences, with the ultimate view of making resilience a true vector of development. The conference will primarily bring together scientists, experts, practitioners, policymakers and academicians from areas of food security and nutrition; agriculture; prevention and management of social conflicts; humanitarian aid and development, specialists on community resilience and vulnerability to address the issue of scientific research in building resilience in the ASAL region. Actors involved in resilience projects such as CSOs, NGOs operating in the field of research on resilience will also participate actively at the conference.

The main objective of the conference is to stimulate a wide debate on the scientific research on adaptation, transformation and development of our societies to change and to highlight the importance of building resilience for ASAL communities in the broad aspect of development. The conference is expected to reinforce knowledge and capacities of institutions and actors to increase resilience to drought disasters; and it will facilitate knowledge sharing and making provisions for program beneficiaries. More specifically, the purpose of the regional conference is to enhance relevance and effective involvement of institutions, researchers, extension agents and entrepreneurs in efforts to contribute to resilience to drought and other shocks (floods, landslides, desertification, conflicts, sanitary risks, etc.).

II. Themes of the conference

1. Resilience and Knowledge

- Role of scientific research in building resilience
- Integrating resilience thinking

2. Resilience Analysis and Measurement

- Disaster and risk
- Response systems

3. Resilience and Development

- Natural resources (water, pasture and land)
- Livelihood (livestock, agriculture, fisheries)

4. Resilience and Societies

- Role of governance
- Peace and security
- Gender

In connection with the conference themes, scientific posters can be presented.

III. Registration fees

Conference sessions:

- Participants From IGAD countries.....US\$100
- International participants.....US\$150
- Djiboutian participantsUS\$50

This fee includes the following:

- Proceedings of the Conference
- Material of Conference
- Lunch for two days conference
- Gala Diner
- Bus transport

IV. Scientific committee

- **Amina Said Chiré** (Professor of Geography, University of Paris 8, France);
- **Anthony Masys** (Defense Scientist, Defense Research and Development Canada, Center for Security Science, Canada);
- **Elliot Vhurumuku** (Agricultural Economics, Senior Regional Program Advisor – Food Security Analysis, World Food Program Regional Bureau for East and Central Africa based in Nairobi, Zimbabwe);
- **Felix Njeumi** (Animal Health Officer in charge of Disease Management, FAO–Rome, Cameroun);
- **Jalludin Mohamed** (Researcher in Hydrogeology, General Director of the Center of Studies and Research of Djibouti);
- **Jesse T. Njoka** (Associate Professor, Department of Land Resource Management and Agricultural Technology, University of Nairobi, Kenya);
- **John Kabayo** (Biochemical researcher, climate change, regional drought resilience initiative and sustainable development, IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative –IDDRSI– Platform coordinator, Uganda);
- **Luca Alinovi** (Agricultural and Natural Resources Economics, Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Kenya and the Eastern Africa Resilience Hub Director, Italy);
- **Maria Ivanova** (Associate Professor, Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance; Co–Director of Center for Governance and Sustainability and Director of the Global Environmental Governance Project; University of Massachusetts– Boston, USA);
- **Mohamed Osman Awaleh** (Researcher in Chemistry, Director of earth Science Institute– Center of Studies and Research of Djibouti);
- **Tesfaye Beshah** (Agricultural Innovation Systems, Technical Coordinator, Resilience Analysis Unit in Kenya, Food and Agriculture Organization, Ethiopia);
- **Yves Coquet** (Professor of Soil Sciences, AgroParisTech, Director of the Observatoire des Sciences de l’Univers en region Centre, France).



Email address: scientific_rri@intnet.dj and scientific.rri@gmail.com

V. Organisation committee

Email address: organisation_rri@intnet.dj and organisation.rri@gmail.com

VI. Information for participants

All the participants should register using the online Registration Form in the RRI website (www.rri.dj).

If you have any question or experience any problems while registering, please contact directly the Organisation committee at organisation_rri@intnet.dj and organisation.rri@gmail.com