

Transition with Tradition: Approaches to Information, Knowledge Sharing, and ICTs in the Agbiosciences Worldwide

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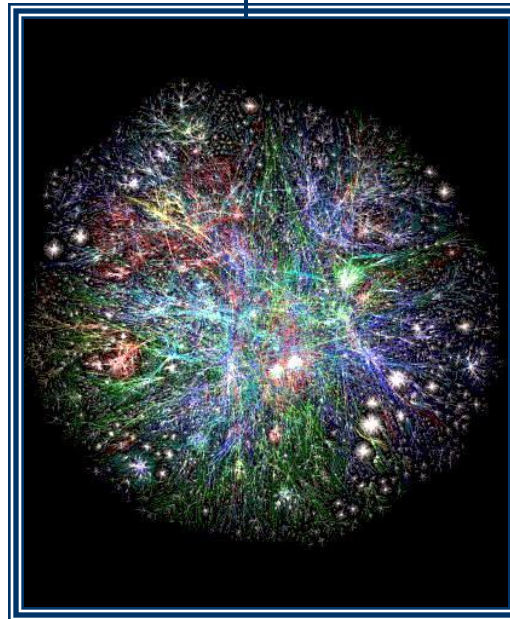
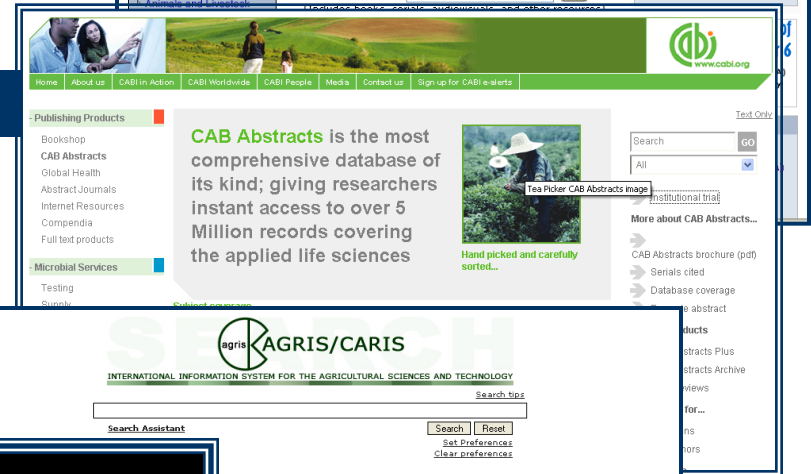
USAID Conference

Ohio State University

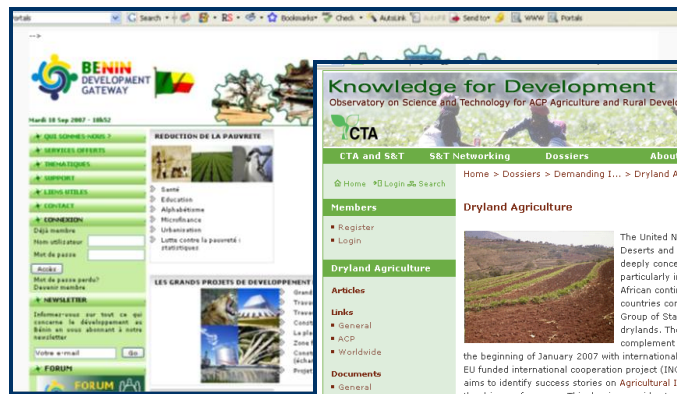
April 28, 2008

Background

- In the beginning...
 - AGRICOLA
 - CAB Abstracts
 - AGRIS
- Then...
the WEB



The Result



- Proliferation of...
 - isolated websites
 - gateways and portals
 - integrated, interactive information systems
- Opportunities for...
 - targeted content for specific stakeholders
 - Interactive, self publishing applications
- Challenges to...
 - digitize collections/build repositories
 - agree to common standards
 - provide open access

International Response



- International Context
 - Millennium Development Goals
 - World Summit on the Information Society
- Coherence Initiatives
 - COAIM workshops in 2000 & 2002
 - Publication of “Fertile Ground” in 2003
 - Results of stakeholder surveys, 2003-4
 - 1st Expert Consultation on IISAST in 2005
 - Task Forces: Advocacy, Content Mgt, & Capacity Bldg
 - “e-Agriculture week” in September 2007



Follow Up on 2nd IISAST Meeting- 2008

- Paris Meeting – January 08
 - Called for a manifesto to lay out agenda & common principles
 - Suggested incentives for adherence
 - Agreement on focus:

“Enhancing the availability and accessibility of information in the public domain for agricultural research for development and innovation”





IAALD

Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development

DFID Department for International Development



GFAR



- The DRAFT CIARD Manifesto: *Increasing Return on Investments in Agricultural Research (Principles & Priorities)*

- Make research information easy to access for current and future generations
 - Coherent and coordinated approaches
 - Common international standards
 - Open applications
 - User-friendly information & data
 - Local and global action



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DRAFT Manifesto, cont.

- Help people learn how to manage & use research information
 - Empowering and encouraging self-sufficiency, self-determination, and local ownership
 - Strengthening and extending people, processes, policies, technologies, skills
- Push for more and better information systems
 - Encouraging changes in attitudes, policies, and institutions
 - Providing evidence of benefits

CIARD
Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD): **A New Way Forward**

A new partnership for truly accessible information

Formed in January 2008, the Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD) initiative is a novel new global partnership seeking to enhance the cost of public agricultural research information by all stakeholders, to improve and progress development research on the free and open exchange of ideas, information, and knowledge.

More often than not, public information is not used to best effect because people either don't know about it or can't access it easily enough. CIARD has been developed to overcome this by key public information responsible for information access in agriculture, animal resources and rural development. These actors, in an operating partnership that recognizes ownership, will cooperate to lower the cost of information in order to ensure that it is truly accessible to all.

Why are CIARD's actions so important?

Most of the agricultural information that should be available in the public domain is not yet widely accessible. However, this doesn't mean that the cost of the current system falls back on responsibility to disseminate, taking advantage of new information and communication technologies that are bringing the costs of access down and changing the way information can be searched and processed digitally.

In addition, new kinds of research, new types of organizations, and new forms of collaboration have emerged across disciplines, institutions and nations, and the diversity and variety of information users are also changing dramatically.

Against this background, CIARD is spearheading change in research that allows to make information more accessible and often applicable, useful and profitable because they are not captured, improving the way our systems work to feed.

Manifesto in brief

Make research information easy to access, for present and future generations, through:

- Coherent and coordinated approaches
- Common international standards
- Open applications
- User-friendly information and data
- Local and global action

Help people learn how to manage and use research information to best effect by:

- Empowering and encouraging self-sufficiency, self-determination and local ownership
- Strengthening and extending people, processes, policies, technologies, skills

Push for more and better information systems by:

- Encouraging changes in attitudes, policies and institutions
- Providing evidence of benefits

The CIARD vision: truly accessible information

"To make public domain agricultural research information and knowledge truly accessible to all"

CIARD's vision describes the potential worldwide impact of agricultural research for development and rural innovation systems, which can only be realized if research outputs are properly documented and shared in a way as possible. If that, they need be accessible if they are to have an impact.

Resolution



- “Organizations concerned with effective application of agricultural knowledge in development have resolved to combine and align efforts to make public domain agricultural research information and knowledge accessible to all”
- The New Way Forward: Content, Capacity, Cash

Tokyo, Japan, 24 - 27 August, 2008

Suggested Next Steps

- Facilitating Body (informal core group)
- Task Forces to Continue Efforts (Calls for Participation)
 - Advocacy
 - Capacity Building
 - Content Development
- Launch of Manifesto at 12th IAALD World Congress



IAALD
INFITA

AFITA

PANAFITA



How to achieve success?



- With many spider webs, you can tie up a lion!

Questions?

- For more information:
 - **Paper:** *Major Agricultural Information Initiatives: With Emphasis on Developing Country Services*
<http://worldaginfo.org/files/Agricultural%20Information%20Initiatives.pdf>
 - **Wiki:** *WorldAgInfo Resources (profiles of agricultural information systems & services)*
<http://worldaginfo.org/?q=views/resources>
 - **Report:** *IISAST II Report* -
http://www.iaald.org/docs/iisast2_report.pdf