



Press release - 27 July 2020

International cooperation between France and South Africa: ARC, CIRAD and INRAE sign a tripartite agreement

On Friday 24 July 2020, Dr Shadrack Ralekeno Moephuli, CEO of the ARC (Agricultural Research Council), Michel Eddi, CEO of CIRAD and Philippe Mauguin, Chair and CEO of INRAE signed a 5-year unprecedented tripartite agreement to strengthen and extend existing collaborations between the three organizations. The institutions confirmed their intentions of working together to tackle the challenges facing the southern Africa region and of contributing to the dialogue on global initiatives that is unfolding in the area. The agreement was initialled remotely by video conference, with Aurélien Lechevallier, Ambassador of France to South Africa, as a witness.

The agreement seeks to reinforce, and expand, existing collaborations between the two French research institutes and South Africa's leading research and development organisation in agriculture and related fields. This is the first cooperation agreement signed jointly by CIRAD and INRAE with an African research institution. The agreement will facilitate staff exchanges, joint organisation of scientific events, and project development on a wide range of scientific topics, extended to new areas such as family farming, climate change adaptation, and the impact of science.

This new agreement follows two previous accords—signed between ARC and CIRAD, in 1999, and between ARC and INRA, now INRAE, in 2014. In the short term, collaborations already exist in the fields of animal health (notably African swine fever), bovine genomic selection, plant protection, and climate change, as well as for the promotion of dialogue and the dissemination of knowledge in the whole African continent.

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About

The ARC is present throughout the whole of South Africa, with multiple research stations and specialised institutes, it covers the entire field of agricultural research and develops a wide range of activities designed to promote skills and innovation to strengthen the agricultural sector.

www.arc.agric.za

CIRAD is the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development, an organization working for the sustainable development of tropical and Mediterranean regions.

Together with its partners, CIRAD generates knowledge and solutions to develop resilient agriculture in a more sustainable and inclusive world. It mobilizes science, innovation, and training to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It puts its expertise at the service of public policies to promote the protection of biodiversity, the agro-ecological transition, sustainable food systems, health—of plants, animals, and ecosystems—, the sustainable development of rural territories and their resilience to climate change.

CIRAD is present in close to fifty countries, on all the continents, and relies on the skills of 1,650 employees, including 1,140 scientists, and on its global network of partners. This organisation supports French scientific diplomacy operations.

www.cirad.fr

Created on January 1, 2020, the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food, and Environment (INRAE) is a major player in research and innovation. INRAE carries out targeted research and resulted from the merger of INRA and IRSTEA. It is a community of 12,000 people with 268 research, experimental research, and support units located in 18 regional centres throughout France. Internationally, INRAE is among the top research organisations in the agricultural and food sciences as well as in the plant and animal sciences. It also ranks 11th globally in ecology and environmental science. INRAE's main goal is to be a key player in the transitions necessary to address major global challenges. Faced with a growing world population, climate change, resource scarcity, and declining biodiversity, the institute is developing solutions that involve multiperformance agriculture, high-quality food, and the sustainable management of resources and ecosystems.

www.inrae.fr