



## LETTER OF INVITATION

May 2009

Dear Colleague,

This is an open letter to management and staff of all institutions involved in agricultural research and in the dissemination of agricultural research outputs to encourage them to become a CIARD partner. CIARD is an international initiative working to ensure that public domain agricultural research outputs are truly accessible. The partners have developed a “Manifesto” and a set of “Principles”. The advancement and development of CIARD takes place on three fronts - Advocacy, Capacity Building, and Content Management.

CIARD is guided by an informal group of international and regional partners from around the world. CIARD is not a legal entity, and there is no legal agreement or formal contract between the partners. Any institution can become a CIARD partner, if they agree with the “Manifesto” and “Principles” on making research outputs accessible. There are no financial, legal, or contractual obligations in becoming a CIARD partner.

CIARD partners can benefit from the initiative through the following: (a) increased national and international visibility and use of their research output and content services; (b) increased exchange of information content between their system(s) and others; (c) increased awareness of other research outputs through information content and services; (d) increased access to specialised expertise and knowledge and the proven solutions of the other partners.

CIARD partners can contribute to the initiative by: (a) promoting the CIARD vision and objectives; (b) implementing any of the policies and actions promoted by CIARD; (c) sharing details of their products and services on research outputs through the CIARD RING; (d) adopting and promoting international standards related to digital research outputs; (e) sharing their experiences for others to benefit from the CIARD Initiative.

We encourage you to register your institution as a CIARD partner, which can be done by a representative completing and submitting an application from the CIARD website. If you have any questions about CIARD or wish to seek advice or assistance from other partners, please send an email to [information@ciard.net](mailto:information@ciard.net).

AARINENA - Association of Agricultural Research Institutes in Near East and North Africa  
APAARI – Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutes  
CABI – CAB International  
CACAARI – Central Asia Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutes  
CGIAR – Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research  
Cirad – Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement  
DFID – Department for International Development, UK  
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
FARA – Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa  
FORAGRO – Forum for the Americas on Agricultural Research and Technology Development  
GFAR – Global Forum on Agricultural Research  
IAALD – International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists  
IICA – InterAmerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture  
MAE – Ministère des affaires étrangères, France