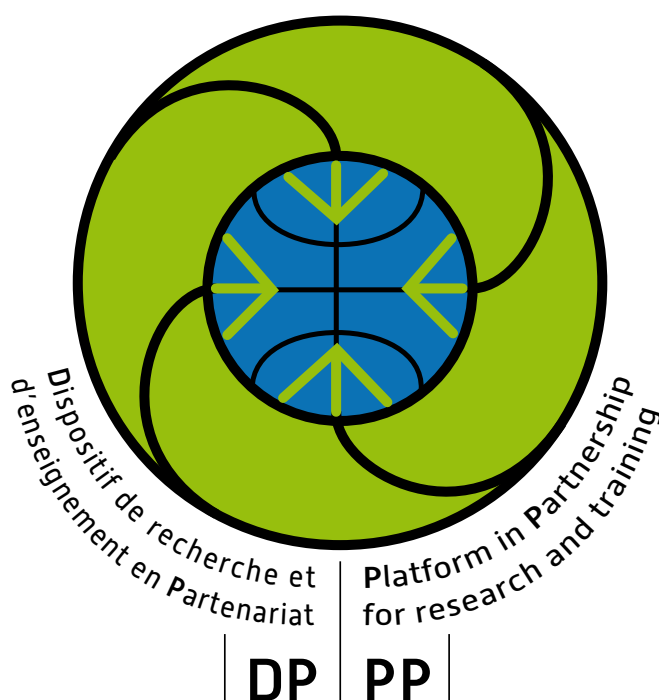


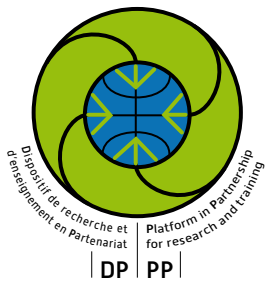
*Working for development through research  
Strengthening scientific communities  
in tropical and sub-tropical areas*

# Platforms in Partnership for research and training



*An innovative tool  
for international  
agricultural research*





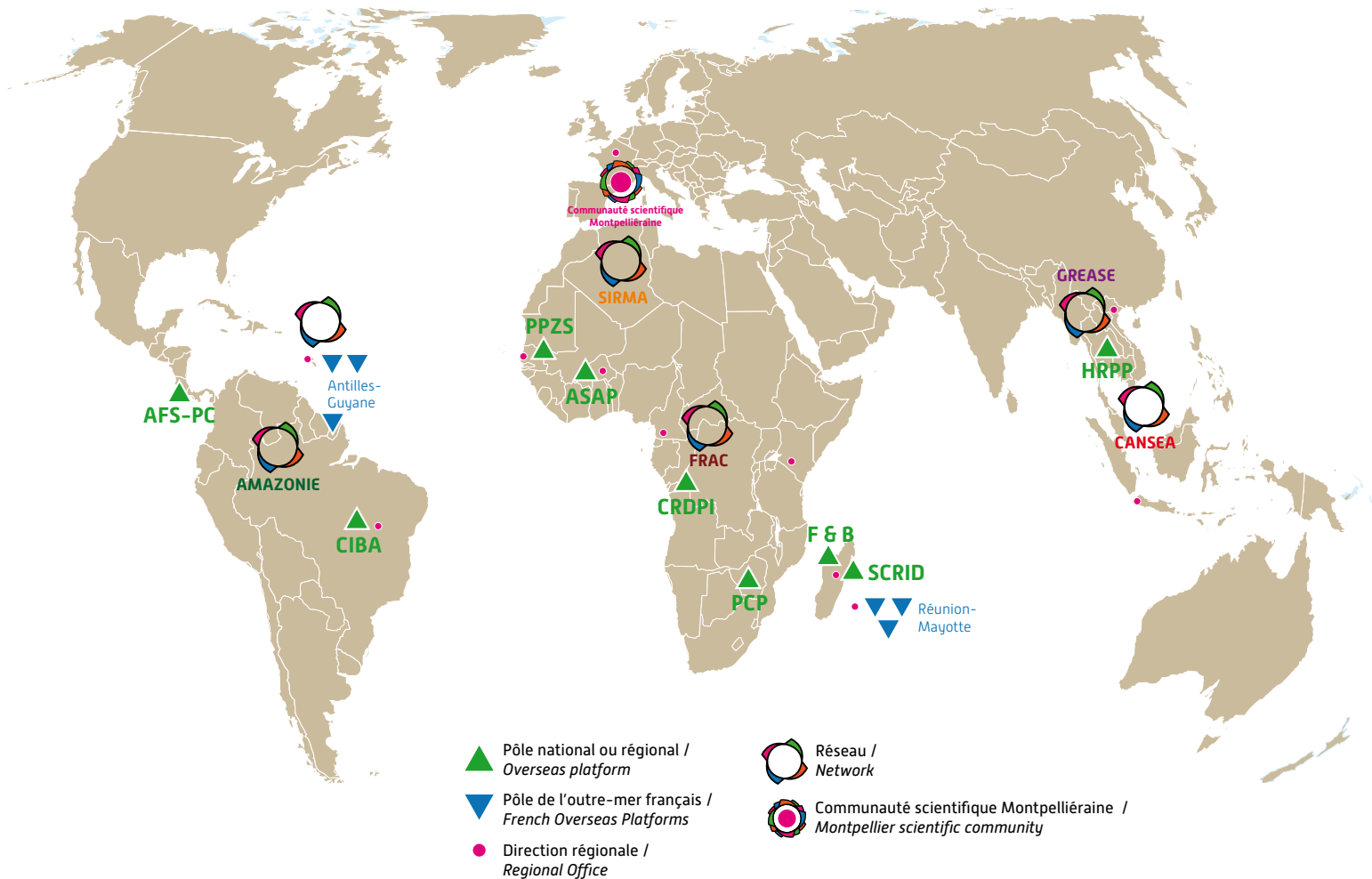
No sustainable development without a culture of science

The increase in risks threatening the entire planet means we need to strengthen the solidarity between all countries, whether they are in the Northern or Southern hemispheres. At the heart of these economic, social, environmental, food and energy issues, agricultural research is particularly important.

At a time when the ways of generating scientific knowledge lead to more intense competition, and therefore the exclusion of some parties, research for development must promote partnerships with institutions and scientists in those countries where the research system is weak. Accepting the erosion of scientific capacity in these countries - and their exclusion from scientific networks which generate knowledge - handicaps their local scientific communities and, as a consequence, the development dynamics in these nations. Simply transferring the knowledge gained by a small number of institutions is not going to be sufficient to meet the Millennium Development Goals!

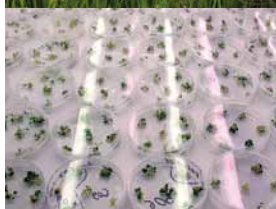
Strengthened by broad experience in tropical and sub-tropical countries, CIRAD and its partners have developed innovative practices designed to foster scientific partnerships. These are used within the framework of the 'Platforms in Partnership for research and training' across the world.

Platforms in Partnership for research and training [09/2011]



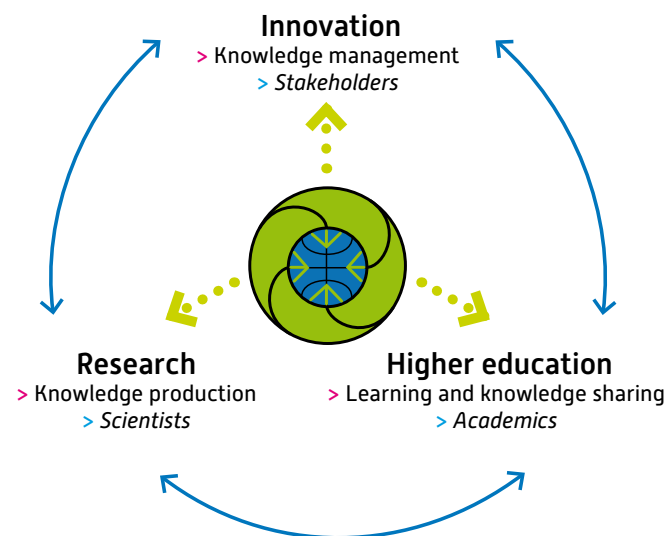


*No culture of science without the local generation of scientific knowledge*



### *A Platform in Partnership for research and training*

- A group of partners and the desire to work together
- Shared outlooks and objectives
- The long-term commitment of human, material and financial resources to achieve the objectives
- A shared research theme
- A defined geographical area
- A critical mass of multiple competences and activities.



### *An objective: contributing to the development of least developed countries through quality research*

- Generating impact-driven scientific knowledge to respond to development challenges
- Strengthening the scientific competences of partners through training and higher education
- Boosting the independence of the scientific communities concerned within the global agricultural research system

### *A principle: 'working together'*

- Identifying the development challenges in a given geographical area
- Translating these challenges into jointly elaborated research priorities
- Sharing the means of generating scientific knowledge with all parties
- Creating a dynamic portfolio of research projects
- Disseminating the results in the form of publications and expert reports and encouraging their use for development

### *A management system: organisation and resources*

- Collective management by all partners
- Three governing bodies: a steering committee for decision making and planning formed by the management of member institutions; a scientific committee formed of internal and external members; and a coordination team for day-to-day management
- Revolving chairs according to rules established in the agreements
- External evaluation, commissioned by the steering committee, every 4-5 years, providing the opportunity to update or define a strategic road map
- A balanced provision of human, material and financial resources from member institutions

### *Operation: various types of platforms*

- National or regional overseas platforms in tropical and sub-tropical countries
- French Overseas platforms, with regional influence
- Transnational thematic networks
- Montpellier's scientific community and its many internationally renowned thematic research groups.



### A Platform in Partnership for research and training is:

- A group of partners and the desire to work together
- Shared outlooks and objectives
  - The long-term commitment of human, material and financial resources to achieve the objectives
- A shared research theme
- A defined geographical area
  - A critical mass of multiple competences and activities.



# For development through research

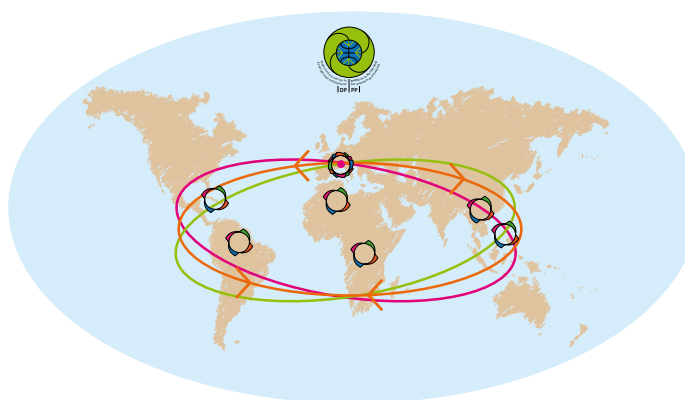
Partnership is a founding principle of CIRAD's approach. Our organisation has chosen not to create its own establishments overseas, but to conceive and develop with its partners platforms for research and higher education to address pertinent themes, whether they be local, regional or global. Today CIRAD proposes to go further still.

CIRAD is convinced that conducting research in partnership is an aid to development. There can be no sustainable development of a society without the development of its scientific culture and its capacity to generate scientific knowledge.

The Platforms in Partnership for research and higher education are a means of producing local scientific knowledge and boosting innovation. Points of contact for political decision makers and funding bodies, they are generating diversified expertise, based on a wealth of experience. A resource for hosting researchers and encouraging mobility, they promote training and the strengthening and mobilisation of competences. They are, therefore, a tool for reinforcing regional structures and national research systems.

With its partners, CIRAD has the ambition of ensuring these platforms play an active role in coordinating and networking international scientific communities. They can contribute therefore to the immense collective effort in research and training which is necessary to meet the agricultural, food and environmental challenges of today.

With these platforms, CIRAD and its partners are making their resources and experience available to international communities. They invite these communities to join them in order to rethink the map of platforms currently available.



## CIRAD places these platforms in partnership at the heart of its scientific strategy

- It provides them with resources through specific incentives: equipment, financing of PhD or post Doctorates, exchange of scientists, organisation of seminars, etc.
  - €10 m of incentive measures,**
  - Abroad, 200 researchers outposted**
  - and the equivalent of 200 full-time assignments**
  - 150 researchers in French Overseas locations**
- It offers the opportunity of hosting researchers in all its laboratories and facilities, both in Montpellier and French Overseas locations.
  - 400 international researchers hosted in Montpellier and French Overseas locations**
- It contributes to curricula and training development and provides education in partner universities.
  - 3,000 teaching hours in universities in tropical and sub-tropical countries**