

## Partner institutions

The **World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)**, created in 1924, is one of the world's oldest intergovernmental organizations and also, with 167 member countries, one of the most representative. Present on 5 continents through regional coordinators and a network of collaborating centers and reference laboratories, the OIE manages a global surveillance and early-warning system for animal health and plays a key role in the field of scientific research and information. OIE also defines health standards for global trade in animals and animal products. In this respect, it is a major actor in political and financial mechanisms of international cooperation for less advanced and developing countries.

The **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** plays a leading role in international efforts against famine. At the service of developed and developing countries, it is a neutral tribunal within which all countries may meet on an equal footing to negotiate agreements and debate policy. It also is a source of knowledge and information and works to assist developing countries and countries in transition to modernize and improve agricultural, forestry, and fishery practices and to guarantee good nutrition for all. Since its creation in 1945, it has consecrated particular attention to the development of rural zones where 70% of the world's poor and hungry live. Its four main fields of activity consist of making information available to all, sharing policy expertise, serving as a meeting place for governments, and the transfer of knowledge to the field.

The **Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources of the African Union (AU-IBAR)** is a bureau of the Department of Rural Economics and Agriculture of the African Union. Its current mandate is to control major trans-border diseases, improve genetic and food resources, develop information, communication and technologies dedicated to animal production, and reinforce the trade in animals and animal products through an improvement of quality insurance and the harmonization of policies and norms related to this trade.

The **Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) ACP-EU** was created in 1983 within the framework of the Lomé Convention between governments in the ACP Group (African, Caribbean and Pacific group of states) and member countries of the European Union. Since 2000, the TCA operates within the context of the Cotonou ACP-CE agreement. The TCA's mission is to develop and provide services that improve access of ACP countries to information on agricultural and rural development and to reinforce the capacity of these countries to produce, acquire, exchange, and exploit information in this field.

The **French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)**, in pursuing sectorial policies and the Millennium objectives for development, aims to promote the emergence of societies able to access production processes and the diffusion of knowledge and culture. In this regard, it provides its partners support for sustainable development, particularly in the field of research and the promotion of access to culture and knowledge.

The **National Institute for Agriculture Research (INRA)**, founded in 1946, is a mission-oriented public research institution working in the field of agriculture, food, nutrition and food safety, environment and land management, with particular emphasis on sustainable development. Its human resources are 1840 researchers, 2360 engineers, 4640 technicians and administrative staff, 1200 doctoral students and 1000 foreign trainees and researchers. It is organized in 14 scientific departments and 21 regional centers. Its budget in 2005 was € 680 million.

Its principal goals are :

- \* to produce and disseminate scientific knowledge
- \* to develop innovations and know-how for the benefit of society
- \* to bring expertise for decision-making by public and private sector players
- \* to promote scientific culture and participate in the science / society debate
- \* to train in and through research.

INRA is involved in a large number of partnerships and exchanges with the international scientific community in Europe, America, Asia and Africa.

**Agropolis International** was established in 1986 at the initiative of 17 research and higher education institutions with the support of the Ministries of Research, Agriculture, and Cooperation. It now consists of 9 research organizations (BRGM, Cemagref, CEA, Cirad, CNRS, Ifremer, Inra, Inserm, IRD), 14 research and training institutions (AGRO.M, CEP de Florac, CIHEAM, IAM.M, CNEARC, ENGREF, ENSIA, SIARC, ESCAIA, ICRA, ISTOM, UM I, UM II, UM III, UP Via Dominitia, SUP de CO), 1 coordinating group, 19 associated members and 3 local administrative divisions.

The **Aviculture Technical Institute (ITAVI)** is a professional organization specialized in the development of, and applied research in, poultry farming, rabbit production, and goose and duck production. It provides technical and financial support to poultry farmers and to the overall sector. Every year, ITAVI organizes a training program designed for actors in the aviculture sector in tropical zones; it also has published two guides focused on bird farming in hot climates to address the specific needs of these professionals.

**CEVA SANTE ANIMALE** is a French veterinary pharmaceutical company with an international reach. Exclusively dedicated to animal health, the CEVA SANTE ANIMALE group conceives, develops, registers, produces, and markets veterinary medicines (antibiotics, control of reproduction, vaccines, metabolic correctors, nervous system medicines, anti-parasites). Due to its presence in zones infected with avian influenza, the CEVA SANTE ANIMALE group has been actively engaged in official avian influenza vaccination programs since the beginning of the epizootic in Asia. Its long partnership with CIRAD testifies to its engagement.

The **French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD)** focuses on research, experimentation, training operations, information programs, and innovation. Its strengths in life, social, and engineering sciences are applied to food and agriculture and to the management of natural resources and social issues. One of the missions of the Livestock Production and Veterinary Medicine department is to capitalize on and expand current understanding of avian influenza. Within the Innovation and Communication department, the Innovative Education unit aims to bring educational value to scientific, technical, and practical knowledge through novel means.



*A Wetlands International agent records data on avian influenza from wild birds sold in the Mopti market in Mali, 2006 – Alexandre Caron, © Cirad*

