

Media Release

21st December 2020

AIRCA agrees to cooperate on research in support of UN Food Systems Summit 2021

AIRCA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Scientific Group of the UN Secretary General's Food Systems Summit to cooperate on research in support of the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 which will launch bold new actions to deliver progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The agreement will see AIRCA, as part of its seven-member alliance, initially prioritize cooperation on ***marginal areas and indigenous people, vegetables and fruit*** as well as ***protecting agrobiodiversity of vegetables and fruit and in marginal areas***. Other areas of cooperation may still be identified. Specifically, AIRCA will work to produce briefing papers on these key areas to help inform the Summit which is evaluating plans and progress to meet the SDGs by 2030.

AIRCA is one of many key players from the worlds of science, business, policy, healthcare and academia, as well as farmers, indigenous people, youth organizations, consumer groups, environmental activists, and other key stakeholders, who are being brought together to work on ways to transform the way the world produces, consumes and thinks about food. This includes the areas of focus specified for AIRCA and the Scientific Group to collaborate on within the MoU.

Marco Wopereis, Chair of AIRCA, said, "The AIRCA coalition has the combined skills, knowledge and expertise to contribute to addressing the complex and challenging need for diverse and sustainable food systems for a growing global population expected to reach 10 billion by 2050."

Joachim von Braun, Chair of the Scientific Group for the UN Secretary-General's Food Systems Summit, said, "The UN Food Systems Summit shall be action oriented. Science has the important role to provide evidence base to the summit agenda, and to be inclusive. That requires attention to marginal areas." He also added that transforming food systems is crucial for delivering all the Sustainable Development Goals and that as a human family, a world free of hunger is our imperative. "We see the MoU with AIRCA as being an important step towards this agenda as part of the ongoing partnerships towards the goals."

AIRCA and the Scientific Group will now designate a working group to proceed on the research outlined within the MoU including a programme of milestones and measurable outputs to feed into the Summit when it convenes in 2021.

Notes to editors

Media enquiries

Peace Tusasirwe, Executive Secretary, AIRCA Secretariat, Email:
ptusasirwe@airca.org

About AIRCA

AIRCA (The Association of International Research and Development Centers for Agriculture) is a seven-member alliance focussed on increasing global food security by supporting smallholder agriculture within healthy sustainable and climate-smart landscapes. Its members include [CABI](#), [World Vegetable Center](#), [CFF – Crops for the Future](#), [ICBA – International Center for Biosaline Agriculture](#), [ICIMOD – International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development](#), [ICIPE – African Insect Science for Food and Health](#) and [IFDC – International Fertilizer Development Center](#).

Find out more here: <http://www.airca.org/index.php/about-airca>

UN Food Systems Summit 2021

In 2021, UN Secretary-General António Guterres will convene a Food Systems Summit as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The Summit will launch bold new actions to deliver progress on all 17 SDGs, each of which relies to some degree on healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems.

Learn more about the summit here: <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/about>