



CERFAM and CIRAD formalize their partnership to fight hunger and malnutrition in West and Central Africa

The Centre for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development for West Africa (CIRAD) and the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) signed on 6 February 2020, in Abidjan, a letter of intent for partnership, in a bid to work together to fight hunger and malnutrition in West and Central Africa.

"We share similar missions, and we wish to seize opportunities that are beneficial for both parties, by cooperating in areas of mutual interest in order to improve the effectiveness and the efficiency of our development efforts", said Christian Cilas, CIRAD Regional Director for forest and wet savannah for West Africa.

This letter of intent provides a framework for technical and operational cooperation, and coordination between the two institutions which are cognizant of the fact that the achievement of the United Nations sustainable development goals requires a concerted alliance, in particular, with research institutions, universities, intergovernmental organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society and private sector entities.

For Issa Sanogo, Director of CERFAM, who recognizes the importance of the complementarities through good collaboration coupled with the combination of strengths, experiences and skills: *"Our partnership with CIRAD intends to promote good practices and innovations to help improve food security, the nutritional situation and the sustainability of food systems,"* he said. *"The creation of solid partnerships based on South-South cooperation and the strengthening of national capacities is an essential element to facilitate access for West and Central African countries to the best skills, knowledge and technical assistance available to help them find endogenous solutions adapted to their context and realities to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations Zero Hunger sustainable development goal,"* he concluded.

CERFAM and CIRAD have agreed, through this partnership letter of intent, among others, to: (i) Provide assistance in policy formulation and strategic support based on evidence, technical assistance, advocacy and resource mobilization for the development of targeted national and regional entities promoting sustainable food security and nutrition in West and Central Africa; (ii) Support the mobilization of multidisciplinary expertise and skills for the provision of technical assistance, by facilitating access to the networks of existing specialists and by supporting the establishment of a pool of national and regional experts; or (iii) Facilitate collaboration with the private sector, which must be involved in the search for solutions to increase the impact of the interventions.

For CERFAM and CIRAD, this partnership agreement will serve as a catalyst for the formulation and implementation of concrete activities on the ground in 2020.