

ICRA BELIEVES THAT

food and nutrition security, pro-poor economic growth, and sustainable resource use can only come from people and organisations that are empowered to address their collective challenges by working together and sharing knowledge to achieve solutions that thereby become their own.



For more information, please visit our website:
www.icra-edu.org

International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture

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What is ICRA?

ICRA is an international centre established by European members of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to develop leadership in facilitating knowledge-based rural and agricultural development.

ICRA does so by providing training and coaching to professionals and to inter-organisational and multidisciplinary teams of staff from education, research and development organisations, in the following 4 focal areas:

- Agricultural Research for Development (ARD)
- Interactive learning
- Agribusiness coaching
- Higher Education outreach and action research

Although grounded in cutting edge theory, ICRA's programmes are pragmatic (non-academic) and based on learning-by-doing.

ICRA strongly believes in the power of connected individuals and therefore actively supports learning networks and partnerships to foster new individual, organisational and inter-organisational forms of collaboration.

ICRA has a track record in building learning networks, together with its alumni, at both local, national, and regional levels to address complex and evolving development challenges.

Such learning networks can take different forms. They may exist just for the purpose of addressing a specific challenge, or they may be directed to the longer-term process of strengthening individual and organisational capacity.

To focus our training and coaching, we distinguish between networks created to:

- Boost innovation and coordinated action in specific clusters of innovation
- Inspire and facilitate institutional change in support of pro-poor innovation, e.g. linking research and education to development

ICRA works for and with both types of networks. In fact, by working on interactive learning in innovation clusters, we learn how to construct institutional arrangements that stimulate knowledge sharing and coordinated action. We can then stimulate advocacy that is inspired by concrete examples on the ground.

BUILDING SKILLS, CHANGING OUTLOOKS



ICRA IN SHORT

ICRA, the International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture, was founded in 1981 by European members of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a consortium of countries, donor agencies and other organisations committed to ending hunger, world poverty and environmental decline.

ICRA was established specifically to strengthen the capacity of agricultural researchers to engage in interdisciplinary teamwork, and to collaborate more effectively with other researchers, extension staff and smallholder farmers.

Over the past 30 years, ICRA's focus has widened, and inevitably so, to deal more effectively with the persistent challenge of making research really matter. This evolution has led to:

- The inclusion of research stakeholders (farmers and advisory services) in joint programmes to improve demand articulation for research, collaboration in action research, and knowledge sharing
- The inclusion of higher education staff to develop teaching and outreach programmes that expose students to action-learning and 'real-life' multi-stakeholder processes of innovation.

ICRA is an autonomous, non-profit, internationally operating legal entity, registered in the Netherlands as a foundation under Dutch law. It is governed by an international Board of Trustees.



Feedback from ICRA alumni

'Working with ICRA has opened my eyes to so many possibilities...' (Ghana, 2007)
'There's so much change in my work from the skills gained!!!!' (Kenya, 2010)

'I am here again to express my deep thanks and gratitude to ICRA for offering me a chance in 2003 to join its training programme. The experience I got during ICRA course helped me much to change my attitude, thinking and contributing positively to the quality of my work.' (Sudan, 2003)

'I now take an interest in other stakeholders who have a role to play in delivering the technologies I develop to end-users. Because of this I have been appointed to the Board of Directors of one of the NGOs that is supporting national production of oil crops.' (Uganda, 1999)

ICRA can provide:

Training:

- ARD/IAR4D: Agricultural Research for Development and Rural Innovation: Enhancing performance in rural innovation and agribusiness
- Facilitation of interactive learning by multi-stakeholder groups
- Design and management of interactive learning, action research and outreach in higher education.
- Promoting Leadership and Organisational Change in support of Agricultural Research for Development
- Developing agribusiness coaches

Coaching:

- ARD/IAR4D learning partnerships
- Learning networks (innovation clusters)

Other related services:

- Facilitation of multi-stakeholder meetings/workshops
- Design and implementation of reflection sessions to learn from and document experience
- tailor-made training sessions

For whom?

- Individual professionals looking for new skills to disseminate innovations that will improve and sustain rural livelihoods
- Managers of professional organisations that are looking for a tailor-made programme to strengthen organisational learning and collaborative action
- Organisations that want to collaborate with us in strengthening capacity for rural innovation
- Donors interested in building capacity for innovation at local, national, and regional levels.

In its 30 years of existence, ICRA has trained over 1600 people. The majority of our alumni have been trained in the intensive 12 – 18 week ARD programme, in English, French, or Spanish.

ICRA's alumni network spreads over 88 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Over the past 5 years, ICRA has supported learning partnerships in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Venezuela, and Uganda. In partnership countries, innovation platforms or ARD/IAR4D (Integrated Agricultural Research for Development) partnerships have been established.



- ICRA offices in Wageningen (Netherlands) and Montpellier (France)
- ICRA's ARD learning partnerships 2006 - 2011