

International Plant Diagnosis  
Network (IPDN) West Africa:  
Stakeholder Meeting & Training  
Workshop  
4-8, September 2006  
Cotonou, Benin

Strengths, Constraints,  
Recommendations  
From the Participants

# International Plant Diagnosis (IPDN) Cotonou, September 4-8, 2006

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# Strengths

- Some well trained researchers who have the will to do the work;
- Some well equipped laboratories in some countries (ex Mali and Burkina Faso);
- Some regional collaborations are initiated

# Constraints

- Human resource
- Unavailability of qualified staff
- Support staff
- Lack of diagnostic laboratories in most countries

# Constraints

- Lack of adequate equipments and consumables;
- Limited access to scientific information (journals and other publications, internet)
- Lack of formal (or informal) network at the national and regional levels;
- Lack of funding;
- Lack of adequate energy (Electricity)

# Recommendations

- IPDN to inform member countries of its existence, objectives and activities
- Capacity building
  - Human (hard working in transparent ways)
  - Material (Procurement and maintenance)
- Networking
  - National
  - Regional
  - Global
- *Political will (development driven/poverty alleviation)*
- *Involvement of policy makers*

# Recommendations

- Establishment of reference labs (by field/ by country/ by region?)
- Creation (share the information) of database on plant pathogens and pest in each country
- Information flow between all actors (farmers, extension agents, NGOs, researchers, Ministries)

# Recommendations

## ■ Funding

- Getting the national government to allocate some funds for plant protection with emphasis on disease diagnosis;
- Getting the private sector to invest in disease diagnosis;
- Submission of proposals (regional/Global) to funding agencies ( with greater values)

# Recommendations

- Educate the users to pay for diagnosis services
- Plant health education ( plant disease clinics)
- Follow-up of the IDPN stakeholder meeting