

AFRICANCROPS.NET

A website on improvement of African crops and seed systems

The **AFRICANCROPS.NET** website and its sister services, the [African Crops News Service](#), and [Message and Discussion Board](#), are published and maintained by the Forum for Organic Resource Management and Agricultural Technologies in Kenya (FORMAT) with financial support from the Food Security Program of The Rockefeller Foundation. These services are open to other research and funding organizations to disseminate their work and can contact the Manager by email: africancrops@wananchi.com.

AFRICANCROPS.NET disseminates research outputs, new agricultural technologies and crop varieties, and scientific and extension information on improvement of African crops and seed systems. It was launched in October 2002, has been visited by over 53000 users and provides reliable access to:

- News and information on African crops and seed systems
- Scientific databases, tools, forums, findings, publications & searches
- Research and development networks on African crops
- Biotechnology research & development agenda in Africa
- Capacity building, grants, fellowships, conferences & several opportunities
- Useful internet links to current scientific information on crops

The website is a one-stop online resource that is widely utilized by researchers, students, instructors, policy-makers, farmers, and, business and development workers worldwide. It is linked to several internet sites that provide news and information; and supports research networks on molecular marker applications, biotechnology, cassava, cowpea, beans, rice and maize. Other scientific networks are invited to utilize the website and can do so by contacting the Website Manager (africancrops@wananchi.com) or use the address below.

AFRICAN CROPS NEWS SERVICE (ACNS)

The ACNS Newsletter is a monthly publication by the **AFRICANCROPS.NET** Team. It disseminates recent technological and policy developments on improvement of African crops and seed systems. The news service complements the AFRICANCROPS.NET website and the Message and Discussion Board. It enhances greater sharing of news and information from projects supported by The Rockefeller Foundation and those by other organizations.

The newsletter covers:

Research breakthroughs in the improvement of African crops by researchers, regional networks and the media

Announcements for meetings, grants, fellowships, scholarships, publications, training and websites

Profiles on research projects, organizations, websites and researchers

The ACNS Newsletter is now a world leading source of information on improvement of African crops such that:

- it reaches over 11000 subscribers in research, development and business across the globe
- it is listed and cited by over 200 internet websites
- over 50 leading news agencies including TV, radio, newspapers, internet and e-journals source and publicize information from the newsletter.
- ACNS is listed in the leading internet search engines and scientific directories including Google, Yahoo, Excite, Live, Searchtorpedo, MSN, AskJeeves, Google Scholar, Scirus, SciSeek and many more.

Do you have an article, announcement, photos, website or profile you would like to appear in the newsletter? Then visit <http://africancrops.net/News> or send it by email to africancrops@wananchi.com.

AFRICAN CROPS MESSAGE AND DISCUSSION BOARD

About the Board

The African Crops Message and Discussion Board is an internet platform that allows scientists and other users to quickly and directly exchange news and information on research methods, findings and other recent advances in the improvement of African crops and seed systems. The Board offers access to scientific:







- ❖ News
- ❖ Journals
- ❖ Information on
 - Abiotic stress
 - Biotechnology
 - Breeding
 - Crop Science
 - Seed Systems
- ❖ Publications
- ❖ Conferences
- ❖ Discussion Forums
- ❖ New contacts and much more.

Purpose of Board

The purpose of the Message and Discussion Board is to enable fast and free exchange of information among users of the www.africancrops.net website and others, on issues involving biological improvement of African crops and developing effective seed systems.

Access the Board

To use the board, browse to www.africancrops.net and follow the link "Message & Discussion Board" displayed on the homepage. Use of the Board is through online registration, a fast and easy process that requires only a Username and Password. Upon registration, each member has a control panel that can be personalized with user information. Images cannot be uploaded to the board for security reasons but users can do so through the Board Administrator. Registered users can;

-  read messages
-  reply to messages
-  post new messages
-  start new topics in any forum
-  conduct polls in topics or forums
-  conduct searches for articles or users

- ✚ participate in all forums running in the board
- ✚ contact moderators and other leading experts
- ✚ send emails to other users

The Control Panel allows users to track activity in the Board, store personal information like birthdays, CV; send, read and store messages. Each day, the board automatically displays the names of members celebrating their birthdays on that day.

Forums & Moderators

The Board has various forums each moderated by a selected member who is a scientist in the field associated with the forum. The Moderators are managers of their respective forums and do so by monitoring and organizing posted topics and messages, assisting members and maintaining order in the use of the board by barring abusers.

A package of benefits has been negotiated for Moderators and this is continually reviewed in order to motivate and encourage scholarly competition that improves the quality and significance of the Board. To learn more about benefits of becoming a Forum Moderator, contact the Administrator by email: africancrops@wananchi.com. The Best Moderators will be honored during the upcoming Third International Conference on Biotechnology, Breeding and Seed Systems on March 29-29, 2007 in Maputo, Mozambique.

The following are the current Forums and their Moderators:

Bean Improvement - Robin Buruchara (r.buruchara@cgiar.org)

Cassava Improvement - Anthony Pariyo/Edward Kanju (apariyo@agric.mak.ac.ug)

Crop Pests and Diseases - Josephine Songa (jmsonga@africaonline.co.ke)

Maize Improvement - Charles Mutengwa/Jane Ininda (mutengwah@yahoo.co.uk)

Molecular Marker Applications - Richard Edema/Jedidah Danson (J.danson@cgiar.org)

News and General Information - Musa Omare (africancrops@wananchi.com)

Rice Improvement - Howard Gridley (h.gridley@cgiar.org)

Seed Systems - Jan Torp (jto@kvl.dk)

Sorghum/Millet Improvement - Aboubacar Toure (acar.toure@ier.ml)

New Forums

New Forums are continually set up to enable more efficient use of the Board. Users are asked to regularly propose topics for additional forums. New and existing research networks, groupings and organizations are also invited and will be assisted to set up their respective Forums within the Board. The Board Administrators are keen to establish forums for University students working on topics related to crop improvement. Interested institutions and individuals can contact the Board Administrators.

Post your articles & news through the Message Board from today!!!!

Steps to Register and use the Board

1. Browse to www.africancrops.net homepage
2. Follow the link, '**Message Board**'. A new window showing the board will open.
3. On the new browser window, click '**Log In/Register**'
4. As a new user, you must register and have an active email address. Click '**Register**' and fill in the form to complete your registration. Note your **Username** and **Password**.
5. After submitting your registration details, check your mailbox within 6 hours. A notification mail will be sent to your inbox confirming validation of your registration. This procedure is meant to confirm that the email address you entered is correct and protects the board against possible abuse by mail spammers.
6. After confirmation of your registration, you are all set to use the Board. When you access the board, use your username & password to '**Login**'. Remember to always **Log out!**

Operating Tips

A user guide has been posted within the Technical Updates Forum of the Board to enable you access more information on how to use the Board.

When logged in access your Control Panel by following "**My Controls**" link at the top of the page. It has an inbuilt messenger interface (to the left of Control Panel) and operates like any Mailbox with an inbox, sent items, etc. and contains your account information and services. You are free to personalize your 'Control Panel', so that you better follow activity in board and communicate better with other members.

Use '**My Assistant**' or '**Help**' links at the top of the page when in need, to seek answers or search forum for specific posts and other information. You can seek help at any time by email.

For fast access to the Board, set www.africancrops.net as your internet homepage as follows:

Connect to the Internet>>open Internet Explorer>>type www.africancrops.net in the Address box>>when site opens, go to the Tools Menu, select "Internet Options">>select "Use Current" >>press "OK" to finish set up.

For more information about these services or help, contact

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