



Communiqué de presse

### **INRA, ARC sign agreement on scientific relations**

Following a high level visit to South Africa in 2011, the Institut National De La Recherche Agronomique (INRA) has signed a cooperation framework agreement with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) of South Africa.

The agreement is aimed at building scientific relations on bovine genomic selection between the two organisations as well as to develop joint research projects and participation on international initiatives on the issues of food security, sustainable agriculture and climate change.

South Africa is an agricultural country with a large diversity of eco and agrosystems and is increasingly involved in international research programmes addressing global issues.

INRA and the ARC wish to develop their scientific cooperation on six main issues namely: bovine genomic selection, adaptation of agriculture and forests to climate change, diet impacts and determinants, sustainable management of crop health, integrated management of animal health, and meta-omics of microbial ecosystems.

François Houllier, President and CEO of INRA, and Shadrack Ralekeno Moephuli, CEO of ARC, signed a cooperation framework agreement during the 2014 International Agricultural Show in Paris, France.

The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) is a premier science institution in South Africa owned by the state and was established in 1990. The ARC employs 2 331 persons including 482 researchers (PhD or

masters degree). Its core mandate is to conduct research, drive research and development, drive technology development and the transfer (dissemination) of information in the field of agriculture, agrobusiness, and natural resource conservation. The ARC comprises 11 research Institutes throughout South Africa covering the entire agricultural sector (Crop production, improvement and protection; Animal health, production and improvement; Natural resources management; Mechanization and engineering; Agro-processing, food technology and safety; Training and extension; Smallholder agricultural development and Agricultural economics).

The French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), is a mission-oriented public research institute, founded in 1946, under the supervision of the French Ministries for Research and Agriculture. It carries out research in the fields of agriculture, food and the environment. The Institute has nearly 8,500 permanent staff and 200 research units in France. Its budget in 2013 amounts to €881.61 m. INRA maintains scientific partnerships with major scientific research institutes worldwide, universities, agronomy and veterinary schools, and is committed to take part in building the European Research Area.

The cooperation will take the form of joint research projects and participation to international initiatives in these domains, and will encompass academic exchanges, including training and improvement of both parties' human resources and exchanges of biological materials.

In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for institutional cooperation was signed between Agreenium and the Agricultural Research Council.

Press Relations

Inra News Office

Jeremy Zuber – [presse@inra.fr](mailto:presse@inra.fr) +33 1 42 75 91 69