

Making agricultural research more effective: the case of maize

Does more need to be done to coordinate research in agricultural science?

In 2010 the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) organised the first Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD). One of the outcomes of the conference was a roadmap for global agricultural research for development (AR4D). This identified the problem of the global fragmentation of research and the need 'to transform AR4D globally, from its current fragmented status to more coherent and cohesive systems for greater impact'.

In a recent strategic framework document, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which is coordinating an ambitious programme of global research projects in agriculture (known as CRPs), also identified the importance of 'strategically building a more coherent and integrated portfolio of second generation CRPs' to help achieve outcomes such as the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Organisations such as GFAR and CGIAR have highlighted the need for better coordination of research in agricultural science to make it more targeted, efficient and effective. There is a need to do even more to bring individual research groups to work together across different disciplines, institutions and countries to support agriculture in the developing world.

Burleigh Dodds Science Publishing plans to play its part in this process. We are planning to develop a unique and free resource for researchers working on individual crops, starting with maize. This free resource will contain features such as:

- Introductory material e.g. on the key challenges facing maize cultivation
- Projects and people: a summary of the main international and regional research groups and projects focused on maize and what they are working on
- News: a summary of the latest news and events from key research groups and projects
- Topics: a series of concise summaries of key topics in maize from leading experts

We hope this resource will make it easier for maize researchers to keep up with key trends in research across their subject as well as the activities of the key players in the field.

We welcome your suggestions on other information you'd like us to cover which would support your research and, in particular, facilitate greater collaboration across the subject. We look forward to hearing how we can help.

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References and further reading

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