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AFD and CIRAD launch Climate Challenge, an international competition on agricultural and forestry innovation to address climate change

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Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (Cirad) have launched the first international competition *"Climate Challenge Agriculture and Forestry",* which promotes agricultural and forestry innovation to address climate change.

Anne Paugam, Chief Executive Officer of AFD, and Michel Eddi, Chairman of CIRAD presented this competition on 9 September 2014 during the 7th edition of the Convergences World Forum, which gathers public, private and solidarity-based actors who are working to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

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Agence Française de Développement and Cirad have launched the competition "Climate Challenge Agriculture and Forestry" because climate change poses a major challenge to agriculture and a threat to both world food security and poverty eradication. **AFD is particularly active in supporting developing countries in the fight against climate change. For Cirad, the topic of climate change has been central to the research it has been conducting for over 15 years with its partners in the South, with the aim of adapting agriculture in these countries to this major constraint.**

This international competition aims **to promote innovation and fast track the transfer and dissemination of technologies and knowledge, which are essential in bringing about innovative solutions to be devised for the future**. It will support the creativity and success of exemplary projects, led by candidates from **Africa, the Mediterranean, Asia, Latin America and overseas French territories**: individual actors, farmers' organizations, financial institutions, actors from the economic and social sectors, local authorities and territories.

It highlights four categories of project:

- *Climate change mitigation in agriculture and livestock farming*
- *Climate change mitigation in the forestry sector*
- *Substitution and processing of agricultural and forestry products*
- *Adaptation to climate change and water resources management*

Projects must be submitted by 1 December 2014 on the website dedicated to the competition, www.challenge-climat.com, *via* the online application interface.

Innovation: A new approach to mobilizing actors

Technical, methodological and operational innovations that create new local dynamics, as well as actions to build inclusive economies, will be promoted. They allow actors and family farms to adapt their practices to climate change, while ensuring that their standard of living and quality of life improve.

150 preselected applications, 12 major projects selected, 4 award winners

150 of the projects submitted will be selected on the basis of the impact their innovation has on climate change, their feasibility, viability, and the possibility of replicating them, as well as their utility and overall coherence. A Selection Committee composed of experts from the development sector will select 12 major innovations, which will be transferred to the final jury.

"This competition provides an opportunity to mobilize and pool energies from the North and South for innovative methods that need to be implemented to support sustainable development. Agriculture and forestry are two key sectors. They are vectors of innovation to address climate change and provide solutions to the major challenge of world food security. It is for this reason that I am extremely pleased to launch Climate Challenge in partnership with Cirad", says **Anne Paugam, Chief Executive Officer of Agence Française de Développement (AFD)**.

"This competition provides the opportunity to promote innovations that have come about as a result of research on what we call 'climate-smart agriculture'. These new agricultural practices should provide a response to the threefold challenge of food security, climate change adaptation, and the sustainable increase in production, by promoting the development of employment in rural areas. They are particularly vital for the future of family farming, but also for conceiving and building the world of tomorrow, based on the principles of sustainable development", points out **Michel Eddi, Chairman of CIRAD**.

Awards given by prestigious jury at 2015 International Agricultural Show

The 12 initiators of innovative projects will be invited to France to present their projects at the award ceremony, which will be held in Paris at the **International Agricultural Show (21 February to 1 March 2015).**

The final jury comprises personalities from the field of innovation and social and economic investment and include:

- **Brice Lalonde**: Special Advisor on Sustainable Development to the UN Global Compact, former Under-Secretary General of the UN, former Secretary of State then Minister for the Environment from 1988 to 1992.
- **Navi Radjou**: consultant in innovation in Silicon Valley, father of the concept of Jugaad and frugal innovation.
- **Ibrahima Coulibaly**: Special Ambassador to the UN for the International Year of Family Farming, Vice-President ROPPA (Network of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organizations of West Africa), President of CNOP (National Coordination of Farmers' Organizations in Mali).
- **Jean-Christophe Debar**: Director of the FARM foundation (Foundation for World Agriculture and Rurality).

For **Brice Lalonde, President of the Jury**: *"Humanity is facing one of its greatest challenges: how to ensure development for all without harming the planet. Agriculture has a full role to play in this challenge and the solutions may well come from countries in the South, which have a proven creative force. So, I am proud to be contributing to bringing out solutions,* via *this challenge, that will allow us to feed the world, while protecting nature, the mother of future harvests."*

Find out more at:
Climate Challenge Agriculture and Forestry: www.challenge-climat.com
Cirad: www.cirad.fr
French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development
(MAEDI): www.diplomatie.gouv.fr