

### Project Management: PHProjekt Online Groupware

#### Online platform for coordination of group activities

- The project management platform is accessible via Internet
- Permits setting up of project plans including time management and to-do lists
- Provides facilities to exchange documents and share information
- Includes calendar, address-database, help-desk, discussion-fora, ...
- Is based on Open Source Software and easy to use
- Allows an unlimited number of users

PHProjekt can be used by all partners of ISICAD.

[www.isicad.org/tutorial/](http://www.isicad.org/tutorial/)

Establishment of PHProjekt in the frame of EARD-InfoSys+

### ISICAD is participating in a network of partners and initiatives

- Global Forum on Agriculture GFAR
- EARD-InfoSys+, Network of the Information System on European ARD
- AgroWeb Network for Central and Eastern Europe
- International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD)
- European Forum on Agricultural Research for Development EFARD
- German Forum on Research for Development DFOR
- Close collaboration with CTA, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
- Sustainet



German Centre for Documentation and Information in Agriculture ZADI  
ISICAD  
Villichgasse 17  
53177 Bonn, Germany



Tel: +49 228 9548-365  
Fax: +49 228 9548-111  
[isicad@isicad.org](mailto:isicad@isicad.org)



Information Systems for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Rural Development

People involved in agricultural research and rural development are working in an international environment. Their work requires constant exchange of information and knowledge. They need efficient tools for information and communication management. The ISICAD team develops software solutions meeting these information and communication requirements.

### About ISICAD

ISICAD is a working group at the German Centre for Documentation and Information in Agriculture (ZADI), the scientific information institution of the Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture (BMVEL). The team pools expertise in information and communication management, agricultural research, development cooperation and open source programming.

ISICAD supports project partners and clients in the conception and implementation of adapted solutions and provides a set of complementary tools. ISICAD works closely together with a network of international partners and initiatives and is in regular consultation with the Global Forum on Agricultural Research GFAR. ISICAD is a member of the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD).



### The ISICAD tools

#### Products & Services

- Webbased Question- and Answer Services
- Market Price Information System
- Virtual Libraries
- Mapping of Research Landscapes
- Online Fora Discussions
- Project Management: PHProjekt Online Groupware

#### ISICAD tools are based on open source software:

- to allow participation in the development process
- to contribute to the sustainability of solutions
- for security reasons
- and to share products

The ISICAD tools have been developed in the frame of research or pilot projects supported by governmental funding or in cooperation with partners.

### Webbased Question- and Answer Service

#### Demand driven knowledge transfer from experts to farmers

In collaboration with rural communities, governmental and research organisations in Benin, ISICAD developed a demand driven question answer service for farmers in developing countries.

The QAS follows a bottom up approach. Vouchers are handed out to the farmers (clients). These vouchers entitle them to request the information they need to solve an individual problem in their daily farm work. A Rural Information Broker helps the client to publish his question on the web. An Answer Service looks for an agricultural expert to respond and publishes the answer on the web. The involved service providers are paid after delivery of services. The Farmers QAS uses the RUN e-journal system as a platform to document questions and answers, to monitor and evaluate the service and for controlling.

[www.runetwork.de](http://www.runetwork.de)

Pilot project funded by BMBF in the frame of the Rural Universe Network (RUN) Further development with the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA)

### Market Price Information System

#### Support market transparency and marketing of local products

InfoPrix provides actual market price information via SMS and the Internet. The service supports farmers and traders in decision taking and provides analysis tools for policy makers and scientists.

Market observers on 64 local markets collect prices of 25 agricultural products. Prices are evaluated every 4 to 7 days. Data are entered by a network of internet cafés throughout the country and sent to ONASA at the end of each market day. At ONASA the information is verified and made available on an SMS server to be sent to registered users. Data can also be retrieved via a GIS interface on the internet. Moreover prices are broadcasted in local language on rural radio and are published in a monthly journal.

[www.onasa.org](http://www.onasa.org)

A collaboration of ISICAD, the private company TERRESTRIS ([www.terrestris.de](http://www.terrestris.de)) and the National Office for Support of Food Security (ONASA) in Benin.

### Mapping of Research Landscapes

#### Informations System on European Agricultural Research for Development EARD-InfoSys+

- Enables quick access to information on organisations, projects, funding opportunities, experts, news and events
  - Provides overviews on countries and themes and displays the relations between organisations, their projects and activities and the involved experts
  - Keeps registered users up to date with the e-mail alert news service
  - Users can insert and disseminate information
- Solution shared with FARA (<http://fara.infosysplus.org>)

[www.infosysplus.org](http://www.infosysplus.org)

Development of EARD-InfoSys+ funded by the European Commission's DG Research

### Virtual Library

#### Publications available online

ISICAD developed a virtual library for the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development (CTA).

CTA's tasks are to develop and provide services that improve access to information for agricultural and rural development in ACP countries and to strengthen their capacity to produce, acquire, exchange and utilise information in this area. The virtual library Anancy gives easy online-access to all CTA publications. The user interface of the library can dynamically be adapted towards the needs of partners.

[www.cta.int](http://www.cta.int)

For the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), Netherlands

### Online Fora Discussion

#### Exchange opinion and knowledge

ISICAD supports partners and projects to launch online discussion fora for exchange of opinion and knowledge about ARD themes and topics.

One example is the website for the IAR4D initiative. The aim of IAR4D is to mobilise a partnership of Sub-Saharan Africa, European and International Organisations to develop and diffuse approaches and methodologies in agricultural research for development. A principal activity on the site was an electronic discussion forum on this issue. The IAR4D website has been developed by the ISICAD working group in the frame of EARD-Infosys+.

[www.isicad.org/iar4d](http://www.isicad.org/iar4d)

For the International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture (ICRA) and the NATURA Network

