

CID News provides short news, relevant project updates and calls from NIBIO's perspective within the area of development research in Africa, Latin America and South and South East Asia.

News stories from nibio.no



Photo: Aaron Iverson,
Cornell University

Malawian farms set out to protect and enhance biodiversity

A new project in Malawi highlights agro-biodiversity and aims to find ways of protecting species that are crucial for sustaining agricultural production. The project is an important and timely initiative considering the recent UN report which states that one million species are currently at risk of extinction. Read the full article [here](#).

Related project: Farms4Biodiversity



Photo: Ragnar Våga Pedersen, NIBIO

NIBIO innovation alerts farmers of agriculture pests

India, China and several African countries have discovered NIBIO's VIPs system, which warns farmers of pests and diseases threatening their crops. The spreading of the moth fall armyworm, has caused severe destruction of crops throughout Africa in just two years, and it has also spread to India and South-East Asia. VIPs will be a tool in the war against fall armyworm, and several projects are in the start-up phase. Read more about it [here](#).

Related project: Resilience



Photo: Ragnar Våga Pedersen, NIBIO

International Women's Day: Closing the gender gap among smallholders

Empowering women is a key factor in Resilience and InnovAfrica, two projects working towards improving the agricultural productivity and adaptive capacity of smallholders in India and Sub-Saharan Africa. Read more about this [here](#), and more about the two projects in project updates below.

Related projects: Resilience and InnovAfrica



Photo: Kathrine Torday Gulden,
NIBIO

Heat waves have different impact

Poor countries are more at risk when climate change causes an increase in heat waves. The solution is faster economic growth. Read more about it [here](#).



Photo: Siri Elise Dybdal, NIBIO

International day for women in rural areas

Women in rural areas are important for food production and food security. Closing the gender gap for development will potentially increase crops by 20-30% and according to studies made by the UN. Read more about it in this [news article](#) (article in Norwegian).

CID updates



Photo: Ragnar Våga Pedersen, NIBIO

Framework agreement between NIBIO and Norad

In September 2018, NIBIO signed a framework agreement with Norad, with the intention to connect NIBIO's knowledge and research with Norad's projects. NIBIO aims to engage more in international development work, and with our wide specter of disciplines in the centre of many of the global challenges. We hope this cooperation will be beneficial for both parties. Read more about it [here](#).



Photo: Marte Lund Edvardsen, NIBIO

CID contributing to NIBIO's project portfolio

CID has ambitions to contribute to increased international participation for NIBIO in projects in the target areas, and for NIBIO to take lead in these projects. In October 2018, CID organized a capacity building workshop on management of international projects, both to identify interest and to provide input to the participants. Rosalba Ortiz (Norad), David Barton (NINA), Knut Andreas Lid (Caritas) and Udaya Sekhar Nagothu (CID/NIBIO) gave the participants their best practices in international project management. 2 representatives from each of NIBIO's 5 divisions took part, and the plan is for CID to follow up with another workshops/seminar in the autumn of 2019.

Project updates

Farms4Biodiversity – Project launch 14-15 May

The project Farmer-led Agroecological Research in Malawi using Scenarios for Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services, in short FARMS 4 Biodiversity, is about the importance of protecting agri-biodiversity crucial for sustaining agricultural production and food security. It will contribute to improving pollination, soil fertility and IPM/biological pest control. The project will be implemented over the next three years in the Northern part of Malawi.

More information: [NIBIO news article](#)

NIBIO's role: Project partner

Contact: Udaya Sekhar Nagothu

Funding: BiodivERSA-EC Joint Call, ERA-NET Co-fund EU Horizon2020



Farmer promoter birding. Photo: Aaron Iverson, Cornell University

Biofuel4Kenya

The project is contributing to the development of a sustainable alternative to wood charcoal in Kenya. The project started in 2018 and is developing a method to use sugarcane bagasse to produce charcoal briquettes of high quality, and this will contribute to less strain on Kenya's natural forest resources. The final product is clean and renewable, which is a good starting point for making a marketable product. The project aim is for the briquetting co-operatives manage to produce a quality product which meets the market's high expectations, while at the same time producing profit and securing jobs.



Photo: Adam O'Toole, NIBIO

More information: [NIBIO news article](#)

NIBIO's role: Project coordinator

Contact: [Belachew Gizachew](#)

Funding: Norad

InnovAfrica

The project is progressing and well on its way towards reaching the goal of improved food and nutrition security in six African countries. In February, there was a consortium meeting in Tanzania followed by a Mid-term project review meeting in Brussels. Read more on the project webpage and the news article on the project's contribution to food and nutrition security in Sub-Saharan Africa (links below).

More information: www.innovafrika.eu and [news article](#)

NIBIO's role: Project coordinator

Contact: [Udaya Sekhar Nagothu](#)

Funding: EU Horizon2020



Photo: Udaya Sekhar Nagothu, NIBIO

Resilience

The project was launched in October 2018, in the Indian state of Assam. It is a four-year multidisciplinary project aiming to increase smallholders' adaptability, agricultural productivity, profitability and nutritional benefits, reduce negative environmental impacts and enhance sustainable agricultural intensification in India. The project is ambitious, hoping to reach more than 100 000 farmers in the project areas through Village Knowledge Centres that will be set up by the project. These will enable capacity building, knowledge management and farmer-to-farmer learning.



Photo: Marte Lund Edvardsen, NIBIO

More information: www.resilienceindia.org and [NIBIO news article](#)

NIBIO's role: Project coordinator

Contact: [Udaya Sekhar Nagothu](#)

Funding: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi

Sustainable Management of the Fall Armyworm (FAW), FAO Programme for Action in Africa, North Africa and the Middle East

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) leads an initiative to increase the preparedness around challenges of FAW infestation in smallholder farmers' fields in Africa and Asia. FAO will train National Plant Protection Organizations, extension services, and farmers via Farmer Field Schools, to quickly get the appropriate action in the field, avoiding the pitfalls of possible miss-steps, while simultaneously filling knowledge gaps, innovating for future solutions, developing local capacities, promoting local empowerment and rural youth employment and coordinating among partners to maximize results and minimize inefficiencies. Additionally, applications for diagnosis, data collection, farming advices and FAW outbreak forecasting will be integrated into one easy-to-use tool, which will be developed together with partners.

NIBIO's role: Project partner

Contact: [Karl Thunes](#)

Funding: Norad



Photo: Karl Thunes, NIBIO

Combating Arthropod Pests for Better Health, Food and Resilience to Climate Change (CAP-Africa)

The program is built upon 3 strategic research thrusts: (i) **Global health**— to reduce the burden of malaria and emerging infectious diseases, (ii) **Climate change** – to filling critical gaps in knowledge on climate change impact on ecosystem services and invasive pests and deploying climate-smart technologies to improve food security and systems resilience and (iii) **Education**— to train at postgraduate level for leadership in scientific research, development, policy, technology dissemination. Impact assessment, M&E and gender analysis are factored into the programme.

NIBIO's role: Project partner

Contact: [Karl Thunes](#)

Funding: Norad



Photo: Karl Thunes, NIBIO

Climate-Smart Agricultural Technologies for Improved Rural Livelihoods and Food Security in Mali and Niger

The objectives of the two similar, but parallel projects are to reduce poverty and food insecurity and to protect natural resources and increase farmer incomes by enhancing agricultural productivity, strengthening market linkages, and facilitating new agribusinesses, particularly those led by women and youth. The project will provide farmers with options to help increase their resilience and adaptation to the effects of climate change. A substantial number of rural households are expected to be direct beneficiaries of interventions in Mali and Niger. In addition, training will be conducted for national and private extension and service providers to sustain project efforts in the countries. Further benefits are expected from the development of additional climate smart options through applied research. Overall project activities are expected to lead to more than 20% increase in crop yields and 15% increase in household crop income. Furthermore, crop and livestock farmers will be trained in climate smart technologies.

NIBIO's role: Project partner

Contact: [Karl Thunes](#)

Funding: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Other ongoing projects

Project title: Establishing a national carbon monitoring centre in Tanzania (NCCM)

Period: 2015-2020

NIBIO's role: Project partner

Contact: [Belachew Gizachew Zeleke](#)

Funding: Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania

Project title: Forest Landscape Restoration in Amhara Region Ethiopia (FLR)

Period: 2018-2020

NIBIO's role: Project partner

Contact: [Belachew Gizachew Zeleke](#)

Funding: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Project title: Colombia Coffee Value Chain Project

NIBIO's role: Resource partner

Contact: [Karl Thunes](#)

Funding: Joint funding from Norad and private partners

In the pipeline

3 proposals relevant for CID areas have gone through to second stage in EU H2020, and NIBIO researchers are currently working on creating proposals for the deadline in September 2019:

H2020-SFS-2019-2, SFS-35-2019-2020, RIA **InnovFarmSystems**

NIBIO Coordinator, Udaya Sekhar Nagothu

H2020-SFS-2019-2, LC-SFS-34-2019, RIA **HealthyFoodAfrica**

NIBIO Project partner, Udaya Sekhar Nagothu

H2020-SFS-2019-2, SFS-35-2019-2020, RIA **SinCoFFS**

NIBIO Project partner, Karl H. Thunes

If you know anyone who would be interested in receiving newsletters from CID, please forward to them.

If you do not wish to receive newsletters from CID, please send an e-mail to

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See all CID News on [CID's webpage](#), and all [NIBIO's English news articles here](#).