

Editorial

Thank you, dear subscriber, for joining us with the last Afrika Focus of the first decennium.

Once again some nice articles were selected by a committee of peer reviewers.

This issue begins with the laudation of Prof. dr. Patrick Van Damme, given at the presentation of the honorary doctorate to Dr. Monty Jones, in March of this year. We are then very proud to publish Francois Stepman's "Embracing change within the CGIAR", giving some background information on the scientific work of Dr. Monty Jones.

In 'Réaction de deux espèces d'igname, traitées avec du vin de palme, aux champignons responsables des pourritures d'igname' Patrice Kouamé Assiri, Attaky Hortense Diallo, Andres Tschannen and Severin Ake report on their research in Côte d'Ivoire. They conclude that, when used as a preventive treatment, fermented palm wine is more effective than non fermented palm wine.

Victor Ajibola Adekunle describes the agroforestry practice in the Ondo State of Nigeria. Since agroforestry is a means of increasing food production, and at the same time, making wood available to rural dwellers, the author is convinced that there is a need for agroforestry education amongst rural communities.

Field research (2005) on the protracted crisis in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (1996-2003) is presented in the article by Els Lecoutere, Koen Vlassenroot and Timothy Raeymaekers. This crisis aggravated processes of land alienation, it reduced market access, made households more vulnerable and caused food insecurity. The authors recommend a combination of interventions in order to lift the rural households more effectively out of the food insecurity trap.

The article by Dakouri Gadou provides some new insights in the recent crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. It explains how the notion 'ivoirité' heightens the antagonism between various parties and how patriotic sentiments might have been sharpened as a result of the crisis. The bottom line, however, is that patriotic mobilisation is only an element of a larger battle for power.

Finally, we are happy to also include a selection of Africa-related doctorates presented at UGent, and a book review to make this issue complete.

May we remind you once more of the possibility to offer a gift subscription of this journal, for instance to an institution in Africa. This is an ideal way to introduce Afrika Focus to foreign institutions and to increase the visibility of our authors and their research.

Thanks for your support and we wish you a lot of reading pleasure!

Johan De Smedt
Editor