# SÉMINAIRE INTERNATIONAL SUR LA PRÉSERVATION ET LA RESTAURATION DES SOLS FORESTIERS EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

## ABIDJAN - 15-17 MAI 2023

# INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF FOREST SOILS IN WEST AFRICA

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# International seminar on the preservation and restoration of forest soils in West Africa - Abidjan May 15th to 17th, 2023

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## About ARIN

The ARIN is a network of over 200 researchers and policy makers across 36 African countries, aimed at promoting research excellence and dialogue on best research and impact practices. The ARIN provides one of the unique convening platforms for science-policy interface in Africa building on evidence. It recognizes that Africa is home to multiple researchers, innovation and best policy practices but these remain poorly shared and learnt from to inform impactful Research and Development Agenda. The ARIN therefore provides a peer review platform where best research and impact practices from different African contexts are shared, profiled and leveraged to inform transformative policy actions.

## Why ARIN

ARIN seeks to identify and leverage on key research talents and best project expenses to flexibly and innovatively contribute to Africa's research transformation, policy analysis and capacity building

## Key areas of work

- Identify and share research trends through forecasting
- Perform research and policy reviews to identify gaps and priorities
- Support contextual knowledge systems and learnings
- Develop models and best practices on pathways to research excellence and impact
- Convene evidence and impact dialogues
- Support capacity of individuals and institutions on transformative research and impact pathways

## ARIN Membership

Talented researchers and policymakers across Africa join the ARIN network through a competitive process based on demonstrated research excellence and transformative thinking. Network members have the opportunity to engage in periodic intellectual discussions on teh future of Africa's research and impact pathways. Members also engage in the development and implementation of grant projects.

## Regional Focal Points

- East Africa
- Southeastern Africa
- Southern Africa
- Western Africa
- Central and Francophone
- Diaspora

Technology & Innovation

Climate Change & Energy

Sustainable Development

Cities & Resilience

Agriculture & Forestry

Enhanced Capabilities

Transformative Policies

Research Impact

Research & Policy thought leadership

# **Introduction.**

- Multiple research has been done across Africa but these remain poorly utilized and are not properly linked to policy.

- The evidence is scattered and most policy makers are not aware of the existence of this evidence.

- There is need to consolidate research/evidence and work with policy makers to support uptake for effective response.

# Research-Policy models.

Science and power model individuals within the science and research community acting as knowledge brokers between science technology and innovation and policy making.

Expert model where the scientists curate scientific solutions for uptake by the policy makers.

The pragmatic model of research uptake brings together the scientists and policymakers as co-creators of solutions in times of crisis.

# Research and Policy work in Africa- Enhancing the Pragmatic Model.

Community involvement (needs assessment, involvement in co creation labs,

Research Work Outputs,

(Reports, policy briefs)

Relevant stakeholders.

(Public and private entities, policy makers.)

# Challenges between research and public action linkages.

Complexities of research work outputs.

Relevance to the needs of affected groups.

Limited political good will in research uptake.

Lack of understanding amongst the relevant stakeholder spectrum (this included misconceptions)

# Recommendations.

**Priority needs assessment with affected social groups.**

- Speak to the practical needs of the communities are some groups more affected than others, in what ways….what are necessary interventions, what are the aspects of equity included for low income groups for instance.
- Highlighting the implications of the research e.g. If this is unsustainable, what price will X group pay to adopt to new approaches.

**Translate research**

- Package outputs/outcomes into simple comprehensible language for ease of reference by policy makers and other stakeholders across the socio- economic, political and cultural spectrum. Including best practices where this has been successful or vice versa.
- Awareness on evidence and research platforms.

**Advocacy**

- Aside from publishing in journals, find innovative ways of research disseminations for understanding in the general public fora. (e.g. short documentaries, news briefs, targeted media interviews)
- Aim for lasting impact post research completion.