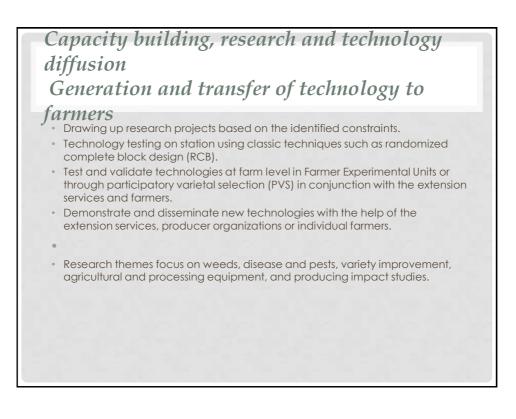




Capacity building, research and technology diffusion Generation and transfer of technology to farmers

The Guinean Institute of Agronomic Research (IRAG) is responsible for agricultural research in partnership with other agencies in the national agricultural research system. It has regional research centers (Kankan for Upper Guinea; Foulaya for Lower Guinea; Sérédou for Forest Guinea) and two specialist centers at Kilissi, one for mangrove rice growing and the other for breeding and production of basic and prebasic seed. IRAG rice research involves several disciplines: variety improvement, technical guidelines, crop protection, etc. This research follows the following pattern:

Identification of research themes: these are chosen by consulting with farmers, NGOs and other development partners during one-day retreats. Identified constraints are ranked and classed into two categories (researchable and non researchable).



. PRESERVATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF GENETIC RESOURCES

- IRAG has a Plant Genetic Resources Program (PRPG) based at the Foulaya agricultural research center. Its mission is to characterize and conserve germplasm of existing food crops.
- Guinea is a reservoir of important genetic resources in rice. These are maintained at two levels. The most important are maintained *in situ* in farmers' fields. Other genetic resources are kept ex *situ* in the living gene banks at Kilissi, Koba, Bordo and Sérédou as well as in cold chambers.
- A large proportion of the varieties maintained in the living collections are improved varieties from the Kilissi research center or have been introduced from research by the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (WARDA, IRRI) through the INGER-Africa network. Guinea has obtained more than 1500 improved rice varieties

1. CHALLENGERS						
 Lack of qualified human resources Lack of adequate infrastructures and equipment Weakness of national funding 						

2. How to overcome the problems				
2.1. Capacity building (Education and training)				
Researchers	Seed production, Seed multiplication, Seed processing, seed storage, seed quality control			
Technicians	Seed processing system			
Labor staff	Skill in seed processing plant,] Skill in seed testing			
Vulgarisateurs	Skill in seed technics diffusion to farmers level			



