



PRESS RELEASE

AIRID AND DGRSI SIGN FRAMEWORK COLLABORATION AGREEMENT TO ADVANCE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND NATIONAL CAPACITY IN BENIN

Cotonou, Benin | 14th July 2026

The African Institute for Research in Infectious Diseases (AIRID) and the Directorate General for Scientific Research and Innovation (DGRSI) of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research have officially signed a Framework Collaboration Agreement on 14 July 2026, marking a major milestone in strengthening scientific research, innovation, and institutional collaboration in Benin.

The Framework Collaboration Agreement establishes a formal partnership between AIRID and DGRSI to promote scientific excellence, strengthen national research capacity, foster innovation, and support the generation and translation of research into policies and solutions that address Benin's development priorities.

The agreement reflects a shared commitment to building a dynamic national research ecosystem in which government institutions and independent research organisations work together to generate high-quality evidence, develop local scientific expertise, and position Benin as a regional leader in research and innovation.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Dr. Corine Ngufor, Executive Director of AIRID, described the agreement as a landmark moment for both AIRID and the country's scientific community.

"This Framework Collaboration Agreement is an important milestone for AIRID and a strong affirmation of Benin's commitment to scientific excellence. We are honoured by DGRSI's confidence in our institution and proud to contribute to the country's vision of becoming a regional leader in research and innovation. By working together, we will strengthen national research capacity, generate evidence that informs policy, and develop innovative solutions that improve the health and well-being of the people of Benin and beyond."

Dr Corine NGUFOR
Executive Director, AIRID

Dr. Ngufor added that the partnership reflects AIRID's belief that world-class science can be developed and led from Benin.

"AIRID was founded on the conviction that Benin has the talent, expertise and ambition to become a centre of excellence for scientific research in Africa. This partnership reinforces our commitment to developing the next generation of scientists, strengthening national institutions, and ensuring that research conducted in Benin contributes to both national development and global scientific progress."

Directorate General of DGRSI, Prof Clément Agbangla welcomed the agreement as an important step towards achieving the Government of Benin's vision of making science, technology and innovation key drivers of sustainable development. They also highlighted AIRID as an example of the growing contribution of women to scientific leadership in the country.

"This Framework Collaboration Agreement reflects the Government of Benin's commitment to building a strong, innovative and internationally recognised research ecosystem. AIRID has distinguished itself as a centre of scientific excellence, and its leadership by a renowned woman scientist demonstrates the important role women play in advancing research and innovation. We are pleased to support institutions that embody excellence while inspiring more women and young people to pursue careers in science. Together, we will continue strengthening Benin's scientific institutions and positioning our country as a leading hub for research and innovation in Africa."

Prof. Clément AGBANGLA
Directorate General, DGRSI

Under the Framework Collaboration Agreement, AIRID and DGRSI will collaborate to:

- Promote scientific research and technological innovation in Benin;
- Strengthen national research capacity through training, mentorship and institutional development;
- Support collaborative national, regional and international research programmes;
- Facilitate scientific knowledge exchange and dissemination;
- Promote innovation that responds to national development priorities;
- Encourage the use of scientific evidence in policymaking; and
- Foster partnerships that enhance Benin's scientific competitiveness and international visibility.

The agreement also reinforces Benin's growing reputation as a centre of excellence for scientific research in West Africa. AIRID has rapidly emerged as a leading African research institute, conducting internationally recognised research in infectious diseases, vector biology, public health, diagnostics, implementation science, and health innovation, while investing in the next generation of African scientists and strengthening research capacity across the continent.

By combining DGRSI's mandate to coordinate and promote scientific research and innovation with AIRID's expertise in delivering high-quality research and capacity strengthening, the Framework Collaboration Agreement is expected to contribute to accelerating scientific discovery, support evidence-based decision-making, and contribute to improved health and sustainable development in Benin.

About AIRID

The African Institute for Research in Infectious Diseases (AIRID) is an independent, African-led research institute based in Benin. AIRID conducts internationally recognised research in infectious diseases, public health, vector biology, diagnostics, implementation science, and health innovation. Through research excellence, training, and strategic partnerships, AIRID is committed to strengthening scientific capacity and improving health outcomes across Africa.

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