

WAVE RESEARCH's totem unveiled at its headquarters in Bingerville on 16 October 2026

03

NATIONAL LAUNCH OF WAVE RESEARCH

In Côte d'Ivoire, WAVE RESEARCH unveils its new visual identity and seals an alliance with icipe

WAVE RESEARCH was officially launched in Côte d'Ivoire, where its headquarters is located. The highlight of this national launch was the unveiling of the institution's totem, followed by the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe).

A launch where it all began

It was at the Scientific and Innovation Hub of Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny (UFHB) in Bingerville, the cradle of the WAVE project, that WAVE RESEARCH celebrated its national launch on Friday, 16 October 2026. Administrative authorities, diplomatic representatives, technical and financial partners, research leaders, producers and scientists from Africa, England, Europe and the United States took part in the ceremony, which was also broadcast online.

A totem to affirm an identity

Welcoming the guests, **Pr Ballo Zié, President of UFHB,** highlighted the the twofold significance of the day: the inauguration of the **Dr Katherine Kahn Regional Plant Health Observatory** and **the unveiling of the WAVE RESEARCH totem, "a non-profit research institution born from the evolution of the WAVE project."** He welcomed an important milestone **"both for our institution and for the development of scientific research serving African agriculture".**

The unveiling of the totem symbolically anchored WAVE RESEARCH in its host country. After Abuja, where the logo was presented to partners from across the region, the institution is now asserting its presence in Côte d'Ivoire, where its headquarters is located, at the heart of the UFHB Scientific and Innovation Hub.



Pr Ballo Zié, President of UFHB



WAVE RESEARCH and ICIPE signed a memorandum of understanding during the ceremony

icipe: uniting phytopathology and entomology

A highlight of the ceremony, **WAVE RESEARCH** and **icipe**, whose headquarters is in Nairobi (Kenya), signed a **memorandum of understanding** that opens a new stage in their scientific cooperation. This agreement rests on a strategic complementarity: WAVE RESEARCH brings its expertise on the viruses, bacteria and fungi responsible for plant diseases; icipe contributes its expertise skills in the study of insects, some of which transmit these pathogens.

The link is direct in the field: the whitefly, for example, transmits both cassava mosaic disease and cassava brown streak disease. By combining their knowledge, the two institutions intend to better understand, detect and combat the threats facing crops.

Moving from reaction to anticipation

In his inaugural lecture, the Keynote speaker, **Dr Abdou Tenkouano**, **Director General of icipe**, presented his institution's strategy, **"Winning the race against food insecurity, malnutrition and climate change".** He argued for a logic of prevention to face cross-border biothreats, rather than intervention after crises emerge, stressing the need to **"know what is happening, anticipate the enemy's approach."**

Integrated pest management, biological control, rapid diagnostics, risk modelling: icipe brings proven experience, as illustrated by its Push-Pull technology, deployed among more than 350,000 farmers in 18 African countries.

> "As in a war, **intelligence is needed**.
>
> **Dr Abdou Tenkouano,**
> Director General of icipe

Building on Abuja

This partnership builds on the discussions begun in Nigeria. Present at the Plant Health Regional Convening, Dr Tenkouano stressed there that insect vectors can only be tackled through research coordinated across countries.



Keynote Talk by the Director General of icipe

ICIPE

+350 000

farmers benefiting from Push-Pull technology in 18 African countries.

Headquarters : Nairobi, Kenya