IRD is a public research institution organized under French law. In addition to research, its missions include consulting and training. The institute has five departments: natural and manmade environments, renewable resources, society and health, consulting and commercial applications, and training and support. All five contribute to IRD’s scientific programs, including the training of students for research careers. Through its research units, IRD participates in collaborative programs of scientific research, partnering with other French research institutions such as universities and other members of France's higher education and research clusters. Research and training arrangements with institutions in the global South have been initiated and pursued through the constitution of teams of young researchers (Jeunes Equipes) and joint international laboratories and research units. Rotating academic chairs and other forms of international exchange encourage cooperation among researchers in the North and South, advancing graduate training in development research. Affiliated with IRD is AIRD, an interinstitutional agency for development research. Its mission is to coordinate and encourage the development research efforts of universities and other research entities in France, Europe, and the global South.

◆ MAIN PROGRAMMES OF STUDY
In addition to offering academic programs in France and abroad, IRD’s research units in France’s universities perform the following functions:
- Integrating undergraduate and master’s students into their programs and into the programs of their partners in France and abroad.
- Participating in the teaching of undergraduate and master’s programs.
- Advising and teaching graduate students pursuing research master’s and doctoral degrees.
- Hosting postdoctoral researchers and scholars.

◆ RESEARCH
IRD research projects deal with relations between human beings and their environment in the Tropics and the Mediterranean through the prism of sustainable development. IRD’s six research priorities are the struggle against poverty and the quest for growth, emerging threats from infectious diseases, climate change and natural hazards, water resources and access to water, and ecosystems and natural resources.

◆ STRENGTHS
In addition to its research themes and its 40-year partnership with countries of the global South, IRD is today Europe's leading institution for the application of research conducted in the North to the problems facing the communities of the South. IRD strengthens the capacity of research scholars and teams, placing special emphasis on training for research careers.

◆ LOCATION
Each year, more than 950 IRD-sponsored research personnel spend extended periods in academic and scientific institutions in more than 40 foreign countries and 5 tropical overseas territories of France. Their goal is to conduct research with partners in the South and to optimize the links between training, research, consulting, and commercial applications. IRD has several centers in France (Bondy, Orléans, Brest, Montpellier) and representation in Africa, Latin America, and Asia.