



Food Security and Biotechnology in Africa



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Outreach Program for Small Scale Farmers

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PREAMBLE

- Small holders are variable depending on enterprise and location
- Holdings size range: <1 to 40 acres.
- Small land parcels in densely populated areas
 - Reduced land under cultivation
 - Soils are continuously cultivated and
 - Less productive due to fertility constraints

Disclaimer

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PREAMBLE cont'd



- Population densities from below <2 to >1000 persons per Sq. Km
- Lake Victoria basin >500 people per Sq. Km; Central Rift 21-200 per Sq Km
- Influences choice of crops
 - Wheat large scale
 - Tomato small scale

Preamble cont'd

Identifying target group of participants

1. Farm size
 - In western Kenya 20 acres is large scale
 - In central Rift, 20 acres is small scale
2. Enterprise
 - Wheat 20-40 acres is small scale
 - Tomatoes 10 acres is large scale
3. Endowment
 - Subsistence or commercial farming?

Workshop Program

1. Arrival of invited participants
2. Registration
3. Opening by government officials
4. Content delivery
 - Food security needs
 - Possible ways of meeting need: Most important-increase productivity and quality

Workshop Program Cont'd

- Biotechnology applications in agriculture
 - What is biotech?
 - ✓ Micro-propagation
 - ✓ Diagnostics
 - ✓ Marker Assisted Breeding
 - ✓ Genetic Engineering
 - Possibilities with biotechnology
 - Associated risks

Workshop Program Cont'd

5. Questions & discussions
6. Demystifying myths
 - Present biotech as a choice technology in contributing to food security in Africa
7. Closing remarks
8. Departure