

## **Harnessing biotechnology for agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa in the era of climate change: challenges and options: Summary report of the ABDC-10 parallel session<sup>1</sup>**

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Facilitator: Prof. Idah Sithole-Niang, University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Speakers:

- Prof. Jane Morris, African Center for Gene Technologies (ACGT), South Africa
- Dr. Adama Traore, National Council for Agricultural Research,(CNRA), Bamako, Mali

Rapporteur: Dr. Jacob Mignouna, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), Nairobi, Kenya.

80 participants

### **Priority Actions for in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA):**

The group discussed and identified many priority areas for interventions. However, there is a need to maximize the use of resources. Therefore out of 15 priority areas identified, namely: Human Resources and Infrastructure Development (5), Technology (4), Policy (4), Priority Actions for International Community (2), the following are considered to be the key priority area for NOW

- Provide resources to establish and manage a biotechnology laboratory of excellence in West Africa
- Train in molecular techniques for breeding against climate change
- Use biotechnology for value addition and mitigation of post-harvest losses
- Harmonize biotechnology/biosafety regulations and trade agreements

### **Institutional Arrangements for Implementation:**

FARA in collaboration with its stakeholders

- sub-regional organizations (SROs)
- national agricultural research systems (NARS)
- Farmer-based organizations
- Private sector
- Biotech supporting institutions in Africa (AATF, Africa Harvest Biotech Foundation International (AHBFI), International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) etc)
- Development partners
- Extension services

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<sup>1</sup> This is the summary report of the parallel session organized by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) on the third day of the FAO international technical conference on Agricultural Biotechnologies in Developing Countries (ABDC-10) that took place in Guadalajara, Mexico on 1-4 March 2010 (<http://www.fao.org/biotech/abdc/parallel/en>). An Issue paper was also prepared for this session - see ABDC-10/FARA at <http://www.fao.org/biotech/abdc/backdocs/en/>