



AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION
FONDATION AFRICAINE POUR LES TECHNOLOGIES AGRICOLES

AATF NEWS

AATF granted host country status in Kenya

Nairobi, 22 June 2006 - The Government of Kenya signed an agreement with the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) on 16 June 2006 granting the Foundation the right to set up its headquarters as an international organisation in Kenya.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon Raphael Tuju, signed on behalf of the Government of Kenya while the Executive Director of the Foundation, Dr Mpoko Bokanga, signed for the Foundation.

The agreement will facilitate and enhance the functional capabilities of the AATF to bring proprietary agricultural innovations to smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa to increase productivity and improve livelihoods.



The AATF is a registered charity in England and Wales and was officially inaugurated in Kenya in June 2004 by the Minister for Agriculture, Hon Kipruto arap Kirwa.

Since its inauguration, the Foundation has worked with other organisations to introduce agricultural technologies for use by smallholder farmers in Kenya and other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. One of the technologies is a new maize seed coated with a herbicide to kill *Striga*, a parasitic weed that reduces maize yields. The AATF has also negotiated donation of a gene by Monsanto to reduce insect damage in cowpea.

Remarking during the signing of the agreement, Hon Tuju said that the agreement was proof of commitment by the government in facilitating the work of the AATF both in Kenya and in Sub-Saharan Africa. The minister also said that Kenya had adopted a deliberate policy to attract international organisations to base their headquarters in Kenya to build Nairobi into a regional and diplomatic hub.

Hon Tuju said that the AATF mandate of addressing food security and poverty reduction in Africa was relevant to Africa and supports demands for better agricultural technology transfer by the Africa Union (AU) and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

The Foundation's Executive Director, Dr Mpoko Bokanga, thanked the government of Kenya for the official recognition of AATF saying that the Foundation would fulfil its mission and charitable purpose of bringing to smallholder farmers technological innovations to improve food security and increase income generation by smallholder farmers.

Dr Bokanga said some of the main difficulties in bringing proprietary technologies to farmers were in the management of intellectual property and liability issues. He said that AATF relied on '... fostering partnerships through which those that have the technologies needed by the smallholder farmers in Africa can donate the technologies on humanitarian basis, under the assurance that their intellectual property rights will be respected'.

The AATF is an African-led not-for-profit organisation which negotiates free access to proprietary technologies and mediates the formation of partnerships between public and private institutions for the adaptation and delivery of such technologies to smallholder resource-poor farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa. The AATF was incorporated in the UK in January 2003 and in Kenya on 30 April 2003. It is a registered charity in England and Wales.

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