

USAID SUPPORTED BIOTECHNOLOGY OUTREACH PROGRAMME

As most parts of the world adopt genetically modified products, there remains uncertainty, confusion and resistance to the technology in many parts of Africa, mainly due to low knowledge levels among citizenry, deliberate misinformation by anti-biotech groups and lack of exposure of the actual benefits of GM commercial crops. To address this problem, USAID Kenya has funded a project (USAID/KENYA Strategic Agricultural Biotechnology Outreach Support Programme – SO No 615 – 0007- 01), to create public knowledge and awareness in Biotechnology in Kenya. This National programme is implemented at the Centre for Biotechnology and Bioinformatics.

The goal of the biotechnology outreach programme is to create an enabling environment for biotechnology research and development, adoption and enhanced agriculture in Kenya through improved knowledge and awareness in biotechnology and biosafety, with the following objectives:

- i. Improve knowledge in biotechnology and biosafety among stakeholders
- ii. To enhance balanced reporting on biotechnology and biosafety in electronic and printed media
- iii. To enhance knowledge in biotechnology and biosafety among key policy advisors and decision makers

Date	Region	Venue	Target group	No of Participants
13 th to 14 th January 2012	Lower Eastern	Machakos	Farmers, agric extension staff, consumer networks, NGOs, CBOs	77
20 th to 21 st January 2012	North Rift	Kitale	Farmers, agric extension staff, consumer networks, NGOs, CBOs	73
27 th to	North	Kisumu	Farmers, agric	61

28 th January 2012	Nyanza		extension staff, consumer networks, NGOs, CBOs	
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