

Croplife International Annual Conference in association with EuropaBio

**5th June, 2003
Marriot Hotel
Brussels**

**Agricultural Technology in Africa
Dr. Florence Wambugu
CEO, A Harvest Biotech Foundation International**

A Harvest Biotech Foundation International (AHBFI)



Washington DC ♦ Nairobi ♦ Johannesburg

Website: <http://www.ahbfi.org>

Where are the 800 million hungry? (Scherr, 2003)

- **India: 29%---232m---decreasing**
- **Sub Saharan Africa: 25%--200m & increasing**
- **China: 14%---112m---decreasing**
- **Elsewhere Asia/Pacific: 19%---152m decreasing**
- **Latin America & Caribbean: 7%---56m**
- **Near East and North Africa: 5%--40m**

Factors influencing biotech acceptance in Africa

- **Global, pan-African and country specific**
- **Future global biotech trade**
- **Loss biological diversity due to poverty**
- **EU moratorium against biotech**
- **Anti-GM lobby groups coordinated activities & heavy funding (>\$100m)**
- **Pro-biotech organizations' competition for limited & uncoordinated funding – USAID, Rockefeller, Biotech MNCs, Croplife**
- **SA influence in Africa's biotech acceptance**
- **High prevalence of HIV Aids**
- **Hunger, malnutrition and poverty in SSA – WFP**

Agri-biotech challenges in Africa

- **Lack of biotech policies: Biosafety & IP (6 countries with biotech research)**
- **Limited government funding (exception: South Africa, Egypt & Nigeria)**
- **Limited ability to purchase biotech products & lack of credit**
- **Undeveloped marketing and distribution systems for products**
- **Poor extension services & information to farmers**

The GM Sweet Potato for Africa

- **Need identification: Food security, economic growth**
- **Public-private sector links: KARI/USAID and Monsanto**
- **Capacity Building & Technology transfer**
- **Infrastructure development: KARI biotransformation lab**
- **Policy development: Kenya National Biosafety Bill**
- **Field trials and product development**
- **Opening door for GM global trade (Bt maize & cotton) & GM food relief**

Addressing the challenges: The TC Banana Case Study

- **Consumer market developed to over 50,000**
- **Making agri-business profitable (Return on Investment ROI: \$4 for \$1 invested)**
- **Marketing & distribution systems established**
- **Farmers extension system trained to handle new technologies & products**
- **Devt of small scale farm & agri-processing businesses**

Emerging Solutions

- **Local private sector developed (GTL) for supply of clean materials for TC banana, pyrethrum, sugarcane, sweet potato (?)**
- **Extension services for technology transfer and new products, including GM crops**
- **Credit for purchasing initial seedlings**
- **Distribution: Regional nurseries and distribution retail businesses**
- **Market development: local & international**

The opportunity in African market

- **The African crisis is a global crisis**
- **Africa provides the greatest opportunity for GM crops/products e.g. 25% of grain import**
- **Food deficit creates internal, intra-Africa trade**
- **Africa trading blocs offer an alternative to the EU (currently 50% of total)**
- **South-South trade, esp. with China and India**

New Thinking in Africa

- **Africans taking leadership of their own destiny with international partners**
- **NEPAD initiative: Economic growth & good governance**
- **FARA: May 2003 Dakar Declaration**
 - **Agriculture for economic growth in Africa**
 - **Infrastructure and capacity building**
 - **Science & Technology, especially biotechnology as key agricultural growth**
 - **Linking agricultural products to local and international markets**