



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE AFRICA LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM  
SEPTEMBER 2011 ~ FOCUS ON EAST AFRICA

## New Book Promotes Agricultural Innovation

*Africa Lead equips nearly 1,000 training graduates across the African continent with a copy of The New Harvest by Calestous Juma*

In its continuing support to African agriculture leaders, the USAID-funded Africa Lead program will provide *The New Harvest*, a new book by Harvard professor Dr. Calestous Juma, to CAADP Champions of Change training graduates. Study guides, online

forums, and opportunities for face-to-face discussions will also be provided to Champions in order to promote interaction with the material and help reinforce a network of women and men who embody the spirit and culture of innovation lauded in the book.

### THE KEY TO FOOD SECURITY

*Innovation* – analyzing a problem and testing various solutions to it – lies at the very foundation of the technological and biological improvements that brought about Asia’s vaunted Green Revolution. It is what must be encouraged and harnessed to bring about the long-delayed African Green Revolution. Aside from the obvious explanation that innovation is the process of doing something in new (and hopefully more beneficial) ways, the fundamental question issue at hand is how to foster a spirit of innovation and problem solving and harness it to overcome Africa’s agriculture and food security obstacles.

We’ve all heard the old adage that “necessity is the mother of invention.” If invention is a physical manifestation of innovation, how do we encourage the necessity produced by African food insecurity and poverty to give birth to policy, technical and institutional innovations that will meet the challenge?

This is the question Dr. Calestous Juma grapples with in his groundbreaking and timely new book, *The New Harvest: Agricultural Innovation in Africa*. It is central not only to agricultural improvement and reduction in poverty, food insecurity and chronic malnutrition, but also to continued economic development and welfare across the continent. Dr. Juma’s book identifies key innovations and the infrastructure needed to support them. He also provides examples of innovations in practice on the continent and other parts of the world, which can be studied further by the interested reader by accessing free chapter downloads available at [http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/20504/new\\_harvest.html](http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/20504/new_harvest.html)

### AFRICA LEAD INNOVATORS: How Kenyan Champions are Using their Training to Make an Impact

I coordinated a successful Stakeholders’ Exhibition involving all agricultural sector actors in the Hamisi district. [Since then, we have seen] increased use of Certified Maize Seed and non-soil acidifying fertilizers/manures. [which has] increased maize production from 131,000 bags to 200,000 bags this season.

– Luka Rotich  
Ministry of Agriculture

[Because of Africa Lead’s training], we changed the strategic focus of our [private sector development consulting] business to... address the problem of food insecurity. We expect it to have a positive impact not only on our business but also in our relationship with smallholder farmer producer groups.

– Beth Mwangi  
Ideal Business Link Ltd.

I have managed to convince a number of [newspaper] editors that agriculture and food security should be given priority in our media coverage. Articles on future plans for food security are now receiving attention from senior government officials and other policy makers determined to eliminate hunger in the country.

– Luke Anami, The Standard

## BENEFICIARY STORY: Tanzania

# Building Cross-Sectoral Collaboration

*Revelian Ngaiza spearheaded a public sector initiative to create a team that will harmonize Tanzania's agriculture investment strategies across sectors*

In the Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, Cooperatives and Water, a promising idea – to form a Strategic Advisory Team (SAT) comprised of members from both the private and public sectors to advise the government on ways to increase private sector investment – was about to be abandoned. Then Revelian Ngaiza, an Agricultural Economist with the Ministry, was selected to attend Africa Lead's CAADP Champions for Change training, where he developed an Action Plan to make SAT a reality.

Following through on his commitment, Revelian spent months meeting with key personnel in lead ministries, private companies, and universities to convince them of the potential benefits of SAT. Many responded positively and joined Revelian's efforts. As a result, SAT will be officially inaugurated next month. It will be a forum for public and private partners and decision makers to dialogue and give recommendations on agricultural investment in order to enhance food security.

Visit us on the web at  
[www.AfricaLeadFTF.org](http://www.AfricaLeadFTF.org)

Or browse our online database of upcoming short courses relevant to African agriculture professionals at [AfricaLead.vudat.msu.edu/courses](http://AfricaLead.vudat.msu.edu/courses)

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## What is Africa Lead?

*A USAID-funded program – and part of the Feed the Future global food security initiative – that builds the capacity of African agriculture leaders to lead change*

Africa Lead supports the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) by providing 4 main services to participating countries and regions:

- Developing and delivering **training modules**:

**CAADP Champions for Change:** a 5 day course about CAADP and leading change.

A second 3 day course, tailored to each country, is now in development. It will equip CAADP leaders to operationalize investment plans. The first offering is expected to take place in October 2011.

- Providing logistical and financial support for other trainings and **innovative learning partnerships** that connect participants with institutional hosts, such as the *International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)*, the *World Food Programme*, and private sector agribusinesses.
- **Assessing capacity needs** of national and regional institutions, CAADP Country Teams, and National Agriculture Investment Plan implementation.
- Developing an **online database** of short courses relevant to African agriculture professionals.

## RESULTS TO DATE

- ✓ **909** trained CAADP “Champions” from 24 countries:
  - 424 in East Africa
  - 359 in West Africa
  - 126 in Southern AfricaTrainees implement Action Plans developed during training to lead change management by conducting cascade trainings, creating new programs, and advocating for policy changes, among other innovations.
- ✓ 16 people trained in fertilizer policy or risk analysis for animal health
- ✓ 2 national non-state actor workshops to mobilize NGOs and private sector actors to participate in CAADP
- ✓ 3 capacity assessments of West African regional institutions
- ✓ 2 assessments of CAADP Country Team processes
- ✓ A short course database features over 250 upcoming offerings relevant to African agriculture professionals! Browse or search for a specific topic by going to <http://africalead.vudat.msu.edu/courses>