



Creating future scenarios to review policies in Uganda and Tanzania

Policy makers, researchers, and development practitioners from Tanzania and Uganda are reviewing various policies in their countries by developing socioeconomic and climate scenarios. The scenarios created will help identify and address gaps in the policies.

This started with a series of workshops organized by the [Policy Action and Climate Change Action \(PACCA\)](#) project in collaboration with respective national

partners in the two countries and the [University of Oxford](#).

The project, launched last year, is supporting Uganda and Tanzania in the development of policies that are climate resilient; it is led by [IITA](#) and is part of the CGIAR Research Program on [Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security \(CCAFS\)](#) Flagship Program on Policies and Institutions on Climate-Resilient Food.

[Dr Edidah Ampaire](#) from IITA Uganda, the PACCA Project Coordinator, said that the scenarios were important tools to help in policy analysis. “What we want to see are inclusive and better informed policies that are climate resilient and that provide for the well-guided investment of resources,” she said.

“The use of scenarios helps policymakers to engage strategically with such complex and uncertain issues as climate change. The participants developed diverse, challenging scenarios and used them to ‘crash test’ the policy to understand its strengths and weaknesses, get ideas to improve on it, and make it more robust,” said [Joost Vervoort](#), a Scenarios Officer for CCAFS at the Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University.

[In Tanzania](#), the new Environmental Policy was reviewed at the two-day workshop, held 16–17 February at Morogoro, and organized in collaboration with the [Division of Environment](#) at the Vice President’s office.

Speaking during the official opening of the workshop, Dr Julius Ningu, the Director of the Division of Environment at the Vice President’s Office, noted that the workshop came at an opportune moment as the country was revising its Environmental



A cross-section of the participants from Uganda at the workshop.

Events

External Midterm Review of Africa RISING East/Southern Africa Project, 22 February to 16 March, Tanzania and Malawi

Annual Progress Review and Work Planning Meeting, 25-27 February, Golden Tulip Hotel, Kumasi, Ghana

Africa RISING Mali Progress Report/Work Plan Review Meeting, 26 and 27 February, Mali

Eastern Africa Africa RISING Innovation Platform Workshop, 27 February, Dodoma, Tanzania

Induction Program for New Staff (July 2014 - Feb 2015), 2 March, IITA-Ibadan, Nigeria

International Conference on Integrated Systems Research for Sustainable Intensification in Smallholder Agriculture, 3-6 March, IITA Conference Center, Ibadan, Nigeria (<http://humidtropics.cgiar.org/events/humidtropics-2014-science-conference/>)

International workshop on BBTV Learning Alliance, 9-13 March, IITA Conference Center, Ibadan, Nigeria

Regional/Station Administrators Meeting, 16-17 March, Vigna Room, IITA-Ibadan, Nigeria

18th International Association of Research Scholars and Fellows (IARSAF) Annual Symposium, 23-24 March, IITA Conference Center, Ibadan, Nigeria

N2Africa-Nigeria 2015 Annual Planning Meeting, 24-25 March, Hotel De Bently Utako District, Abuja, Nigeria

Annual Review and Planning Meeting of the Africa RISING West Africa Project, 24 and 25 March, Mensvic Hotel, East Legon, Accra, Ghana

Women Empowerment Platform, 25 March, Vigna Room, IITA-Ibadan, Nigeria

Policy. He explained that the country's current National Environmental Policy had been set up in 1997 and was therefore not responsive to some of the emerging environmental issues. These included climate change, biofuels, and genetically

modified organisms as well as invasive alien species and electronic and electronic equipment wastes (e-Wastes). Therefore the Government through the Vice President's Office had initiated a comprehensive review of the policy. [In Uganda](#), the policymakers

converging in Jinja, 19-20 February, used the scenarios crafted to develop the first drafts of an implementation plan for the country's [National Agriculture Policy](#) (NAP) and revise the Mechanization Framework (MF) summary.

Dutch deputy ambassador visits IITA

His Excellency, Mr [Michel Deelen](#), the Deputy Ambassador, Netherlands Embassy, Lagos, came on an orientation visit to [IITA-Ibadan](#) on 24 February. He was welcomed by Dr Ken Dashiell, Deputy Director General for Partnerships and Capacity Development, who gave an overview on IITA and its work on linking with the private sector to catalyze development through agribusiness and commercializing technologies through its Business Incubation Platform (BIP).

Hilde Koper, Head of the Project Administration Office, gave a rundown of past and current collaborative projects between the [Dutch government](#) and IITA that includes ongoing research in the CGIAR Research Programs on Integrated Systems for the Humid Tropics ([Humidtropics](#)) and Climate Change, Food Security and Agriculture ([CCAFS](#)) through the [Wageningen University](#).

Explaining about his visit to IITA, Deputy Ambassador Deelen said that the Embassy is a "broker" between [Nigeria](#) and the Netherlands and that it is more concerned with trade and industry, and emphasizes connection to markets.

"Our main task in the Embassy is to make bridges between institutions in the Netherlands and the private sector in Nigeria," he said. "The challenge is to find how we can bring technologies to markets for farmers or consumers to use. We need to link up research with industry."



Deputy Ambassador Michel Deelen (center) at the Genetic Resources Center.

He said that there seemed to be a "disconnect between what technologies are available and how Nigerian farmers run their business." Thus, he said he was happy to hear that IITA had taken the bold step of commercializing technologies for farmers.

The Deputy Ambassador was taken on a tour of the Institute's facilities that included the Pathology Lab, Genetic Resources Center, [IITA Youth Agripreneurs](#), BIP

with the aflasafe and Nodumax plants, and the Cassava Waste Conversion to High Protein Animal Feed project of [ILRI](#). He was accompanied by Ms Sonia Odije, Adviser, Economic, Trade and Investment Affairs.

The Dutch envoy said he was very impressed with IITA's work, especially on BIP and the youth initiatives, and he would certainly come back to IITA to explore further collaboration.

Africa RISING Project leads take part in Sustainable Intensification Cross-Learning Tour

Technical leads of the [Africa RISING](#) project in West Africa, East and Southern Africa, and Ethiopia, took part in a cross-learning tour on sustainable intensification from 28 January to 3 February. The event was organized by donors funding projects on sustainable intensification in Africa and South Asia. A diverse and multi-institutional group of 50 participants attended the event

and shared perspectives on sustainable intensification in African and South Asian contexts. They came from USAID, [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), USAID's Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab, the Innovation Lab for Small-scale Irrigation, [CIMMYT](#), International Food Policy Research Institute ([IFPRI](#)), International Livestock Research Institute ([ILRI](#)), and International Rice Research

Institute ([IRRI](#)). Participants visited sites of CSISA in Bihar and Odisha States of India. IITA scientists who took part in the event were Irmgard Hoeschle-Zeledon, Mateete Bekunda, and Asamoah Larbi.

"Taking part in the cross-learning event provided insights for us on the work of our colleagues. We could clearly see how government's subsidies help the

adoption of technologies. Although we cannot change government policies in Africa, we have seen a lot of affordable and feasible options for the mechanization of smallholder farm activities which we can introduce in Africa and which will be beneficial to small-scale farmers. Examples are the use of two-wheel tractors for line sowing and fertilizer application, fodder choppers, and axial flow pumps. We invite our CSISA colleagues to come to visit our activities and give us advice, based on their advanced experience in India,” said Dr Hoeschle-Zeledon, Project Coordinator for Africa RISING West Africa and East and Southern Africa.

Prof Mateete Bekunda, Chief Scientist of the Africa RISING East and Southern Africa Project, noted that such exchanges between sister projects in different parts of the world are beneficial for partners engaged in sustainable intensification projects to learn from each others' experiences, refine project implementation, and consequently improve the livelihoods of the smallholder farmers.

As part of the US government's [Feed the Future](#) (FtF) initiative to address hunger



Africa RISING scientists Mateete Bekunda from IITA (right) and Kindu Mekonnen from ILRI (left) look at a mechanical seeder manufactured for use by small-scale farmers in India. The mechanical seeder is manufactured through a public-private partnership between the Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) and the private sector.

and food security in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, USAID is supporting three multi-stakeholder agricultural research projects under the umbrella program Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for

the Next Generation – Africa RISING. This is designed to sustainably intensify key African farming systems in West, East, and Southern Africa (led by IITA) and in the Ethiopian Highlands (led by ILRI).

Welcome, new staff!

Trushar Shah

has joined IITA as the Integrated Breeding Platform (IBP) Hub Manager. He is a Kenyan national. He graduated from the University of Bristol, UK, with an honors degree in biochemistry, molecular biology, and biotechnology. He holds an MSc in molecular modeling and bioinformatics from Birkbeck, University of London.



Before joining IITA, he was a Scientist (Bioinformatics) and Coordinator, Data Management Unit at [ICRISAT](#). He also

worked as Bioinformatics Specialist & Computational Biology (2007–2009) at CIMMYT on the analysis of gene expression, association mapping, marker and genomic data.

His e-mail address is tm.shah@cgiar.org. Office address: IITA-Kenya, Plant Biodiversity and Genomics Facility, c/o International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), PO Box 30709, Nairobi 00100, Nairobi, Kenya, Tel: +254 20 4223787 and mobile number +254702729797.

Renee Bullock, an American, has joined IITA-Kenya as Postdoctoral Fellow (Social Scientist and Gender Research Assistant). She obtained her MA in Geography in 2010

and a PhD in 2014 from the University of Florida, USA.

She was a Research Fellow at the [World Agroforestry Centre](#), Kenya, from 2013 to 2014. She worked as an Instructor at the University of Florida in 2013 and as a Facilitator for Modernizing Extension and Advisory Systems, located in Uganda and Tanzania, in 2012.



Her official e-mail address is r.bullock2@cgiar.org.

Announcement



The IITA Women's Group will host the **International Dinner** on 6 March at the International House. The fundraiser will start at 7:30 pm.

Attractions include the IITA School Dance Troupe, Wale Zion Band, raffle draws, good food from the Humidtropics region, dancing, and lots of fun.

Tickets are on sale at the Wellness Center (salon and gym), I-House, CRC, IITA School, and Cappa Bar.

Got a story to share? Please email it with photos and captions every Wednesday to Andrea Gros (a.gros@cgiar.org), Katherine Lopez (k.lopez@cgiar.org), Jeffrey T. Oliver (j.oliver@cgiar.org), Catherine Njuguna (c.njuguna@cgiar.org), or Adaobi Umeokoro (a.umeokoro@cgiar.org).