

## FSBA: Food Security and Biotechnology in Africa

The FSBA project will strengthen the education and outreach capacities of the African partners on the subject of sustainable application of biotechnology in food production in Kenya, Nigeria and Burkina Faso. The project aims to achieve this by the organization of stakeholder meetings and round tables in each partner country, the joint elaboration and testing of 120 hours of up-to-date Master's level course material, and the production of outreach materials. The project partners' faculty and support staff will also be trained in project management and financial administration and local equipment will be upgraded.

**Contract**  
FED/2013/320-152

**Co-ordinator**  
University of Groningen

**Partners**  
University of Eldoret,  
University of Nigeria  
in Nsukka,  
Université de  
Ouagadougou,

**Associate**  
NEPAD-ABNE:  
African Biosafety Network  
of Expertise

**Project duration**  
36 months

**EU grant**  
EUR 498,103.03

**ACP regions and  
countries involved**  
East African Community:  
Kenya  
West Africa:  
Nigeria,  
Burkina Faso  
The Netherlands

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### Challenge

Acceptance of new technologies by societies not always comes automatically. Especially the development, cultivation and consumption of genetically modified (GM) crops is heavily opposed in some parts of the world (e.g., Europe) while in other parts (e.g., U.S.A.) societal acceptance is rather broad. GM crops have the potential to increase food production, which may be of great importance for Sub-Saharan Africa where populations are growing and in 2013, an estimated 25% of the population was hungry. However, there are concerns with regard to the safe use (biosafety) and applicability of GM crops in countries where small farmers are the main food producers. In this context, a sustainable innovation process is needed, accounting for technological, economical and societal concerns with the participation of all stakeholders – rural populations, small-scale farmers, (non) governmental and community-based organizations, and their institutions.

### Focus

To this end, the FSBA project will assess the state of the art of the current knowledge and viewpoints about the sustainable use of GM crops in African contexts. This key information will be shared with 160 stakeholders in the partner countries and brought together in Master's level education modules and other outreach materials, that will be made freely available through an open website. In this way, African HEIs at large will be enabled to provide Africa's future executives and decision makers with a solid knowledge base in this field.

### Rationale

The FSBA project has adopted the co-evolutionary approach in which biosafety is considered in its societal context, accounting for ethical, legal, political and social aspects and also the alternatives for the use of biotechnology. This will provide the basis for the sustainable innovation process that is needed for the successful adoption of new agricultural methods, with or without GM crops.

### Method

In the partner countries, the FSBA project will organize stakeholder meetings followed by round tables with media coverage on the sustainable use of GM crops in a small-holder setting. Relevant literature will be collected during 1-month missions of the African partners to the University of Groningen. This material will be used to elaborate 120 hours of Mas-



Confined field trial (Kenya)



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### Programme theme(s)

Agriculture and food security

### Sector

Higher education (11420)

Agricultural development (31120)

### Keywords

Food security, biotechnology, sustainability, stakeholders, course modules

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The family at Kick-off meeting FSBA project, University of Eldoret, November 2013.

ter's level course supports (divided in 6 modules of 20 hours each), and outreach materials such as flyers, policy briefs, and workshop programmes. The authors of the course modules will also visit their African partners for in-depth discussion and tuning of module contents and outreach materials. Finally the FSBA project will ensure a training of the African partners in project management and financial administration, and local equipment will be updated.

### Results

The African partners' staff will have upgraded academic expertise in the sustainable application of biotechnology in food production, enhanced capacity in project management and financial administration, and increased synergy among themselves and with the NEPAD-ANBE.

120 hours of Master's level course supports, outreach materials and workshops programmes will be available, as well as upgraded equipment.

160 Stakeholder organizations will have been involved in defining thematic priorities for education and outreach, and will be able to apply new insights, skills and practices.

Six stakeholder meetings with coupled round tables will have attracted much public and political attention to food security and sustainable biotechnology.



Stakeholder meeting (Kenya)



Training in Nsukka (Nigeria)