

ABS in Africa and the “Quadruple Win” Goal

Workshop on

*Embedding mutually supportive implementation of the
Plant Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol in the context of
broader national policy goals*

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Nightmare 2050 ...

- More than 9 billion people to feed, at higher levels of lifestyle aspiration
- Significant increases in climate variability:
 - Less reliable rainy seasons: longer dry periods, heavier storms, unseasonable frost
 - Shifting climate zones impact cropping options
- More and worse natural disasters erode personal and national capital
- Climate refugees destabilise neighbouring countries, war over natural resources

... or Vision 2063?

- "A global strategy to optimize use of Africa's resources for the benefits of all Africans" – adopted by AU Assembly 2013
 - 1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development
 - 2. An integrated continent, politically united based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance
 - 3. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law

- 4. A peaceful and secure Africa
- 5. An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics
- 6. An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children
- 7. Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner

- Agriculture will be modern and productive, using science, technology, innovation and indigenous knowledge
- Strong focus on technology transfer and human capacity development, aimed at a knowledge economy based on science, technology, innovation, education
- Africa's unique natural endowments, its environment and ecosystems, including its wildlife and wild lands are healthy, valued and protected, with climate resilient economies and communities

ABS and the “Quadruple Win”

- Conservation and sustainable use of BD (key role of on-farm selection)
- Benefit sharing, especially science, technology, knowledge and education
- Contribution to climate change adaptation – genetic and farming systems
- Poverty alleviation through economic growth and development, AND through increased access to resources, increased social and natural capital

No time to waste...

- Scientific/technical capacity to manipulate genetics is doubling every six months (“Moore’s Law on steroids”) – e.g. DivSeek
- A very rapid “disruptive” move away from “genetic resources” to pure “genetic information” (analogous to other manifestations of “big data”)
- In the Information Age it is futile trying to control information flows – so how should Africa respond?

Two fundamental truths

- International environmental agreements
MUST BE IMPLEMENTED NATIONALLY
- National development policies related to
biodiversity (agricultural and “wild”) MUST
BE IMPLEMENTED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

URGENT need to coordinate

- ABS must be integrated into national economic development planning
- Policies will ONLY work if translated into legal rights (over land, resources, traditional knowledge) supported by institutional and technical capacity at the level of local communities
- Purpose of innovative approach at this workshop: different national sectors stop working in silos – plan and act together, with quadruple local impact as goal

Picture worth a thousand words

