Project launch and workshop report
18-22 January 2010, Nairobi Kenya

Milestone reference number 1.1.2

K. Dashiell

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N2Africa
Putting nitrogen fixation to work for smallholder farmers in Africa
N2Africa is a project funded by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation by a grant to Plant Production Systems, Wageningen University who lead the project together with CIAT-TSBF, IITA and many partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.

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Executive Summary

Seventy-six scientists, Ambassadors and/or their representatives, Kenya’s Minister of Planning, National Development and Vision 2030, Donors, high ranking Kenya government officials, and development partners from 18 countries as well as local media met at the Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya to launch the project: Putting Nitrogen Fixation to Work for Smallholder Farmers in Africa (N2Africa).

N2Africa is a research and development project targeting eight African Countries, Ghana, Nigeria, DR Congo, Rwanda, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Within four years this project will directly empower 225,000 African smallholder farmers to use state-of–the-art legume and rhizobial inoculants technologies to triple the inputs of free atmospheric nitrogen by biological nitrogen fixation, thereby improving crop and livestock productivity, human nutrition and farm income, while enhancing soil health.

Plenary sessions and small working groups were used to 1) Present an overview of the project and agree on the objectives of this launching meeting, 2) Introduce and discuss the five project objectives of N2Africa, 3) Introduce related projects and initiatives, 4) Introduce partner organizations, 5) have each country delineate their area of operation, and begin preparing their Implementation plans and 6) discuss the administrative and operational procedures that will be used.

Summary

The Workshop began with presentations that described how N2Africa supports the agricultural strategy of the main investor in the project, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. An overview of the project and the vision for success was presented and discussed.

Vision of Success for N2Africa

“To raise average grain legumes yields by 954 kg/ha in four legumes (groundnut, cowpea, soybean, and common bean), increase average biological nitrogen fixation (BNF) by 46 kg/ha, and increase average household income by $465, directly benefiting 225,000 households (1,800,000 individuals) in eight countries in sub-Saharan Africa (Ghana, Nigeria, DR Congo, Rwanda, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe).

Indeed, this project links the protein and nitrogen needs of poor African farmers directly to previously inaccessible, massive atmospheric reserves, provides them with new income-generating crop production enterprises, presents a mechanism of renewable soil fertility management and opens the door to the adoption of numerous, profitable accompanying farm technologies and value-adding enterprises.”

Workshop Objectives

The participants agreed that the workshop would try to achieve five objectives: 1. Share a common understanding of the vision, aims and approaches; 2. Introduce the project leader, project staff and the steering committee; 3. Identify methods that will be used to achieve the project objectives; 4. Design an implementation plan for activities across the three regions (West, East and Central, and southern Africa); 5. Agree on roles and responsibilities of partner institutions.
N2Africa Objectives

1. Establish a baseline of the current status of N2-fixation, identify farm enterprises and niches for targeting N2-fixing legumes in the impact zones, and establish mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and impact assessment;

2. Identify and field-test multi-purpose legumes providing food, animal feed, structural materials and high quality crop residues for enhanced N2-fixation and integrate improved varieties into farming systems

3. Collect and characterize superior rhizobia strains for enhanced N2-fixation and develop inoculum production capacity in sub-Saharan Africa through collaboration with private sector partners.

4. Deliver legumes, inoculant technologies and associated N2-fixation technologies to farmers throughout sub-Saharan Africa, and

5. Develop and strengthen capacity for N2-fixation research, technology development, and application. These five objectives were presented and discussed in detail so that all participants developed a common understanding.

Implementation Plan for N2Africa

Representatives from ten different projects that N2Africa will need to partner with, described their goals and activities in order to initiate the process of establishing positive working relationships and enhance collaboration.

Country Plans: A representative from each of the eight N2Africa countries presented a report describing the relevant organizations and the resources they would contribute to make the project successful. Small working groups were formed so that each country could define their exact geographic areas of operation. These groups reported their conclusions and committed themselves to finalize the country implementation plans as soon as feasible.

Implementation Plans: Seven topics that are important to the implementation and success of N2Africa were identified: 1) Baseline and monitoring & evaluation, 2) Seed systems and value chain, 3) Deployment of phosphorus and other inputs, 4) Rhizobiology, 5) Dissemination of products and technologies, 6) Multi-location agronomic trials, and, 7) Capacity building.

Presentations were given on each of these and then small working groups were formed to develop implementations plans that would be used across all eight countries. On baseline, monitoring and evaluation, the group started discussing the specificities of the baseline, indicators to be used to measure change as well as the organizational realities of implementation. However, input from other people and organizations is essential before a final implementation plan with regards to baseline and an M&E system can be finalized.

The dissemination group has mandated each country team to work with different types of farmers including small-scale farmers, women farmers, literate commercial farmers and the highly vulnerable farmers. The group working on the multi-location agronomic trials defined some minimum data that needs to be collected such as pest and disease incidence, grain and biomass yield, N2-fixation (using the N-difference method), farmers’ perception of desirable and undesirable field crop characteristics, and women’s evaluation of culinary characteristics including cooking time, taste preferences and other quality factors. In order to finalize these implementation plans, more time and opportunity for feedback from partner organizations in different countries was required.

Administrative and Operational Procedures and Communication Plans: With the large number of countries and organizations that are involved in the implementation of N2Africa, well defined and transparent operational and administrative procedures are required. In addition, a clear plan to keep all partner organizations and individuals working on the project well-informed on the successes and failures during the execution of activities, requirements for
technical and financial reports, etc. is needed. A proposal was presented and the participants agreed to this.

Workshop Evaluation: The participants reviewed the five workshop objectives that were agreed to during the first session. There was agreement that all the objectives were met except for objective 4, concerning the design of an implementation plan for activities across the three regions (West, East and Central, and Southern Africa). Participants agreed that implementation plans must be country specific and that because all the partners could not be present for this workshop every country will need to have additional planning meetings very soon. The five objectives are important in all eight countries. The plan to achieve each objective needs to be critically evaluated and any barriers to success identified and solutions developed. Who, what and when for all the planned activities need to be well-defined.

Two areas that must be addressed as soon as possible are 1) establish well-defined formalized links with AGRA, TL-II, NARS, the private sector and other institutions and 2) Metrics need to be developed to determine how well the project is meeting each of the five objectives.

Everyone agreed that the project is off to a very positive start. The open, honest, and largely very positive interaction of all participants was amazing, as was their continuous commitment. The organizations, both national and international, as well as the individuals that have been assembled to participate in this project can be called a “Dream Team” and expectations are very high that the project will be successful. While there is still much more detailed planning required this workshop was able to put a better defined structure to the project proposal.

At the conclusion of the workshop one of the participating farmers from Kenya, Rev Ken Kivanda, was asked to give his comments. He concluded with the following message to N2Africa:

“Challenges to all of us: a) Jeremiah said: “My people perish for lack of knowledge and understanding.” What are you and I doing to rescue the farmer in Africa? b) From Dr. Annan: “I have no solution for Kenya’s problems, but Kenyans have the solutions for their problems”. Who will solve the farmers’ problems in Africa? c) Quote from Bill Gates: “All Lives have equal value.” How are you and I valuing other people’s lives in Africa?

On behalf of all African Farmers I wish to thank Bill Gates personally for his visitation to Africa to show his concern for the small-scale farmers in Africa and releasing funds for N2 Africa. We would also like to thank our scientists in Africa and outside Africa for their efforts to come up with researches that will benefit the African farmers to fight against poverty. We need a change now!”
Data N2AFRICA workshop: 18 – 22 JANUARY 2010

1. No. of participants (64) - Registered
2. No. of countries represented:- (18)
   Kenya, Ghana, Malawi, Chad, Nigeria, Rwanda, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Netherlands, U.S.A, Belgium, Ethiopia, Congo, France, Italy, Britain, Tanzania, Brazil.
3. No. of organizations represented (44)

LAUNCH DATA: 20 JANUARY 2010

Important VIPs Present:
1. Ambassadeur of Nigeria to Kenya: - Dr. C.W. Wigwe
2. Agriculture Unit Manager, Catholic Relief Services:- Ms. Kusewa Mwende
3. Tanzania Minister Counsellor – Adelaida Tillya
4. Hottiserve East Africa Director – Grace A. Luballo
5. KARI – Director :- Dr. Ephraim Mukisira
6. Deputy Programme Manager (GTZ):- Dr. Eberhard Krain
7. ICIPE Director:- Professor Christian Borgemeister
8. ILRI Theme Director:- Dr. Shirley Tarawali
9. Crop Production Officer, FAO Kenya:-Paul Abuto Omanga
10. Deputy Director - CAB International:- Dr. George Isaiah Oduor
11. BecA-ILRI Hub Director:- Dr. Segenet Kelemu
12. Regional Coordinator , ICRAF:- Dr. Jeremias Gasper Mowo

SPEECHES
1. Speech by Hon. Wycliffe Oparanya – Available
2. Speech by KARI – Director (Dr. Ephraim Mukisira) – Not available
3. List of organizations present (see annex)
Annex 1: List of organizations present

1. World Vision International
2. CIAT-TSBF
3. AGRA
4. Urban Agricultural Network
5. Savanna Agricultural Research Institute
6. Department of Agricultural Research Services (Malawi)
7. University of Nairobi
8. FARA
9. LGA
10. Institute Des Sciences Agronomiques Du Rwanda (ISAR)
11. IGABI, Nigeria
12. UEN-Faculty of Agronomy
13. Kenya Soya Beans Farmers Association (KESOFA)
14. SPRL
15. Bungoma Small Scale Farmers Forum
16. IITA
17. Kenyatta University
18. FORMAT
19. University of Malawi
20. Bunda College of Agriculture
21. ARDAP (NGO)
22. MEA Limited
23. ICRISAT
24. DIOBASS
25. SARCAF
26. World Neighbours
27. Wagenigen University
28. CLUSA – USA
29. Farmers Federation of Rwanda ‘IMBARAGA’
30. DERN – Ruhengeri/Harvest Plus
31. CSIR – Soil Research Institution
32. PAD
33. COCOF
34. Tshwane University of Technology
35. Universite Catholique de Bukavu (U.C.B)
36. CIALCA/DRC
37. Moi University
38. Federal University of Technology
39. Institute for Agriculture Research Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria
40. BMGF
41. EMBRAPA
42. ICRAF
43. IDRC
44. Hottiserve East Africa Limited
Annex2: Program N2Africa launching meeting

Program N2Africa launching meeting
Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya
18 – 22 January 2010

Monday 18 January 2010

Session 1: Workshop opening (Chairman: Ken Dashiell)

09:00 – 10:15: Welcome by BMGF, WUR, TSBF, IITA, introduction of all participants
10:15 – 10:30: Importance of BNF in the BMGF agricultural strategy [Prem Warrior]
10:30 – 11:00: Objectives of the meeting and project overview [Ken Giller]

11:00 – 11:30: Coffee break

Session 2: Presentation of project objectives (Chairman: Louise Sperling)

11:30 – 12:00: Objective 1 – Baseline and M&E [Nteranya Sanginga]
12:00 – 12:30: Objective 2 – Legume agronomy [Bernard Vanlauwe]
12:30 – 13:00: Objective 3 – Rhizobium selection and inoculum production [Robert Abaidoo]

13:00 – 14:00: Lunch

14:00 – 14:30: Objective 4 – Inoculants and legume delivery [Paul Woomer]
14:30 – 15:00: Objective 5 – Capacity building [Saidou Koala]
15:00 – 15:30: General Discussion

15:30 – 16:00: Coffee break
Session 3: Introduction of related initiatives (Chairman: Ramadjita Tabo)

16:00 – 16:15: Evaluation of commercial products-COMPRO [Didier Lesueur]
16:15 – 16:30: AGRA Soil Health [Bashir Jama]
16:30 – 16:45: Tropical Legume 2 TL-II [Tsedeke Abete]
16:45 – 17:00: AGRA-Markets [Anne Mbaabu]
17:00 – 17:15: Grain legumes in Western Kenya [Qureish Noordin - ARDAP]
17:30 – 17:45: Soybeans and climbing beans in Central Kenya [Daniel Mugendi - KU]
17:45 – 18:00: ISFM in Northern Nigeria [Emmanuel Iwuafor – IAR]
18:00 – 18:15: ISFM in Malawi [Austin Ngwira - CHDI]

19:00 – 21:00: Welcome cocktail

Tuesday 19 January 2010

Session 4: Introduction of all partner organizations (Chairman: Ann Mbaabu)

08:30 – 08:50: Nigeria [Led by I Y Apamu]
08:50 – 09:10: Ghana [Led by Ben Ahiabor]
09:10 – 09:30: Kenya [Led by Paul Woomer]
09:30 – 09:50: Rwanda [Led by Jonas Mugabe]
09:50 – 10:10: DR Congo [Led by Sylvain Mapatano]

10:10 – 10:40: Coffee break

10:40 – 11:00: Zimbabwe [Led by Mazvita Murwira]
11:00 – 11:20: Malawi [Led by George Kanyama-Phiri]
11:20 – 11:40: Mozambique [Led by Felicidade Massinga]
11:40 – 12:30: General Discussion

12:30 – 13:30: Lunch

Session 5: Delineation of areas of operation (Chairman: Mariangela Hungria)

13:30 – 13:50: Introduction to site selection [numbers, criteria, etc] [Bernard Vanlauwe]
13:50 – 15:30: Working groups per country to identify and delineate the exact areas of operation

15:30 – 16:00: Coffee break

16:00 – 16:15: Feedback from Mozambique
16:15 – 16:30: Feedback from Zimbabwe
16:30 – 16:45: Feedback from Malawi
16:45 – 17:00: Feedback from DR Congo
17:00 – 17:15: Feedback from Rwanda
17:15 – 17:30: Feedback from Kenya
17:30 – 17:45: Feedback from Ghana
17:45 – 18:00: Feedback from Nigeria
18:00 – 18:30: General Discussion
Wednesday 20 January 2010

Session 6: Implementation plans (Chairman: Paula Bramel)

08:30 – 08:45: General introduction to the implementation plans [Prem Warrior]
08:45 – 09:00: Dissemination and extension plan [Paul Woomer]
09:00 – 09:15: Phosphorus and other inputs [Bernard Vanlauwe]
09:15 – 09:30: Linkages with AGRA [Nteranya Sanginga]
09:30 – 09:45: Linkages with TL-II and seed access [Ken Giller]
09:45 – 10:00: Discussion and formation of five working groups on seed systems, deployment of P and other inputs, dissemination, rhizobiology, and baseline + M&E plan

10:00 – 10:30: Coffee break

10:30 – 13:00: Official launching of the project – see separate program

13:00 – 14:00: Lunch with ViPs and the Press

Session 7: Implementation plans (Small working groups)

14:00 – 15:30: Working groups Session (5) on seed systems, deployment of P and other inputs, dissemination, rhizobiology, and baseline + M&E plan

15:30 – 16:00: Coffee break

16:00 – 18:00: Working groups continued

Thursday 21 January 2010

Session 8: Reporting of working groups on plans (Chairman: Paula Bramel)

08:30 – 08:50: Working group on baseline and M&E plan [led by Ms Haven Ley, BMGF]
08:50 – 09:10: Working group on seed systems and value chain [led by Ms Charity Hanif, BMGF]
09:10 – 09:30: Working group on deployment of P and other inputs [led by T. Wafula, private sector]
09:30 – 09:50: Working group on rhizobiology [led by Mazvita Murwira, SPRL]
09:50 – 10:10: Working group on dissemination [led by Louise Sperling, CIAT]
10:10 – 10:30: General discussion

10:30 – 11:00: Coffee break

Session 9: Implementation plans (Small working groups)

11:00 – 13:00: Finalization of implementation plans
13:00 – 14:00: Lunch

Session 10: Discussion on the grant making process (Chairman: N. Sanginga)

14:00 – 14:30: Operational procedures (sub-granting, reporting, etc) [Wanjiku Kiragu]
14:30 – 15:00: Hub operations and communication [Ken Dashiell]
15:00 – 16:00: General discussion on administrative and operational matters

16:00 – 16:30: Coffee break

16:30 – 17:00: Agreement on regional planning meetings
17:00 – 17:30: Feedback from farmers [Rev. Ken Kivanda]

Session 11: Closing (Chairman: Ken Dashiell)

17:30 – 18:00: Official closure by Ken Giller and Prem Warrior

19:00 – late: Meeting dinner and entertainment

Friday 22 January 2010

Follow up meetings and departure
Annex 3: Program for the launch:

Program for the Launch of:

N2Africa
THE BIOLOGICAL NITROGEN FIXATION (BNF) PROJECT

Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya
Wednesday, 20 January 2010

10:00 - 11:00 Arrivals and registration
10.30 – 11.00 Arrival of Guest of Honour and signing of the Visitors’ book

11:00 – 12:00 Opening Ceremony

Welcome remarks by the Master of Ceremonies (Dr. Peter Okoth)
Brief introduction by Project leader (Dr. Ken Dashiell)
Speech by PS, Ministry of Agriculture (Dr. Romano Kiome)
Speech by CIAT-TSBF (Dr. Sanginga Nteranya)
Speech by IITA representative (Dr. Paula Bramel)
Speech by Wageningen University representative (Prof. Ken Giller)
Speech by Gates Foundation representative (Dr. Prem Warrior)
Speech by KARI Director (Dr. Ephraim A. Mukisira)
Speech by Guest of Honour and project launch (Hon. Wycliffe Oparanya)

12:00 – 12:30 Media interaction

Prof. Ken Giller
Dr. Bernard Vanlauwe
Dr. Sanginga Nteranya
Dr. Kenton Dashiel
Dr. Bashir Jama (AGRA)
Country NGO representatives

12:30 – 12:45 Cutting of the Launch cake
12:45 – 13:00 Group photos
13:00 - 14:00 Lunch
14:00 Guests leave at their leisure
## Annex 4: List of participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>OTHER NAME (S)</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>INSTITUTION</th>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Ngokho</td>
<td>Patrick Otieno</td>
<td></td>
<td>World Vision International</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Okeyo</td>
<td>Jeremiah Mosioma</td>
<td>Scientific Officer</td>
<td>CIAT TSBF</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Jama</td>
<td>Bashir</td>
<td>Director Agra Soil Health Program</td>
<td>AGRA</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Jibreel</td>
<td>Mohammed Basit</td>
<td>Programme Officer</td>
<td>Urban Agricultural Network</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr.</td>
<td>Fosu</td>
<td>Mathias</td>
<td>Senior Scientist</td>
<td>Savanna Agricultural Research Institute</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Liwimbi</td>
<td>Lloyd Chipiro Siyan</td>
<td>Principal Agricultural Research Scientist</td>
<td>Department of Agricultural Research Services</td>
<td>Malawi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof.</td>
<td>Karanja</td>
<td>Nancy</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>University of Nairobi</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr.</td>
<td>Tabo</td>
<td>Ramadjita</td>
<td>Deputy Executive Director</td>
<td>FARA</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
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<td>Dr.</td>
<td>Bationo</td>
<td>Andre</td>
<td>Soil Scientist</td>
<td>AGRA</td>
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<td>Kachako</td>
<td>Jibrin Safiyamu</td>
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<td>Dr.</td>
<td>Mugabe</td>
<td>Jonas Musabwa</td>
<td>Deputy Director General For Research</td>
<td>Institut Des Sciences Agronomiques Du Rwanda(ISAR)</td>
<td>Rwanda</td>
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<td>Mrs.</td>
<td>Katung</td>
<td>Agnes Kaawot</td>
<td></td>
<td>IGABI Local Gov.Kad State Nigeria(NGO)</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs.</td>
<td>Jorge-</td>
<td>Felicidade Isabel</td>
<td>Agronomist</td>
<td>UEN-Faculty of Agronomy</td>
<td>Mozambique</td>
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<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Mukalama</td>
<td>John Biwire N</td>
<td>Research Assistant</td>
<td>CIAT TSBF MASENO</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev.</td>
<td>Kivandah</td>
<td>George Hezron</td>
<td>National Chairman KESOFA</td>
<td>Kenya Soya Beans Farmers Association(KESOFA)</td>
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<td>Dr.</td>
<td>Dhlwayo</td>
<td>David</td>
<td>Head, Chemistry and Soil Research Inst.</td>
<td>Chemistry and Soil Research Institute</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
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<td>Ms.</td>
<td>Mwuriro</td>
<td>Mazvita Sheila</td>
<td>Research Officer</td>
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<td>Community Service Provider</td>
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<td>Bungoma Small Scale Farmers Forum</td>
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<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Van Vugt</td>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td>Legume Agronomist</td>
<td>IITA</td>
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<td>Sperling</td>
<td>Louise Jane</td>
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<td>Chianu</td>
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<td>Prof.</td>
<td>Mugendzi</td>
<td>Daniel Njiru</td>
<td>Deputy Vice Chancellor Kenyatta University</td>
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<td>Awinja</td>
<td>Margaret Delinjah</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
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<td>Dr.</td>
<td>Woomer</td>
<td>Paul</td>
<td>Technical Advisor</td>
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<td>George Yobe</td>
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<td>Ms. Wafullah Teresah Nekesahe</td>
<td>AKTP Associate</td>
<td>MEA LIMITED</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
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<td>Dr. Abate Tsedeke</td>
<td>TL 2 Project Coordinator</td>
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**N2Africa Project launch and workshop report 25-11-2010**
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List of project reports

1. N2Africa Steering Committee Terms of Reference
2. Policy on advanced training grants
3. Rhizobia Strain Isolation and Characterisation Protocol
4. Detailed country-by-country access plan for P and other agro-minerals
6. Plans for interaction with the Tropical Legumes II project (TLII) and for seed increase on a country-by-country basis
7. Implementation Plan for collaboration between N2Africa and the Soil Health and Market Access Programs of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) plan
8. General approaches and country specific dissemination plans
9. Selected soybeans, common beans, cowpeas and groundnuts varieties with proven high BNF potential and sufficient seed availability in target impact zones of N2Africa Project
10. Project launch and workshop report
Partners involved in the N2Africa project

- Programme d’appui au développement durable **PAD** (DRC)
- Service d’Accompagnement et de Renforcement des capacités d’Auto promotion de la Femme en sigle – **SARCAF** (DRC)