

Advancing Technical Skills in Rhizobiology:

A two week training course was held at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, University of Nairobi, Kenya (13-24 September, 2010) for laboratory technicians and N2Africa MSc. students. The workshop attracted 12 participants (50 % women) from: Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya and Rwanda, The training sought to:

- equip key laboratory technicians with the knowledge and skills in basic rhizobiology, strain selection, inoculant production, quality control and field inoculation of grain legumes.
- give the facilitators and trainees the opportunity to share lessons, experiences and perspectives and to critique the content, methods and tools.
- develop an action plan for project activities related to identification of superior rhizobia strains for enhanced BNF and developing inoculum production capacity in their respective countries.



- All participants agreed that the workshop achieved its stated objectives and returned home enthusiastic to put the skills learnt during the course to use straight away!



Plate 2: A Participant from ISAR-Rwanda, Uwizerwa Mathilde, practising culture transfer skills at the KEFRI biotechnology laboratory during a visit to the institute.



Plate 3: Participants being shown how to prepare inoculant carrier from peat by Stanley Kisamuli, a Senior Technologist at the Department of LARMAT, University of Nairobi.

MSc and PhD Fellowships

Eleven students (6 female and 5 male) from DRC, Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi and Nigeria have been selected receive N2Africa MSc and PhD fellowships. Applications from Zimbabwe are being The students undertake research in rhizobiology, inoculant quality control, farming systems, intercropping and adoption studies. Applications are still being accepted from Ghana and Mozambique. If you are interested and qualified please contact the project leader (K.Dashiell@cjar.org). We wish the students all the best in their studies and will update you of their progress once they have outlined their research topics.