



# THE MESSENGER

Newsletter of the **AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION**

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## AATF Mission & Core Business

To link needs of resource-poor, smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa with potential technological solutions through:

- ✕ Identifying and facilitating royalty free transfers of proprietary technologies through negotiation
- ✕ Entering into contractual agreements with existing institutions that will manage deployment of the technologies
- ✕ Ensuring that subsequent constraints after access are addressed

## In this issue

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## Rockefeller team visits AATF



Eugene Terry (AATF Implementing Director – 2nd right) explains a point to James Orr III (Chairman), Gordon Conway (President) and Strive Masiyiwa (Board Member) of The Rockefeller Foundation during a recent visit by the team to AATF.

## The Board Advisory Committee

In an effort to develop mechanisms for informal consultation of stakeholders, the AATF Board of Trustees has created a Board Advisory Committee (BAC). The Committee will advise the Board on strategic issues relating to AATF operations. Members of the BAC may be requested, in *ex officio* capacity, to participate in AATF Board meetings. The BAC comprises the following: Gerard Barry, Golden Rice coordinator, IRRI, Philippines; Douglas Gibson Brew, Senior Natural Resources Adviser, UK DFID, UK; Giselle Lopes D'Almeida, President, Interface Network, Sénégal; Josué Dioné, Chief, Sustainable Development Division, ECA, Ethiopia; Aleke Dondo, Managing Director, K-Rep Development Agency, Kenya; Monty Jones, Executive Director, FARA, Ghana; Josephine Odette Lewis, Biotechnology Advisor, USAID, USA; Peter Joseph Matlon, Director, Africa Regional Program, The Rockefeller Foundation, Kenya; John Mugabe, Secretary, NEPAD's African Forum on Science and Technology for Africa's Development, South Africa; William Niebur, Vice President, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., USA. ([www.aftechfound.org/bac.php](http://www.aftechfound.org/bac.php))

## Projects portfolio development update

### Cowpea production and utilisation workshop

AATF and the International Network for Genetic Improvement of Cowpea for Africa (NGICA) hosted a workshop in Accra, Ghana from February 10-13 to shape plans for the mobilisation of new cowpea technologies to benefit producers and consumers in Africa. The workshop brought together over 40 scientists from international organisations, seed companies, universities, and regional and national research organisations. The participants resolved to generate, gain access to and deploy technologies and new mechanisms that would support the production and distribution of high quality cowpea seed, development of cowpea varieties resistant to pest infestation and damage, and dissemination of better storage and processing technologies. A concept note for a project on enhancing liveli-

hoods in sub-Saharan Africa through integrated use of emerging cowpea technologies has been developed. ([www.aftechfound.org/press-release-cp.php](http://www.aftechfound.org/press-release-cp.php))

### Mission trip by the Implementing Director

Dr. Eugene Terry, the Implementing Director, AATF, undertook an extensive travel mission to advance strategic initiatives in support of AATF's current and future programs. He held meetings and discussions with AATF's current and prospective partners including Syngenta Company/Syngenta Foundation, Switzerland; Mendel Biotechnology, the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center; Monsanto Company; Pioneer-Du Pont; the HarvestPlus; USAID; Africare; and The World Bank, all in the USA. The outcomes of these discussions will in part influence the implementation of AATF's short, medium and long-term activities, and will be the subject of wide ranging deliberations at the level of AATF senior management and its Board in the immediate future.

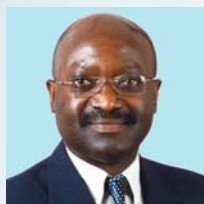
## New Board member



**Assétou Kanouté** has recently joined the AATF Board of Trustees. She holds a MSc degree in Ecology/Biology from the South Dakota State University. She has

worked as a teaching assistant with the University of Mali since 1992 and is a member of the Board of Trustees of ADAF/Gallè, a women's NGO in Mali where she has served for 10 years as executive secretary. Assétou has been a member of the NGO committee at the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR/NGOC) for four years. She served as visiting scientist at the West Africa Rice Development Association in Ivory Coast, Benin Republic and Nigeria and was member of the Board of Trustees of the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture from 1999-2003. Assétou is the acting Coordinator of the West and Central Africa Network for the Promotion of Participatory Agricultural Research (ROCAPA/WECANPAR). ([www.aftechfound.org/bmkanoute.php](http://www.aftechfound.org/bmkanoute.php))

## New staff



**Mpoko Bokanga** joins AATF on June 14 as the first Executive Director, taking over from Eugene Terry. Dr. Bokanga is a food scientist with a masters

degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and a doctorate from Cornell University, in the USA. He is a national of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and joins AATF from the Regional Industrial Development Centre of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Abuja, Nigeria, where he is Industrial Development Officer. He started his research career working as a Research Associate with Westreco Inc., a Nestlé Research Company. He has wide experience in research and development, project development and management, international networking and collaboration and private sector organisation which will be of great benefit to the Foundation in ensuring timely delivery of

sustainable agricultural technology to the smallholder farmers. Dr. Bokanga will also be an *ex officio* member of the AATF Board of Trustees. ([www.aftechfound.org/press-release-ed.php](http://www.aftechfound.org/press-release-ed.php))



**Martha Tilahun** joins AATF as Administration and Finance Manager from May 1, taking over from Jacob Quaye. She holds Bachelor of Arts and Masters in Business

Administration degrees from the United States International University in Nairobi, Kenya. Martha is a national of Ethiopia, and joins AATF from the Food Security Analysis Unit of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization in Nairobi, Kenya, where she is Finance and Administration Officer ([www.aftechfound.org/press-release-admin.php](http://www.aftechfound.org/press-release-admin.php)).

