



# TRAITS & TECH:

Driving Agricultural  
Impact in Africa

**ANNUAL REPORT 2024**



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# Letter from the **Board of Trustees** Chairperson



**Aggrey Ambali**  
Chairperson, Board  
of Trustees

A ATF has long recognised that agricultural technology is fundamental to overcoming Africa's key production challenges and ensuring food and nutrition security for millions. I was greatly encouraged to see this vision strongly reaffirmed in the Kampala CAADP Declaration, adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union at their Extraordinary Summit in January 2025.

This landmark Declaration renews the African Union's commitment to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and calls for the development of resilient and sustainable agrifood systems across the continent. Significantly, it positions agricultural technologies—including biotechnology—as vital tools for transforming Africa's agricultural landscape.

Through our mandate of developing and commercialising agricultural technologies that respond directly to the needs of African farmers, AATF is proud to bring over two decades of experience and expertise to this mission. We remain deeply committed to playing our part in helping Africa achieve its food and nutrition security goals.

The framework to deliver on this promise is already in place through our Memorandum of Understanding with AUDA-NEPAD and the African Union Commission. What is now needed is greater momentum to translate this vision into reality. To make this happen, African leaders must be more deliberate in

turning CAADP commitments into concrete actions at country and regional levels. This means expanding African institutional capacity, increasing investment in research and development and strengthening all aspects of the agricultural value chain—from robust seed systems and modern input supply networks to improved extension services, market linkages and post-harvest infrastructure. Addressing these critical needs is essential to building a resilient

and competitive agricultural sector across the continent, especially at a time when external grant funding is becoming increasingly uncertain due to shifting donor priorities.

Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) also hold tremendous promise for realizing CAADP goals. Building on the solid foundation laid by AATF with the launch of its Data and Knowledge Management Hub in 2024,

AATF will continue to explore new ways to harness AI to serve African farmers more efficiently and drive greater impact on the ground.

I am deeply proud of the dedication and hard work of the AATF staff, management and Board of Trustees, whose efforts in 2024 have kept us firmly on course. Above all, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our investors and partners for your steadfast support and shared commitment to transforming the lives of farmers across Africa. Together, we look forward with optimism to even greater achievements in 2025, as more farmers gain access to the innovative technologies that will secure a brighter, more resilient future for our continent.

*What is now needed  
is greater momentum  
to translate this  
vision into reality.*





# Letter from the **Executive Director**



**Canisius Kanangire**  
AATF Executive  
Director

**I**t is truly inspiring to reflect on 2024, a year marked by remarkable strides in transforming agriculture across Africa through innovative biotechnology and bold partnerships.

A highlight of this progress was the successful commercial release of TELA® maize in Nigeria and pod borer-resistant (PBR) cowpea in Ghana. These landmark achievements are set to boost crop yields, raise farmer incomes and significantly reduce pesticide use, safeguarding both our environment and the health of our communities.

In Rwanda, the Agri-Biotech Programme made impressive headway, developing high-yielding, pest- and disease-resistant varieties of cassava, maize and potatoes. This progress is a testament to the Government of Rwanda's commitment to improving food security and enhancing rural livelihoods—an encouraging model for the continent.

Our commitment to resilient food systems continued through scale-up of DroughtTEGO® hybrid maize, with seven hybrid varieties licensed to seed companies in Rwanda and Kenya. This milestone strengthens local seed systems and empowers farmers with better choices to withstand climate challenges and secure harvests for their families and markets alike.

Beyond the farm, AATF intensified its focus on tackling Africa's agro-processing bottlenecks—from easing the heavy labour burden on women, and in some instances children, to modernising outdated equipment that limits food safety and market value. By investing in smarter, more efficient technologies, we are helping farmers turn harvests into high value products—wheat bread, queen cakes and more—boosting incomes and driving rural prosperity.

In 2024, AATF made a significant breakthrough by pioneering a Climate-Smart Decision Support System powered by artificial intelligence (AI). This innovative system integrates local climate data with satellite technology to provide rice farmers with precise, relevant and actionable weather information. By doing so, it equips

women- and youth-led micro and medium agribusinesses with the insights they need to make informed decisions, strengthen resilience and drive sustainable growth from the ground up. The system was developed through a public-private partnership.

We are especially proud that this innovation is opening doors for young people. At the 2025 African Conference on Agricultural Technologies (ACAT), 25% of delegates were youth trained in business development—pitching their ideas to potential investors. This is clear proof that our collective investment in young minds is already shaping a more dynamic, tech-driven future for African agriculture.

AATF remains vigilant in tracking the policy-level decision-making challenges that continue to slow farmers' access to innovative technologies. We take pride in our sustained efforts to foster an enabling environment through meaningful engagement across countries as we work together to drive scalable agricultural transformation. We remain committed to partnering with governments and stakeholders from both the public and private sectors to address persistent policy hurdles and unlock the full potential of market systems that are still evolving. By doing so, we aim to expand opportunities for farmers to secure fair prices, access wider markets for surplus produce and reinvest in better production for lasting growth.

As we build on this momentum in 2025, we remain steadfast in our mission to help Africa achieve food and nutrition security—together with you, our valued partners.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the AATF Board of Trustees for their wise governance, to our investors and technical partners for their unwavering support and to our dedicated staff, whose passion and commitment power our journey.

Thank you all for walking this path with us. Together, we look forward to an even more impactful year ahead—filled with hope, innovation and shared prosperity for Africa's farmers and communities.

***AATF remains vigilant in tracking the policy-level decision-making challenges that continue to slow farmers' access to innovative technologies.***



# AATF: Who We Are and How We Work

AATF was created in 2003 to fulfill a need for an effective mechanism to support access to technology for smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa and build the agricultural sector that is foundational to Africa's economic growth and development. Since its inception, AATF has demonstrated its expertise in facilitating capacity building in regulatory compliance, intellectual property management, biotechnology development, agribusiness and stewardship in Sub-Saharan Africa.

AATF is active in 32 countries in East, Southern and West Africa. AATF advances innovations that will boost the productivity of smallholder farmers, improve farmer access to the best agricultural technology and unite key stakeholders who prioritise technology transfer for Africa's agricultural progress.

Our **Scaling for Impact 2023-2027 strategy** outlines an ambitious plan to enhance technology development, access and commercialisation for farmers in Africa, focusing on a prosperous, resilient, food- and nutrition-secure Africa. A key plank of our strategy is deploying Next Generation (NextGen) agricultural technologies and a renewed focus on effective scaling to achieve transformation.

The AATF Theory of Change identifies outcomes that must change to achieve the impact that is sought, strategies to be used by partners to bring about desired outcomes and processes that will create the conditions and capacity of the system to put these strategies in place. It connects to continental and global aspirations, including the AU Agenda 2063, the Malabo Declaration and the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs).



■ AATF active countries

- |                            |                    |                  |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Angola                  | 11. Ethiopia       | 22. Rwanda       |
| 2. Benin                   | 12. Eswatini       | 23. Senegal      |
| 3. Burkina Faso            | 13. Ghana          | 24. Sierra Leone |
| 4. Burundi                 | 14. Guinea Conakry | 25. Somalia      |
| 5. Cameroon                | 15. Kenya          | 26. South Africa |
| 6. Central Africa Republic | 16. Liberia        | 27. South Sudan  |
| 7. Chad                    | 17. Malawi         | 28. Tanzania     |
| 8. Comoros                 | 18. Mali           | 29. Togo         |
| 9. Côté d'Ivoire           | 19. Mozambique     | 30. Uganda       |
| 10. DRC Congo              | 20. Niger          | 31. Zambia       |
|                            | 21. Nigeria        | 32. Zimbabwe     |

This annual report outlines our 2024 strategic efforts and activities to:

- Ensure effective and efficient technology development and commercialisation;
- Address productivity constraints;
- Encourage an enabling environment of policies, regulations, institutions and markets to facilitate technology commercialisation;
- Support the willingness and ability of farmers to adopt the technologies;
- Advance timely uptake of the technologies by the private sector; and
- Secure partnerships to implement the projects.





# AATF Key Achievements 2024:

## By the Numbers

**810,000** 

Number of farmers directly reached through AATF interventions

**617,100** 

Number of farmers accessing seed-based technologies

**4,211** 

Quantity of certified seed produced (mt)

Percentage increase in farmers' average yield (mt/ha) of focus crops as a result of adopting productivity-enhancing technologies



TELA Maize in Nigeria:

**54–88%**



PBRC in Nigeria:

**34–47%**



DroughtTEGO:

**20–35%**



Cassava:

**200%**

**02** 

Number of new/existing agricultural technology options deployed

**65** 

Number of seed companies working with AATF to deliver products to farmers

**450** 

Number of demonstrations established in partnership with NARs and seed companies for technology promotion

**05** 

Number of transgenic crop varieties released

**31** 

Number of government engagements on policy deliberations, including technical support for commercialisation of agricultural technologies

**4,700,000** 

Number of stakeholders reached through media, advocacy and regulatory interventions



# Strength Through Strategic Partnerships

A ATF builds and nurtures meaningful, effective and efficient partnerships to fulfill its mandate of accessing, adapting and delivering technologies to smallholder farmers for improved productivity. Meeting the goal of technology transfer cannot be achieved by one organisation alone. It requires synergy among complementary players in the agricultural value chain who will steer technologies through challenges to attain the end goal.

AATF's partnerships bring together national, continental and international entities, including farmers, researchers, government officials, extension service providers, NGOs and community-based organisations, businesses, youth and women groups and public and private investors.

## Funding Partners

# Gates Foundation



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



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TRAITS & TECH: Driving Agricultural Impact in Africa









# Farmers First: Innovation & Impact





# Government of Rwanda, AATF and Partners: Assisting Farmers Through Innovation

AATF and the Rwanda Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) launched the Rwanda Agricultural Biotechnology Programme to introduce improved cassava, maize and potatoes to over 500,000 farm households. The new varieties will improve yields, support food security, reduce use of crop protection chemicals, cut production costs and increase farmer livelihoods by offering protection from the main pests and diseases that attack these important food crops.

The Rwanda Agri-biotech Program has commenced the steps towards approval, release, initial commercialisation and improved awareness of three improved crops developed through modern biotechnology. The improvement provides benefits to:

- Cassava that produces clean, cassava brown streak disease-resistant roots
- Potato that resists late blight disease
- Maize, by conferring drought-tolerance and resistance to the fall armyworm and stem borers

## 2024 Milestones:



Installed **6 confined field trial (CFT)** sites in RAB stations.



Obtained **import permits** for **potato** and **maize seeds**.



Commenced **maize trials** with **19 drought TEGO varieties**.



Planted **2 potato CFTs**.



Organised **1 benchmarking visit** to familiarise Rwanda's industry and policy makers with biotech seed systems in South Africa and Kenya.



Installed a **borehole** and **irrigation system** at Nyagatare to support off-season trials.





## Supportive Enabling Environment

The Government of Rwanda created the enabling environment through important policy advances in 2024. These include a biosafety law and Ministerial Orders providing mechanisms for reviewing confined field trial applications and introducing biotech crops into the environment. Through these steps Rwanda now has a functional National Biosafety Committee to review and assess risks of biotech crops.

## Success Through Partnerships

The Rwanda Agricultural Biotechnology Programme brings together a rich partnership across the agriculture development field. AATF and the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB) coordinate the partnership, with support provided by the International Potato Center (CIP), Michigan State University (MSU), Bayer Company, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) and the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, based in St. Louis,

Missouri. The partnership integrates research and extension services for better sustainable harvests and quality products that will help reduce Rwanda imports of staple foods like maize.

## Confined Field Trials

The programme obtained approvals to conduct CFTs with virus-resistant cassava brown streak disease at RAB Rubona in Huye, Mututu in Nyanza, and RAB Musenyi in Bugesera. The first cassava CFT report was submitted to the regulator, Rwanda Environment Management Agency (REMA), leading to availing of the application form for introduction to the environment.

A late blight-tolerant (LBR) potato CFT was planted in November 2024 at RAB Musanze and harvested in March 2025, with a second CFT planted in April 2025. Additional approvals are being sought for two LBR potato trials at RAB Rwerere and RAB-Nyamagabe.

Two CFT sites to support the introduction of TELA maize were identified at RAB Rubona and RAB Nyagatare, with fencing and site houses constructed.

Gates Foundation



CIMMYT  
International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre

CIP  
INTERNATIONAL  
POTATO CENTER  
CGIAR

DONALD DANFORTH  
PLANT SCIENCE CENTER



**When you plant a yam, it produces another yam.**  
– African Proverb –





# TELA® Maize: Successful and Impactful



AATF spearheaded the TELA® maize project to improve crop yields and livelihoods of smallholder African farmers through the introduction of genetically modified maize varieties. The TELA hybrids provide triple-protection against stem borer, fall armyworm (FAW) and drought-stress. They were first developed as drought-tolerant hybrids under the Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project before being genetically engineered with the insect-resistant Bt MON89034 trait.

Since the TELA maize project was first launched in five countries in 2018, it has steadily expanded to additional countries—most recently, Nigeria—and introduced new varieties that consistently out-perform their conventional counterparts. AATF is continuing to progress toward commercialising TELA in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Kenya, where field trials demonstrated outstanding success in controlling insects and improving yields.

**05** Number of transgenic crop varieties released



## Nigeria

Four TELA maize hybrids were released in January 2024. Commercialisation was initiated in June 2024 using 50 metric tons (MT) of prime-the-pump certified TELA seeds, including 10 MT of refuge seeds. ECOBasic packed 40 MT of seeds into 2-kilogram bags for sales/distribution by licensed seed companies, with the remaining 10 MT packed into 500-gram bags for use in demonstrations by farmers.

Nigerian farmers planted TELA seeds on about 2,000 ha in four agroecologies in six states. A sample of 100 farmers who planted both TELA and other maize varieties showed TELA maize had an overall mean yield of 5.85 tons/ha, compared to a mean yield of 3.11 tons/ha for commercial conventional maize varieties. This gave TELA hybrids an 88% yield advantage. TELA farmers also got 137% higher net revenue compared with the farmers who planted other maize varieties in the study, likely due to the reduced need for pesticide applications. Most TELA maize plots were sprayed only once, while other maize varieties were sprayed three to four times. The reduction in pesticide use resulted in a 25.6% lower total variable cost per hectare (336,017 Naira) for TELA maize.

### 2024 Milestones:



Secured commercial release of **4 Bt TELA maize hybrids** in Nigeria.



**6,640 hectares** of **TELA** planted (2,000 hectares in Nigeria; 4,640 hectares in South Africa).



**16,600** additional **farmers** benefitted.



**88% yield advantage** in Nigeria (3.1 tons/ha increased to 5.85 tons/ha).



**137% higher net revenue** in Nigeria.



**Production costs dropped 25.6%** (336,017 Naira/ha vs. 451,673 Naira/ha).





## Mozambique

Environmental release approval of TELA drought-tolerant MON87460 and insect-resistant MON810 traits was granted to IIAM in Mozambique in July 2024 to allow for variety release and open-cultivation of potential TELA varieties. Five test TELA Bt MON810 hybrids were planted in trials at four sites in various regions during the 2023/2024 wet season. Results of these trials showed that, on average, TELA Bt hybrids gave **65% higher yield** than the checks (6.41 tons/ha vs. 3.87 tons/ha). Insect-resistant Bt MON810 hybrids yielded **48% higher** than the non-GM hybrids under insect pressure.

## Ethiopia

Ethiopia planted second-year, national advanced yield trials (AYTs) and on-farm variety verification trials (VVTs) in regions with different ecologies using six test TELA Bt MON810 hybrids. These were subject to natural stem borer and fall armyworm (FAW) infestations.

Results showed that four top-performing TELA hybrids—WE7210B, WE8216B, WE3106 and WE6205B—had **52–89% higher yields** than the commercial checks (6.6–7.9 tons/ha vs. 3.5–5.2 tons/ha). TELA Bt MON810 hybrids gave partial but significant control of the FAW with the Bt hybrids showing minimal leaf damage compared with severe leaf damage with the non-Bt hybrids. **Note: The candidate TELA varieties for lowland moisture-stress and mid-altitude high-potential agroecologies are anticipated to be approved for commercial release in 2025.**

Preliminary results of two trials to evaluate the efficacy of the stacked-trait, insect-resistant MON89034 hybrid in Ethiopia showed that Bt hybrids had **8.5–12% yield advantage** over the non-Bt hybrids known as isogenic hybrids, and **19.7–20.5% yield advantage** over the commercial checks at both sites. Leaf damage scores followed a similar trend.

## Kenya

In Kenya, the Bt maize variety release process that had been halted since 2021 by judicial injunction was finally concluded in January 2025 when the National Variety Release Committee (NVRC) approved three TELA maize varieties for cultivation. Confined field trials were carried out on stacked-trait insect-resistant Bt MON89034 and drought-tolerant DT MON87460 hybrids to initiate the National Biosafety Authority (NBA) process of deregulating the traits. Trials were planted at Kiboko and Kitale sites under optimum-moisture, artificial stemborer infestation, natural FAW infestation and managed drought (only at Kiboko) treatments.

Preliminary results showed that the Bt MON89034-traited hybrids had **15–46% higher yield** under target pest infestations than conventional hybrids and commercial checks across sites. The mean leaf damage score of Bt hybrids was 1 (high resistance) compared with 3.4 to 5.5 (fair to good tolerance) from non-Bt hybrids on a scale of 1–9, indicating that the infestation of the target pests was low to moderate. The trials will be repeated in 2025 to confirm the performance.

## Next Steps

TELA maize will be introduced to farmers and commence commercialisation and local seed production in 2025 in Ethiopia and Mozambique after successfully completing national performance evaluation trials. Kenya will remain on hold as resolution of the court case is awaited. National performance, or advanced yield trials, on TELA® maize hybrids will continue to be evaluated with farmers in project implementing countries for variety registration and commercialisation. National performance trials of the insect-resistant Bt MON89034-traited hybrids will commence in Ethiopia and Kenya for management of FAW and stem borers.

Gates Foundation



## Impacting Lives

Niger State farmer **Tamiru Danbaba** has been cultivating maize and soybeans since 2018, but he's never seen a variety like TELA maize. **"The results have been outstanding. TELA maize has reduced my costs on farm chemicals.** It withstood the long dry spell in July and August, which devastated other farms. Many farmers lost their crops to drought and pests, but my field remained healthy and productive. Thanks to the bumper harvest, I plan to increase my farm from 20 hectares to 30 or even 35 hectares, as my income and livelihood have both improved."



## Impacting Lives

**Cyprian Ede Amechi** of Laminga, Abuja, started farming at the age of 43 when a health issue forced him to leave his public health career. "I didn't know what seed to choose. I didn't even know that there are crops bred to resist pests that can destroy maize." Determined to succeed, he immersed himself in research, scouring online and offline platforms for the best farming techniques. His persistence led him to TELA maize, a game-changing variety that transformed his fortunes by providing resistance to drought, fall army worm and stemborers.

**"I used to spend up to 30,000 Naira on pesticides, but with TELA maize, I haven't spent a dime.** On my 10-plot farm (about one hectare), I harvested 42



bags, compared to just 25-35 bags with conventional maize, even after spending heavily on chemicals.

When my maize stayed green while others dried up, everyone was shocked. Farmers in my community thought I was using charms! With TELA maize, farming isn't just survival. It is prosperity."



**Good millet is known at the harvest.**  
- Liberian Proverb -





# PBR Cowpea: Building on Success



AATF coordinated a partnership to boost production of cowpea—an important food crop and protein source—by developing a Bt cowpea variety that effectively resists the destructive Maruca (pod borer) insect pest. Farmers growing pod borer-resistant (PBR) cowpea can reduce chemical sprays to just two per cropping season—versus 8-to-10 for conventional varieties. This lowers their exposure to and expenditures on agrochemicals while improving both their health and livelihoods.

July 2024 marked another key milestone for the PBR cowpea with Ghana becoming the second country to approve commercialisation after Nigeria. At an event attended by more than 300 people, Ghana announced release of its Songotra-T variety.



The PBR cowpea project also made steady progress in Burkina Faso, where 25 National Performance Trials (NPTs) were established in five regions for two PBR cowpea varieties that would be presented for varietal release.

A socio-economic study required for deregulation was completed. Burkina Faso granted partial approval for event 709A—the PBR cowpea variety commercialised in Ghana.

## 2024 Milestones:



Established **20 demonstration fields** in Ghana.



Established **2 outgrower field schools** in Nigeria during the 2024 rainy season.



Delivered **capacity building training to 649 cowpea farmers in Nigeria, Ghana and Burkina Faso** to improve knowledge on good agricultural practices, including land preparation.



Finalised **adjustments to a cowpea reaper (harvester)** that can reduce labor costs and drudgery.

## Next Steps

PBR Cowpea XTRA, which offers higher yields and further reductions in pesticide use, is in the pipeline. Molecular stack has been completed, and one line has been identified, with adequate levels of the two genes conferring durable resistance to the pod borer.

More PBR cowpea varieties are approaching varietal release in Nigeria, Ghana and Burkina Faso, giving farmers additional options to choose from. Burkina Faso is expected to release the PBR cowpea soon after the planned Public Consultation.

Gates Foundation







## Impacting Lives

**Patience Koku**, a first-generation Nigerian farmer, and her husband grow PBR cowpea, maize, vegetables and cotton on Replenish Farm. She has successfully leveraged technology transfer—and seen tremendous increases in production and yields—by planting PBR cowpea on a no-till field to sequester carbon and improve soil. As part of her farming journey, Patience became an agricultural advocate. **“We have also worked to transfer the technology to other farmers in Africa to address its low agricultural productivity**, growing population and major food security challenges. Communications training showed me I had a voice and I could use it to make farming easier for people in Nigeria. You need all the tools in the box working for everybody in every part of the world.”

## Science vs Misinformation

AATF Stewardship Manager **Dr. Francis Onyekachi** and colleagues published a study in the October 2024 issue of **PeerJ Ecology** that confirmed cultivating PBR cowpea does not harm ecological species or disrupt biodiversity. Contrary to undocumented concerns raised by anti-technology groups, the study suggests that PBR cowpea can have a positive effect on the environment.





# TAAT Maize Compact: Climate-Smart Maize Seed Technologies



AATF continued in 2024 to drive agricultural transformation and contribute to building sustainable food systems across the continent as project lead of the TAAT II Maize Compact, funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB). AATF is disseminating climate-smart maize technologies, such as Water Efficient Maize (WEMA) hybrids—branded as DroughtTEGO®—and varieties released by DTMA, IITA, national breeding programmes and private seed companies. These are being deployed across 12 African countries through strong public-private partnerships involving commercial seed companies, farmer groups, community-based organizations (CBOs), commodity associations and National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS).

**4,211** Quantity of certified seed produced (mt)

As part of AATF's drive to get quality seeds into the hands of farmers, its partner seed companies in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia supplied **3,556 tonnes** of conventional hybrid maize seed, sufficient to plant approximately **142,240 hectares** and benefit around **355,600 smallholder farmers**.

Overall, in 2024 AATF's maize seed technologies supported **372,200 farmers**, who cultivated approximately **148,880 hectares** using climate-smart conventional and transgenic hybrid seeds. To date, AATF and its partner seed companies have deployed a cumulative total of **41,387**



**tonnes** of climate-smart maize seed, including StrigAway seed, sufficient to plant **1.7 million hectares**, benefiting about **4.14 million farmers** across Africa.

## Training for Success

Training is essential to ensure proper use of improved seeds and complementary inputs. AATF's training equipped **4,846 farmers**, including women and youth, and **42 extension agents** with knowledge on good agricultural practices (GAPs) to boost productivity and resilience. Thirty-nine representatives of seed companies from Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan and Zimbabwe were trained on techniques of foundation and certified hybrid seed production. Training was also offered on the benefits of DroughtTEGO hybrids and good agricultural practices (GAPS) to 600 farmers in DRC, as well as 200 farmers on post-harvest management and grain warehousing, leading to the establishment of two grain aggregation centres in Kwilu province, DRC.

## 2024 Milestones:



Established **259 maize demonstration plots** in **5 countries**: Kenya (76), Tanzania (4), Uganda (29), Rwanda (120) and Ghana (30).



Partnered with **four local cooperatives**—(EKAGRI, SONAHU, ANPT-PP and CVAVVA)—to set up 12 maize demonstration plots in Kasai, Lomami and Kwilu provinces in DRC.



Created and operationalised **7 Innovation Platforms (IPs) across three countries**—Tanzania (4), Uganda (2) and Ghana (1)—to introduce new maize technologies and equip farmers with improved tools and knowledge to enhance productivity.



**Licensed 3 seed companies** in Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda to produce 8 TEGO hybrids.



**Licensed 12 seed companies** to commercialise **TELA hybrids** in Nigeria.





## Impacting Lives

When AATF introduced climate-smart maize varieties, specifically WE4141, in Kakamega County, Kenya, under the Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project in 2020, **Margaret Shitandi** was among the first women to adopt the new technology. The decision was driven by the increasing incidence of drought, which had repeatedly left her without a harvest—and, consequently, without food.



Margaret speaks highly of the WEMA drought-tolerant varieties, noting a significant improvement over the traditional varieties she used to grow. The new climate-smart maize takes only three months to mature, compared to the longer growing period of conventional varieties. She has also seen a marked increase in yields.

**“I harvested 20 bags per acre of the DroughtTEGO™ hybrid WE4141, compared to just 10 bags from the old varieties,”** says Shitandi. The improved yield allows her to meet her financial needs, amongst which are school fees for her seven children, farm labour and family expenses.

## Impacting Lives

At 18, **Edlqueen Anyiso** of West Kenya faced the challenge of supporting herself and her child. Things began looking up when a friend introduced her to Margaret Awinja, coordinator of WEREFANET, a CBO that partners with the AATF TAAT Maize Compact technology deployment. Margaret mentored her, helping Edlqueen lease  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre, providing her with TAAT II drought-tolerant maize seeds and fertiliser and introducing her to other farmers.



Edlqueen took on two jobs while waiting for her crops to mature and ultimately harvested 15 bags valued at KES 60,000/\$450. She used the money to pay off her debts, pay school fees for her brother, renew the land lease and cover farm labour for a second season, achieving a similar harvest to the first year. Margaret and other farmers encouraged her to save money in a bank account after every season. Edlqueen ultimately saved nearly KES 200,000/\$1,400—enough to pay tuition at Eregi Teachers College, where she is now a student.

This determined, young small-scale farmer shared her inspiring journey at an AATF event that brought together over 200 women to learn about the benefits of growing DroughtTEGO maize hybrids. The event allowed women farmers to exchange their successful agricultural practices, which have improved maize productivity in the region. Edlqueen says her farming experience taught her to be resilient and persistent. **“Maize farming and mentorship from Margaret and other farmers saved me from stress and depression that was slowly creeping in on me. Farming gave me hope.”**



**No shortcuts exist to the top of a palm tree.**  
– African Proverb –





# Cassava: Processing and Mechanisation



AATF and its social enterprise, Agridrive Nigeria Ltd., are working with cassava farmers in Nigeria to improve yields, value-addition and access to mechanisation.

## 2024 Milestones:



Initiated and funded the **3-year AATF Special Initiative for Strengthening Cassava Agro-ProProcessing and Digital Solutions (ASIST-APOD)** on cassava processing in Nigeria.



Advanced the **GIZ-funded Mechanisation of Cassava Production and Processing Project** by facilitating the introduction and transfer of a cassava processing machine in Nigeria, in collaboration with Agridrive Nigeria Ltd. and Clayuca Corp.



**Facilitated assembly of cassava processing machine** at the **Fasola Agribusiness industrial hub** of the Oyo State Agribusiness Development Agency (OYSADA).



Improved **access to affordable mechanisation services** (including post-emergence herbicide application, first and second plough, harrowing and mechanised planting and harvesting) on **3,000 ha of cassava farms** in the EDO Local Government area of Nigeria, resulting in a **200% yield increase** (25-30 MT/ha vs historical yields of 6-9 MT/ha) and similar growth in farmers' incomes.

## Next Steps

AATF will advance to the commercial phase, implementing tested business models for the technology developed and assembled by Colombia-based Clayuca Corporation.





# Seed Stewardship: Assuring Technology Sustainability

In 2024, AATF became the first not-for-profit organisation in Africa to meet the Excellence Through Stewardship (ETS) standards—the highest global standards for biotech stewardship. AATF then helped QBS become the first African-owned seed company to obtain ETS certification. Stewardship is essential to protect the quality and integrity of agricultural technologies, accelerate their commercialisation and scaling and ensure compliance with regulatory permit conditions. It is critical to assuring farmers and technology developers of sustainable gains over longer periods.






As part of its commitment to good stewardship of improved seeds, AATF trained seed producers, regulators, inspectors and other relevant stakeholders in Nigeria and Ghana on TELA and PBR cowpea stewardship, respectively. Additionally, AATF conducted stewardship and post-harvest compliance monitoring at the Striga Smart Sorghum field trial at the KALRO station in Alupe and trained ECOBasic technical staff on appropriate insect resistance management (IRM) strategy for TELA maize and a key step for seed packaging and distribution.

To expand farmer access to improved seeds, AATF identified and licensed two additional facilities (Inqaba Biotech, Nigeria and Scicorp Laboratories in South Africa) as third-party laboratories for seed testing. These labs will provide seed testing services to support in-country production of early-generation and certified seeds and fast-track internal quality assurance and quality control activities. AATF also conducted

stewardship pre-licensing assessment of 12 seed companies in Ghana and nine in Burkina Faso for PBR cowpea seed production and the CSIR-SARI laboratory in Ghana for accreditation for PBR cowpea QA/QC analysis.



## 2024 Milestones:

-  Became **first African-owned seed company** to obtain **Excellence Through Stewardship** certification.
-  Developed **standardised and auditable stewardship and quality management systems** for research and commercialisation of technologies in Africa.
-  Developed **stewardship statement** for use on TELA and PBR cowpea seed bags prior to sales.
-  Published a technology **user guide (TUG) for TELA maize and PBR cowpea growers** that included bag labeling guidelines for seed companies.
-  Progressed toward **finalising the seed tracking system** in partnership with the National Seed Council in Ghana.



**The seed you plant today will feed you tomorrow.**

- Matshona Dhlway, African philosopher -



# Improving Food Crops: Rice, Potato and Sorghum

AATF has been supporting advancements in three critical African food crops—rice, sorghum and potato—in alignment with its mission to reduce food imports in Africa and improve regional economies by promoting agricultural technology transfer to smallholder farmers.

**617,100** Number of farmers accessing seed-based technologies

## Rice



In 2024, AATF worked to expand rice production and productivity in West Africa by identifying high-yielding, climate-resilient, market-preferred varieties and rice hybrids that can successfully compete with rice imported from Asia.



## 2024 Milestones:



**Tested 25 varieties** (18 hybrids, 7 inbreds) in Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal.



**Selected 2 high-performing hybrid varieties—SWARNA-2 and AH18007—for further out-scaling.**



Commenced **largescale, on-farm trials with KK Technologies Ltd.**, a major private rice miller in Nigeria, to select a hybrid for commercialisation.



Concluded the **RiceFinder Project**, a collaboration with **Alliance for Hybrid Rice in Africa** and **Africa Rice** to increase rice production in West Africa.



Organised **20 farmer-managed, on-farm demos for 119 farmers/stakeholders** (55 men, 43 women, 21 youth) in central and western Kenya.



Identified **AH18007** as a **high-performing variety**, achieving an impressive average yield of **7.9 tonnes/ha in Kenya**.



Participated in the **Twentieth Steering Committee meeting (SC20)** of the **Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)** in South Africa to discuss rice development strategies across Sub-Saharan Africa to enhance food security and economic growth.

## Next Steps

AATF will continue to prime rice commercialisation efforts based on the results of the field trials and on-farm demonstrations.



Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development





## Potato

AATF has been collaborating with the Potato Global Biotech Partnership (GBPP) to introduce a potato in Kenya and Nigeria that is resistant to late blight, a serious and destructive plant disease. Farmers often apply numerous applications of expensive fungicides to try and control the disease. Late blight-resistant (LBR) potatoes can protect farmers from chemical hazards, reduce production costs and improve yields.



## 2024 Milestones:



Engaged in **media sensitisation** and outreach through TV, newspaper articles and field visits and facilitated stakeholder engagement and “seeing is believing” visits for media, regulators, farmers and the public in Kenya and Nigeria.



Coordinated preparation of an **environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA)** for LBR potato in Kenya and submitted the report to the National Environment Management Authority; an ESIA licence is expected.



Conducted **public fora (barazas)** in **11 potato-growing counties** during the ESIA, reaching **86 key representatives** in local and national government.

## Next Steps

AATF will focus on completion of the ESIA and supporting the environmental application in Nigeria.



## Sorghum

AATF is working to address the issue of weeds in various crops. Weeds are a major problem for African farmers, causing crop losses that decrease incomes and undermine food security. AATF is providing training, regulatory and stewardship support to the Feed the Future Striga Smart Sorghum for Africa project. The project seeks to use genome editing to develop new sorghum varieties resistant to Striga, a parasitic weed responsible for up to 100% yield loss in Africa's staple cereals.



## 2024 Milestones:



Facilitated **access to gene-edited sorghum seeds** for the first trial at KALRO-Alupe station.



**Trained project teams in Kenya and Ethiopia** on **intellectual property, regulatory requirements** and **stewardship** to ensure compliance during the project's implementation.

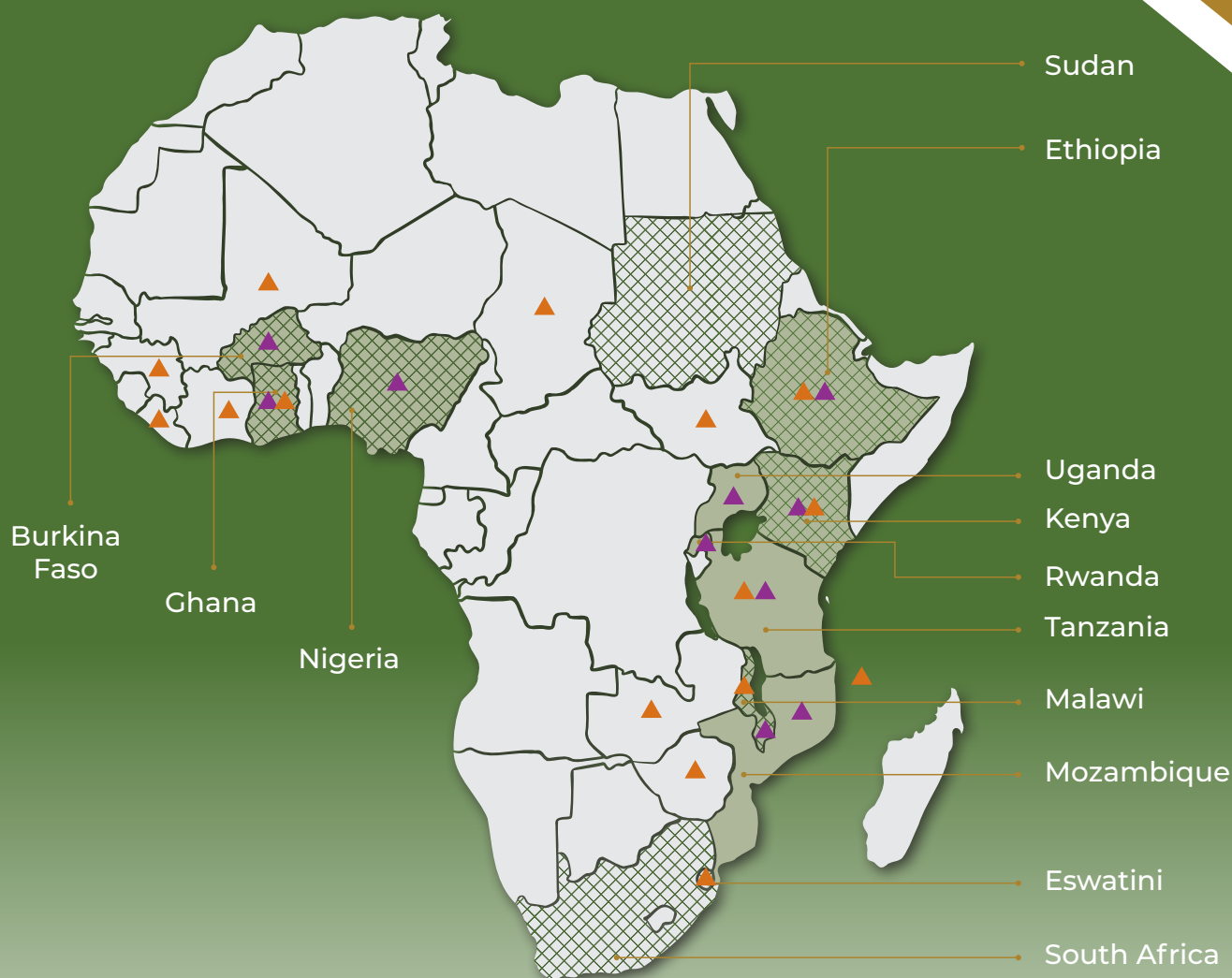
## Next Steps

The project will continue to focus on developing and registering Striga-resistant sorghum varieties for commercial cultivation.





# Strong Foundations: Enriching the Enabling Environment



**Countries with biotech regulatory environments:** Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda and Tanzania



**Countries that have approved cultivation of GM crops:** Burkina Faso, Malawi, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Sudan, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and South Africa



**OFAB Chapters across Africa:** Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Malawi and Mozambique



**TAAT Policy Compact countries:** Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Comoros



# Enabling Environment: Two Decades of Progress

The development and uptake of innovative technologies is largely driven by the enabling environment of policies, legislation and institutional capacity to oversee and grant permit approvals. As a key aspect of its work, AATF has contributed to the realisation of supportive public policies and adequate regulation to facilitate the uptake of new technologies, such as biotechnologies.

Prior to AATF's interventions, efforts to roll out genetically modified products in African countries had virtually stalled due to prohibitive and ambivalent national policies and regulations. Only South Africa had moved ahead with the commercialisation of GM cotton in 1998.

To address the situation, AATF prioritised management of regulatory affairs in all its projects, creating a strategic business unit to oversee public policy and regulatory affairs from inception. In collaboration with its partners, AATF has contributed to the establishment of conducive regulatory environments in eight countries, namely Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda and Tanzania.

To this end, AATF has worked with African countries that lack explicit biosafety laws and regulations to establish substantive regulatory instruments—such as national environment regulations, food and drug laws and plant quarantine laws—that can be invoked to regulate the development, importation and commercialisation of GMOs.



AATF leads the formulation and implementation of country-specific strategies, plans, tactics and schemes for navigating regulatory hurdles to secure approvals for product testing and deployment. Another AATF priority is supporting regional harmonisation of biotech policies and regulations, which can facilitate transborder trade. AATF actively collaborates with ACTESA in supporting implementation of the COMESA Regionally Harmonised Policy for Modern Biotechnology.

To date, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Sudan, Nigeria, Kenya and Ghana have approved cultivation of GM and genome-edited crops. AATF's regulatory affairs team will continue to monitor and evaluate this commercialisation phase—especially transboundary movement and labelling—to identify potential policy and regulatory challenges. AATF and its partners are also keeping abreast of the fledgling regulatory environment in Rwanda as that country delves into conducting field trials of GM crops in anticipation of commercialisation.

Over 3.85 million farmers have now accessed AATF technologies, and 51 different crop varieties have been released. These include insect-resistant and drought-tolerant TELA maize and pod borer-resistant (PBR) cowpea.

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**3.85M** Farmers have now accessed AATF technologies, and 51 different crop varieties have been released

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# Case Study: OFAB and its Influence on Policy and Education



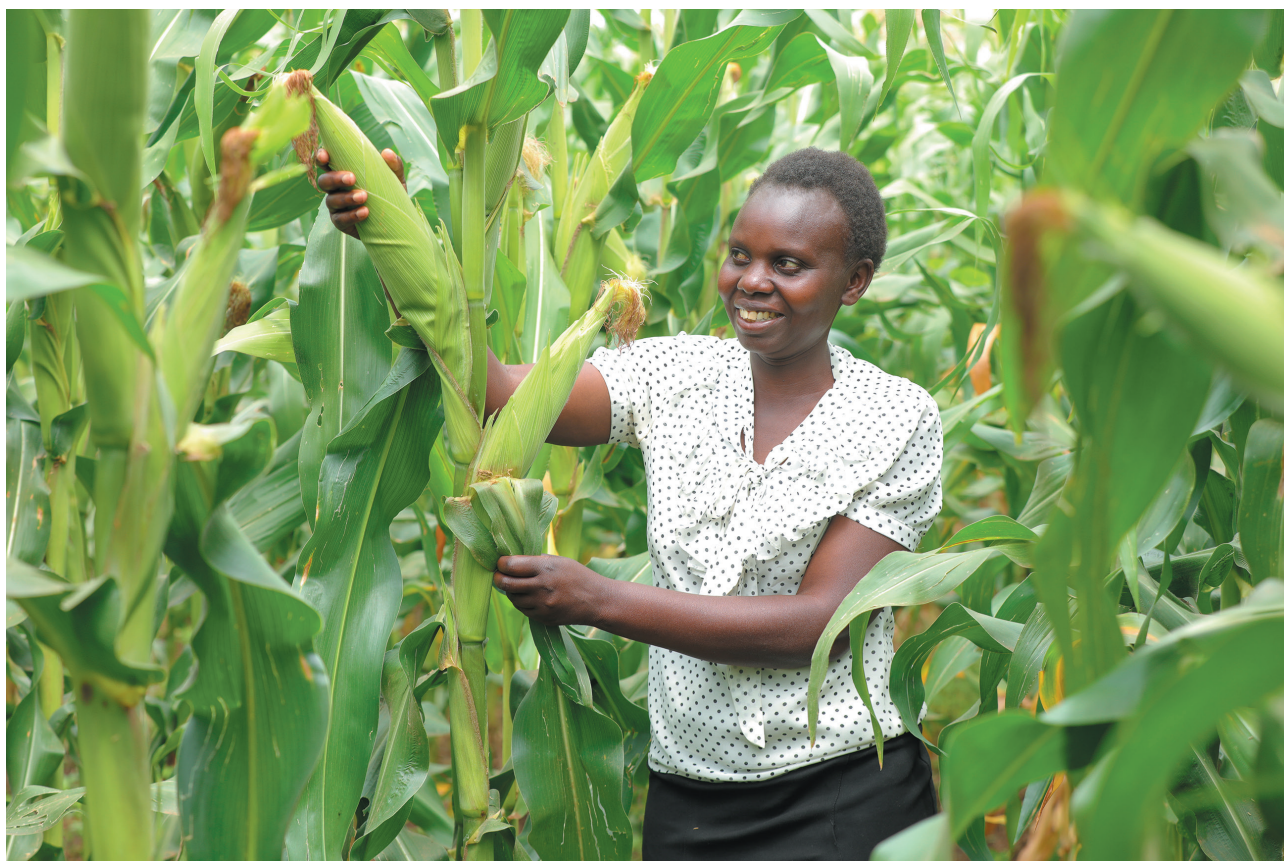
AATF created the Open Forum on Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB) in 2006 to focus on policy advocacy and education, which are very critical to research, development and commercialising modern and innovative agricultural technologies that can significantly improve farmers' livelihoods and lives. OFAB supports governments in Africa to promote awareness of agricultural biotechnology by sharing accurate information about technology with stakeholders

and the public. OFAB also engages in outreach and advocacy to enhance informed decision-making, inform policy perspectives and close the information gap on agricultural biotechnology in Africa.

In 2024, OFAB interventions led to broader stakeholder involvement, improved understanding of biotechnology and stronger policy dialogues across multiple platforms.

# 31

**Number of government engagements on policy deliberations, including technical support for commercialisation of agricultural technologies**





## Supporting the National Biosafety System in Zambia



**OFAB Intervention:** OFAB partnered with Zambia's National Biosafety Authority (NBA) to respond to Parliament's request for information and expert knowledge on agricultural biotechnology. This engagement aimed to support lawmakers as they considered critical policy actions related to biosafety, including revising the national biosafety law and formally adopting a national biosafety policy. In a dedicated briefing, the NBA was able to highlight the need for a revised biosafety law and formal approval of the country's biosafety policy. OFAB engaged 55 legislators from key committees of Agriculture, Higher Education, Trade and Environment. Zambia is part of OFAB efforts towards enhancing progressive agriculture biotechnology trade in Southern Africa funded by the USDA. Other project countries include Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo and Botswana.



**Result:** The engagement led to robust discussions among legislators about the role of biotechnology in strengthening Zambia's agricultural sector and food security. Policymakers recognised the need for clear and modern biosafety regulatory frameworks and the need to strengthen the country's biosafety regulations for agricultural biotechnology trade. Five major local media outlets covered the event, sharing expert views on the safety and benefits of biotech crops and the proposed legislative updates. Journalists also interviewed policymakers and biosafety experts, ensuring that farmers, industry stakeholders and the wider public remain informed and engaged in the national conversation on agricultural biotechnology.



**Knowledge is like a garden: If it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested. – African Proverb –**



## Bridging Research, Policy and Biotechnology for Africa's Agriculture



**OFAB Intervention:** OFAB, together with Rwanda's Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), convened a High-Level Strategic Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Technologies in Africa in Kigali, Rwanda. The goal was to align national research priorities with supportive policy frameworks to ensure that biotechnology innovations contribute effectively to sustainable agricultural development across the continent. The dialogue brought together over 50 policymakers and researchers from more than eight African countries. Participants worked in focused small groups allowing for targeted discussions on policy needs and scientific priorities.



**Result:** Policymakers explored the current regulatory environment, challenges to commercialising biotechnology products and the need for clear policy direction to accelerate technology adoption. Researchers presented updates on ongoing biotechnology research, highlighted gaps and outlined practical next steps—including strengthening partnerships, improving research coordination between institutions and enhancing information-sharing mechanisms.





## Connecting Innovation and Biodiversity to Expand Good Agricultural Practices

AATF's emphasis on expanding good agricultural practices and access to technologies that improve yields supports biodiversity on the African continent. For the first time, AATF took part in the UN Conference on Biological Diversity, using this global platform to build capacity, enhance understanding of global biodiversity commitments and highlight the importance of science-based regulations for biotechnology that align with international best practices.



**OFAB Intervention:** During the Conference, OFAB held a side event that was designed to spark dialogue on national biotechnology policies and regulatory frameworks. It was attended by 30 African governments that OFAB engaged with directly.



**Result:** The discussions promoted dialogue between policymakers, researchers and stakeholders to explore how biotechnology can support sustainable agriculture while conserving biodiversity. Participants also assessed Madagascar's current biotechnology landscape, identified policy gaps and discussed practical steps to strengthen regulations and policy implementation. The Government of Madagascar requested OFAB to open a Chapter in their country to help with creating an enabling environment for agricultural biotechnology. This engagement reinforced the importance of clear, science-based policies that help farmers adopt innovative solutions responsibly—protecting natural ecosystems while boosting food security.



## Improving the Effectiveness of Biosafety Regulatory Frameworks in Southern Africa



**OFAB Intervention:** OFAB convened a parallel session at the 2024 FANRPAN High-Level Regional Multistakeholder Policy Dialogue to facilitate dialogue on the need for policy shifts to facilitate the transformative potential of agricultural biotechnology, emphasising the successes recorded by the pod borer-resistant cowpea and Bt cotton in Nigeria and Ethiopia, respectively. Participants from 16 SADC member states shared real-world experiences, spotlighting both obstacles and opportunities in safely advancing agricultural biotechnology. A key part of the discussion addressed the commercialisation of GM crops, with speakers outlining the regulatory, market and adoption challenges that countries face. OFAB's involvement in this influential forum is part of its broader effort to mainstream agricultural biotechnology into regional policy spaces where it has not traditionally been prioritised.



**Result:** The dialogue generated practical recommendations to strengthen Africa's biosafety systems so they can keep pace with emerging biotechnologies. Policymakers, scientists and regulatory experts proposed ways to refine approval processes and ensure that safe, approved biotech innovations reach farmers efficiently. OFAB also engaged international media to share these discussions widely and collaborated with journalists and communication specialists on strategies to convey complex scientific information to the public and policymakers. Key outcomes included the recognition that clear, streamlined regulatory systems are essential for getting proven biotech solutions into farmers' hands—boosting productivity while safeguarding health and the environment.





## Engaging Special Interest Groups for Public Awareness of Agricultural Biotechnology

### *Faith Leaders Conference on Agricultural Biotechnology in Kenya and Ghana*



**OFAB Intervention:** OFAB joined 335 faith leaders from Ghana and Kenya to discuss how modern agricultural technologies can improve food security and farmer livelihoods. A key part of the conversation focused on biosafety regulatory frameworks, which help ensure the safety of agricultural products in both countries.



**Result:** The conference outlined a roadmap for faith leaders to take a more active role in public discussions on agricultural biotechnology. This includes practical strategies for engaging their communities and policymakers to promote evidence-based decision-making on food security. The events further identified collaborative actions and partnerships among faith leaders, researchers and policymakers to bridge knowledge gaps, strengthen trust and encourage the responsible use and adoption of agricultural technologies that benefit smallholder farmers in Kenya and Ghana.

### *An Expert's Voice: Making Sense of GMOs on TV*



**OFAB Intervention:** OFAB worked with Kenyatta University Prof. Richard Oduor, an expert on molecular biology and genetic engineering, to explain GMOs, clear up common misconceptions and counter disinformation during a presentation on OBINNA TV. His presentation covered the scientific foundations of genetically modified (GM) crops, their potential benefits and the concerns people often raise. The discussion addressed key topics, including the safety of GM crops, their role in improving food security and regulatory measures that govern their use.



**Result:** Obinna TV is a popular YouTube channel in Kenya with about 450,000 subscribers. The session with Prof. Oduor attracted over 15,813 views, showing a clear demand for credible, science-based information on GMOs. Prof. Oduor provided a balanced perspective, helping viewers understand the facts to make informed opinions on GMOs



**Eating what you plant is better than begging  
for leftovers. – African Proverb –**





## Boldly Marching for Science



**OFAB Intervention:** OFAB partnered with Pwani University in Kenya for a March for Science held alongside the OFAB Day Celebration in Mombasa, Kenya. Prior to the March, students from Pwani University were engaged in interactive discussions on the role of biotechnology in enhancing agricultural productivity and food security in Africa.



**Result:** The initiative provided a platform for direct public engagement to explain GM crop benefits while addressing concerns and misconceptions. The March sparked curiosity on the subject and demonstrated the role of young scientists in bridging the gap between research and public understanding. Additionally, Pwani University indicated the need to establish a Biotechnology Club where students can advance discussions on biotechnology and continue to raise awareness. OFAB Kenya is facilitating the Club's formation.



**Even the best cooking pot will not produce food.**  
– African Proverb –





## Meaningful Media Collaboration



**OFAB Intervention:** OFAB and the Kenya Editors' Guild (KEG) hosted a joint learning and idea exchange session aimed at strengthening the capacity of editors and journalists to report accurately on agricultural biotechnology in Kenya. This initiative sought to boost public awareness of biotech by ensuring that information on biotechnology is presented objectively and clearly and is based on sound science.



**Result:** As part of this collaboration, OFAB and KEG developed a **Biotechnology Reporting Handbook** to guide journalists on key principles and best practices for covering biotechnology topics responsibly. The handbook was officially introduced during the 7th Annual Editors' Convention in Nakuru, Rift Valley, where media professionals held in-depth discussions on how to improve the quality and impact of biotechnology reporting in Kenya. At the same convention, AATF and its partners also presented preliminary findings from their research, *Genetically Modified Crops in Kenya: The Cost of Delay*, highlighting the economic and agricultural benefits of timely adoption of GM crops and the potential losses caused by policy or regulatory delays. Through this partnership, OFAB is helping to equip the media with credible tools and knowledge to inform the public and support evidence-based policy dialogue on agricultural biotechnology.

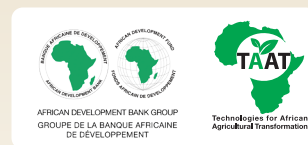


Dr. Canisius Kanangire, AATF Executive Director, and Zubeidah Kananu, President of the Kenya Editors' Guild, after signing the MoU at the AATF offices in Nairobi, Kenya, on 24 May 2024. (Photo: AATF)





# TAAT Policy Compact: Fostering a Supportive Enabling Environment



AATF recognises that improving the lives of smallholder farmers goes beyond developing high quality seeds. It is also essential to foster an enabling environment that can fast-track variety release and registration and spur market initiatives for agro-inputs, such as fertiliser and agricultural produce. To that end, AATF leads the TAAT Policy Enabler Project, an initiative of the African Development Bank. The Project covers 12 African countries: Benin, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

## Its goals include:

- Creating a **strong seed system** in target countries
- **Accrediting seed companies** and agro-input suppliers to expand access to and availability of quality seeds
- Harmonising **regional technology release and registration policies**
- Facilitating **competitive value-added chains**





## Laws, Regulations and Frameworks

To continue fostering supportive enabling environments throughout Africa in 2024 and enhance cross-border movement and trade in seed, AATF supported a review of Angola's Seed Law to strengthen plant variety protection and align national seed regulations to the Regionally Harmonised SADC Seed Protocol. AATF also submitted a draft seed law to the Democratic Republic of the Congo Parliament and delivered technical assistance to Chad and Sierra Leone to revise their national seed regulations to support implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Seed Regulation.

Additionally, AATF helped Eswatini and Ethiopia revise their national seed regulations to align with the COMESA harmonised framework. Ten member states have now fully

domesticated the regionally harmonised seed regulation, aiding cross-border movement and trade in agricultural inputs and produce.

AATF organised training programmes to strengthen capacity on seed certification and quality control in South Sudan and collaborated with partners to provide technical assistance in creating efficient seed systems and scale-up high-performance technologies in Angola, DRC and South Sudan.

Overall, AATF supported delivery of certified seeds, fertilisers and extension services to an estimated 20 million farmers through a 5-year seed roadmap for rice, maize, cassava and soybean production in Liberia, Cameroon, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire and Kenya.

## Bio4Africa: Driving Bio-based Solutions in Africa

The bioeconomy is central to economic development, poverty eradication and livelihood improvement in Africa. As an implementing partner for the Bio4Africa project, AATF is working to deploy simple, small-scale and robust bio-based technologies. These include green biorefineries, pyrolysis, hydrothermal carbonisation, briquetting, pelletising, bio-composites and bioplastics production. AATF is also working to establish the relevant policies, guidelines and regulations that will drive the development, deployment and scaling of bio-based technologies and products.

To support this project, AATF engaged stakeholders in a series of dialogue events in Senegal, Uganda, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana.



AATF also identified economic and policy incentives, as well as training initiatives, to effectively build Africa's bioeconomy and encourage private sector investments.



**If you want to sit under shade in your old age,  
plant a tree now. – African Proverb –**



# Bt Cotton in Kenya: Reviving a National Industry

In 2024, AATF, the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), the Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA), the Government of Kenya's Presidential Economic Transformation Secretariat, the County Governments of Lamu, Homabay and Meru, together with McKinsey & Company, commissioned a joint study to assess the progress, challenges and opportunities associated with the adoption of Bt cotton in Kenya. The study also aimed to evaluate its potential impact on farmer livelihoods and the broader cotton and textile industry.



## Key Findings:

- 1. Strong Government Commitment to Sector Revitalisation** - The Government of Kenya has identified the cotton and textiles value chain as a national development priority. While current production stands at approximately 4,000 metric tonnes (MT) of seed cotton—just one-tenth of the 40,000 MT produced in the 1980s—recent developments signal recovery. Cotton acreage has grown by 7% since 2020, and thousands of farmers have been supported to adopt Bt hybrid cotton, a higher-yielding and pest-resistant variety, over the past three years.
- 2. Global Competitiveness Remains a Challenge:** Kenya's cotton, textile and apparel (CTA) sector remains uncompetitive at the global level, particularly in cotton, lint and yarn production. Key constraints include low on-farm productivity, high input and processing costs, limited mechanisation and pricing structures that place Kenyan cotton and lint approximately 40% above global benchmarks. Limited investment in manufacturing infrastructure further compounds the issue.
- 3. Bt Cotton is Delivering Promising Yield Gains:** Farmers have shown strong enthusiasm for the adoption of Bt hybrid cotton. Early results show a substantial yield increase—up to fivefold in some regions—with productivity rising from an average of 150 kg to over 800 kg per acre. These gains have led to significantly higher farm incomes, even after accounting for the cost of Bt seed.
- 4. Further Productivity and Profitability Gains are Possible:** By introducing newer Bt cotton varieties that reduce weeding requirements and encouraging improved agronomic practices, farmer incomes could increase by 3 to 4 times their current levels. These gains would further enhance the viability and appeal of cotton farming across Kenya.
- 5. High-Value Opportunity for Farmers and the Economy:** Revitalising the cotton sector offers major value creation potential for farmers and the broader value chain. Projections indicate that farmers could earn an additional KES 1 billion by 2027, KES 2.2 billion by 2030 and up to KES 11.4 billion beyond 2030. Overall, a fully revitalised CTA sector could generate an estimated KES 28 billion in national value beyond 2030, supporting jobs, industrial growth and rural transformation.



**You always pick the fruits of what you plant.**  
- African Proverb -





## Recommendations:

Revitalising Kenya's CTA sector will require coordinated action along two primary fronts: (i) enhancing sector competitiveness through market-aligned pricing mechanisms that bring Kenyan cotton closer to global price levels; and (ii) improving farmer productivity and incomes through the adoption of Bt hybrid seeds and better farming practices. Together, these interventions can create an enabling environment needed to attract sustained private sector investment and unlock long-term sector growth. Priority actions would include:

- **Align sector pricing with global market dynamics:** Introduce gradual price adjustments to ensure that farmers concurrently adopt yield-boosting practices, minimising income disruptions while improving market competitiveness.
- **Commercialise Bt hybrid seeds in Kenya and upgrade open-pollinated varieties (OPVs):** Accelerate the availability and adoption of Bt hybrid cotton seeds while also improving the quality of OPVs. A sustainable commercialisation model should involve ginners and farmer cooperatives in distributing and financing seeds and other essential services to smallholder farmers. Close collaboration with Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) will be essential to ensure robust seed quality assurance.
- **Sustain R&D efforts for improved seed varieties:** Support ongoing research by KALRO to improve OPV varieties, such as HART89M and KSA81M. Investments should also be directed toward scaling up seed bulking and delinting capacity.
- **Enable regulatory support for seed access:** Strengthen national and county-level policies that facilitate credit-based seed procurement and strengthen farmers' access to quality seeds
- **Promote small-scale, affordable mechanisation:** Facilitate access to appropriate mechanisation tools—such as self-propelled weeders and mini-tractors—through private-public partnerships. Ginners and farmer cooperatives should play a key role in scaling these solutions.
- **Lower farm labor costs through GMO policy reform:** Lifting Kenya's GMO ban would enable access to herbicide-resistant cotton varieties, reducing labour demands and increasing production efficiency

Implementing these targeted initiatives will create a more competitive and attractive environment for private sector investment, driving growth in Bt seed distribution, extension services, mechanisation and product development. These are essential pillars for building a resilient, inclusive and profitable CTA sector in Kenya

## The Way Forward:

**The successful commercialisation of Bt cotton will require targeted actions throughout 2025-2027.** These include piloting the two commercialisation models (through ginners and farmer cooperatives) in Western and Coastal Kenya from early 2026 and promoting Bt hybrid varieties through well-coordinated demonstration plots to drive adoption among farmers.

**It is crucial to mitigate risks during commercialisation.** These include the mixing of Bt and OPV seeds and the misuse of pest control practices, both of which could lead to price volatility, supply disruptions and reduced farmer incomes.

**Active stakeholder engagement is essential.** Clearly defining roles and responsibilities and gathering feedback will help strengthen the sector. Private sector participation is particularly critical—without increased investment driven by sound profit incentives, Kenya's cotton sector cannot grow sustainably. The CTA has been established to be a coordinating mechanism between the Government, farmer groups, agricultural agencies and the private sector. This group should continue to be the mechanism through which coordinated action is taken to realise the sector's potential.







# Effective Engagement: Stakeholders, Media and the Public





# Case Study: Empowering Farmers through Data and Digital Solutions

AATF remains steadfast in its commitment to sustainable farming, digital transformation and equipping smallholder farmers with innovative tools and technologies that enhance productivity and resilience. In 2024, AATF's Data and Digital Solutions initiatives delivered impactful interventions across Kenya, Nigeria and other African nations, leveraging data-driven insights, mechanisation and digital tools to empower farmers and strengthen agricultural systems. The key interventions and their results, described below, showcase AATF's efforts to foster an enabling environment for agricultural biotechnology and technology adoption.

## Proving the Potential: Data Show Strong Hybrid Rice Performance in Kenya



**Intervention:** AATF conducted comprehensive data collection in Kenya to evaluate the performance of hybrid rice varieties against commercial checks.



**Result:** The data revealed that hybrid rice varieties significantly outperformed inbred varieties and commercial checks, demonstrating their potential to enhance yields above 7 MT per ha. The analysis led to recommendations for expanding access to hybrid rice seeds and establishing robust market linkages to support production and commercialisation, aligning with AATF's Scaling for Impact 2023-2027 strategy to boost smallholder farmer productivity and also in line with the National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) of Kenya for 2019-2030.

## Scaling Mechanisation: Agridrive's Localisation Brings Services to Farmers



**Intervention:** AATF developed inhouse an Agridrive web platform, USSD component and mobile application to enhance farmer access to mechanisation and input services in Nigeria. AATF successfully onboarded more than 2,000 cassava farmers in Oyo State to the Agridrive application, enabling access to mechanisation tools such as tractors and cassava processing equipment. The app and its USSD interface were translated into Yoruba (the predominant language in the Southwestern region) to improve accessibility for non-English-speaking farmers.



**Result:** The localisation effort resulted in a 10% increase in user engagement, as measured by service request submissions, streamlining access to essential resources. This intervention strengthened AATF's support for sustainable farming and extended services to farmers without smartphones, aligning with AATF's mission to advance inclusive technology adoption. Plans are underway to translate the Agridrive app and USSD into Igbo and Hausa by 2025, targeting an additional 1,000 farmers to further enhance accessibility.





## Achieving a Broader Impact

These interventions reflect AATF's commitment to fostering an enabling environment for agricultural biotechnology, as demonstrated in its partnership with Zambia's National Biosafety Authority to support policy reforms and its leadership in the TAAT Policy Enabler Project across 18 African countries. By integrating data-driven insights, digital tools and mechanisation, AATF empowers smallholder farmers, strengthens regulatory frameworks and drives sustainable agricultural transformation, aligning with AATF's Scaling for Impact 2023-2027 strategy to promote creation of a functional enabling environment and also continental goals such as the AU Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

## Additional Activities: Training on AI and Digital Tools for Biofortified Crop Management

AATF trained farmers in Western Kenya on the utilisation of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital tools to manage biofortified crops, focusing on improving productivity and resilience. Farmers were equipped with the ability to adopt digital advancements which is now helping them in making informed decisions for sustainable agricultural practices. This initiative supports AATF's goal of enhancing farmer capacity to leverage NextGen agricultural technologies for improved food security.

AATF also launched an AI-powered, climate-smart decision-support system (CSDSS) in October 2024 to empower women- and youth-led small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Kenya's and Nigeria's rice sectors. The project seeks to promote resilience, productivity, sustainable development and inclusive growth by mitigating climate change impacts on rice production.

As part of this initiative, AATF aims to install 20 automatic weather stations across Nigeria and Kenya, supported by partnerships with the PBR cowpea project, Sahel Consult and governors of Adamawa and Kwara states. These stations are estimated to transmit over 10 million data points per month which will be used to refine machine learning and Artificial Intelligence models for predictive forecasting and support the improvement of the activities of the National Metrological services in the two project countries.





# Farmer Alhaji Usman Abubakar: A Champion for Change

**Alhaji Usman Abubakar** was recognised by OFAB in 2024 as one of Nigeria's most influential farmers. The 51-year-old father of five from Ngurore in Yola, Adamawa State, was celebrated for his entrepreneurial spirit and unwavering dedication to help other farmers transform their lives through agricultural biotechnology.

Usman struggled to grow traditional cotton for over 20 years, despairing as pests ravaged his crops and costly pesticides ate into his profits. But his fortunes changed in 2019 when **Dr. Rose Gidado**, then Chief Scientific Officer and Coordinator of the OFAB Nigeria Chapter, introduced him to pest-resistant Bt cotton. The results were staggering.

He began achieving yields of 3-5 tonnes per acre, compared to less than 1 tonne with conventional varieties. Over the years, higher earnings allowed him to build a new home, drill community boreholes and pay for his children's education at an American university. "Science can change lives," Usman says. "Bt cotton lifted me from poverty. Now, I want every farmer to have that chance."

Usman went on to plant five acres with TELA maize at Adama farm in 2025 and saw good results: excellent germination, no seed loss and strong, healthy growth. "In my fields, you can see the difference between local seeds and TELA maize. What is different is how it resists pests naturally, eliminating the need for chemical sprays."



Usman's 14-hectare PBR cowpea trial also outperformed conventional varieties. "Where others harvested two to three bags per hectare, I got 18 bags—without spraying pesticides."

Usman now dedicates himself to helping other farmers adopt biotech crops. He hosts field days to demonstrate Bt crop benefits and advocates for government support to make biotech seeds accessible.

"To the government, my plea is clear: adopt and subsidise Bt seeds nationwide," Usman says. "I've witnessed their power firsthand. Through Bt cotton, I've gained profits while helping others do the same. When science is made accessible—either free or affordable—it transforms lives. This technology isn't just changing crops, it's changing communities."



**An abundance of food at your neighbour's will not satisfy your hunger. – Bayaka Proverb –**





# Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture: Promoting Healthy Eating

To help improve awareness about the benefits of healthy eating, AATF is integrating Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture (NSA) into its projects, including TAAT maize, TELA maize, rice and PBR cowpea in Kenya and Nigeria.

In 2024, AATF trained 3,027 farmers on the importance of eating a balanced diet. The training provided information on how to grow and maintain kitchen gardens and raise chickens and small ruminants, such as goats, to produce fresh vegetables, meat, milk and eggs for the household.

Farmers were also advised to save some of the money they earn from selling products, such as maize and rice, to buy nutrient-rich foods, such as meat, fruits and vegetables.

The AATF team Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture collaborated with HarvestPlus to pilot a digital tool (VIAMO) aimed at improving the production and consumption of high iron beans in western and Nyanza Kenya.

**3,027**

**farmers trained  
by AATF on the  
importance of eating  
a balanced diet**



**A hungry stomach knows no law.**  
– Tsonga, Mozambique –







# AATF 2024 Publications



**Clean energy solutions promise a better future for rural communities in Senegal: Why action is needed now**



**Enhancing supply of low-cost livestock feeds through Bio-based solutions in Ghana: What Policymakers need to know**



**Can Agricultural Biotechnology Impact Food Security in Ethiopia?**



**Harnessing biotechnology to empower women and youth in South Africa**



**Elimination of Policy Bottlenecks will Boost Utilisation of Bioproducts for Better Incomes and Cleaner Environment**



**Hope for Rural Communities as Innovations Transform Tons of Wastes into Useful Products and Income**



**Government of Rwanda Adopts Biosafety Bill Governing GMOs**



**Modern biotechnology, solution for food safety and public health**



**Improving seaweed production in the era of climate change challenges: Can biotechnology be the magic wand?**



**Nigeria, is the giant of Africa still food insecure: Can Agri-Biotech be the Game Changer?**



**Unlocking the Potential in Agricultural Biotechnology through Robust Regulatory Frameworks in Uganda**



**Time to Run: Leveraging an enabling biosafety environment for a food-resilient Kenya**





# AATF 2024 Publications

## Scientific Publications

AATF staff contributed to numerous scientific papers in 2024:

- Bassole Y., Bazie HR., Batieno TBJ., Poda SL., Sam KI., Congo A-K., Zongo H., Ouedraogo AS., Bagagnan O., and Tignegre JBDLS. 2024. **Selection of cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* L. Walp) tolerant genotypes to hydric stress by drought indices of tolerance in Burkina Faso**. African Journal of Agricultural Research; Vol. 20 (11):963-974. DOI: 10.5897/AJAR2024.16731
- Batieno BJ., Dieni Z., Gnankambary K., Sidibe H., Poda L., Zongo H., Bama BH., Coulibaly S., Zida S., Tignegre JB., and Ouedraogo J. 2024. **Progress in genetic improvement for grain yield potential and associated traits of cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* L. Walp.) and genotype environment interactions in the INERA cowpea breeding programme**. Tropical Agriculture (Trinidad); Vol. 102, No. 1. DOI: 10.1002/tpg2.20462
- Isah, A., Ndana RW., Malann YD., Nwankwo OF., Ibrahim AB., and Gidado RS. 2024. **Biodiversity assessment and environmental risk analysis of the single line transgenic pod borer resistant cowpea**. PeerJ. DOI 10.7717/peerj.18094
- Jiwuba L., Ogbonna A., Ikeorgu U., Okpeakpu F., Eluwa K., Ekaette E., Njoku D., Okocha P., and Egesi C. 2024. **Analysis of inbreeding in five S1 cassava families of elite varieties at the seedling nursery and clonal evaluation trails stages**. F1000 Research 13, 966. DOI:[10.12688/f1000research.153922.1](https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.153922.1)
- Mailula LP., Nhundu K., Mushunje A., Marechera G., Sedi M., Obunyali C., Oikeh S., and Madubanya LA. 2024. **Welfare impact of genetically modified TELA®Bt maize varieties and their adoption among smallholder farmers in South Africa**. Journal of Development and Agricultural Economics. 16(3): 111-121. DOI: 10.5897/JDAE2023.1401
- Nboyine JA., Adazebra GA., Owusu EY., Agrengsore P., Seidu A., Lamini S., Zakariah M., Kwabena JY., Ali HK., Akaogo I., Onyekachi FN., Tignegre JB., Etwire PM., MacKenzie, DJ., Barrero JM., and Higgins T. 2024. **Field Performance of a Genetically Modified Cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*) Expressing the Cry1Ab Insecticidal Protein Against the Legume Pod Borer *Maruca vitrata***. Agronomy. 14 (12), 3055; DOI: [10.3390/agronomy14123055](https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy14123055)
- Obunyali CO., Pillay K., Meisel B., Ndou EN., Mashingaidze K., Serumaga JP., Asea G., Mwimali M., Tende R., Beyene Y., Mugo S., Okogbenin E., and Oikeh SO. 2024. **Efficacy of Event MON 87460 in drought-tolerant maize hybrids under optimal and managed drought-stress in eastern and southern Africa**, Journal of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology. Vol. 22, Issue 1. DOI: [10.1016/j.jgeb.2024.100352](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jgeb.2024.100352).
- Ouédraogo AP., Danquah A., Tignegre JB., Ouédraogo JT., Ayertey JA., and Ofori K. 2024. **Combining ability of aphids (*Aphis craccivora* Koch) resistance in cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp.)** African Journal of Plant Science. 17:108-117. Article Number: 986A9C971536 ISSN 1996-0824. DOI: 10.5897/AJPS2023.2322
- Sedi A., Akinola AA., Obunyali CO., Adebayo MA., Marechera G., Maunganui D., Mazambani I., and Oikeh SO. 2024. **Hybrid Maize Adoption Determinants in Northern Nigeria: A Gendered Perspective**. Int. J. Agriculture Technology. 4(1): 1-9. DOI: 10.33425/2770-2928.1021







# Financial Statement





# Financial Report 2024

The financial report covers AATF's audited annual financial statements for the period January to December 2024 and provides comparative data for the prior accounting period, 2023.

## Funding overview

The organisation's funding for the year 2024 was provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), USDA, Gates Foundation (GF), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) as a Lead Grantee of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Gates Ag One, EU, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Innovate UK.

Over the last six years, the major funding for AATF activities has come from private sources (foundations), which contributed 69% of the total grant income during the period. As a public charity, AATF has maintained its funding within the allowable threshold, having received 33% of its total funds from public sources (government agencies, multilateral donors and international institutions) over the six-year period. Below is the overview of AATF's funding for the period 2019 to 2024.

## Source of funding: 2019-2024 (US\$)

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	Total
<b>Public funding</b>							
Funding from government agencies	1,901,626	2,028,113	2,387,516	3,410,556	4,655,846	6,057,928	20,441,585
Funding from multilateral donors		277,116	186,431	357,248	893,772	1,429,823	3,144,390
Funding from international development organisations, non-profit organisations (NPOs) and public foundations	1,400,185	329,101	444,287	127,168	129,843	223,137	2,653,721
Total funding from public sources	3,301,811	2,634,380	3,018,234	3,894,972	5,679,461	7,710,888	26,239,696
<b>Private funding</b>							
Funding from private foundations	12,307,664	9,411,899	8,553,217	8,922,814	8,392,592	10,711,134	58,299,320
Funding from other private institutions		–	–	–	–	–	–
Total funding from private sources	12,307,664	9,411,899	8,553,217	8,922,814	8,392,592	10,711,134	58,299,320
<b>Total funding</b>	<b>15,609,474</b>	<b>12,046,229</b>	<b>11,571,451</b>	<b>12,817,786</b>	<b>14,072,053</b>	<b>18,422,022</b>	<b>84,539,015</b>



AATF is grateful to all its investors for their continued support to ensure that its commitment to assisting resource-constrained farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) with technological solutions is achieved, hence a prosperous, resilient, food- and nutrition-secure Africa.

## Statement of financial position as of 31 December 2024 (US\$)

	2024	2023
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	304,605	163,110
Right-of-use assets	844,974	801,702
Intangible assets	–	–
Investments in subsidiaries	1,277,701	1,277,701
Loans to group companies	641,276	739,842
	<b>3,068,556</b>	<b>2,982,355</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Trade and other receivables	2,356,621	1,293,457
Contribution receivables	4,984,597	1,669,901
Cash and cash equivalent	15,286,842	12,158,167
	<b>22,628,060</b>	<b>15,121,525</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>25,696,617</b>	<b>18,103,880</b>
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>		
<b>Equity</b>	<b>9,445,255</b>	<b>9,917,796</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Lease liabilities	<b>719,922</b>	<b>832,470</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Payables and accruals	1,494,125	1,058,420
Lease liabilities	112,549	153,040
Deferred income	101,237	43,056
Unexpended grants payable	13,823,529	6,099,098
	<b>15,531,440</b>	<b>7,353,614</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>	<b>25,696,617</b>	<b>18,103,880</b>



## Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2024: Abridged version (US\$)

	2024	2023
<b>Income</b>		
Grant income	15,609,475	13,188,472
Other income and gains	757,814	1,683,601
Deferred income	38,892	68,573
	<b>16,406,181</b>	<b>14,940,645</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Project related expenses	13,948,591	10,977,311
Management and general expenses	4,072,375	3,542,232
	<b>18,020,965</b>	<b>14,519,543</b>
<b>Net surplus/deficit for the period</b>	<b>-1,614,784</b>	<b>421,102</b>
<b>Percentage of project related expenses</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>		
<b>Proportion of management and general expenses</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>24%</b>

## Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2024: Abridged version (US\$)

	2024	2023
Net cash provided by operating activities	-1,743,496	-543,491
Net cash (used in) investing activities	-421,921	-415,753
Net cash provided by financing activities	5,294,092	-3,480,530
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents movement for the year</b>	<b>3,128,675</b>	<b>-4,439,774</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</b>	<b>12,158,167</b>	<b>16,597,941</b>
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>	<b>15,286,842</b>	<b>12,158,167</b>



## Financial review

The Foundation recorded a net deficit for the year ended 31 December 2024 of USD 1,614,784. This represented a decrease of 483.5% from the previous year's surplus of USD 421,103. The deficit was primarily due to decreased funding as some key projects, like Hybrid Rice and GCA, came to an end in 2023, and forex difference on currency evaluation. Other project funding came in towards the end of the year 2024, e.g. TAATII and Michigan State University. Additionally, there was support for the Hybrid Rice activities from reserves, and similarly, the inaugural ACAT conference was also supported by reserves. There was an increase of USD 2,421,003 in restricted income from USD 13,188,472 in 2023 to USD 15,609,475 in the current period, translating to an increase of 18.4%. Notably, there was funding from new projects (BMSS and RAB) in the year 2024. AATF's income recognition policy is based on the matching principle, that is, income is recognised when expenses are incurred.

The Foundation continued with its prudent management of unrestricted (core) funds and enhanced project costing, which ensured that all costs that are attributable to projects were duly allocated to restricted grants.

Foundation revenue increased by 9.8% from USD 14,940,645/- in the prior year to USD 16,406,182 for the year ended 31 December 2024. This was

due to increased funds inflow from projects in terms of project expenditure and the resulting overhead as well as other operating income, which was largely contributed by investments in fixed deposits.

Total company expenditure recorded an increase of 24% (USD3,501,423/-) as compared to 2023. There were a few significant movements in some expense categories. The notable changes were an increase in contracting services by USD 841,001/- (44.39%), an increase in project supplies, which rose by USD 598,309/- (621%), and an increase in forex difference on revaluation by USD 1,075,231/- (176.8%).

Foundation cash flows from operating activities decreased from USD 543,491 in the prior year to USD (1,743,496) for the year ended 31 December 2024. Cash flows used in investing activities decreased by USD 6,168 while cash flows from financing activities increased by USD 8,774,622 as compared to the previous period.

AATF has a total cash and cash equivalent of USD 15,286,842 as compared to USD 12,158,167 in the prior year. The future outlook of the organisation is favourable, with its main traditional donors continuing to support its initiatives. AATF has indications and opportunities for getting new funding from both existing and potential donors.



**You cannot work for food when there is no food for work. – African Proverb –**





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# Board of Trustees 2024



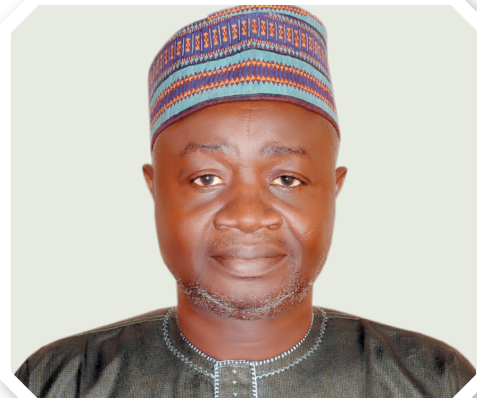
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# AATF Staff 2024



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<b>Albert Anthony</b>	Programme Officer, Seed Operations
<b>Alex Abutu</b>	Communications Officer, West & Central Africa
<b>Alhaji Tejan-Cole</b>	Director, Legal Affairs
<b>Agnes Musau</b>	Procurement Manager
<b>Bernard Ehirim</b>	Programme Officer, Stewardship
<b>Buke Fatuma Wario</b>	Events Coordinator/Administration Assistant
<b>Caleb Obunyali</b>	Programme Officer, TELA
<b>Canisius Kanangire</b>	Executive Director
<b>Caroline Thande</b>	Administrative Assistant, TELA
<b>Cecilia Limera</b>	Programme Officer, Product Development & Commercialisation
<b>Daniel Willy</b>	Senior Manager, Commercialisation Agribusiness & Policy
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<b>Erasmus Mwangi</b>	Budget Management Officer
<b>Edwin Njeru</b>	Programme Technology & Infrastructure Manager
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<b>Francis Onyekachi</b>	Manager, Product Stewardship
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<b>Gabriel Macharia</b>	Data Management Officer
<b>George Achia</b>	Communications Officer, East & Southern Africa
<b>Grace Mukasa</b>	Resource Mobilisation Officer
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<b>Isaiah Olawale</b>	Hybrid Seed Market Development Manager
<b>Jacquine Kinyua</b>	Executive Officer
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<b>Jean Baptiste Tigengre</b>	Project Manager, COWPEA

NAME	POSITION
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<b>Jonga Munyaradzi</b>	Seed Production Manager
<b>Josephine Mailu</b>	Head of Human Resources
<b>Joyce Njuguna</b>	Monitoring Evaluation Accountability & Learning Officer
<b>Josephat Kimanzi</b>	Business Services Support Manager
<b>Kehinde Jimoh</b>	Programme Officer, Seed Systems & Agribusiness
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<b>Keziah Chomba</b>	Legal Officer
<b>Kenneth Soumiwa</b>	Plant Operator
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<b>Lilian Mahia</b>	Finance and Procurement Assistant
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<b>Solomon Makinde</b>	Hybrid Seed Production Officer
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<b>Verenardo Meeme</b>	Program Officer, OFAB
<b>Vitumbiko Chinoko</b>	Project Manager, OFAB





# Abbreviations



NBMA	National Biosafety Management Agency
OFAB	Open Forum for Agricultural Biotechnology
PBR	Pod Borer-Resistant
REA	European Research Executive Agency
RMCS	Regional Member Countries
SDATA	Strategic Dialogues on Agriculture Technology in Africa
SEEDAN	Seed Entrepreneurs Association of Nigeria
SMEs	African Small and Medium Enterprises
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
TAAT	Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention in Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WEMA	Water Efficient Maize for Africa





# Acknowledgements

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