

LAUNCH OF PHASE TWO OF AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVE — CULTIVATE AFRICA'S FUTURE FUND

For Immediate Release

June 30, 2017 NAIROBI – A new CAD\$20 million investment will support greater food security and improve nutrition throughout Eastern and Southern Africa, the partners behind the investment – Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) – announced at a June 30 event in Nairobi.

The investment represents the second phase of the Cultivate Africa's Future Fund, a joint IDRC-ACIAR partnership aimed at transforming African agriculture and improving the lives of millions of smallholder producers and consumers across the continent.

The CAD\$20 million phase two investment was announced by IDRC President Jean Lebel and ACIAR CEO Andrew Campbell. The fund leverages Australian and Canadian science and technology expertise with African leadership and innovation to benefit smallholder farmers who grow most of Africa's food.

"Investing in small-scale agriculture is one of the most effective ways to meet the food security needs of vulnerable populations, especially women and children, while also building economic livelihoods," IDRC President Jean Lebel said at the announcement. "The second phase will build on the success of the first phase and it will do so by focusing on innovations that reduce post-harvest loss, improve nutrition, and promote the sustainable and efficient use of water for agriculture."

"Our strong partnership with IDRC makes better use of scarce resources and enables us to share risk, potentially funding game-breaking research," said ACIAR CEO Andrew Campbell.

To celebrate the Phase Two launch, ACIAR and IDRC organized a breakfast meeting at the Fairmont Norfolk Hotel. Participants included the Hon. Japhet Ntiba, Principal Secretary in Kenya's State Department for Fisheries and the Blue Economy; Andrew Campbell, Chief Executive Officer of ACIAR; Jean Lebel, President of IDRC; Melissa Wood, Program Manager for Global Programs at ACIAR; and Simon Carter, Regional Director, sub-Saharan Africa at IDRC. The launch was hosted by HE John Feakes, Australian High Commissioner to Kenya, and HE Sara Hradecky, Canada's High Commissioner to Kenya.

Quick Facts

The CAD\$20 million investment from IDRC and ACIAR supports the next stage of the Cultivate Africa's Future Fund. Phase Two is intended to reach millions across Africa, with a particular emphasis on improving agricultural productivity and supporting expanded roles for women and youth in agribusiness.

The Cultivate Africa's Future Fund first launched in 2013. During its first phase, CAD\$15 million was invested to support eight innovative and results-driven research projects in [Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Uganda](#). Projects addressed issues surrounding post-harvest losses, lack of / access to adequate nutrition, and empowering women and youth through participation in agribusiness.

To date, the Cultivate Africa's Future Fund has developed 24 innovations, currently used by over 25,000 smallholder producers in five countries. Among these innovations: insect-based livestock feed that has reduced the cost of poultry and fish production; pre-cooked beans that reduce cooking time from three hours to 15 minutes; and solar tent fish driers that have reduced post-harvest loss of fish by over 60%.

About Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Part of Canada's foreign affairs and development efforts, IDRC invests in knowledge, innovation, and solutions to improve lives and livelihoods in the developing world. Bringing together the right partners around opportunities for impact, IDRC builds leaders for today and tomorrow and helps drive large-scale positive change.

About the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

As part of the Australian Aid Program, ACIAR is an independent agency that funds research partnerships between Australian scientists and research agencies in partner countries, to improve food security, food system resilience, human nutrition and health, and the sustainable management of natural resources in changing climates.

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