

# Scaling Up Agricultural Innovations in Kenya

## THE CHALLENGE

Farming in Kenya's arid regions is particularly challenging because of low and erratic rainfall, land and water depletion, and the resulting declines in agricultural productivity. Climate change is also having negative impacts on households. Unfortunately, effective technologies developed by decades of agricultural research have not been adopted by farmers. Policy efforts have failed to relieve hunger and malnutrition. Innovative farming and marketing strategies are needed to deal with the challenges of growing crops on arid lands.

## THE RESEARCH

This project, supported by IDRC and CIDA through the Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF), aims to develop innovative strategies for accelerating large-scale adoption and scaling up of durable farming systems in three regions of Kenya. Researchers will investigate the numerous causes of low agricultural productivity. They will also identify opportunities for linking farmers to markets and for influencing the formulation and implementation of sound policies for dryland agriculture. They will then test and develop farming practices that are much more appropriate and environmentally sound for dry areas. Doing so will increase production and consumption of healthy local foods and dramatically improve farmers' livelihoods.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- Identification, introduction, and adoption of more appropriate and environmentally sound farming practices for arid areas
- Enhanced use of traditional local crops
- Increased consumption of healthy local foods
- Improved income-earning opportunities for farmers

## PROJECT DETAILS

### GRANTEES:

ORGANIZATION	PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS
Kenya Agricultural Research Institute, Kenya	Dr. Lutta Muhammad
McGill University, Canada	Dr. Gordon Hickey

**COUNTRY:** Kenya

**TIMING:** March 2011 to August 2014

**FUNDING:** CA\$4.3 million

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

This project is part of the Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF), a five-year, CA\$62 million program that funds research projects that aim to solve immediate and concrete food security challenges in the developing world. For more information on this project, contact Pascal Sanginga, Nairobi, Kenya (psanginga@idrc.or.ke) or Kevin Tiessen, Ottawa, Canada (ktiessen@idrc.ca). For more information on the Fund, visit [www.idrc.ca/cifsrf](http://www.idrc.ca/cifsrf).



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