

## Welcoming Rebecca Nelson!

Dr Rebecca Nelson joined the Biosciences eastern and central Africa (BecA) Hub as a Visiting Scientist. Rebecca is at BecA on a five month sabbatical leave from Cornell University. At BecA, she continues to serve as the Scientific Director of The McKnight Foundation's Collaborative Crop Research Program (CCRP), which recently received a \$26.7 million Grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to expand the CCRP. With this expansion, Rebecca will take on the new role of Liaison Scientist for the CCRP grants cluster in the East and Horn of Africa. While at the BecA Hub, Rebecca will concentrate on: (a) supporting CCRP project teams in the region and establishing new CCRP grants; (b) advancing the anti-aflatoxin research agenda and helping add aflatoxin testing capacity at the Hub; (c) furthering collaboration with the maize program for resistance genetics / breeding; and d) advising the BecA Hub team on technologies and other strategies that can help African farmers.

Rebecca is very well-respected world-wide and is dedicated to alleviation of poverty in the developing world in general and Africa in particular. We are delighted to have Rebecca on our side and grateful for her decision to join us. She is joined by her husband Jonathan Miller and their teen-age boys.