



biosciences
eastern and central africa



Celebrating 15 years of the BecA-ILRI Hub: mobilizing biosciences in and for Africa's agricultural development

On 3 February 2016 the **Biosciences eastern and central Africa-International Livestock Research Institute (BecA-ILRI Hub)** in partnership with its donors, investors and stakeholders is convening a one-day event to celebrate 15 years of existence as a hub for excellence in agricultural bioscience research for development and capacity building in Africa, at the ILRI Nairobi campus.

The event will bring together global, regional and local actors in agricultural biosciences research for development, to celebrate the vital role played by the BecA-ILRI Hub in supporting African national agricultural research systems and to identify opportunities to scale-up the Hub's impacts to promote sustainable agriculture for improved food and nutritional security in Africa. It will provide participants with a greater understanding of the BecA-ILRI Hub's approach to empowering African science leaders and institutions to address major national and continental agricultural development challenges and demonstrate the available technology platforms to facilitate increased precision and efficiency in crop and livestock breeding.

The focus of the *Celebrating BecA@15* event is to highlight:

1. The importance of the BecA-ILRI Hub platforms and services in the region, by showcasing the Hub's comparative advantage in achieving the science agenda for agriculture in Africa.
2. The BecA-ILRI Hub's contribution to achieving national and continental agricultural priorities through co-funding of researchers.
3. The opportunities for the BecA-ILRI Hub to support governments in implementing their national agricultural commitments and policies.
4. The funding structure that provided the BecA-ILRI Hub with the necessary stability for its technology platforms, research projects and capacity building initiatives to thrive.

BecA@15

In 2016, the BecA-ILRI Hub marks 15 years of existence as an African center of excellence for agricultural biosciences.

Research conducted at the BecA-ILRI Hub is organized around five priority themes that respond to a demand led research agenda for African agriculture:

- Crop improvement (with a focus on staple crops of Africa);
- Food safety and improved nutrition;
- Livestock productivity;
- Climate change mitigation and sustainable environmental use;
- Underutilized species of crops and livestock.

The *Celebrating BecA@15* event will recognize and appreciate the dedicated efforts of the Hub together with its international, regional and national partners in strengthening African agricultural research capacities, knowledge and innovation systems to achieve sustainable food security and, above all, in developing African science leaders.

The Event

More than 100 people are expected to participate in the Celebrating BecA@15 event at ILRI's Nairobi campus on 3 February 2016, which will feature speakers and panelists from organizations such as: African Development Bank; African Union/ New Partnership for Africa's Development; Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa; Australian Embassy (Kenya); Canadian High Commission (Kenya).

During this event, alumni of the Africa Biosciences Challenge Fund who have emerged as science leaders will talk about the impact that their connection with the BecA-ILRI Hub has had on their own research work and that of their home institutions. There will be two engaging panel discussions addressing the BecA-ILRI Hub's contribution to achieving national agricultural priorities and the role of science and technology in agricultural development in Africa. The Integrated Genotyping Service and Support Service supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the UK Department for International Development will also be officially launched.

Facilitated discussions for participants will identify the comparative advantage of and opportunities for the BecA-ILRI Hub within the agricultural biosciences space. An interactive display area with exhibition stands will showcase the BecA-ILRI Hub's past, current and future contribution to the transformation of the agricultural landscape across Africa and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



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Celebrating BecA@15

ILRI Campus, Nairobi, Kenya
3 February 2016

08:00 – 08:30	1. Arrival and registration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signing visitors' book • Booking for afternoon lab tours
	Master of Ceremonies/Moderator: Bruce Scott, Columbia Global Centers, Africa
08:30 – 08:45	2. Welcoming remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jimmy Smith, Director General, ILRI • David Angell, Canadian High Commissioner to Kenya • John Feakes, Australian Ambassador to Kenya
08:45 – 09:30	3. Celebrating BecA@15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the BecA-ILRI Hub and recognition of donor support: Eugene Terry; Appolinaire Djikeng • History of the BecA-ILRI Hub: Gabrielle Persley; Romano Kiome • Impacts of the BecA-ILRI Hub: Charles Masembe; Ruth Wanyera (Africa Biosciences Challenge Fund alumni) • Screening of BecA-ILRI Hub video
09:30 – 10:00	4. Keynote address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD
10:00 – 10:45	5. Panel discussion: The BecA-ILRI Hub's contribution to achieving national agricultural priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government representatives
10:45 – 11:15	TEA BREAK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo session • BecA-ILRI Hub Marketplace in the tent
11:15 – 12:00	6. Panel discussion: The role of science and technology in agricultural development in Africa (including opportunities for the BecA-ILRI Hub) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AfDB, AGRA, AU
12:00 – 12:50	7. Small group discussions: The comparative advantage of and opportunities for the BecA-ILRI Hub
12:50 – 13:00	8. Vote of thanks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appolinaire Djikeng, Director, BecA-ILRI Hub
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 16:00	Lab tours
16:00	End of program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guests depart at their leisure