

Dr. Margaret Karembu, is current Director of the Africa office of International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA Africenter www.isaaa.org). She is a senior level environmental science management specialist with considerable experience in technology transfer and biotechnology applications in Africa. Margaret has wide experience in participatory training methodologies, technology diffusion research on small-scale agriculture and environmental impact assessment procedures. Immediate responsibilities involve planning and managing all aspects of ISAAA Africenter program that would facilitate science-based decisions and transfer of agri-biotechnologies from (and among) industrial and developing countries, and, strengthening South-South cooperation in this endeavour.

A science-communication educator, Margaret has been actively involved in strengthening capacity for biosafety communication and policy outreach for informed choices on modern agricultural biotechnology in Africa. She coordinates ISAAA's Biotechnology Information Centers (BICs) in Africa comprising: the Eastern and Central Africa BIC for English and Swahili speaking Africa, the Mali/Burkina Faso (WABIC) for Francophone West Africa and the Egypt BIC for Arab-speaking Africa. These Centers facilitate sound decision-making relating to biotech crops and their real and potential contribution to food security, poverty reduction and environmental conservation. Margaret previously served (on Presidential appointment) as Council chair and vice-chair of the Cooperative University College of Kenya and Meru University of Science and Technology respectively. Dr. Karembu holds a Ph.D degree in Environmental Science Education from Kenyatta University, Kenya.

Recent related short courses of relevance to the FAO dialogue:

- (i) Biotechnology Leadership Course by Cornell University's Alliance for Science, April 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya.
- ii) Champions for Change Leadership Course under USAID/CAADP- Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program Capacity-building project March, 2011, Nairobi, Kenya.
- (iii) Strategic Leadership and Change Management for Directors of State Corporations, Kenya Institute of Administration, February 2011.
- (iv) Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Course at Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education, Harvard, University, USA, 2008.