

OPPORTUNITY CREATION AND RECOGNITION IN BIOTECHNOLOGY AMONG SCIENTISTS IN THE EAC – KENYA

Status Report

The research project on bioinnovation in Kenya has been suspended owing to recent Government of Kenya (GOK) action banning the import of GMO foods. This action by the GOK serves as a significant disincentive for scientists to engage in agbio research, agbio entrepreneurship and agbio innovation. The report titled “*Opportunities and Resources for Agbiotechnology Research and Innovation: What Lies Ahead for Aspiring and Young Scientists in Kenya?*” provides information derived from an exploratory study of agbioscientists and managers carried out immediately before the ban was announced. It examined the experiences and observations of bioscientists and managers regarding several elements of the bioinnovation ecosystem in Kenya particularly demand, development, applications and resources available to stimulate bioagricultural research and commercialization (non-veterinary).

The document identifies what scientists themselves say constrains commercialization of the bioscience research they carry out. It outlines specific resources they that they need to move forward. And indicates actions recommended to realize the many benefits that can be derived from bioinnovation including increased access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for the population of Kenya.

The report cites thirteen issues that merit further investigation. One is the innovation management system and processes in place where scientists work. These systems and processes likely affect the motivation, performance, entrepreneurial aspirations of scientists and bioinnovation that occurs. The report, though limited in scope, provides an indication of what lies ahead for young and aspiring scientists who seek to create and commercialize intellectual property in agbioscience for the benefit of the nation. For more information about this research on bioentrepreneurship, please contact:

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