

For immediate release

## **CABI joins Australia-Africa Plant Biosecurity Partnership to aid agricultural trade**

16 October 2014 - On World Food Day, CABI is proud to announce it has joined the Australia-Africa Plant Biosecurity Partnership, a two-year A\$1m programme to strengthen skills in plant biosecurity in Africa. The aim is to help facilitate trade, including intra-regional trade, by addressing plant pest and disease problems that hinder agricultural exports and threaten food security.

The programme will be delivered by a consortium including CABI, the [Crawford Fund](#) and [CSIRO](#), and led by the [Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre](#). It is being funded by the [Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research \(ACIAR\)](#), and CABI is contributing an additional \$200,000.

The initiative fits well with CABI's mission to help smallholder farmers by applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment. It will leverage CABI's world-class experience in plant health and biosecurity, and also supports CABI's focus on tackling the spread of invasive alien species and strengthening agricultural value chains.

"Agricultural trade is a powerful engine for economic growth, poverty alleviation and food security, but harnessing it can be difficult," says Julie Flood, Senior Global Director for Trade and Commodities at CABI. "By joining this initiative, CABI is helping to build plant biosecurity capacity within Africa, helping Africa's ability to trade more effectively in the future."

Established in response to requests from African stakeholders, the partnership will commence with a regional workshop in Nairobi, Kenya on 27-28 October 2014. The workshop will identify key areas of plant biosecurity needed in the partnership countries of Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Aside from plant biosecurity workshops in Africa, partnership activities will include short-term placements of African plant biosecurity specialists in relevant Australian agencies, a mentoring system for African participants and funding assistance for developing biosecurity action plans at national and regional level. The Australia-Africa Plant Biosecurity Partnership aims to leverage support from other international agencies and to complement other work underway on plant biosecurity issues in Africa.

CABI is a not for profit organisation

CABI improves people's lives worldwide by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment.

CABI, the trading name of CABI International, is an International Organization recognized by the UK Government under Statutory Instrument 1982 No. 1071

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# News Release



More information on the partnership is available at <http://www.pbcrc.com.au/research/east-africa>

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## About CABI

CABI is an international not-for-profit organization that improves people's lives by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment. Through knowledge sharing and science, CABI helps address issues of global concern, such as safeguarding the environment and improving global food security. We do this by helping farmers grow more and lose less of what they produce, combating threats to agriculture and the environment from pests and diseases, protecting biodiversity from invasive species, and improving access to agricultural and environmental scientific knowledge. Our 48 member countries guide and influence our core areas of work. These include development and research projects, scientific publishing and microbial services.

For more information go to [www.cabi.org](http://www.cabi.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CABI.development](https://www.facebook.com/CABI.development)

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