



EASTERN AFRICA PLANT GENETIC  
RESOURCES NETWORK (EAPGREN)  
PROJECT, PHASE II

PROJECT INCEPTION WORKSHOP, 27-29 OCTOBER  
2014, BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI



Capacity development for conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for agricultural productivity, resilience and sustainable livelihoods in ECA



The event is organized in two different phases, the project official launching including presentations and discussions at "La Détente Hotel" in Bujumbura on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and field visit in Murongwe on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014). The Assistant to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in Burundi, Mr Boniface officially launched the project. The Executive Director of ASARECA was represented by Dr Jean Ndikumana, Program Manager of livestock and fisheries who highlighted the importance of the project for the country and the region. The Director General of ISABU welcomed participants and presented the vision, mission and Research strategy of ISABU.



Other presentations included EAPGREN project background and activities by the Project Officer ASARECA, Mr Jean R. Gapusi, Dr Dan Kiambi, Principal Investigator for the Regional component of the project, Scientists from both National Agricultural Research Institute (ISABU) and University of Burundi. All speakers highlighted the importance of this project for food security and improved livelihoods through safe conservation and use of plant genetic resources.

Participants were from different institutions including Ministry of agriculture and livestock, ISABU, University of Burundi, ASARECA, ABCIC, Agricultural extension officers, NGOs, farmers' association leaders, public and private sector, etc.

The second phase will run from 2004-2008. The importance of a well established partnership for the project implementation was highlighted as key engine for the success. It was therefore recommended to create a National Steering Committee encompassing representation of major stakeholders of the project. Participants from both public and private sector shared other experiences in plant genetic resources management.