



KENYA AGRICULTURAL & LIVESTOCK RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

STATEMENT FROM KALRO ABOUT THE GATES FOUNDATION ON CONTINUED SUPPORT THROUGH A NEW COMMITMENT OF \$300MILLION FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE

Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization's (KALRO) national mandate is to promote, streamline, co-ordinate and regulate research in crops, livestock, genetic resources, biotechnology and animal diseases; expedite equitable access to research information, resources and technology and promote the application of research findings and technology in the field of agriculture and livestock.

Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation (BMGF) is guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, Washington, the foundation is led by CEO Dr. Susan Desmond-Hellmann and Co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.

Climate change continues to change the way farmers produce food crops for their families, and it also threatens to reduce returns. Most small holder farmers livelihoods may be challenged due to climate changes related pressures. In view of the above climate challenges, there is a crucial need to avail to the small holder farmers with modern tools and technologies that will enable their crops to be more resilient, productive, and sustainable.

KALRO has been partnering with BMGF under research and development to develop more productive and nutritious varieties of the staple crops grown and consumed by farming families. These include varieties adapted to local conditions that deliver specific benefits farmers seek, such as increased yields, better nutrition, and tolerance to drought, flood, and pests. We fund research to discover ways to better manage soil and water resources and reduce crop loss due to spoilage, weeds, pests, disease, and other threats.

In Agricultural Policies timely, relevant, and accurate information is crucial to farmers. Policymakers in Kenya need good data for informed decision making. BMGF have been supporting data collection, research, and policy analysis to help evaluate the impact of various approaches, get accurate information to farmers, and assess the effects of national and international agricultural policies. They also undertake research in measuring the progress of their grants to ensure that they are delivering the anticipated benefits to farming families.

In Livestock as a key part of farming in Kenya and which is crucial to the livelihoods of more pastoralists and small scale livestock keepers in Kenya. BMGF have supported efforts to improve the health and productivity of livestock—particularly chickens, goats, and cows—by improving animal genetics and veterinary care. To ensure that farmers can benefit from animal health and genetics technologies, they test models for providing farmers with the knowledge and tools they need to increase their on-farm production and connect to stable markets. They have been aiming to particularly increase income-generating opportunities for women, who may have little control over productive resources such as land but sometimes own and control livestock, especially poultry and goats.

Overtime with the modern technologies BMGF have been supporting efforts to get new and appropriate tools and farming practices into the hands of farmers. This includes improved seeds and access to better soil, water, and livestock solutions. Partner to strengthen knowledge exchange through technologies such as mobile phones and radio. Work with farmers' organizations to help farmers hone their business management skills, gain greater purchasing power and marketing leverage, and improve their crop and resource management skills. Additional priorities include helping farmers improve their storage and post-harvest activities, meet quality and quantity commitments, link to large-scale and reliable markets, and establish partnerships with buyers, processors, and farmers' organizations.

The announcement by the Gates Foundation on continued support through a new commitment of **\$300million** for R&D in Agriculture for the next three years for Africa and Asia comes at an opportune time. We in Kenya, and more so in the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization welcome this continued support in research.

The Gates Foundation's announcement is a direct answer to the concerns expressed by developing economies in their plans in agriculture namely; crop development, crop protection and good crop management practices. The commitment shall contribute immensely towards increased product delivery to the small holder farmers, increased food production and nutritional security and improved livelihoods. The embracing of the modern biotechnology tools will continue to contribute towards the wider options that the small holder farmers in Africa will have at their disposal in fighting the emerging challenges of recurrent drought, maize lethal necrosis, fall army worms, heat stress, and climate changes.

We strongly support Rodger Voorhies statement that "Agriculture is not only a good investment for families, but a vital driver of prosperity and abundance. We invest in agricultural transformation because we have seen its power to reduce poverty, foster savings, create jobs and ensure that nutrition, healthy food is available"

The Gates Foundation's support shall contribute strongly towards helping farmers to increase crop yields, respond to climatic and environmental pressures, and adapt their farming systems to climate change as well as ease the access to market by small scale farmers over the next three years.



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