



Annual planning meeting: Improvement of banana for smallholder farmers in the Great Lakes Region of Africa

Date: 23- 25 April 2018

Host: Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) Arusha, Tanzania.

Venue: Conference Hall.

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) (www.iita.org) is coordinating a five-year multi-partnership project titled '*Improvement of banana for smallholder farmers in the Great Lakes Region of Africa*'.

The project aims to expand and speed up existing breeding efforts of cooking banana in Tanzania and Uganda to develop and deliver to farmers higher yielding improved hybrids, which are resistant to diseases (black Sigatoka and Fusarium wilt) and the pests (weevils and nematodes).

The annual planning meeting will bring together all the project's implementing partners to:

- Present, reflect and assess achievements of the first three and a half years of the project in relation to the Results Framework and Results Tracker;
- Identify weaknesses and areas to strengthen
- Strengthen team collaboration and coordination

Partners:

- Tanzania
 - Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) and Agriculture Research Institute – Horticulture Research Institute (ARI-Horti)-Tengeru Uganda: National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO)

- International:
 - Bioversity International in Belgium
 - University of Queensland in Australia
 - KU Leuven University in Belgium
 - Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (EMBRAPA) in Brazil
 - Institute of Experimental Botany- Czech Republic
 - National Research Center for Banana (NRCB) in India
 - Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Sweden
 - Stellenbosch University (SU) in South Africa
 - Boyce Thompson Institute (BTI) in USA
 - University of Malaya (UM) in Malaysia
 - Weill Cornell Medical College
 - Cornell University David H. Murdoch Research Institute,
 - University of North Carolina at Charlotte,

For more information about the project, please visit www.breedingbetterbananas.org