



Economic Commission for Africa

A service of the UN system-wide support to the African Union and its NEPAD Programme

# NEPAD TODAY

Every Wednesday

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## NEPAD launches Development Platform

The African platform for Development Effectiveness (APDev) that is expected to coordinate the development agenda for the continent has been launched in Ethiopia.

Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and African Union Commissioner for Economic Affairs Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba, launched the initiative on Sunday at the United Nations Conference Centre in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

Under the joint coordination of the AU and NEPAD Agency, APDev is a physical and virtual multi-stakeholder platform and organizing mechanism for mobilizing African policy makers towards achieving sustainable development results.

“The platform focuses on three inter-related core drives for development effective. Importantly, APDev seeks to foster knowledge and evidence-based innovation processes,” said Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO of NEPAD Agency.

“APDev platform underscores the importance of promoting AU/NEPAD core principles of ownership and leadership,” said Mkwezalamba.

It is hoped that the platform will provide space for the AU and its member states, the

Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other stakeholders, including parliaments, civil society organizations and the private sector to promote mutual learning and knowledge exchange on best practices towards the ultimate objective of better outcomes.

For full story: [http://www.nationmw.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=16761:nepad-launches-new-platform&catid=11:business-news&Itemid=4](http://www.nationmw.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16761:nepad-launches-new-platform&catid=11:business-news&Itemid=4)

## New programme to spur farm science in East Africa

A new program that provides grants to bioscientists working to improve food production and environmental management in eastern Africa was launched at the Nairobi headquarters of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

The newly established Bioresources Innovation Network for Eastern Africa Development (Bio-Innovate) Program—the first of its kind in Africa—provides competitive grants to African researchers who are working with the private sector and non-governmental organizations to find ways to improve food security, boost resilience to climate change and identify environmentally sustainable ways of producing food.

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Chief of Section  
Kwabia Boateng

Editor

Yinka Adeyemi

Production Assistant  
Meseret Arega

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## New programme...

“By emphasizing innovations to help drive crop production in the six partner countries, Bio-Innovate is working at the heart of one of the region’s greatest challenges—that of providing enough food in the face of climate change, diversifying crops and addressing productivity constraints that are threatening the livelihoods of millions,” said Carlos Seré, ILRI’s director general.

Bio-Innovate works closely with the AU/NEPAD and its new Planning and Coordinating Agency, as well as with the councils and commissions for science and technology in eastern Africa, to encourage adoption of advances in biosciences. The program builds on AU/NEPAD’s Consolidated Plan of Action for Africa’s Science and Technology and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP).

In January 2010, when NEPAD and ILRI announced the grant to Bio-Innovate from Sida, the then CEO of NEPAD, Ibrahim Mayaki said “African governments are appreciating the importance of regional collaboration in science and technology which is enabling the continent to adapt to the rapid advances and promises of modern biosciences.”

“Bio-Innovate is an important platform for pooling eastern African expertise and facilities through a regional Bioresources Innovations Network,” says Claes Kjellström, Bio-Innovate Sida representative at the Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi. “We believe this program will enable cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary biosciences research and enhance innovations and policies that will advance agricultural development in the region.”

Source: <http://www.nepad.org>

## EC-ACP engages on-line bookshop for Africa’s universities

The Africa Hub of the EC-ACP has engaged Earthprint-SMI-Distribution Services Ltd., the official online bookshop of UNEP to facilitate the dissemination of publications, to tertiary institutes in Africa. Tertiary institutes in four African countries have already benefitted from this support.

The Hub is also providing additional financial support to the Abidjan Convention Secretariat for the organization of the 9th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central Africa Regions which is held from the 28th March to 1st April 2011 in Accra, Ghana. The Abidjan Convention is a component of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and is focused on the protection and development of the marine and coastal environment in the West and Central Africa regions.

*For further information please contact the African Hub coordinator Ms. Fatoumata Ndoye (NDOYEF@africa-union.org, fnjallow@yahoo.com)*

### Upcoming Event

- African Youth Forum  
1-9 April 2011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Conference on mobilising investment in infrastructure and agriculture in Africa - NEPAD-OECD Ministerial Conference, 2011.  
26-27 April 2011, Dakar, Senegal
- World Economic Forum  
3-5 May 2011, Cape Town, South Africa

**Please let us hear from you**

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