



NEWS RELEASE

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ISAAA repositions to meet new challenges!

The International Service for the Acquisition of Agribiotech Applications (ISAAA) AfriCenter is repositioning itself under a new BioTrust entity from January 1, 2022.

BioTrust is a consortium with an exclusive mandate of taking science out of the current crisis of trust by providing transparency and creating a new equation of social licensing among scientists, industry and the consumers. AfriCenter's repositioning is part of ISAAA's move to transition to the newly-founded consortium. The consortium also comprises ISAAA Southeast Asia Center and the Malaysian Biotechnology Information Center (MABIC). New members are invited to join the BioTrust to synergize efforts aimed at achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and beyond SDGs, social, economic and environmental sustainability targets.

This repositioning could not have come at a better time for AfriCenter which is now a fully independent entity with its own [governing Board](#) chaired by Dr. Robert Karanja of [Villgro Africa](#).

BioTrust will build on AfriCenter's strengths and accomplishments in the region and move its communications, policy advocacy and knowledge sharing activities beyond crop biotechnology. The expanded scope will include data-driven communication modalities on new breeding innovations through the Africa Coalition on Communicating about Genome Editing, novel future foods and the Africa Science Dialogue (#GetCrisprRight). The new AfriCenter will also extend to livestock environment and One Health approach. The new scope will inject more support towards applying food system's approach to sustainable food production and wellbeing with equity and gender responsiveness at the core.

With an outstanding record of achievements during its 29 years of operation, ISAAA has built up the only global network of like-minded organizations and individuals dedicated to using science and technology in support of development goals.

[Dr. Mahaletchumy Arujanan](#) will be the inaugural Global Coordinator of the new BioTrust and will be based out of the MABIC in Malaysia through a collaboration with Monash University Malaysia. ISAAA's key asset, the Global Knowledge Center will continue to operate out of the IRRI campus in Los Banos, Philippines, but will be under the auspices of the new consortium.

BioTrust recognizes that there is increased politicization of science and skepticism of emerging sciences, especially in the areas of biosciences. Putting science at the forefront to influence policy actions, governance decisions and public behavior is important to allow science to achieve our sustainable goals.

We hope our current partners will continue to support us and join with us in this exciting new endeavor to take ISAAA AfriCenter to the next level through BioTrust.

For more information, please contact Dr. Margaret Karembu, MBS, Director, ISAAA AfriCenter at mkarembu@isaaa.org



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