

Capacity Building and Strengthening in Biological Nitrogen Fixation (BNF)

Training of Master Trainers: A five-day training workshop was held at Kisumu Hotel, Kisumu, Kenya (May 24-28, 2010) for training key specialists who will in turn train other stakeholders in their respective countries in the principles of rhizobial inoculants and legume technologies. The workshop brought together 24 participants (33 % women) from 8 countries in Africa, namely; Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. The facilitators of the workshop were drawn from N2Africa and other partner organizations. Specifically, the training sought to:

- equip key specialists with skills in legume and inoculant technologies required for conducting training programmes.
- give the facilitators and trainees the opportunity to share varied lessons, experiences, perspectives based on the methodologies developed on legume and inoculants technologies.
- to evaluate and adapt, for the local context, the legume and BNF training materials and plan the outline for a training programme to be delivered in the project countries (in-country training)
- to provide each participant with a full set of training materials which include: legume agronomy, rhizobiology, farmer mobilization, how to run a workshop for farmers and how to manage demonstrations and trials.



Plate 1: Participants in a Group Discussion



Plate 2: Participants during a Field Visit

Training of Master Farmers: A two day training workshop on Biological Nitrogen Fixation (BNF) and Grain Legume Enterprises was held in Western Kenya and led by FORMAT. The workshop was conducted in Busia, at the ARDAP Conference Center on 18 and 19 May 2010. The purpose of the training was to empower representatives of farmer associations, NGOs and other grassroots interests in the better management of grain legumes as a means of improving smallholder food production systems. This event will be replicated in seven other countries over the next few months and involved 40 master farmers. During the training course the participants learned and shared knowledge and experiences related to BNF and grain legume enterprises. At the end of the workshop the participants made action commitments for in-country master farmer trainings.

Frontiers in Nitrogen Fixation Training

An advanced course designed for updating of scientists and for PhD students working in the field of nitrogen fixation entitled "[Legume-rhizobium symbiosis: from molecules to farmers' fields](#)" will be held from 18th to 22nd October 2010 in Wageningen. We have an impressive group of resource people lined up to give the course so register early to secure a place.

<http://www.pe-rc.nl/database/Courses%20&%20Activities/PE&RC%20postgraduate%20courses/Legume%20rhizobium%20Symbiosis.htm>.