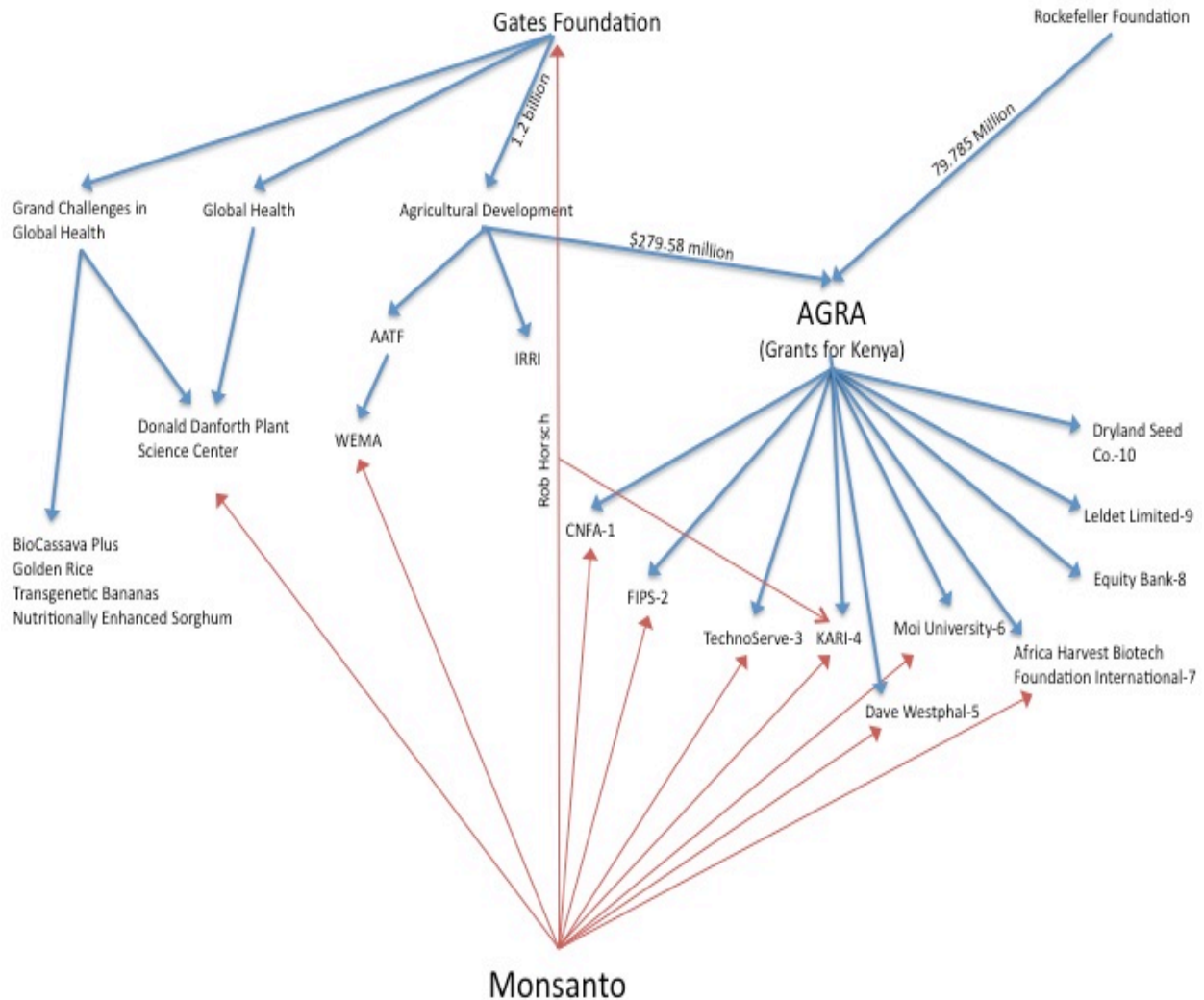


Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Fund Distribution: Gates Foundation Links to Monsanto & GE Crops Development in Kenya

Source: Travis English, AGRA Watch, a project of Community Alliance for Global Justice
Published 2010. Contact: agrawatch@cagj.org

AGRA Watch formed in 2008 to challenge the Gates Foundation’s participation in the problematic Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), and to support sustainable agro-ecological alternatives already practiced in Africa. We have witnessed acceleration in the push for genetic engineering (GE) as a “solution” to hunger in Africa, a criminalization of GE’s opponents as eco-imperialists unwilling to accept scientific advancements, and a misplaced reverence for philanthropic support for corporate solutions to global food issues. Corporate interests are clearly exhibited in the AGRA agenda, as seen below.

The Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation are partners in AGRA, and are also involved in other projects aimed at spreading the purported benefits of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in Africa. This diagram shows the institutions affiliated with AGRA that both the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Monsanto Corporation fund. It also shows the direct link between them through Rob Horsch, VP of International Development Partnerships at Monsanto for twenty-five years and current Senior Program Officer of the Gates Foundation’s Agricultural Development Program. See below for references that explain the linkages between AGRA grants/grantees and agribusinesses such as Monsanto and/or biotechnology.



AGRA Grants for Kenya

1) CNFA - Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs

GRANTS:

- Principal Investigator*: Mr. Caleb Wangia
Purpose: To develop national agro-dealer networks to improve access to agricultural inputs by small-scale farmers.
Amount: US\$4,473,851
Projected Duration: 6/1/2007 – 5/31/2010
- Principal Investigator: Mr. Jason Scarpone
Purpose: To continue activities that develop the business and technical capacity of agro-dealers and regional wholesalers.
Amount: US\$194,505
Projected Duration: 3/1/2007 – 6/30/2007

*Principal investigators are in charge of the grant and employed by the grantee

CONNECTIONS

To corporate agribusiness: CropLife Foundation, which is composed of Monsanto, Bayer, Dow, Syngenta, and Pioneer.

To biotechnology: Mariam Mayet sees their work as an entry point for GM seeds getting into Africa.

- “With the goal of developing substantive efficiencies in African agricultural production, CropLife Foundation joined with CNFA, Inc. to demonstrate the contributions that modern crop science technologies can make toward improving crop yields and freeing women and children from the back-breaking chore of hand weeding. “
- “In October 2008, 25 demonstration plots were established both in Kenya and Malawi, using crop protection products contributed by Bayer CropScience, Dow Agrosciences, Monsanto, Pioneer, a DuPont company and Syngenta Crop Protection through a network of agro-dealers supported by CNFA, Inc. “
- “If smallholder farmers used herbicides, there would be a 99% reduction in the hours required for weeding. “

Source: <http://deltafarmpress.com/news/african-weeds-1022/>

2) FIPS - Farm Input Promotions Africa Limited

GRANT:

- Principal Investigator: Dr. Paul Douglas Seward
Crop: Maize, beans, cassava, sweet potatoes
Purpose: To enable poor, smallholder farmers in Kenya and eastern Uganda to improve their farm productivity by: (1) facilitating access to improved varieties through promotional activities at farmer and stockist levels and (2) disseminating improved varieties of maize, beans, cassava and sweet potatoes through linkages created with available seed companies to offer seed in affordable quantities.
Amount: US\$238,600
Projected Duration: 6/1/2008 – 5/31/2010

CONNECTIONS

To corporate agribusiness: Advertise, demonstrate, and distribute Monsanto products.

To biotechnology: The connection to Monsanto makes them a likely candidate to distribute GM seeds.

- “FIPS-Africa worked closely with private sector seed and fertilizer companies to make the appropriate farm inputs available in small affordable quantities. For example, Athi River Mining made its new *Mavuno* fertilizers available in affordable 1 kg packets, and Western Seed Co. and

Monsanto donated several thousand 150g samples of its new disease-and drought-tolerant maize varieties. FIPS-Africa developed a promotion concept, whereby farmers purchasing a 1kg packet of fertilizer for KSh40 would receive a free sample of maize seed for free, and training on seed spacing and fertilizer placement.”

Source: http://fipsafrica.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14&Itemid=28

3) TechnoServe, Inc

GRANT:

- Principal Investigator: Fred Ojana
Purpose: To enhance food security and increase incomes of smallholder banana farmers in eastern and central provinces of Kenya by linking them to markets.
Amount: US\$896,033
Projected Duration: 1/1/2009 - 12/31/2010

CONNECTIONS

To corporate agribusiness: TechnoServe is funded by Monsanto Fund, Cargill, Nestle, Coca-Cola, and Nike.

4) KARI - Kenyan Agricultural Research Institute

GRANTS:

- Principal Investigator: Dr. Joseph Kamau
Crop: Cassava
Purpose: To breed early-bulking varieties of cassava, suitable for the different agro-ecological zones found in the three cassava growing regions of the central, western, and coast provinces of Kenya.
Amount: US\$184,222
Projected Duration: 3/1/2007 – 6/30/2010
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Clement Kamau Karari
Crop: Sorghum
Purpose: To develop sorghum hybrids and a hybrid seed delivery system to promote adoption in smallholder farming communities in semi-arid Kenya.
Amount: US\$185,000
Projected Duration: 4/1/2007 – 6/30/2010
- Principal Investigator: Ms. Laura Karanja
Crop: Sweet Potato
Purpose: To develop early-maturing, high-yield sweet potato varieties with resistance to important viruses and pests, and possessing improved food quality, nutrition, storability, and wide adaptability.
Amount: US\$185,365
Projected Duration: 7/1/2007 – 6/30/2010
- Principal Investigator: Dr. James Gichuru Gethi
Crop: Maize
Purpose: To develop and promote new maize hybrids which are drought tolerant, resistant to storage pests and efficient in nutrient use for farmers in the dry and humid regions of Kenya.
Amount: US\$184,984
Projected Duration: 11/1/2007 – 10/31/2010
- Principal Investigator: Dr. James Gichuru Gethi
Purpose: For use by KARI-Katamani to enhance its irrigation facilities in order to improve the efficiency of the crop improvement research process and assure provision of better crop varieties to resource-poor farmers of eastern Kenya.
Amount: US\$188,697
Projected Duration: 5/1/2008 – 4/30/2009

- Principal Investigator: Mr. Philip Onyimbo Kwena
Purpose: To develop new, high-yielding maize varieties with broad adaptation and combined multiple stress resistance for mid-altitude zones of western Kenya, in order to improve food security and household incomes for smallholder farmers.
Amount: US\$182,600
Projected Duration: 1/1/2009 - 12/31/2011
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Reuben M. Otsyula
Crop: Bean
Purpose: To produce and disseminate seed of improved high-yielding and disease resistant bean varieties.
Amount: US\$163,693
Projected Duration: 11/1/2007 – 10/31/2010
- Principal Investigator: B. Musyimi Muli
Crop: Cassava
Purpose: To enable small-scale farmers in the Coastal Province of Kenya to easily access high-yielding and disease resistant new cassava varieties as a means to achieve increased food security, household income and a better livelihood.
Amount: US\$183,316
Projected Duration: 7/1/2008 – 6/30/2011
- Principal Investigator: Mr. David Mbakaya
Purpose: To increase the use of lime and other soil acidity management technologies on smallholder farms in order to increase productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers of western Kenya.
Amount: US\$510,003
Projected Duration: 5/1/2009 - 4/30/2012

CONNECTIONS

To corporate agribusiness: Monsanto, Syngenta, DuPont. Monsanto trained many of the scientists at KARI, including Florence Wambugu, who founded Africa Harvest – a grant recipient of AGRA. Rob Horsch worked with KARI in the 1990s to create GM sweet potato.

To biotechnology: Research and development regarding GM technologies.

Public-Private Partnerships

1. Tissue culture bananas – Africa Harvest, KARI, Du Roi (South African company) in partnership with Genetic Technologies Limited, Nairobi (Suresh Patel), ISAAA, ABSF (for public perception), TechnoServe (US NOGO, marketing), DuPont (funding).
2. Insect resistant maize for Africa (IRMA) – AATF, KARI, CIMMYT, Syngenta Foundation.
3. Virus-resistant sweet potato – Partnership with Africa Harvest, Monsanto, KARI, KEPHIS.
4. "KARI and Monsanto have formed a partnership to develop Bt cotton and Bt maize using local varieties. The partnership agreement clearly spells out that KARI and Monsanto will own the products, but the decision on how the royalties will be shared will be made when the products are ready" (CTA website).
5. "KARI is developing a transgenic sweet potato obtained from Monsanto and transgenic cassava from the Danforth Center (USA)" (CTA website).

5) Dave Westphal

GRANT:

- Principal Investigator: Mr. Dave Westphal
Crop: Maize
Purpose: To assist small and medium-sized seed companies in Africa to develop hybrid maize seed production and processing.
Amount: US\$102,400
Projected Duration: 2/15/2009 - 4/30/2009

CONNECTIONS

To corporate agribusiness: Westphal is the former VP of Cargill, and Monsanto's former Area Co-Director for Sub-Saharan Africa. Most recently he was Chief Operating Officer of Holden's Foundation Seeds (owned by Monsanto).

6) Moi University

GRANTS:

- Principal Investigator: Professor Miriam Kinyua
Purpose: To provide training in crop improvement to young scientists from Kenya and other selected countries in eastern and southern Africa.
Amount: US\$238,400
Projected Duration: 10/1/2007 - 9/30/2009
- Principal Investigator: Professor Samuel Gudu
Crop: Maize
Purpose: To develop maize varieties tolerant to low phosphorous and aluminum toxicity for growth in acid soils of Kenya.
Amount: US\$185,000
Projected Duration: 10/1/2007 - 6/30/2010

CONNECTIONS

To biotechnology: Moi University supports GMOs as a model to end hunger. They research and develop GM seeds and have collaborated many times with KARI. Prior to being a professor at Moi University, principal investigator Miriam Kinyua was the Center Director of the station dedicated to wheat research at the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI). She is the creator of Golden Wheat. Principal investigator Samuel Gudu lectures on the benefits of GMOs.

7) Africa Harvest Biotech Foundation International

GRANT:

- Principal Investigator: Dr. Rose W. Njeru
Purpose: To scale out the benefits of the tissue culture banana through improved production efficiency of high quality banana fruit that can fetch competitive market prices.
Amount: US\$585,000
Projected Duration: 5/1/2009 - 4/30/2011

CONNECTIONS

To corporate agribusiness: Florence Wambugu is the director of Africa Harvest, trained at Monsanto. Partners with Monsanto, KARI, and KEPHIS on GM projects such as virus-resistant sweet potato.
To biotechnology: Advocates for GM seeds.

8) Equity Bank Ltd.

GRANT:

- Principal Investigator: Henry Karugu
Purpose: For a guarantee fund to facilitate access to credit facilities for poor smallholder farmers, agro-dealers and other players in the smallholder farming value chain in Kenya.
Amount: US\$2,500,000
Projected Duration: 5/1/2008 - 4/30/2012

CONNECTIONS:

To corporate agribusiness: Monsanto and Equity Bank sponsored workshops at the 2nd African Grain Trade Summit in 2007.

9) Leldet Limited

GRANT:

- Principal Investigator: Mr. Nigel Leakey
Purpose: To produce, promote and distribute improved seed of orphan crops for use by small-scale farmers in arid and semi-arid areas of Kenya.
Amount: US\$163,000
Projected Duration: 11/1/2007 -- 11/1/2008

CONNECTIONS

Very little information found. Works with other organizations: "Leldet Seed Co. and KARI Seed Unit have started extensive small pack marketing, with critical FIPS outreach support."

10) Drylands Seeds Limited

GRANT:

- Principal Investigator: Mr. Ngila Kimotho
Purpose: To produce, promote and distribute improved seed varieties for use by small-scale farmers in arid and semi-arid areas of Kenya.
Amount: US\$150,000
Projected Duration: 11/1/2007 -- 12/31/2009

CONNECTION

To corporate agribusiness: Sells Monsanto products, such as Round-Up.

Of Interest:

Drylands Seeds Limited was once known as KK Mkulima. They were part of a test study, performed by USAID, to determine which agro-dealers were capable of best marketing new and improved inputs. They were in the top three and were granted a seed producer license. Two USAID officials helped launch the new Drylands Seeds Limited, formerly KK Mkulima.