

PRESS RELEASE

AfrII stresses need to focus on intensive production of drought tolerant crops for food security
KAMPALA, October 14 2016- Today, the world is witnessing an unprecedented wave of food crises/ emergencies linked to climate change and natural disasters. This has largely affected the food security issue and this can have severe consequences for long –term food sustainability, says Africa Innovations Institute (AfrII).

The need to strategize and come up with effective measures to curb this is a practical approach that can help farmers out there understand the changes in climate and what it means for their crops to survive, what can be done and what foods should come in play to address issues of food security and nutrition.

“First of all, advancing food security in achieving SDG 2: Zero hunger is crucial and to get there, we need to focus on farming drought tolerant crops like cassava, sweet potatoes and sorghum. These are crops that adapt to the most-harsh temperatures like the dry spell but also there is a lot we can get from these crops like being assured of both food and nutrition security” says Professor George William Otim -Nape, the C.E.O Africa Innovations Institute (AfrII) speaking to the media.

People out there need to clearly understand the contribution of these crops, their benefits (Wealth, health and commercial. He urged the Government to ensure that farmers get access to high yielding improved varieties of these crops to sustain production for these crops have a positive effect on economic growth and poverty reduction. Meanwhile, in his remarks Mr. Francis Alacho CAVA II Uganda Country Manager, said that the threatening food crises affecting Uganda are worrying yet Uganda is a country that is rich in soil fertility and can solve its food crisis issues.

“For Uganda to suffer with food shortage is a topic that is worrying. While more and more is being put in the ground, there is need however for farmers to adopt good agricultural practices including better harvesting techniques, storage” Mr Alacho said.

The remarks come ahead of this year’s commemoration of the World Food Day (16 October 2016) that focuses on ‘Climate is changing. Food and Agriculture must too’.

The Africa Innovations Institute (AfrII) is an indigenous, not-for-profit non-governmental Centre of excellence, established in 2005 and based in Kampala, Uganda.

AfrII undertakes agricultural research and innovations that transform the lives and incomes of smallholder farmers while ensuring food and nutrition security and environmental sustainability. The institute brings together leading experts in agricultural and food systems innovations in Africa to adequately explore global science and the best innovations for accelerated agricultural development in Eastern Africa through participatory and consultative processes

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