



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **International research collaboration aims to boost food security for Africa through crop improvement**

**Zaria, Kd. (January 5, 2024)** — A group of scientists and agricultural leaders across three continents have joined together to develop improved crop varieties that meet the specific needs and circumstances of smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa.

The alliance brings together African research organizations including Ghana's [Savanna Agricultural Research Institute](#) of the [Council for Scientific and Industrial Research](#) (CSIR-SARI), [Nigeria's Institute for Agricultural Research](#) (IAR), and the [African Agricultural Technology Foundation](#) (AATF). Additional partners include Australia's national science agency the [Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation](#) (CSIRO), the [Donald Danforth Plant Science Center](#), and [Bill & Melinda Gates Agricultural Innovations](#) (Gates Ag One).

By 2050, nearly [one in four](#) of the world's population will be sub-Saharan African. Modelling indicates that African countries could meet this increased demand for food with full access to the latest agricultural innovations that would improve productivity between [two and three-fold](#). The alliance aims to address threats to crop yields, for instance, from pest and disease outbreaks.

There is a strong correlation between agricultural growth and economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa. Economic growth through agriculture is an estimated [11 times more effective](#) at reducing poverty than other sectors.

Africa's 33 million smallholder farms produce 70% of its food supply, yet they often lack access to the productive resources they need to thrive. In some countries, only 10% of smallholder farmers have access to the latest generation seeds or planting material.



The alliance is committed to working together to accelerate crop research and development that serve the unmet needs of smallholder farmers in the region.

### **About IAR Samaru:**

**The Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR) Samaru** Nigeria is a distinguished organization with a dedicated focus on advancing innovative agricultural research to address the critical needs of smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. Committed to a resolute mission, IAR Samaru aims to provide fair access to the latest agricultural advancements, empowering smallholder farmers to bring about transformative changes in productivity, nutrition security, and climate resilience. Serving as a beacon of progress in agriculture and sustainable development, IAR Samaru actively contributes to broader objectives, including poverty alleviation, food security, and environmental sustainability. Through a commitment to research excellence, collaboration, and community engagement, IAR Samaru envisions a future where smallholder farmers play a central role in shaping resilient and prosperous agricultural landscapes. The organization actively forges partnerships to amplify the impact of its initiatives, employing a holistic approach that integrates cutting-edge research, capacity-building, and technology dissemination. Positioned at the forefront of positive change in the agricultural sector, IAR Samaru is dedicated to enhancing the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and fostering sustainable development in Nigeria and Sub-Saharan Africa. Learn more at <https://iar.gov.ng/>.

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