



Dr. Margaret Karembu, the current Director of ISAAA Africenter is a senior level environmental management specialist with considerable experience in biotechnology products' transfer to farmers and general biotechnology applications in Africa. Margaret has wide experience in participatory training and technology diffusion research on small-scale agriculture and gender dimensions of agri-biotechnologies. Immediate responsibilities involve planning and managing all aspects of ISAAA Africenter program that would facilitate transfer of agri-biotechnologies from the industrial countries to the developing world.

Of high priority is the implementation of a well conceived and focused portfolio of high quality projects that serve as models and creative delivery mechanisms for distribution of products to farmers for impact at the field level. One such project is the Evaluation and Transfer of Tissue Culture Banana Technology in East Africa where more than 5,000 farmers have benefited. In December 2000 this project won First Research Medal in the Global Development Network (GDN) awards for 'Science and Technology for Development' sponsored by the Government of Japan and the World Bank.

A science-communication educator, Margaret has been the coordinator of the Kenya Biotechnology Information Center (KBIC), a collaborative initiative between ISAAA and the African Biotechnology Stakeholders Forum (ABSF) on outreach and awareness creation on all aspects of biotechnology. She is author of the book "Understanding Environmental Communication" (with Wambui Kiai) Year 2000. She has made contributions to several international events, debates and working papers on biotechnology, the latest ones being the **Nuffield Council on Bioethics** Discussion paper on *The Use of Genetically Modified Crops in Developing Countries* (2004) and the **Panos Report** on *The GM Debate – Who Decides? An Analysis of Decision-Making about Genetically Modified Crops in Developing Countries* (2005).