



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**Tropical Soil Biology and
Fertility Institute of CIAT**

**ANNOUNCE AN INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM ON
DECISION SUPPORT TOOLS FOR AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION, FERTILIZER RECOMMENDATIONS AND
CLIMATIC VARIABILITY**

Nairobi, Kenya

March 8–19, 2010

Program Fee: \$1,200 (by February 9, 2010) or \$1,400 (after February 9, 2010)



BACKGROUND

Agriculture and related activities provide the livelihood opportunities for 8 out of every 10 African workers. Yield-enhancing technologies, including improved seeds, crop protection products and integrated soil fertility management (ISFM) that includes inorganic and organic fertilizer materials, allow farmers to typically double, and in some cases, triple or quadruple yields.

Available technologies also enable farmers to minimize expenditures and reduce risks regarding the application of costly mineral fertilizers by combining them with organic nutrient sources, applying non-conventional fertilizers with “point placement” or use of decision support tools (DSTs) for improved crop recovery of nutrients.

The cost of mineral fertilizers often comprises the largest single component in the smallholder farmer’s overall costs of production. By reducing the cost of inputs, farmers can improve their net returns from agriculture. Simultaneously, improved yields offer market opportunities and associated improvements in food security.

IFDC and other partner organizations have engaged in research and development activities coupled with extensive field testing to validate decision support systems that can enhance decision-making at the smallholder farmer level. Such systems enable rapid assessment of more effective and economic combinations of locally available nutrient sources and inorganic fertilizers that farmers can apply on a site-specific basis to increase yields and income. These site-specific recommendations are developed within the framework of an assessment of climate variability and the potential for long-term climate change.

The workshop program “**Decision Support Tools for Agricultural Production, Fertilizer Recommendations and Climatic Variability**” will offer an opportunity to disseminate the results of the work of IFDC and other partner organizations while providing hands-on training in the application of decision support systems tools.



WORKSHOP PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The objectives of this two-week program include:

- **Increase participants' knowledge of decision support systems in improving the productivity of agriculture.**
- **Give hands-on use of decision support tools to address a wide array of production questions.**
- **Enhance participants' understanding of application opportunities for decision support systems to improve yields and *achieve resource conservation*.**

The program will enable those engaged in agricultural research and extension services to improve their ability to use geographic information systems (GIS) and modeling tools to collect, analyze and employ soil, weather and market information in systems to generate site- and crop-specific soil nutrient recommendations.

The course will improve participants' skills in integrating field data with DSTs and in the methods of disseminating and applying results that lead to better yields and higher profits.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This workshop is designed for agronomists, soil scientists, meteorologists and economists from national and international agricultural research institutes and universities in Africa as well as policy-makers from African governments and their Ministries in charge of agricultural productivity and planning.

WORKSHOP PROGRAM CONTENT

The course will cover all facets of fertilizer recommendation systems including risks associated with climatic and market fluctuations. Topics to be addressed by a faculty of experts will include:

- General introduction to fertilizer requirements, ISFM and DSTs
- Using existing soil, climate, crop and socioeconomic data and crop simulation models for ex-ante analysis of yields and market accessibility for strategic site selection
- Identifying yield gaps and plant nutrient demand for target yields
- Determination of optimal nutrient rates within the context of ISFM
- Designing field trials and data collection exercises
- Maintaining and updating nutrient recommendations
- Employing DSTs (DSSAT and PRDSS) for rapid analyses and recommendations
- Application of GIS and IDSS tools for site-specific recommendations

METHODOLOGY

The program will include formal sessions and breakout groups. Field trips and interactive discussions involving the participants and lecturers will be integral parts of the program, ensuring that specific interests of the participants are covered.

FACULTY

The program faculty will include subject matter experts from IFDC and partner organizations.

VENUE

The training will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, at the IFDC Regional Office, based on the ICIPE Compound—an excellent facility offering a fully equipped training center, a 37-room guesthouse with free WIFI Internet, and complimentary transportation to and from the airport. The IFDC Regional Office is within walking distance from the training center. Participants will be extended IFDC's special rate of US \$72 per person per day for full board and lodging. Coordinates are:

IFDC - East and Southern Africa Division

ICIPE Compound

Duduville-Kasarani, Thika Road

P.O. Box 30772-00100

Nairobi, KENYA

Direct Telephone: + 254 20 863 2720 Switchboard Telephone: +254 20 863 2000

Telefax: +254 20 863 2001 Web Site: www.ifdc.org

VISA AND MEDICAL INSURANCE

APPLICATIONS FOR NECESSARY VISAS SHOULD BE MADE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

Participants who are not eligible to enter Kenya without a visa should apply at the nearest Kenyan Embassy for a visa. All required immunizations and health formalities should be completed. Medical insurance should be obtained by participants. The workshop fee does not cover any medical insurance or expenses.

COST AND ENROLLMENT

The program fee for this two week training course is US \$1,200 per participant. This fee is due with enrollment but no later than **February 8, 2010**. A non-refundable deposit of US \$200 is required with each registration. The deposit will be credited towards the program fee, which is due 4 weeks before the program is scheduled. Thereafter a *Late Fee* in the amount of US \$200 will apply. The program fee, less the deposit, will be refunded for cancellations made 2 weeks before the commencement of the program; thereafter, 90% of the paid fee will be returned and 10%, in addition to the deposit, will be charged to cover administrative costs.

The workshop fee covers registration, training and reference material, coffee/tea breaks, all lunches, and surface transportation when applicable. The fee **does not** include air travel, lodging and dinner expenses, or medical and communication expenses. Participants should plan to arrive in Nairobi, Kenya, on Sunday, March 7.

Registration will be on a first come-first serve basis. Paid participants will receive priority. Payment of the program fee can be made by (1) check or draft payable to IFDC; (2) wire transfer to IFDC account in the U.S.A. through First Metro Bank, 406 West Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals, Alabama, U.S.A., ABA number 062203955 for credit to IFDC Account number 55281; or (3) major credit card—MasterCard, Visa, or American Express. Participants will be responsible for reservation and payment of accommodations at the ICIPE guesthouse.

ABOUT IFDC

IFDC is a nonprofit, public international organization (PIO) dedicated to increasing agricultural productivity and food production through the development and use of plant nutrients in sustainable crop production systems. Headquartered in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, U.S.A., IFDC is involved in human resource development, research and technical assistance in collaboration with public, private, national and international organizations throughout the world. IFDC has conducted more than 700 formal workshops, study tours and training programs for about 10,000 participants from 150 countries since 1974. The programs have covered a wide range of subjects including integrated soil fertility management and fertilizer use efficiency, fertilizer production technology, agro-input dealership, competitive marketing, supply chain management, investment analysis, policy reforms and numerous specialized topics.

ABOUT TSBF INSTITUTE OF CIAT

The Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility institute of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (TSBF-CIAT) is a research center specialized in soil fertility in the tropical regions. TSBF was founded in 1984 to develop capacity for soil biology as a research discipline in the tropical regions, and to conduct research on the role of soil biology in maintaining or improving soil fertility and combating environmental degradation, on the premise that biological management of soil fertility is an essential component of sustainable agricultural development. Since 1984, TSBF has been developing adoptable and suitable soil management practices that integrate the biological, chemical and socio-economic processes regulating soil fertility and optimizing the use of organic and inorganic resources available to the land users.

For more information:

Director, Training and Workshop Coordination Unit
IFDC

P.O. Box 2040

Muscle Shoals, Alabama 35662, U.S.A.

Telephone: +1 (256) 381-6600 Telefax: +1 (256) 381-7408

E-Mail: hrd@ifdc.org

Web Site: www.ifdc.org



Program Registration Form

**Decision Support Tools for Agricultural Production, Fertilizer
Recommendations and Climate Variability
Nairobi, Kenya – March 8-19, 2010**

Program Registration Fee:

**US \$1,200 if received before February 9, 2010 (without penalty)
US \$1,400 if received after February 9, 2010 (includes US \$200 Late Fee)**

Please complete this registration form and return with a US \$200 deposit* or full program fee payment to IFDC prior to February 9, 2010.

Please PRINT or TYPE your legal name as you would like it to appear on ALL printed materials

(Dr., Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss) Given Name (First Name) Surname (Last Name)

Position

Organization or Employer

Work Mailing Address

City State Country

Work Tel. No.: Fax No.: Home Tel No.:

E-Mail:

Organization/Company Funding Your Participation

Arrival Date and Time: Flight Number: Departure Date and Time: Flight Number:

Signature of Applicant Date

Signature of Employer/Funding Organization Date

*A non-refundable deposit of \$200 is required with each registration. The deposit will be credited towards the program fee, which is due four weeks before the program is scheduled. Thereafter a **Late Fee** in the amount of US \$200 will apply. The program fee, less the deposit, will be refunded for cancellations made two weeks before the commencement of the program; thereafter, 90% of the paid fee will be returned and 10%, in addition to the deposit, will be charged to cover administrative costs.