

# Partner Profile



## Kenya Agricultural Research Institute

KARI was established in 1979 as a semi-autonomous government institution through the amendment of the Science and Technology Act Cap 250, following the collapse of the East African Community (EAC) in 1977. The new institute took over research activities from the East African Agricultural and Forestry Research Organization (EAAFRO), East African Veterinary Research Organization (EAAVRO) and later the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock Development. Further, in 1986 the Kenyan government recognized the challenge to meet long-term food production constraints in the country as recognized in Sectional Paper No. 1 of 1986 entitled "Economic management for renewed growth." More recently, the Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Production Institute (KEVEVAPI) and the Kenya Tripanosomiasis Research Institute (KETRI) have been integrated into KARI. The government has recognized the need to further strengthen its agricultural research system by placing these research centers under KARI to create an institutional framework to effectively manage, organize and consolidate agricultural research within the country.

KARI envisions a vibrant commercially oriented agricultural sector, propelled by innovative technologies, knowledge and approaches that respond to demands and opportunities. The institute's mission is to contribute, together with its partners, agricultural innovations and knowledge towards improved livelihoods and commercialization of agriculture through increasing productivity and fostering value-chains while conserving the environment.

### What is KARI's role in the SASHA project?

As the main government actor involved in agricultural research, KARI is involved in the different SASHA components located in Kenya. The linkages made between KARI, the Ministry of Agriculture's extension workers and the SASHA project will ensure the sustainability of the projects after the close of SASHA in 2014.

More specifically, KARI has been deeply involved in both the Animal Feed component with the East African Dairy Development project and in the Mama SASHA project in Western Kenya, along with the Ministry of Health's extension workers. In these projects, KARI has been instrumental in providing technical backstopping.





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## Ms. Mary Anyango Oyunga

Research Scientist, Crops Department

Ms. Mary Oyunga is a nutritionist, with expertise in community nutrition, having worked as a public health extension worker in the KARI Crops Department over the past 20 years. She is also the recipient of the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development fellowship, a 2-year post-Master's program supported by the CGIAR and Rockefeller Foundation that pairs African female scientists with a mentor to guide them through their professional careers. Ms. Oyunga completed her Master's in Public Health and Epidemiology at Kenyatta University before being taken on a 4-month attachment at Emory University, under the guidance of Dr. Aimee Webb, through the AWARD fellowship before completing her fellowship working with the Mama SASHA project for 5 months.

Ms. Oyunga has been involved extensively with the Mama SASHA project since the development of the project proposal, having previously been involved in the USAID-funded APHIA II project. Her role within KARI and expertise in her field has allowed her to also play a key role in advising on issues of clean planting material and on the coordination of the baseline survey and subsequent project reports.