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PRESS RELEASE

BiosafeTrain has been selected by the World Bank as one of the innovative projects in agricultural development in Africa. The project was invited to take part at a discussion meeting that will take place on 12-14 May 2008 in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, with the central topic "Developing Agriculture and Food Industry Innovation in Africa."

The forum is focused on agriculture, food industry, rural energy, and physical environment (including water) and will discuss the types of interventions required to stimulate innovation and technology diffusion in six selected countries (Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda) as well as Africa as a whole.

The selection was based on whether the case studies included the development, dissemination and application of agriculture, food industry, rural energy or physical environment technologies and each case study was then ranked according to four key criteria: 1) achieved scale; 2) private sector involvement; 3) agricultural producer organization participation; and 4) contribution to poverty reduction.

The forum is sponsored by The Government of Denmark and the World Bank with support from the Government of Ireland and the Global Development Network.

BiosafeTrain is a DANIDA/funded Enhancement of Research Capacity (ENRECA) project, that assists East African countries to make informed, responsible decisions about the adoption of transgenic plants by enhancing their capacity in the area of biosafety and ecological impact assessment. The collaborating scientists are from the

University of Nairobi and Kenya Agricultural Research Institute in Kenya, Makerere University in Uganda, University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, and Aarhus and Copenhagen University in Denmark.

The project started in December 2004 and is currently in its second phase. The expected duration is 9-12 years by which time the collaborating countries will have trained personnel, protocols and facilities that enables them to fulfil their obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

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