Agro-Biotechnology for Improving Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa. (C07-ortiz094312-Oral)

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Abstract:

The staple foods of Africa (e.g. cassava, yam, cooking banana, plantain, cowpea) feed tens of millions of poor people daily yet receive relative little attention from the biotechnology industry, because they are not major cash crop commodities. These crops are mostly consumed in the home or villages. The strategy for agro-biotechnology research at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) is to appropriately apply biotechnological theory and tools to the implementation of its research agenda and to evaluate and demonstrate their effectiveness and efficiency in contributing to achieving the mission of IITA and thus to improved agricultural productivity and food security, reduced poverty and the effective management and conservation of natural resources for sustainable agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

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