



## Kenya wins accolades for agriculture innovations

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Kenya has won accolades globally for spearheading cutting edge home grown innovations in agriculture and environmental conservation that are cited in a landmark publication entitled "State of the World 2011: Innovations that Nourish the Planet."

The book was launched recently in New York by Washington based Research outfit, Worldwatch Institute. Researchers at the Worldwatch Institute visited twenty five African countries and compiled innovative projects that farmers, fisherman, pastoralists and slum dwellers are implementing to attain food security while maintaining a healthy ecological balance.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded this project whose overriding goal is to raise the visibility of nexus between improved farming practices and sustainable environmental conservation. The President of Worldwatch Institute, Christopher Flavin, told an international press corps in a teleconference that to achieve food security, "African governments must pay attention to the interconnection between agriculture and environment."

He reiterated that poor farmers must embrace innovations that boost agriculture productivity while stabilizing climate. Kenya has a total eight innovative projects out of the two hundred and fifty projects cited in twenty five countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Grassroots innovations in agriculture that include, organic farming, ecoagriculture, non tillage farming, urban agriculture, and low cost irrigation technologies are cited in the new book as novel approaches to attaining food security for the Kenyan urban and rural poor. Danielle Nierenberg, a Senior Researcher at Worldwatch Institute, visited the Country last year and noted that "interviews with pastoralists, women groups, aid agencies and policymakers brought out stories of hope and success in the use of traditional knowledge and practices to spur innovations in agriculture."