

SUCCESS STORY

Empowering African Innovation

USAID training graduate advocates for increased use of biotechnology in Kenya and across Africa



In March 2011, Kenyan farmer and university lecturer Gilbert arap Bor attended a USAID-sponsored change management and leadership training for agriculture professionals with the Africa Lead project. He credits the training with “revolutionizing (his) thinking and attitude towards food security.”

He had published before, but the training motivated him to start writing articles on food security, advocating for farmers' rights to choose the technologies they deem fit to aid in increased food production, as the government of his native Kenya currently does not allow the release of Genetically Modified seed to Kenyan farmers. Bor has now been published in national and international dailies, including the Wall Street Journal (Europe).

Photo: Truth about Trade and Technology/Mary Boote

Kenyan Gilbert arap Bor accepts the 2011 Kleckner Trade and Technology Advancement Award in Des Moines, Iowa

“I understand the urgent need to deal with food security in Africa... I have a very central role to play, both as an educator and a farmer.”

Responding to the workshop's challenge for participants to develop action plans to advance the food security agenda, Bor came up with the concept of setting up a "Center for Food Security and Enterprise Development" to be based at the Eldoret campus of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, where he teaches Marketing and Cooperative Management studies. Together with five other institutions, the center will promote entrepreneurship

in food security among farmers, communities, and small-to medium-sized businesses by providing skills training in integrated approaches to wealth creation and food security for the vulnerable poor in the region.

Due to these efforts, Bor received the 2011 Kleckner Trade and Technology Advancement Award, which recognizes a global farmer "who best exemplifies strong leadership, vision and resolve in advancing the right of all farmers to choose the technology and tools that will improve the quality, quantity and availability of agricultural products around the world."