

## Project Summary

Title	Promoting macropropagation technology to improve small-scale farmers' access to affordable high quality seedlings of banana cultivars with high market demand
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Purpose	The objective of this project is to promote adoption of alternative low cost macropropagation technology for producing banana seedlings.
Project Summary	Banana supports the livelihoods of millions of people in Africa but its production is greatly hampered by various factors, one of which is scarcity of good quality seedlings. Natural regeneration, which most farmers rely on, does not produce adequate seedlings of the desired varieties and is associated with high risk of pests and disease spread. More efficient propagation methods have been developed that include micro (tissue culture [TC]) and macropropagation. Though effective, TC is a knowledge and capital-intensive technology, which makes it less suitable for farmers in developing countries. Detached corm technique (DCT) is a high yielding banana macropropagation method that is easier to grasp and implement with minimal capital requirements, and is thus more suited to small scale farming conditions. This project aims to improve banana seed systems by creating awareness and generating knowledge to increase adoption of macropropagation as a more cost-effective and farmer friendly propagation method for banana varieties with

	high demand in Kenyan markets.
Country and Specific Location(s)	Districts: Kiambu, Maragwa, Muranga, Kandara (in Central province); Embu, Tharaka, Chuka and Meru (Eastern province) in Kenya
Participating Institutions	KARI, Kenyatta University, Farm and Community Technologies Ltd
Start Date	September, 2009
End date	September, 2011
Amount of Funding	USD 59,938

