

# AGRA Statement on the Report by Inkota

*Nairobi, 11 July 2020*

We are very disappointed by the report of Inkota and its members, based extensively on a report of Mr. Timothy Wise at the Small Planet Institute. AGRA is an African Institution that is open to critique and happy to share information with researchers and media. However, Mr. Wise has a history of writing unfounded allegations and uncorroborated reports about AGRA and its work. Our view on the report is that the basic academic and professional standards of peer review and asking the subject to comment on the 'findings' were not met. In the four cases studies mentioned, we were not aware of any 'Tufts University researchers' approaching AGRA's country teams or our partners, and counterparts are also unable to recall such a study taking place. As a result, we cannot comment on Mr. Wise's work, or on the Inkota report, as we have not been informed on their approach, data sources and analysis.

AGRA was founded upon an initiative by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in response to what he and other African leaders saw as the need for an African institution to drive a 'uniquely African' green revolution, distinct from other 'green revolutions' in Asia, for example. AGRA was founded to bring transformational change to agriculture across the continent of Africa, and to improve the lives of millions of smallholder farmers. It does this with and through African partners, identifying and deploying approaches that are appropriate to the continent. AGRA's work is done in collaboration with African governments and we partner with countries to help them implement the priorities and policies contained in their national agricultural development strategies.

Over the last 14 years, AGRA has achieved its successes, but has also learned a lot. The task of catalyzing transformation is difficult, and needs exceptional commitment, structural change and investment. AGRA will continue to refine its approach based on the needs of our partner farmers, SMEs and the priorities of governments. African farmers have shown huge potential when they gain access to high yielding, climate resilient and reliable seeds, finance and markets. We are convinced that smallholder farmers must be given at least the same opportunities as European, North American and Asian farmers.

AGRA's concern and agenda relates to the choices, rights and opportunities of smallholder farmers, and women farmers in particular. We are a powerful advocate across the continent and at the national level for smallholder farmers. We have learned over the past 10 years both how farmers want to be supported, including by ensuring environmental sustainability. In this regard, we are learning about and incorporating into our programme, adapted to the continent, developing principles of agro-ecology and food systems thinking.

At a time of tremendous challenge for Africa due to COVID-19, as well as other natural hazards, the rights and opportunities of smallholder farmers must be supported more. Africa has the potential to feed itself and the world, and now is the time to increase investment and support to the sector.

AGRA is an autonomous African Institution that brings the uniquely African voice to bear in shaping, executing and measuring progress on agriculture transformation. We uphold the highest standards of quality and results accountability to the countries in which we operate, and to our partners. Through our network of over 1,000 implementing partners across the continent and working with over 15 government agencies, we continue to drive forward the agenda of agriculture transformation.

For more information, please see [www.agra.org](http://www.agra.org), with our annual report at <https://agra.org/integration-and-scale-transforming-the-livelihoods-and-lives-of-smallholder-farmers-in-africa/>. Contact: [acox@agra.org](mailto:acox@agra.org)