



Ms Jane Karuku
President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
Eden Square
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P.O. Box 66773
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Nairobi, Kenya

1 May 2012

Dear Ms Karuku,

On behalf of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA), a global alliance of over 80 churches and church-related organizations with constituents in the tens of millions around the world, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment as the President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.

Arising from our concerns regarding persistent global hunger and the environmental impacts of unsustainable methods of food production, EAA members have been engaged since 2008 on a "Food for Life" campaign to promote just and sustainable food production, just and sustainable food consumption, and the human right to adequate food.

In taking on this role of AGRA president, you have placed significant emphasis on the importance of smallholder farming as a way of life in rural Africa, recognizing that, despite the many challenges, it provides a huge opportunity for a people-led transformation of the African continent driven by actors rooted in their territories and local communities. In our advocacy work on food security issues, we especially prioritize support for sustainable smallholder-led food production. We therefore share AGRA's focus on smallholder farming.

We were pleased to hear from Dr Tesfai Teclé (Special Advisor to Mr Kofi Annan) when he represented AGRA at an EAA-organized discussion forum on 29 February 2012 with the Archbishop of Canterbury on the topic of food security, HIV and human rights. Dr Teclé also kindly met with the EAA Food Strategy Group in March 2012 to discuss AGRA's work. We had an animated discussion on what kind of agriculture is best suited to improve food security of the poorest and most marginalized people throughout Africa. From our discussion, we learned that AGRA does not support the view that agro-ecological farming approaches hold the key to improving food security.

EAA members on the other hand, believe that agroecology has enormous potential to address food insecurity, poverty reduction and equity issues, and for sustaining the natural resource base of rural populations in Africa. We are currently preparing a paper on "Scaling Up Agro-Ecological Food Production" and will be pleased to share it with you in due course. We refer to documented evidence that agro-ecological and other forms of sustainable food production can increase yield while at the same time protecting the environment, by putting the ingenuity and experience of farming communities and enabling them to share, generate and apply knowledge so as to improve their resilience to climate change.

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We hope that, in your capacity as President of AGRA, we will be able to engage with you in discussions on:

- Appropriate ways to address the food, environmental and economic needs of Africa, including policy-level discussions on the balance between expensive input-based and knowledge-based regenerative farming systems.
- How AGRA is implementing the recommendations of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) report.
- How the successes of agroecology can be made more widely available to the African farmers who could benefit from them.

We believe that we are at a pivotal stage in agricultural development in Africa and, as you observed, that “transformation [could serve] as a ‘gift’ to the people of Africa and its future generations.” We also believe that the driving force for African rural transformation must be the people themselves, through a community-led approach that gives voice to the members of the actual farming communities upon which food security in Africa depends.

You have taken on a challenging role. We wish you success, and would welcome working with you to address the real root causes of hunger in Africa.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Prove', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

Peter Prove

Executive Director, Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance