

Introductory Remarks
Dennis Rangi, Director General, Development - CABI
African Member Countries Regional Consultation
Nairobi – 11th June 2025

Honorable Mutahi Kagwe, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development

Dr Kipronoh Ronoh P, Principal Secretary, State Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development

Dr Eliud Kireger, Director General, Kenyan Agricultural and Livestock Research and Development Organisation and CABI Liaison Officer for Kenya (and our Host)

CABI Board Members

CABI Member Country Representatives and Prospective Member Country Representatives

Our Donors and Partners from different institutions

My dear CABI Colleagues led by our CEO, Dr Daniel Elger

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

Firstly, allow me, on behalf of CABI and on my own behalf, to express our sincere thanks to you, Your Excellency for allowing to host this meeting in Kenya. I thank the different authorities of the Republic of Kenya for the warm

and fraternal welcome extended to the various delegations taking part in this event. In particular, I thank the Kenyan Agricultural and Livestock Research and Development Organisation headed by Dr Eliud Kireger, who is also our Liaison Officer for all the support and help in organising this regional consultation.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this meeting of our African Member Countries. I am extremely delighted to see such a strong turnout of CABI Member country representatives and development partners - many of you have travelled far to be with us here so thank you for the commitment and support that you continue to give us. Special thanks and welcome to our prospective member countries representatives from South Sudan represented by Dr. John Ogoto Lefuk Okeleng, Undersecretary for Food Security Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security; from Benin, Dr Eric Adossou, Head of Plant Protection and Phytosanitary Control Department And Central African Republic represented by Dr Ndedji Célestin, Chief of staff, Ministry of Environment and sustainability development.

There is therefore no question that the CABI family is surely growing.....!

I would also like to thank my colleagues for the work that has been done to make this meeting a reality!

As most of you know, CABI, is a membership organisation with MCs dotted around the world and so this meeting is the 2nd in a series of three regional consultation meetings that we are holding around the world. The first one was

held in Malaysia in February this year for the Asia Pacific region and the last one for the Americas and the Caribbean will be held in Trinidad & Tobago in September 2025.

These triennial meetings (regional consultations) are an important activity in CABI's calendar and those of our member countries. They present an opportunity for our Member Countries to provide input into CABI's plans and thus own them but more importantly, serve as a mechanism for CABI to listen and engage directly with its membership including facilitating exchanges between our MCs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

CABI is committed to working closely with our Member Countries and partners towards greater food and nutritional security, and a safe and sustainable future - which is the theme of this Regional Consultation. We hope that at this meeting, we can agree on how CABI can best address national/regional priorities by joint mobilization of resources and project development.

You will be hearing more about us and our work from our CEO, Dr Daniel Elger - about how we are responding to Member Country priorities and a recap on our current Strategy. My colleagues will give an overview of CABI project activities worldwide and explain in more details some of the selected strategic areas of CABI's work such PlantwisePlus, Integrated Landscape Management, Evidence for Policy – Juno.

You will also be hearing about our new offering on Pesticide Risk Reduction (PRR). As you all know, chemical pesticides are key to improving yields; however, evidence has shown that certain compounds or active ingredients have negative effects on human and animal health as well as the environment and that their use may raise some ethical concerns.

As an organisation, we continue to focus on making good on our promises to help build capacity of our member countries institutions to address the challenges facing them. We have done this for over 110 years of existence. For example, and as I mentioned last evening, we are trying to do more to address the youth in agriculture agenda. This is an emerging big problem on the continent. With an average age over 60 years, the African farmer is literally becoming extinct (without evident and clear succession) and this, should be a matter of concern for everybody because the elderly cannot be relied on to feed Africa's rapidly growing population. And as we know a problem in Africa is a problem in another part of the world – as we have seen with the migration crisis in Europe.

Lastly and as I conclude – we look forward to close interactions with representatives of our partner institutions – we need your buy-in, commitment and support to pursue the proposals emanating from this Consultation. And with the challenge of achieving Zero Hunger by 2030 upon us all, CABI believes on the need for greater and smarter partnership, We must become better partners, and better deliverers for Africa is certainly not in the sort of shape that any of us would like.

So once again, thank you for finding the time to be with us.

Thank you all very much.