

Profile – Dr Kwesi Atta-Krah

Summary Bio-data

Kwesi Atta-Krah is Deputy Director General of Bioversity International, a position he has held since June, 2005. From 2000 to June, 2005, he was the Regional Director for Bioversity (then 'IPGRI' – the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute) in sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to joining Bioversity International, he was with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Nairobi, Kenya, as Regional Director for East and Central Africa. He was also Coordinator for ICRAF's Agroforestry Research Network for East and Central Africa (AFRENA-ECA). Both Bioversity International and ICRAF are part of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) centres.

Dr. Atta-Krah has held scientific positions with two other centres of the CGIAR. He was a postdoctoral Fellow (1983–1985) with the International Livestock Centre for Africa (ILCA) – now ILRI. He continued with ILCA from 1985 to 1989, as Forage Agronomist and On-farm Research Coordinator. He later joined International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), from 1989 till 1993, and pioneered the initiation and coordination of AFNETA, an Africa-wide network on "Alley Farming for Tropical Africa", covering 22 countries. Earlier in his professional career, Kwesi worked as a Research Officer with the Crops Research Institute of Ghana from 1997 to 1999.

He has a Degree in Crop Science, with a specialization in Entomology, from the University of Ghana, Legon, an MSc in Forest Resources Management (1980) and a PhD in Natural Resources Management and Agroforestry (1984) both from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Professional Interests

1. Research and development in the general areas of Agriculture, Natural Resources Management, Farming Systems and Agroforestry, and their linkage with sustainability and environmental conservation issues.
2. Broad understanding and interest in the area of conservation and use of agricultural biodiversity, with particular interest in the on-farm conservation and in-situ conservation elements.
3. Experience and interests in networking and in inter-institutional and collaboration issues, having managed formal research networks, worked with a range of organizations and having been part of various teams and collaborative partnerships.
4. Research management and coordination. Special interest and experience in building synergy among teams and in promoting multi-disciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration in research and development efforts.

Kwesi is a citizen of Ghana. He is married to Felicia and they have three children (Maame; Adwoa; and Kenton).