

Dr. Simon T. Gichuki
Coordinator, KARI Biotechnology Programme

Contacts

KARI Biotechnology Centre,

P.O Box 57811

Nairobi 00100,

Tel: +254 - 20 – 4444137/144

Mobil: + 254-72813687/734331196

FAX: +254 - 20 - 4444144

E-mail: stgichuki@kari.org, stgichu@yahoo.co.uk,

- Attained a Ph.D. in Molecular genetics and Plant breeding at the University of Agricultural sciences, Vienna (Austria) in 2001. Carried out doctorate studies on genetic diversity and geographic differentiation of East African sweetpotato [*Ipomea batatas* (L.) Lam] using RAPD, AFLP and Ty-1 copia LTR S-SAP molecular markers. Attained an MSc. in Agronomy at Oklahoma State University (U.S.A.) in 1990 and a BSc in Agriculture at the University of Nairobi in 1987.
- Currently the Head, KARI Biotechnology Centre and Coordinator, KARI Biotechnology Programme since February 2005. This involves coordination of Biotechnology research and development in KARI. Has carried out research in simsim, greengrams, cassava, sweetpotato, sorghum and maize. Coordinated the breeding work of the first pilot project on promotion of orange-fleshed sweetpotato in Africa, now an international success story. Coordinated and participated in the first greenhouse and field testing of genetically modified maize, cassava and sweetpotato in Kenya. Current research interests include development and deployment of transgenic maize, sorghum and cassava as well as diversity studies on the three crops.
- A member of various committees for national and regional Biotechnology and Biosafety forums (OFAB, BioAWARE, ECABIO, BecANET, NBC etc). An active participant in biotechnology and biosafety policy development at the national, regional and international levels.
- Has authored and co-authored several publications, conference proceedings and reports