

# Icipe launches technology solution to help out farmers

By **NICHOLAS WAITATHU**

A RESEARCH company yesterday launched a new technology solution designed to help farmers in the country understand how to use Internet to maximise production as well as accessing markets.

Launching the project, the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) director-general Professor Christian Borgemeister said the idea will help in improving rural livelihoods by securing and increasing food production on a sustainable basis through the promotion of ecological sound methods in the spheres of human, animal, environmental and plant health among farmers.

The director stated that the

project dubbed Infonet Biovision 2012 will involve compiling and disseminating current and locally useful and adapted knowledge and information on ecological pest control, human and animal disease prevention and sustainable farming methods through an electronic information platform, accessible on the Internet.

The director made the remarks at Icipe headquarters during the opening of a four-day workshop of farmers, rural communities and research institutes among others.

Borgemeister explained that the idea is an application-oriented, clearly structured electronic information platform which targets individual farmers, their groups, goal-related local non

governmental organisations, Government origination and other entities in the areas of health and agriculture, who can get access to the most current and locally relevant information at any time.

“Our mission is to ensure local farmers have access to information on livestock and crops and one which are relevant to their locality.

This is based on the fact that a lot of content on the said components is available but not accessible to the farmers,” he said, adding that through the project farmers will be able to understand the modern technology principles.

He said farmers for long have been relying on old information about their livestock as well as

the crops; a scenario that has contributed to low production of food in the country.

The researcher clarified that the project will be undertaken to compile user relevant content through direct contact and feedback from farmer groups and others users, to adapt content with local relevant information and knowledge through a network of local and international scientific advisors.

Information permanent secretary Bitange Ndemo said as penetration of technology continue to thrive mainly in the rural areas the Government will endeavor to provide infrastructure to ensure local content is tapped and disseminated to the relevant users.