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Sustainable Animal Agriculture in Developing Countries: Application of New Technologies

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Introduction

Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, is facing a developmental crisis, much of which is attributed to stagnant or sluggish growth in the agricultural sector. FAO estimates that population growth in the region will outstrip food production capacities for a long time to come. In addition to the existing wide technology transfer gaps, there is a serious technology generation gap. Animal productivity is low and the improvement of animal nutrition and genetic make-up should be a high priority. While the priority for research should be to exploit existing potential, efforts to increase genetic adaptation to specific needs especially by breeding for resistance to major pests and diseases (tolerance for drought and other abiotic stresses, conservation and utilization of vast and veritable indigenous genetic resources, diversification, quality improvement and value addition, offer great promises. In all these fields, biotechnology can play an important role if complementing the current efforts through the use of conventional technologies (Qjmminghap, 1990; Delgado *et al.*, 1999).