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The UWA Institute of Agriculture

Food and Agriculture Lecture Series 2013

Lifting Africans out of Poverty

Prof. Ylva Hilbur

Deputy Director General for Research, International Institute for Tropical Agriculture

Date: Monday, 12 August 2013

Time: 5.00 - 6.00 pm

Place: MCS Lecture Theatre (Room G33), Bayliss Building

Parking: visitor parking along Myer St and Parkway; (alternatively:
free parking from 5pm in yellow and red bays on campus)



The refreshed strategy of the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, (IITA), sets clear targets – by 2020 the institute's research efforts will have contributed to lifting 11 million Africans out of poverty and to restoring 7.5 million hectares of land into sustainable use. To achieve this, the institute will strengthen its presence throughout the sub-Saharan region and continue to build strong scientific infrastructure and capacity in collaboration with national agricultural research organizations.

IITA's scientific focus is on biotech and plant breeding, social science and agribusiness, natural resource management/soil science, plant production and plant health. Nutrition, food technology and bioinformatics are examples of prioritized areas for future investment. IITA is fully engaged in the CGIAR Research Programs, CRPs, taking active part in nine of the programs and leading the "Integrated Systems for the Humid Tropics", Humidtropics.

IITA is also building public/private partnerships through a range of initiatives, e.g. strengthening the seed sector, and activities to stimulate youth employment and entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector.

Dr Ylva Hillbur was appointed as Deputy Director General for Research at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in August, 2012. During the six years preceding the appointment she was working at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), as Head of Department of Plant Protection Biology.

Dr Hilbur's background is in entomology and chemical ecology and her research focus has been on the development of sustainable plant protection strategies. Her long-standing collaboration with Addis Abeba University (AAU), Ethiopia has resulted in the establishment of an extensive network between SLU and AAU, focusing both on research and capacity building.

Dr Hilbur holds a PhD and has been an Associate Professor in Biology at SLU. She is also an Adjunct Associate Professor at Addis Abeba University, Ethiopia.

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