This book is a product of the Agricultural Innovation in Africa (AIA) project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Its production benefited greatly from the intellectual guidance and written contributions of the members of the AIA International Advisory Panel. In addition to providing their own contributions, the panel members have played a critical role in disseminating AIA’s preliminary findings in key policy and scholarly circles. The production of this book would not have been possible without their genuine support for the project and dedication to the cause of improving African agriculture.

We are deeply grateful to the information provided to us by Juma Mwapachu (Secretary General), Alloys Mutabingwa, Jean Claude Nsengiyumva, Phil Klerruu, Moses Marwa, Flora Msonda, John Mungai, Weggoro Nyamajeje, Henry Obbo, and Richard Owora at the Secretariat of the East African Community (Arusha, Tanzania) on Africa’s Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Sam Kanyarukiga, Frank Mugyenyi, Martha Byanyima, Jan Joost Nijhoff, Nalishebo Meebelo, and Angelo Daka (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Zambia) provided additional contributions on regional perspectives. We have benefited from critical insights from Nina Fedoroff and Andrew Reynolds (U.S. Department of
State, Washington, DC), Andrew Daudi (Office of the President, Lilongwe, Malawi), Norman Clark (African Centre for Technology Studies, Nairobi, Kenya), Daniel Dalohoun (AfricaRice, Cotonou, Benin), Andy Hall (UNU-MERIT, Maastricht, the Netherlands), and Peter Wanyama (Mohammed Muigai Advocates, Nairobi, Kenya). Additional information for the book was provided by John Pasek (Iowa State University, USA), Stephanie Hanson (One Acre Fund, Bungoma, Kenya), S. G. Vombatkere (Mysore, India), Akwasi Asamoah (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana), Jonathan Gressel (Weizmann Institute and Trans-Algae Ltd., Israel), Will Masters (Tufts University, USA), Martha Dolpen (African Food and Peace Foundation, USA), and C. Ford Runge (University of Minnesota, USA).

We would like to thank our dedicated team of researchers who included Edmundo Barros, Daniel Coutinho, Manisha Dookhony, Josh Drake, Emily Janoch, Beth Maclin, Julia Mensah, Shino Saruti, Mahat Somane, and Melanie Vant at the Harvard Kennedy School, and Yunan Jin, Jeff Solnet, Amaka Uzoh, and Caroline Wu at Harvard College, Harvard University.

Much inspiration for the structure of this book came from the results of a meeting of experts, “Innovating Out of Poverty,” convened by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris on April 6–7, 2009. It gathered state-of-the-art knowledge on agricultural innovation systems. We are particularly grateful to Richard Carey, Kaori Miyamoto, and Fred Gault (OECD Development Centre, Paris). Further input was provided by David Angell (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ottawa), Jajeev Chawla (Survey Settlements and Land Records Department, India), David King (International Federation of Agricultural Producers, Paris), Raul Montemayor (Federation of Free Farmers, Manila), Charles Gore (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Geneva), Paulo Gomes (Constelor Group, Washington, DC), Ren Wang (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, Washington,
DC), David Birch (Consult Hyperion, London), Laurens van Veldhutzen (ETC Foundation, the Netherlands), Erika Kraemer-Mbula (Centre for Research in Innovation Management, Brighton University, UK), Khalid El-Harizi (International Fund for Agricultural Development, Rome), Adrian Ely (University of Sussex, UK), Watu Wamae (The Open University, UK), Andrew Hall (United Nations University, the Netherlands), Rajendra Ranganathan (Utexrwa, Kigali), Alfred Watkins (World Bank, Washington, DC), Eija Pehu (World Bank, Washington, DC), and Wacege Mugua (Safaricom, Ltd., Nairobi).

Our ideas about the role of experiential learning has been enriched by the generosity of José Zaglul and Daniel Sherrard at EARTH University and their readiness to share important lessons from their experience running the world’s first “sustainable agriculture university.” We drew additional inspiration and encouragement from Alice Amsden (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA), Thomas Burke (Harvard Medical School, USA), Gordon Conway (Imperial College, London), David King (University of Oxford, UK), Yee-Cheong Lee (Academy of Sciences, Malaysia), Peter Raven (Missouri Botanical Garden, USA), Ismail Serageldin (Library of Alexandria, Egypt), Gus Speth (Vermont Law School, USA), and Yolanda Kakabadse (WWF International, Switzerland).

I am grateful to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and in particular to Gwen Young, Sam Dryden, Brantley Browning, Lawrence Kent, Corinne Self, Prabhu Pingali, and Greg Traxler for continuing support to the Agricultural Innovation in Africa Project at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs of the Harvard Kennedy School. I am also indebted to my colleagues at the Harvard Kennedy School who have given me considerable moral and intellectual support in the implementation of this initiative. We want to single out Graham Allison, Venkatesh Narayanamurti, Bill Clark, Nancy Dickson, Eric Rosenbach, and Kevin Ryan for their continuing support.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special credit goes to Greg Durham (AIA Project Coordinator, Harvard Kennedy School) who provided invaluable managerial support and additional research assistance. Finally, we want to thank Angela Chnapko and Joellyn Ausanka (Oxford University Press) and anonymous reviewers for their constructive editorial support and guidance.

New ideas need champions. We would like to commend Sindiso Ngwenya (Secretary General of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Lusaka) for taking an early lead to present the ideas contained in this book to African heads of state and government for consideration. The results of his efforts are contained in Appendix II. We hope that others will follow his example.