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TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION REPORT 2010

*Enhancing food security in Africa
through science,
technology and innovation*



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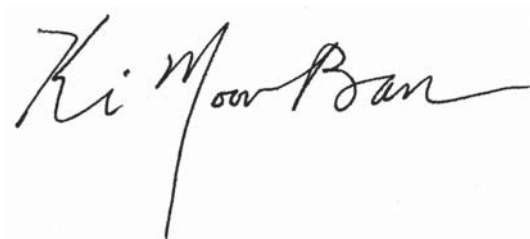
PREFACE

The increasing prevalence of malnutrition – there are now an unprecedented one billion hungry people in our world – provides dramatic evidence of the severely strained capacity of many developing countries to meet the minimum nutritional requirements of their people. Current estimates predict that the Earth will need to feed an additional two to three billion people over the next 40 to 50 years. This will exert enormous pressure on the productive capacity of agricultural systems across the world and will have important consequences for farmers and consumers everywhere. Tackling this challenge requires a radical rethinking of how food is produced, distributed and consumed globally.

Any changes in the world's food production and consumption patterns must go hand in hand with sustainable responses to several other equally critical challenges, such as reducing poverty, adapting to climate change and supporting rural development. Science, technology and innovation alone cannot provide all the solutions, but they must be key ingredients of the policy mix to achieve food security through sustainable, equitable agricultural systems.

UNCTAD's *Technology and Innovation Report 2010* focuses on the technological challenges that small-holder farmers in developing countries, especially sub-Saharan Africa, face in increasing agricultural productivity. It outlines the agricultural sector's challenges and the roles of technology and innovation in raising production and the income of small-holder farmers. And it describes readily available technologies that can be applied now to improve soils, manage water shortages and resist drought.

There is an urgent need to accelerate progress to meet growing demand and ensure synergy between food security goals, environmental sustainability and social equity. I look to all partners to advance this agenda through investment, research, technology transfer and stronger international cooperation. Together, we can help farmers in developing countries to produce more food for the world's growing population, reduce poverty and support global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ki Moon Ban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ki" and last name "Ban" being more prominent than the middle name "Moon".

BAN Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations

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