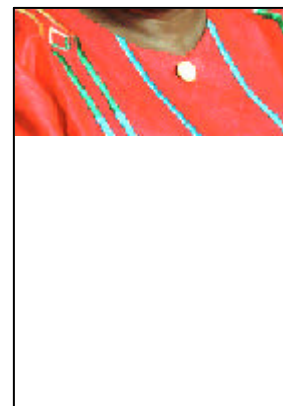


- > [NEPAD e-Schools are the top priority for Africa's young people](#)
- > [Each African country involved in its own e-Schools structure](#)
- > [e-Schools demo project is a critical first step](#)
- > [International network of experts for NEPAD's Agribusiness Initiative](#)
- > [Calendar of Events](#)

## NEPAD e-Schools are the top priority for Africa's young people



### *Ambitious 10-year programme*

he NEPAD e-Schools Initiative is an ideal NEPAD flagship project which

**T** goes to the heart of the priority areas focusing on Africa's young generation, preparing them for active and equal participation in the information society and knowledge economy.

This was the view of South Africa's Minister of Communications, Dr. Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri (above), when she opened a workshop convened in Johannesburg (13-15 May 2004) to discuss and approve the NEPAD e-Schools concept and implementation structure.

Invited to the workshop were representatives nominated by the 16 phase-one countries: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda.

The implementation of the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative is intended to lead to a steady and sustainable process in which young Africans graduate from primary and secondary schools equipped with skills which will enable them to function as equals in the emerging knowledge economy and information society of the 21st century.

**The implementation process involves:**

- **the installation of ICT (information and communication technology) equipment in the schools along with the associated software;**
- **the training of pre-service and in-service teachers to use this technology to impart ICT skills to the students as well as facilitate preparation and delivery of course materials in all other subjects;**
- **the use of ICT to develop appropriate course materials and make them available to schools and teachers.**

It also involves the establishment of an Africa-wide satellite network that will connect the schools to the Internet as well as to points within each country from which educational content will be fed to the schools on a continuous basis.

Implementation will also provide for systems and procedures to be in place to assure that the hardware and software installed in the schools will operate smoothly and reliably.

The NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) has endorsed a timetable for the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative which provides that implementation will be completed in 10 years from commencement (five years for the secondary school component).

While this timetable is ambitious, it is regarded as the minimum target for the continent. Its achievement will take serious commitment to harness collaboration and mutual support on a continental basis.

In addition, it will take concerted effort, a good organisation and substantial funding. At the core is the need for a first-class implementation structure.

[Back to top](#)

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## **Each African country involved in its own e-Schools structure**

**The e-Schools implementation structure proposed by the NEPAD e-Africa**

**Commission requires national execution with continental coordination. The core tasks of installing the hardware and software in the schools, deploying teachers and getting the children taught will be managed at national level, while the tasks of formulation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the project will be performed as a continental collaboration through the e-Africa Commission.**

The whole initiative, comprising activities at the national level and at the continental level, will be performed in the context of NEPAD.

The e-Africa Commission will be required to report periodically concerning progress on implementation of the project across the continent through the NEPAD Steering Committee to the Heads of States and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC).

At the national level, it is envisaged that a national implementation structure will be established by the government of each country, and will be charged with responsibility for the successful implementation of the project.

### **The e-Africa Commission**

The Commission is currently engaged in formulating and defining the NEPAD e-Schools Initiative. It has already performed a significant advocacy role in African and international forums to the extent that 'NEPAD e-Schools' is fast becoming an internationally recognised brand name.

The Commission has already developed a core corporate partnership for NEPAD e-Schools. The task ahead is to expand this partnership to include more African and international companies, development partners, the civil society and the foundations.

### **Satellite capacity and equipment**

One of the major functions of the Commission is to procure satellite capacity in bulk and to make it available for the connection of schools to the Internet.

The overriding motivation for this effort is to reduce the cost of airtime for access to the Internet by the individual schools. A subsidiary purpose is to optimise the use of scarce technical skills in the satellite field in a network which will serve the entire continent.

By establishing a common network and common operations for the continent, it is possible to optimise use of available skills as well as leverage the benefits of a large network and common standards to reduce the cost of equipment and technology.

The Commission will develop standards to ensure sound and effective operations of NEPAD e-Schools in a wide range of areas: technical, operational, educational, financial, procurement.

### **Teacher training**

ICT teacher training for secondary schools will be carried out through the African Virtual University. At the present time, the AVU has 39 learning centres in 21 countries. The AVU satellite infrastructure will be expanded to encompass other African countries in the next two years.

The Commission, together with its partners, is discussing ICT teacher training needs for primary schools. When this programme is initiated and progressing satisfactorily, consideration will be

given to transferring control to national implementing entities.

[Back to top](#)

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# e-Schools demo project is a critical first step

**The NEPAD e-Schools demonstrator (e-Schools demo) project has been identified as a critical initial step for the implementation of the e-Schools Initiative.**

The e-Schools demo is intended to accrue a body of knowledge, based on real-life experiences of ICT implementation in schools across the African continent that will serve as a forerunner to the rollout of the broader e-Schools Initiative.

It will establish and monitor a total of 140 secondary e-Schools in 20 African countries. The project is expected to start in October 2004.

The e-Schools demo will provide a platform for, among other things,

- determining typical e-Schools scenarios and requirements in various circumstances in Africa;
- highlighting the challenges inherent in the large-scale implementation of e-Schools programmes;
- monitoring the effectiveness of multi-country, multi-stakeholder partnerships;
- determining 'best practice' and working models for the large-scale implementation of the e-Schools Initiative;
- demonstrating the benefits of the envisaged satellite-based network;
- demonstrating the benefits of ICT in African schools;

## ***The e-Schools demo will take place in two parts.***

Part 1 will focus on the 16 first phase countries where a total of 140 e-schools will be established in secondary schools.

The implementation of phase 1 will start in the second quarter of 2004 and be completed by the end of 2005.

Part 2 of the e-Schools demo will be deployed in as many African countries as possible, all in primary schools, and will start after successful completion of Part 1.

Since the e-Schools demo project is to serve as a mechanism for learning in order to develop models for the effective rollout of the e-Schools Initiative, it is imperative that the schools chosen for the demo provide a reasonable reflection of the spectrum of African school environments.

The e-Schools demo will therefore comprise a mixture of schooling conditions with regard to geography, demography and level of infrastructure, etc.

This undertaking represents an exciting opportunity for partnerships based on shared responsibility and mutual interest in order to bring ICT into the service of African development.

[Back to top](#)

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# International network of experts for NEPAD's Agribusiness Initiative

**A**n informal international network of experts is being assembled to assist the NEPAD Secretariat to formulate and implement its Agribusiness Initiative under the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP).

The strategy is led by Dr. David Franklin, president of the Sigma One Corporation of the US in co-operation with the World Economic Forum.

Members of this world-class panel of agribusiness experts will be available to assist African countries or African agribusiness enterprises in various ways to link African farmers to the global market place.

Many of the members of the NEPAD network are affiliated to the International Food and Agribusiness Management Association (IAMA), a world-wide leadership forum involved in strategic action across the whole food chain.

NEPAD's Agribusiness Initiative seeks, through improved linkages with local, domestic, regional and global markets, to enhance the livelihood of the millions of Africans who depend on agriculturally-based economic activities.

Members of the NEPAD Network of International Agribusiness Leaders include:

<b><i>Global Agribusiness Leader</i></b>	<b><i>Areas of Expertise</i></b>
<b>Mr. Augustine Adongo</b> CEO, Federation of Associations of	Export business development, foreign markets, association development, private sector business

Ghanaian Exporters (FAGE)  
Technical Advisor, Ministry for  
Private Sector Development, Ghana

development, policy analysis & advocacy, policy reform.  
SME development in export marketing of agricultural  
based products: Focus on linkages between small  
producers and the export market.

**Mr. Chris Anstey**  
Product Integrity Manager  
Trade Law & Technical Dept.  
Tesco Stores Ltd, UK

Agriculture & horticulture. Develops policy & process for  
supplier standards. Involved in legal & compliance audits  
at high risk suppliers. Member of advisory board to the  
Global Food Safety Initiative and on the Strategy  
Committee of the Global British Retail Consortium  
Standards (BRC).

**Mr. Gain Luca Bagnara**  
Consultant in Agribusiness, Italy

International agribusiness, economics, food safety, trade,  
sustainable development, marketing, fruit & vegetables,  
labeling policy, logistics, productivity.

**Dr. Gregory Baker**  
Director, Food & Agribusiness  
Institute, Santa Clara University

Food safety, strategic management, international  
development. Member of the board of directors of  
International Food & Agribusiness Management  
Association (IAMA).

**Ms. Amy Bantham**  
Director, John Deere FoodOrigins

Policy and legislative analysis of food safety and  
regulatory compliance, international business and market  
development.

**Mr. Stephan Becerra**  
CEO, Hoegemeyer Hybrids

Agronomy, seeds (corn, sorghums, alfalfa, soybeans),  
hybrid nursery development, increasing yields, research,  
increasing genetic diversity.

**Dr. Michael Boehlje**  
Professor, Agricultural Economics  
Center for Food & Agricultural  
Business (CAB)  
Purdue University

Farm and agribusiness management and finance.  
Research on alternative systems of coordination of the  
food and industrial product chain, the industrialization of  
agriculture, alternative financial and organizational  
structures for farm and agribusiness firms.

**Mr. Paul Browne**  
CEO, Pipfruit New Zealand, Inc.

Integrated Pollution Prevention & Control (IPPC)  
phytosanitary process, EU and Codex grade standards.  
Experience in apples, pears, coffee, forestry, timber  
products and nursery products.

**Mr. Patrick Carruthers**  
Project Manager, John Deere Co.

Global agribusiness initiatives, new technology ventures.

**Professor Ken Casavant**  
Washington State University

Agricultural economics, transportation, logistics and  
physical distribution system management and design.

**Dr. Michael Chege**  
Advisor, Ministry of Planning, Kenya

Public policy, comparative policy analysis, African studies,  
political science, research, developing societies, political

Professor, Center for African Studies,  
University of Florida

economy. Extensive experience in governance and international affairs in Eastern & Southern Africa.

**Mr. Philip Chigumira**  
Group Managing Director  
Cairns Food Limited, Zimbabwe

Agriculture, food processing, exports, human performance systems.

**Mr. Mafa E. Chipeta**  
Director, Policy Assistance Division,  
FAO, Rome

International agriculture research, forestry, policy, planning and outlook studies.

**Mr. Greg Clarke**  
Technical Director, FXA Group  
FoodTrace Team

Software solutions and services to public authorities, municipal governments and large utilities. Directed software development for ISO 9001 certification of software. Key member of the FoodTrace design and development team.

**Professor Ray Collins**  
University of Queensland, Australia

Rural systems management, natural resource economic management, research on social, economic and environment governing agriculture.

**Professor Sam Comer**  
International Program Coordinator  
Agricultural Science, Tennessee State  
University

TSU International Food & Agriculture Development (IFAD): Technical assistance to developing tropical countries, food & nutrition problems, increasing productivity, rural farming and employment, crop system research. Projects in Africa and Asia.

**Dr. Gail Cramer**  
Head, Agriculture Economics  
Louisiana State University

Agricultural economics, agribusiness, rice & soybean marketing, international trade, agricultural policy, Chinese & Russian grain trade.

**Mr. Rosario dos Santos Cumbi**  
Industrial & Commercial Manager  
Tongaat-Hulett Acucar  
Mozambique

Sugar cane milling & processing, production of starch & glucose, rolled aluminum. Extrusions and land development in sub-Saharan Africa. Mechanical Engineering, Member, AGRO-industrial projects.

**Mr. Anthony Currie**  
General Manager  
Maragra Acucar Sarl  
Mozambique

Non-durable consumer goods sector: food, fishing, packaging, paper and bulk liquid storage. Sugar cane milling and processing, economics, business development. Chairman, Association of Sugar Producers of Mozambique. Member, South African Sugar Technologists Association.

**Professor Mark Darroch**  
Agricultural Program Director  
University of Natal, South Africa

Food and agribusiness strategy, price analysis and applied econometrics. Policy-related contract research for producer organizations, commercial banks, USAID, and the World Bank.

<p><b>Mrs. Fidela E. Ebuk</b> Executive Director Women's Health &amp; Economic Development Association (WHEDA), Nigeria</p>	<p>Microfinance, economic development, gender issues, human rights, sociology, community development. Oversees 121 women's groups in the Niger delta. Provides microfinance, training, education to rural women regarding issues ranging from healthcare &amp; nutrition to economic empowerment.</p>
<p><b>Professor James Hagen</b> Cornell University</p>	<p>International agribusiness programs, agricultural economics, international marketing, research on inter-organizational trust, foreign market entry.</p>
<p><b>Dr. Kelly Harrison</b> President / Sr. Agribusiness Specialist, Kelly Harrison Associates</p>	<p>Agribusiness and export development. Marketing systems, agribusiness competitiveness and export promotion</p>
<p><b>Dr. R. Wes Harrison</b> Professor, Louisiana State University</p>	<p>Food and agribusiness marketing, food product development, food labeling, food safety issues. Experience in Eastern Europe.</p>
<p><b>Mr. Jean-Paul de Montrose</b> Deutsche Welle, Germany</p>	<p>Specialist in African and development affairs such as economics, development, health &amp; environment. Journalism, political science</p>
<p><b>Mr. Neels Hubinger</b> CEO, Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) South Africa</p>	<p>International preferred food safety, quality and assurances, Eurepgap &amp; Hazard Analysis &amp; Critical Control Point (HACCP) Certifications, marketing &amp; communications, linkages &amp; partnerships. Branding top quality health &amp; wholesome foods.</p>
<p><b>Mr. Hans Johr</b> Corporate Head of Agriculture Nestec (Nestle) Ltd., Switzerland IAMA President</p>	<p>Agricultural economics, agribusiness &amp; forestry consulting and management. Chairman of Swiss Import Promotion Programme (SIPPO), Elect-President of IAMA, Member of Intl. Policy Council on Agriculture Food &amp; Trade, Intl. experience in over 40 countries.</p>
<p><b>Dr. Lynn Kennedy</b> Professor, Louisiana State University</p>	<p>Agricultural economics, agribusiness, international trade, research trade impacts on commodities</p>
<p><b>Dr. Ulrich Kihm</b> CEO, Safe Food Solutions, Inc. Switzerland</p>	<p>Food safety at the global level, animal health, infectious diseases. Chief Veterinary Officer of Switzerland, veterinary public health. Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) "mad cow" disease.</p>
<p><b>Professor Ernesto Martinez</b> La Molina Agrarian University Peru</p>	<p>Agribusiness value chain management for high value horticulture.</p>
<p><b>Mr. Peter McKerchar</b> Commercial Director Tongaat-Hulett, South Africa</p>	<p>Sugar cane milling &amp; processing, production of starch &amp; glucose, land development in sub-Saharan Africa. Vice President, South Africa Sugar Association.</p>

<p><b>Mr. Ross McLaren</b> CEO, Shaw's Supermarket, UK Former IAMA President</p>	<p>Supermarket management, food supply chain, procurement, marketing, consumer behavior, food safety, agriculture, animal husbandry.</p>
<p><b>Mr. Klaus Merckens</b> Executive Director SEKEM Group, Egypt</p>	<p>Food value chain, organic agriculture, certification, quality control, cotton production, herbs &amp; spices, essential oils, fruits &amp; vegetables, food processing, rural farm development. Focus on smallholder farm development through contract farming strategy.</p>
<p><b>Mr. Stavros Nicolaou</b> Senior Executive of Strategic Trade Development</p>	<p>Aspen Pharmacare, Ltd., South Africa Pharmaceuticals, generic drugs, global competitiveness, research &amp; development, exports, policy &amp; legislation reform, quality control, enhance drug affordability. Vice President, National Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers.</p>
<p><b>Professor Edwin Price</b> Associate Vice Chancellor, International Agriculture &amp; Federal Relations Texas A&amp;M University</p>	<p>Designed food project for USDA-funded private enterprise in Afghanistan. Responsible for Texas A&amp;M agribusiness and food industry programs in Indonesia, El Salvador, Iraq, Armenia and Rwanda. On the Board of Trustees of the West Africa Rice Development Association.</p>
<p><b>Dr. M. Carmen Lopez Reyna</b> Professor, Colegio de Postgraduados Ciencias Agricolas, Mexico</p>	<p>Food systems, agribusiness markets and economics. Coordinator of agribusiness management programs involving over 300 agribusiness specialists.</p>
<p><b>Dr. Thomas Sporleder</b> Professor, Ohio State University</p>	<p>Agribusiness economics and management, value-added commodity marketing, vertical coordination in food supply chain. IAMA board member.</p>
<p><b>Carol White</b> Commercial Manager, Central Africa DHL International, Zimbabwe</p>	<p>Global expertise in express, air, overland transport and ocean freight. In-depth knowledge of local markets (Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia &amp; Zimbabwe). International network links to more than 220 countries.</p>
<p><b>Mrs. Sabine Willems</b> Consultant, Global Food Network Agri Chain Competence Centre, NL</p>	<p>International agribusiness and agri-supply chain development, globalization, public-private partnerships, food safety, fruit and vegetable export industry. Projects in Ghana, Mali, Ivory Coast, Senegal, South Africa &amp; Thailand.</p>
<p><b>Mr. Bjorn Willie</b> Director, Strategic Business &amp; Nutrition Tetra Pak South Africa (Pty),</p>	<p>Development, manufacturing and sale of systems for the processing, packaging and distribution of liquid food products. Milk production &amp; animal husbandry.</p>

Ltd.

**Ms. Mumeka Wright**  
General Manager, Bimzi Limited  
Zambia

Specializing in African crop export to regional and international markets. Provides agricultural inputs and extensive training to small-scale African farmers.

**Dr. Xiaoyong Zhang**  
Sr. Researcher, Trade & Development,  
Agricultural Economics Institute  
(LEI), Wageningen University, NL

Agricultural economics, marketing research, consumer behavior, supply chain management, food safety, extensive research and experience in Southeast Asia.

[Back to top](#)

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## Calendar of Events

- **26 - 27 August**, Meeting of the African Peer Review (APR) Panel, Johannesburg, South Africa
- **3 - 4 September**, NEPAD Steering Committee Meeting and Workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- **4 - 5 October**, African Partnership Forum (Meeting between the NEPAD Steering Committee and G8 Leaders' Personal Representatives, other development partners, and OECD Member States), Washington DC, USA.
- **7 - 12 October**, UN-Inter Agency Task Force: prepCom for the Second World Conference on Disaster Management, Geneva, Switzerland
- **14 - 15 October**, NEPAD – Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS) Seminar, Libreville, Gabon.
- **22 - 23 October**, NEPAD Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- **25 October**, NEPAD advisory panel meeting, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- **1 - 2 November**, Water Centres of Excellence Workshop – Botswana
- **22 - 23 November**, NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSIGC) Meeting, Algiers, Algeria.

[Back to top](#)

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NEPAD *Dialogue* is published on behalf of the NEPAD Secretariat by:

**MMi Concord**

Tel: +27 (0)21 421 0646 or +27 (0)21 421 0646

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Email: [info@mmiconcord.com](mailto:info@mmiconcord.com)

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[Back to top](#)

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