



## **icipe and IPM IL Organize Training on *Trichoderma* and Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria**



A training workshop on “**Production and Use of Bio-control agents, *Trichoderma* and Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria**” in Addis Ababa from September 17-21, 2018 was organized by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe)-Ethiopia, in collaboration with the Integrated Pest Management Innovation Lab (IPM-IL) at Virginia Tech and the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR).

The five-day event brought together about 17 participants, including 2 resource officers from India and 15 additional experts in plant pathology, from three African countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania). The training was both theoretical and practical, covering topics such as collection of soil samples, isolation of biocontrol agents, purification, mass production, and more.

The main objective of the workshop was to review current research on the selection, mode of action, mass production of and delivery system of bio-control agents, and to discuss the establishment of biopesticide labs. With this context, the training was conducted under the project **Rice, Maize and Chickpea IPM for East Africa, funded by the USAID Feed the Future, IPM Innovation Lab, Virginia Tech.**

The reflections delivered during the feedback session offered a wide range of insights on how to boost initiatives combating soilborne plant pathogens, and how to improve the





national capacity, scaling out, and mass production of environmentally friendly bio-control organisms like *Trichoderma* to be used by farmers as effective pest management methods.



The participants expressed that they found the training unique and were fascinated that ***Trichoderma* and Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria** could be produced in a simple way with locally available materials. The training met all expectations explored at the beginning of the session. Furthermore, participants said that this training created an excellent opportunity to network with people for developing joint proposals and potential presentations to policymakers to consider and formulate appropriate policy to produce biological agents. They also applauded the organizers for initiating such an outstanding new approach to produce the bio-agents at large scale in the three countries.