

RUFORUM MONTHLY

The Monthly Brief of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture

African Ministers to discuss strengthening Higher Education in Agriculture

Close to 60 African Ministers of Education, Agriculture, Science & Technology and Finance will converge in Kampala, Uganda, 17-19 November 2010 to discuss actions to strengthen Higher Education in Africa, with a focus on Agricultural Tertiary Education. This comes in the wake of emerging statistics which show that Africa's Science and Technology capacity is grossly weak and in fact deteriorating, and that efforts to achieve the continent's target growth of 6% under the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) will not be met unless urgent and sustained action is taken to re-build Africa's human and institutional capacity. Africa lags behind in virtually all development indexes, and is unlikely to meet the Millennium Development Goals target of 2015. Agriculture is seen as key to revitalizing the continent's growth, hence the focus on Agricultural tertiary education.

The November 2010 conference has been convened by the Uganda Government at the request of NEPAD, FARA, COMESA, two Africa's Higher Education Networks (ANAFE & RUFORUM) and several international partners including the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), an EU-ACP organisation.

It is hoped that the Conference will generate key policy recommendations to be presented to African Heads of States and development partners. See page 3 for overview of the conference programme.

Twenty RUFORUM-IDRC Research grants awarded

Twenty students pursuing PhD training in RUFORUM member Universities are to receive each US\$15,000 research grant support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Ottawa, Canada. Eight of the students are from the University of Nairobi Dryland PhD Programme; six are pursuing PhD studies in Aquaculture and Fisheries Sciences at the University of Malawi, Bunda College of Agriculture and another six PhD in Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics also at the University of Malawi. Additional eight research grants are due to be awarded later in the year, mostly to students pursuing PhD studies in Soil and Water Management at Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania. The students responded to a Call for Proposals which were evaluated by a Panel of 6 regional experts. Thirty three students responded to the call. See page 2 for the list of successful applicants.

For more information about the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), Contact: The **Newsletter Editor**, RUFORUM Secretariat, Plot 151 Garden Hill, Makerere University Main Campus, P.O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda. Fax: +256 414 534153; Tel: +256 414 535939; E-mail: secretariat@RUFORUM.org; Website: www.RUFORUM.org.

- **RUFORUM Monthly** is an e-newsletter providing information on activities of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture.
- This **Monthly Brief** is circulated on the last week of every month ■

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RUFORUM Annual General Meeting. 5-7 August 2010
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Regional Conference on Building Capacity for improved Food and Livelihood Security in Africa. 13-17 September, 2010 Entebbe, Uganda

Ministerial Conference on Higher Education in Africa. 15-19 November, 2010
Speke Hotel Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda.

RUFORUM/CTA ASTI Training. 5-9 July, 2010 Entebbe Uganda

Online Registration for the Ministerial Conference on Higher Education in Africa. Please visit www.ruforum.org

More information on RUFORUM activities can be accessed on the RUFORUM BLOG at <http://ruforum.wordpress.com>



Below is the list of the Research grants awarded

RUFORUM-IDRC DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS-LIST OF FUNDED PhD DRYLAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI				
No.	Name	Nationality	Gender	Research Topic
1.	Emmanuel Zziwa	Uganda	M	Land use changes in the rangelands of Uganda: impacts on soil quality and pasture productivity in Nakasongola District
2.	Kudra Abdul	Tanzania	M	Influence of soil fertility management on string seed bank dynamics and grain yield of sorghum in semi arid areas of Tanzania
3	Melusi Moyo	Zimbabwe	M	Effect of tillage on soil moisture, crop growth and soil organic carbon in a cereal-legume strip intercropping in semi arid conditions
4	Elias Otieno Obudho	Kenya	M	Modeling climate related index-based risk transfer products to enhance pastoralists resilience in the drylands
5	Sara Agnes Nalule	Uganda	F	Enthnopharmacology, phytochemical composition and toxicity of medicinal plants used against livestock helminthes in dry lands of Uganda
6	Osin Chifungwe Chibinga	Zambia	M	Climate variability : Enhancing adaptive utilization of forage for improved livestock production and food security among the agro pastoralists in Southern Zambia
7	Mugerwa Swidiq	Uganda	M	Termite dynamics and control on pasture grasses in semi arid Nakasongola in Uganda
8	Debela Hunde Feyssa	Ethiopia	M	A comparative study of the contribution of wild edible plants to food security among transhumanant and settled farmers in semi arid east Shewa, Ethiopia.
RUFORUM-IDRC DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS - LIST OF FUNDED PhD AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES SCIENCE STUDENTS AT BUNDA COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI				
No.	Name	Nationality	Gender	Research Topic
1.	Alexander Kefi	Zambia	M	The effect of varying dietary lipid levels and Androgen (11 – Ketotestosterone) on egg quality and their influence on the growth of the progeny of <i>Oreochromis andersonii</i>
2.	Joshua Valeta	Malawi	M	Design and evaluation of a cascade algal turf scrubber based re-circulating aquaculture system for <i>Oreochromis karongae</i> (Chambo) and <i>Lactuca sativa</i> (Lettuce) production
3.	Alexander Buliani	Malawi	M	Population dynamics and taxonomy of Diplotaxodon Big-Eye (Teleostei Cichlid) in Central and Southern Lake Malawi, Africa
4.	Albert Msonga	Zambia	M	Epidemiology of epizootic ulcerative syndrome (Eus), a fungal infection on fish of the Zambezi River Basin: A case study for Zambia
5.	Sr Jane Yatuha	Uganda	F	Food and feeding ecology of <i>Clarias carsonii</i> , a potential culture species for small holder fish farms
6	Leston Yoyola	Malawi	M	Value chain analysis of the fisheries industry in the Southern Malawi: The case of Lake Chilwa
RUFORUM-IDRC DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP: LIST OF FUNDED PhD AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS STUDENTS AT BUNDA COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI				
No.	Name	Nationality	Gender	Research Topic
1.	Vincent Ekiyar	Ugandan	M	Climate change Impacts to farming in Uganda's semi arid and arid areas and farmer's means of adaptation: an application of cross- section data measures
2.	Hellen Kongai	Ugandan	F	Effect of market access on agricultural productivity and efficiency : The case of citrus fruit producers in eastern Uganda
3.	Mildred Barungi	Ugandan	F	Effects of land management related policies, laws and by-laws on adoption and scaling up of sustainable land management innovations in Uganda
4	Irene Nambuya Musebe	Kenya	F	Economic impact of HIV/AIDS epidemic on agricultural development in Kenya
5	Boniface Kak-hobwe	Malawi	M	Analysis of complementary options for fertilizer subsidies in Malawi: A case of Lilongwe, Mzuzu and Machinga Agricultural Development Divisions
6	Mirau Mbise	Tanzania	M	Transaction costs in food market chains: A case of maize in Ludewa and Songea district of Tanzania

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA , 15-19 NOVEMBER, 2010 UGANDA

DRAFT FIVE-DAY PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

Time	DAY 1: MONDAY 15 November 2010			
	Jacaranda Hall	Ebony Hall	Acacia Hall	Mahogany Hall
8:30 am	Session 1a: Theme 1: Reinforcing the Relevance of African Universities	Theme 2: Harnessing the Opportunities and Developments in ICT	Theme 3: Anticipating the futures – scenario mapping for policy and investment	
2:00 pm	Session 1b: Sectorial Relevance of Higher Education in Agriculture: Livelihoods & Health & Nutrition			
Conveners	Harvest Plus, CIP, RUFORUM, IFPRI,	UbuntuNet, RUFORUM, OER Africa,	FARA, CTA, RUFORUM	
16:30	EXHIBITIONS- FULL DAY			
18:30	COCKTAIL FOR ALL CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS			
Time	DAY 2: TUESDAY 16 November, 2010			
	Jacaranda Hall	Ebony Hall	Acacia Hall	Mahogany Hall
8:30 am	Theme 4: Promoting Women education and leadership in Higher Education in Agriculture	Theme 5: Placing Agricultural Tertiary Education in the Policy Agenda	Theme 6: Strengthening Partnerships in Agricultural Tertiary Education	
Conveners	Makerere University, FARA, AWARD, NRI	DDRN; ATPS; FANRPAN	AGRI-NATURA, AAAPD, APLU, ANAFE, RUFORUM	
3:00 pm				Briefing meeting for technical experts (Permanent Secretaries)
	EXHIBITIONS- FULL DAY			
18:30	COCKTAIL & LAUNCH OF THE IDRC/IIRR/ RUFORUM BOOKS - ALL PARTICIPANTS			

Time	DAY 3: WEDNESDAY 17 November 2010	DAY 4: THURSDAY 18 November, 2010	DAY 5: FRIDAY 19 November, 2010
Plenary	Speke Ball Room	Speke Ball Room	Speke Ball Room
08:00-09:00	Registration Tour of exhibitions/market place	Lead Paper Presentation 4 th Panel Discussion - <i>Global Experiences & Implications for Africa</i>	7 th Panel Discussion - <i>Promoting Partnerships in Higher Education</i>
09:00-10:00	Official Opening		
10:00-11:00	Tour of exhibitions/market place Health Break & Networking	Health Break & Networking	Health Break & Networking
11:00-11:30	Key Note Address	Lead Paper Presentation	Lead Paper - <i>Looking ahead: repositioning African universities for relevance</i>
11:30-12:30	1st Panel Discussion - <i>Investing in African Capacity for Innovation</i>	5 th Panel Discussion – <i>Transforming African Universities to Learning Institutions</i>	Statements by Overseas Ministers and Cooperating Partners
12:30-14:00	Networking & Lunch	Networking & Lunch	Networking & Lunch
14:00-14:30	Lead Paper Presentation	Lead Paper Presentation	Ministerial communiqué
14:30-15:30	2nd Panel Discussion - <i>Placing Agricultural Tertiary Education in Policy Agenda</i>	6 th Panel discussion: <i>Financing Higher Education in Africa</i>	Address by African Leaders
15:30-16:00	HEALTH BREAK		
16:00-18:00	3 rd Panel Discussion: Reports from side events	Ministerial Round Table Discussions	Closing Address by AU Chair
		Meeting of the Regional Networks	
Departures			
18:00-20:00	Exhibitions Continue	Official Dinner Reception	

RUFORUM Revives Horticultural Breeders' Interest Through Supporting Graduate Programs

As an agronomist attached to the National Horticulture Programme of National Crops Resources Research Institute, Namulonge in Uganda. I always wondered why breeding of horticultural crops did not seem to interest most scientists. For instance, as breeders of other crops call for variety release meetings every year, it is very rare for horticultural breeders to call for such meetings. Further more, while biotechnology has been actively used to improve other crops, this seem not to be the case for horticultural crops. As an ambitious young scientist I thought I was misplaced because I could not move at the same pace as other colleagues of mine in other programs who were advancing in terms of exploring new technological tools.

It was not until I talked to some senior scientists that I discovered that although it is a rare case for a meal to be prepared without being accompanied with vegetables as sauce or fruits as desserts, most funders find it less appealing to inject funds in horticultural research as compared to other crops. Further

more, although fruits and vegetables are a remedy for iron and vitamin deficiency problems among millions of infants in Africa, few governments have come up to support the horticultural sector in terms of research. This disoriented my special interest in horticultural crops towards crops where most research resources were being allocated.



Above: Gabriel Ddamulira

However, with RUFORUM supported graduate program in plant breeding and biotechnology at Makerere University my interest towards horticultural crops was restored. When I was offered a PhD scholarship, I thought that RUFORUM would dictate the crop type that I was to research on just like other funders do. But I was surprised when restrictions were not imposed on me. This was a golden opportunity for me to do research on a crop of my interest. And, ever since I enrolled in the PhD Plant Breeding and Biotechnology program at Makerere University, my interest in breeding horticultural crops has grown steadily. I have embarked on my PhD research entitled "Genetic analysis of passion fruit woodiness disease in Uganda" which I am sure will generate breeding materials that will contribute to the development of new passion fruit varieties, because it is now two decades since the last improved passion fruit variety was released in Uganda.

Given the experience I have gone through already during my PhD training, I strongly believe that RUFORUM's efforts to revive plant breeding programs and incorporate biotechnology will invigorate development of numerous crop varieties for African farmers. Africa's capacity to respond to emerging challenges such as ravages of drought etc and utilise African neglected crop species will be enhanced. It is my humble appeal to the incoming graduate students to use the available opportunity to venture into horticultural research because it is still a virgin research area with a lot of new things to be discovered.

Gabriel Ddamulira is a PhD student of Plant Breeding and Biotechnology at Makerere University. He can be contacted at ddamuliragab@yahoo.co.uk

Life outside academics at RUFORUM supported graduate programs based at Kabanyolo Campus

One of the highly considered aspects when assessing a successful life especially among African communities is parenting and nurturing a good family. In most of the African communities, a fertile and medically fit person who fails to marry and have a family for any reasons other than celibacy is a social misfit regardless of his or her academic, economic or other social successes. In some extreme cultures, during the burial of such a person a ceremony is performed to censure such a lifestyle and appeal to the living members of the community never to exhibit it. This culture inherently presents a huge challenge to many African graduates who wish to advance their academic careers. Because of wars and scarce education infrastructure, many African children go to school late and graduate when they are between the ages of 24 to 30. Registering immediately for graduate studies to catch up with the common age limit of 35 years for PhD scholarships is a real dilemma.

Balancing between academic and family successes has been a nightmare especially for ladies who by nature have shorter reproductive life besides Africa's short life expectancy in general. In many universities pregnancies among students are seen as a barrier to academic excellence. Thus conceiving while in the university attracts the female student stigmatization which compels her to either apply for a dead year or quit the university. The few bold ones who stand all sorts of negative comments end up developing complications and consequently performing poorly.

I am proud of RUFORUM supported graduate programs for their sensitive to students' family life. Though it's out of African culture to count babies, four of us on the RUFORUM supported graduate programs at Makerere University got babies on campus during our first year of study. The accommodation facilities, moral and spiritual support at Makerere University Agricultural Research Institute Kabanyolo (MUARIK) where these programs are based provide for parenting without compromising academic standards. Two of our female students from Burundi and Kenya on the MSc. and PhD programs respectively were so excited when they resumed classes in less than a week after successfully giving birth (courtesy of care, counseling and encouragement espe-

cially by Mrs. Pauline Gibson the wife to resident mentor, Prof. Paul Gibson). The Kenyan student, whose husband has been on the ACCI program at Kwazulu University Natal in South Africa asserted: "I want to demonstrate to the world that a woman can give birth but still excel academically by passing all my papers at once and highly".

Another female Kenyan PhD student who joined the program with a two weeks baby interjected: "my mentor from Nairobi University who recommended me for the RUFORUM scholarship was so worried when he saw me almost giving birth. I have to convince him that there was no need for worries by completing successfully and within the timeframe. Graduate students' pregnancies have never been a hindrance to academic excellence. The problem had been the failure by management of the universities to provide for a favorable environment for parenting when they are aware that a graduate student is in most cases at his or her critical reproductive age".

Though men do not directly carry the burden of pregnancy and giving birth, I and my colleague Abel Sefasi from Malawi are equally grateful for the moral and spiritual support given to us by Prof Gibson's family and the management of RUFORUM at large when our wives gave birth the same day on 9th September 2009. I want recognize Prof Adipala, the Coordinator of RUFORUM, as a person for sensitivity to students' family life. Throughout his time as a lecturer at Makerere University, Professor Adipala encouraged his graduate students to marry as early as possible to preserve their moral integrity and minimize any temptations that might expose them to HIV/AIDS. He took the burden to traverse the whole of Uganda to stand behind them during their introduction and wedding ceremonies. May this legacy inspire all university managers/mentors in Africa!

The writer is one of the RUFORUM supported PhD Students. Sadik Kassim can be contacted at sdikasim@agric.mak.ac.ug.

IRDCAM hosts a West African Regional Workshop in Cotonou, Benin on Neglected and Underutilized Crop Species

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is partnering with ANAFE (The African Network for Agriculture, Agro forestry and Natural Resources Education (ANAFE), Bioversity International, IRDCAM (Institut de Recherche et de Développement sur la Biodiversité des Plantes Cultivées, Aromatiques et Médicinales) in Benin, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in Ghana, International Foundation for Science (IFS) in Sweden, University of Malawi in Malawi and University of Nairobi in Kenya in the implementation of an ACP S&T project called building human and institutional capacity for enhancing the conservation and use of neglected and underutilized species of crops in West, Eastern and Southern Africa. Details of the project can be accessed at

<http://ruforumbiodiversityproject.blogspot.com/>

Following the launch of this project in Entebbe, Uganda in February 2010, country level surveys were carried out in Benin and Ghana in West Africa to identify the status of Neglected and Underutilized Crop Species (NUS). Subsequently, a regional workshop was organized in Cotonou, Benin from 8th – 10th June 2010 and was hosted by IRDCAM, one of the project implementing partners. The workshop aimed to:

- Obtain an overview of the status of NUS research and marketing in West Africa
- Provide recommendations to guide research and capacity development on NUS in the West Africa
- Strengthen networking, knowledge sharing and joint action on NUS in West Africa
- Advise on the focus of Pan African International Conference on NUS Research and Develop plan for 2012.

Participants were drawn from Mali (2), Senegal (4), Ghana (4), Benin (6), Nigeria (4), Bioversity (1), RUFORUM (1), IFS (1), IRDCAM (1) and ANAFE (2). The participants represented diverse groups engaged in natural resource management. The workshop had a number of presentations and group work activities to achieve the set objectives. The presentations included Benin and Ghana national survey reports and outcomes of national stakeholder workshops held before the regional workshop. Presentations were also received from Mali, Nigeria and Senegal to provide insights/experiences on NUS from other West African countries.



By the end of the three day meeting, West African needs on NUS research and Capacity Development were

Above: Participants who attended the regional workshop

identified. Three groups of NUS were prioritized :cereals and legumes, leafy vegetables and root crops (tubers) and fruit trees, but the priority species for R&D will vary by country. Additionally, policy issues both at international and national level relevant to NUS were identified and categorized and included: Agricultural, Bioversity, educational, Health and Nutrition. Finally the workshop participants agreed on the need to conduct an international conference on NUS that will create an opportunity to share the outcomes of the project so far. The workshop is planned for 2012.

For more details contact: Sylvia Chindime, RUFORUM Secretariate at s.chindime@ruforum.org and Sebastian Chakeredza, ANAFE, Nairobi, Kenya. Email: S.Chakeredza@CGIAR.ORG

Regional Conference on Building Capacity for Improved Food and Livelihood Security in Africa

Deadline for Abstracts: 10th August 2010

Send to acss@agric.mak.ac.ug;

secretariat@ruforum.org

For more information, Please visit www.ruforum.org

Launch of Innovation Project at Egerton University

Egerton University, a partner in one of RUFORUM's projects funded by the African Caribbean and Pacific Science and Technology (ACP-S&T) programme of the European Union on "*Building Capacity of African University Graduates to foster change through Innovations*", launched its component of the project on June 11, 2010. The overall objective of this partnership action is to contribute to poverty reduction by equipping mid-career and young professionals in agricultural research and development with capacities to facilitate innovations for rural development. Egerton University (EU) is one of the three Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Universities partnering in this project. The others are University of Malawi and Makerere University in Uganda. The project is also referred to as GO4IT (Graduate Opportunities for Innovation and Transformation).



Above: Participants who attended the launch of the innovation project.

The objective of the launching was to sensitize the participants on the project's objectives and activities and to obtain their understanding and commitment to support the activities of the project. The participants came from within Egerton University including two Deputy Vice-Chancellors (DVCs), Deans of Faculties and Chairpersons of targeted Departments. Outside participants came from Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Cooperatives; Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), Pyrethrum Board, Baraka Agricultural College, Farming Systems Kenya, Agricultural Society of Kenya, Farmers' representatives and representatives of Supermarket chains based in Nakuru town in Kenya.

The participants were briefed about the project by the Egerton University team members. An overview of RUFORUM activities in the region (including the project) was presented by Dr. Washington Ochola of RUFORUM Secretariat. In addition, position papers were presented by representatives from Baraka Agricultural College, Farming Systems Kenya and Agricultural Society of Kenya. These presentations elicited lively and informative discussions in support of both the project and RUFORUM activities.

Key outcomes of these discussions were that:-

- Egerton University supports the project and any other

collaborative effort through RUFORUM and other partnerships that may be developed.

- The stakeholders (especially Government Ministries) need to be fully updated about activities being carried in universities through linkages and networks. This helps them to be sensitized and exposed, and also to give them a chance to give appropriate inputs.
- The private sector, farmers organizations and middle level Colleges should link strategically with Universities in order to work towards achievement of Vision 2030, the Kenyan strategy for development.
- Information about any new programmes of training in the Universities (like the planned Agricultural and Rural Innovations PhD programme) should be communicated to outside stakeholders such as the Ministries in attendance so that they can identify and sponsor candidates to such training opportunities.
- Regular consultation with stakeholders should be maintained to ensure support for University training programmes and research and activities.



Prof Mathooko, the DVC (Research & Extension)

Prof Mathooko, the DVC (Research & Extension) at Egerton University who opened the launching workshop reiterated the University's commitment to support the team and the project action because the initiative fell within the research mandate of the University. He further urged that the target population for both research and training

should always be included in the design of activities that affect them. He recommended that baseline studies be undertaken by the project team.

Prof Rose Mwonya, the DVC (Academic Affairs) who closed the workshop after sitting in through several presentations and discussions underscored her counterparts comments by emphasizing the need to improve personal skills and attitudes of both undergraduate and postgraduate students so that an improvement in understanding the concept of innovativeness can be achieved. In conclusion, the project obtained goodwill from the management and academic leaders from Egerton University and other stakeholders also gave their approval. The other stakeholders outside the university who have not yet been informed about the project will be contacted. The university project team is now moving forward to implement the project planned activities. **For more information, Please contact**

Dr. Washington Ochola at w.ochola@ruforum.org

New Regional Director Appointed– International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI)



Dr. Shamie Zingore has joined the staff of the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) as Regional Director for the newly started Africa program. He is based in the office in Nairobi, Kenya, effective May 1. The International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) is a not-for-profit, science-based organization with a focus on agronomic education and research support. IPNI officially began operations on January 1, 2007, and has established programs in China, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Northern Latin America, Brazil, Latin America-Southern Cone, North America (U.S. and Canada), Australia/New Zealand, Africa, Eastern Europe/Central Asia, and a presence in the Middle East. The mission of IPNI is to develop and promote scientific information about the responsible management of plant nutrition for the benefit of the human family. Website: www.ipni.net; Contact: szingore@ipni.net

New Dean Appointed – Botswana College of Agriculture (BCA)



Elenimo B. Khonga: Is the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the Botswana College of Agriculture (BCA), an Associate Institution of the University of Botswana. He holds a PhD in Plant Pathology from the University of Guelph, Canada. He has served BCA for 13 years as a Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor and Head of Crop Science and Production Department. Previously he was a Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and Head of Department of Biology at Chancellor College, University of Malawi. Prof Khonga has served as external examiner for undergraduate and postgraduate programs in other Universities in the region and has supervised a number of graduate students. He has published scientific papers and presented papers at conferences in the areas of Plant Pathology and Mycology. His major areas of research interest are biological control of fungal diseases and mushroom production. Elenimo is a Malawian and a permanent resident of Botswana. He is married to Alepha with three daughters. Elenimo is the National Coordinator for the Gideons International in Botswana and a Deacon in the Open Baptist Church in Gaborone. He can be contacted at: Botswana College of Agriculture, P/Bag 0027, Gaborone, Botswana. Tel: +267 365 0330; Fax +267 3928 753, Email: ebkhonga@bca.bw or ebkhonga56@gmail.com, Website: www.bca.bw

New Dean Appointed – Moi University (MU)



Julius Onyango Ochuodho: Is the new Dean School of Agriculture and Biotechnology at Moi University. He holds a PhD in Plant Science (Seed Science) and is a specialist in seed science and seed technology, in addition to plant pathology. He joined Mio University 13 years ago after working with the Ministry of Agriculture for 9 years and Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) for 7 years, both at the National Seed Quality Control Station (NSQCS) Lanet. He started as an Agricultural Research officer, headed the Seed Testing Laboratory and rose to the position of Deputy Centre Director. Dr Ochuodho is a supervisor of many postgraduate students of seed science and seed technology, plant pathology and cropping systems. He has been an external examiner for postgraduate programs in several universities. He has published scientific papers in the aforementioned areas and a reviewer of some journals. His major area of interest is improvement of seed quality and seed supply systems in the informal seed sub-sector, focusing on underutilized indigenous

crops mostly grown by smallholder farmers. Julius is married to Peres and has five children. He is a Christian and a leader in the church. His contact address is School of Agriculture and Biotechnology, Moi University, Chepkoilel Campus, P.O. Box 1125 - 30100, Eldoret Kenya. Email: juliusochuodho@yahoo.com ; deanagriculture@mu.ac.ke

New Dean Appointed – University of Malawi, Bunda College of Agriculture

Dr. Joyce Prisca Njoloma is the new Deputy Dean of Environmental Sciences at the University of Malawi, Bunda College of Agriculture. She is a senior lecturer in Agro forestry / Plant Biotechnology in the Forestry and Horticulture Department. She has a Diploma in Agriculture, BSc in Agriculture, MSc Agronomy (Agro forestry) obtained from University of Malawi, Bunda College of Agriculture and PhD in Agricultural Sciences (Plant Biotechnology) obtained from Kagoshima United Graduate University, Japan. Her research interests are in evaluation of agro forestry species, ecology evaluation and tissue culture research on both field and horticultural crops. Her contact details: Bunda College of Agriculture, P. O. Box 219, Lilongwe, Malawi. Tel: +265 999 651 365; +265 888 727857; +265 1928656 and email: ijnjoloma@yahoo.com; ijnjoloma@bunda.unima.mw

New Dean Appointed – Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

Kamau Ngamau is a Kenyan and a Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya. He holds a PhD in Horticulture from the University of Hannover, Germany. He is a member of the Horticultural Association of Kenya (HAK) and the Internal Society of Horticultural Science (ISHS). He has served Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture for 18 years. Prof Ngamau has served as external examiner for undergraduate and postgraduate programs at the University of Nairobi. He has served as the Chairman of the Department of Horticulture, (2003-2007), Associate Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, (2006-2007) and Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies, (2007-2009). He has over 12 publications in refereed journals, and 20 seminars in international conferences and workshops. He has supervised 3 PhD and 6 MSc students and is currently in supervising 4 MSc and 3 PhD students. His major area of interest is Floriculture and Biotechnology. He represents the University in the Horticultural Research Fund Steering Committee of the Horticultural Crops Development Authority (HCDA). He is married to Catherine and they have 2 children. His contact address is Faculty of Agriculture, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, P.O. Box 62000, 00200 Nairobi, Kenya. Fax +254-67-52164, Phone +254-67-52193 or +254-67-52711 Ex 4428, Email: k_ngamau@yahoo.com, or kngamau@agr.jkuat.ac.ke

Acting Dean Appointed – Kyambogo University

William Epeju is a Ugandan and now an Acting Dean of the Faculty of Vocational Studies which houses and administers the Department of Agriculture at Kyambogo University the home for training the many graduate teachers of agriculture in Uganda. He holds a PhD in Agricultural Education (Extension). He has been a member of several professional committees and bodies including Uganda Society and Association of Third World Studies, Kenya Chapter. He has served at institutions in Kyambogo since 1973 in various capacities, lecturing agriculture disciplines to student teachers of agriculture and in several positions of administration. His academic position is that of Senior Lecturer as integrated into Kyambogo University from the former Institute of Teacher Education, Kyambogo (ITEK). Dr. Epeju has participated in several consultancies related to agricultural development and education. He has served as an external examiner for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in other universities including supervising a number of graduate students. He has published scientific papers in agricultural education and extension. His major area of interest is improving agricultural productivity through improved education and training of the farmers. He has special interest in poverty reduction and eradication on small-holdings through improved productivity to assure food security and better incomes. He is active in matters of tree planting and participated in national environmental action plan process (NEAP) in Uganda during the 1990s. He is an ecumenical catholic and a pacifist. His contact address is Faculty of Vocational Studies, Kyambogo University, P.O.Box 1, Kyambogo, Kampala, Uganda. Phones: Office: +256-414-286242; Mobile: +256-774-160118; Email: wepeju@yahoo.co.uk

News and Updates



Robert Kawuki, a former FORUM student at Makerere University, has recently (2010) graduated with a PhD in Plant Breeding at the University of Free State in South Africa. Kawuki's PhD thesis titled ***"Phenotypic variation in cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz) based on single nucleotide polymorphism, simple sequence repeats and phenotypic traits"*** examined phenotypic variation in cassava germplasm available within selected national breeding programmes in Africa, analysed patterns of allele frequency distribution in the cassava germplasm, characterised single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in the cassava genome and examined variation for two agronomic [root dry matter content (DMC) and harvest index (HI)] and one quality trait (amylose content) in S_1 cassava inbreds. The 29 qualitative traits provided limited discrimination of cassava germplasm from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar. However, significant differences in root DMC, HI, leaf retention (LR) and root cortex thickness were observed in this germplasm. Highest average DMC was registered in Uganda (37.7%) and lowest in Tanzania (30.1%), with the elite genotypes having a relatively higher DMC than local genotypes. Similarly, highest average HI was observed in Uganda (0.60) and lowest in Kenya (0.32). The studied germplasm (1401 local and elite cassava genotypes) were assigned to three distinct populations, with no appreciable gene differentiation (F_{ST} =

0.089) observed. Most genetic variation (> 89%) was detected within individuals. A total of 26 SNPs were identified from quality sequences of nine genes, giving an estimated frequency of one SNP for every 121 nucleotides. HI and DMC varied both within and between the cassava S_1 families. The highest reduction in HI was observed in S_1 progeny from Bamunanika (83.3%), while the highest reduction in DMC (23.8%) was observed in S_1 progeny from I92/00067. Amylose content varied significantly between cassava families and S_1 progeny, with most of the variation recorded within the inbreds. Information generated in this thesis is well-suited for both immediate and future use. For example, cassava genotypes with high DMC and/or HI can be considered for release after satisfactory evaluations have been done, as required by the variety release committees in the respective countries. Alternatively, they can be used as progenitors. Information on SNPs offers good insights into future SNP-based research in cassava. The positive benefits associated with inbreeding should be a motivation to advance inbreeding in cassava.

Robert Kawuki is currently employed by the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) and based at the National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI), Namulonge, where he works as a cassava breeder. His contact details are: NaCRRI, P.O. Box 7084, Kampala, Uganda; email: kawukisezi@yahoo.com; Tel: +256772537715.

World Bank Gives Uganda Agriculture \$120m

KAMPALA- The World Bank has given Uganda a \$120 million loan to increase agricultural productivity and household incomes in rural areas under a five-year Agricultural Technology and Agribusiness Advisory Services Project (ATAAS). In a statement issued last week, the World Bank said that ATAAS will also benefit from a \$7.2 million Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant to address land degradation and climate risk issues. "This project represents the next step in the World Bank's long-standing engagement in the agriculture sector in Uganda which is among the top five priority sectors for public investment in the National Development Plan (NDP)," said Kundhavi Kadiresan, the World Bank Uganda Country Manager. "Over 1.7 million Ugandans are expected to benefit from this project directly, and an additional 850,000 indirectly, making this operation of key importance for the structural transformation of the economy through value addition,

export growth and employment," she added. ATAAS will support activities implemented through the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) and National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), such as developing agricultural technologies for sustainable land management. The other component "focuses on enhancing partnerships between agricultural research, advisory services, and other stakeholders; and will be jointly implemented by NARO and NAADS."

This story has been reproduced from The Observer, Thursday, 01 July 2010. For more information, please visit the this link. http://observer.ug/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9069:world-bank-gives-agriculture-120m&catid=34:news&Itemid=59

RUFORUM AWARDS 26 RESEARCH AND TRAINING GRANTS — COMPETITIVE GRADUATE SYSTEM

CALL ID: RU/CGS/GRG/15/11/09

A core function of RUFORUM is to connect agricultural universities, especially graduate students, to farming communities and agribusiness. This is facilitated through competitive research grants to faculties in the RUFORUM member universities. The research should involve postgraduate training, address smallholder farmer needs, and should expose postgraduate students to wider stakeholder linkages. As part of this process, RUFORUM issued its second call for proposals under its Competitive Grants System – Graduate Research Grants (GRD) in November 2009. A total of 117 proposals were received from 14 universities, an increase of 84, compared to 33 proposals received in the CGS/GRG March 2009 Call for proposals. The total number of female applicants declined from 25% in the March 2009 call to 20% in the November 2009 call, but more female applicants (30%) received grants in the November 2009 call than in the March 2009 call (24%, see tables below). Also more universities (14) participated in the November call than in the March 2009 Call (7).

Compliance and evaluation of proposals

The process of selection of proposals for funding includes compliance check, review by external experts, review and pre-selection of proposals for funding by the RUFORUM Technical Committee (consisting of 12 members, 6 males and 6 females of whom 6 are from universities and 6 from outside the university system). The compliance check ensures adherence to the guidelines set out in the call (for example, submission before deadline; page limit, budget ceilings; possession of a PhD by the Principle Investigator, etc). Eighty four proposals (84) met the compliance check and were sent for external review by 3-4 independent technical experts. The review reports from the external reviewers were summarized and presented by the Secretariat to the Technical Committee meeting of 24-25 April 2010.

The Technical Committee has preselected 26 proposals for funding (see table below). The Principle Investigators are to revise their proposals to address issues raised by the external reviewers and Technical Committee before being awarded the grants. Each grant is for \$60,000 and to train at least two MSc students.

The successful applicants will be brought together for an orientation meeting in September 2010

For more information please contact Dr. Moses Osiru at m.osiru@ruforum.org

Table I: Proposals submitted to the Second call for proposals (Call ID: RU/CGS/GRG/15/11/09)

No	University	No of Proposals	Gender of PI	
			Female	Male
1	University of Nairobi	22	5	17
2	Makerere University	24	5	19
3	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology	12	3	9
4	Sokoine University of Agriculture	7	0	7
5	Kenyatta University	6	2	4
6	Egerton University	10	1	9
7	Kyambogo University	1	0	1
8	University of Zimbabwe	10	2	8
9	Bunda College of Agriculture - UNIMA	11	1	10
10	Moi University	6	3	3
11	Eduardo Mondlane University	3	1	2
12	Maseno University	1	0	1
13	Mekelle University	1	1	0
14	Bondo University College	1	0	1
15	DARS, Lunyangwe Research Station	1	1	0
16	University of Botswana	1	0	1
Total		117	24	93
Percentage		100%	20.5%	79.5%

Table II: Successful proposals by university – Call ID: RU/CGS/GRG/15/11/09

No	University	No of Proposals	Gender of PI	
			Female	Male
1	University of Nairobi	2	1	1
2	Makerere University	11	2	9
3	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology	1	1	0
4	Sokoine University of Agriculture	2	1	1
5	Kenyatta University	3	0	3
6	University of Zimbabwe	1	0	1
7	Bunda College of Agriculture - UNIMA	2	0	2
8	Moi University	1	1	0
9	Eduardo Mondlane University	2	1	1
10	Mekelle University	1	1	0
Total		26	8	18
Percentage		100%	30.8%	69.2%

Proposals Preselected for funding under the November 2009/2010 Competitive Grants Scheme Call ID: RU/CGS/GRG/15/11/09

Name of PI	Sex	PI Contact details	Project Title
Dr. Phinehas Tukamuhabwa	M	Department of Crop Science - Faculty of Agriculture Makerere University. P.O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 41 533580/540640 Fax: +256 41 531 641 Email: p.tuka@agric.mak.ac.ug	Towards developing a broad soybean Germplasm base and durable resistance to soybean rust disease
Dr. Denis K. Byarugaba	M	Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Parasitology - Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Makerere University P.O.Box 7062, Kampala Tel: 0712 881464, Email: dkb@vetmed.mak.ac.ug	Participatory control of Newcastle disease in village poultry using thermo stable ND vaccines in Uganda
Prof. Benson Mochoge	M	Department of Agricultural Resource Management, Kenyatta University, P.O. Box 43844-00100, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel:+254 202310720/720874195; Fax: +254 20 811575 / 811517 Email: bmo-choge@hotmail.com	Improving soil nutrients and water management to increase crop yields for enhanced livelihoods of small scale farmers in semi-arid Eastern Kenya
Prof. D. S. O. Osiru	M	Department of Crop Science - Faculty of Agriculture Makerere University P. O. Box 7062 Kampala Email: dsoosiru@agric.mak.ac.ug	Participatory selection and development of drought tolerant cassava varieties for farmers in marginal areas of Uganda
Dr. Emmanuel Manzungu	M	Soil Science & Agricultural Engineering Department - Faculty of Agriculture University of Zimbabwe, , P.O. Box MP 167, Mt Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe Telephone: + 263 912 254 231 Email: manzungu@mweb.co.zw	Participatory action research-based strategies for utilizing fallows to enhance livestock productivity and natural resource management in Zimbabwean communal lands
Dr Beston B. Maonga	M	Agricultural and Applied Economics Department - Bunda College of Agriculture, University of Malawi P O Box 219, Lilongwe, MALAWI. Tel: (265) 1 277 222/226/419; Mob: (265) (0)5 610 339; Fax: (265) 1 277 364/251 Email: maongabb@yahoo.com ; bmaonga@bunda.unima.mw	Functional analysis of cooperatives and their impact on livelihoods and sustainability: a case of agricultural cooperatives in Malawi
Dr. George M. Kariuki	M	Plant and Microbial Science Department, Kenyatta University P.O. Box 43844 Nairobi, Kenya. Tel 0711 447983, Email: gmmkariuki@yahoo.com	Participatory development, testing and validation of concepts and technologies for site-specific detection and control of plant parasitic nematodes infecting tomatoes in Mwea, Kenya.
Dr. Tusiime Geoffrey	M	Department of Crop Science - Faculty of Agriculture - Makerere University, P. O. Box 7062, Kampala Uganda. Phone: 0414 533 580 or 0772 674 873 E-mail: gtusiime@agric.mak.ac.ug	Development of a hot pepper (<i>Capsicum chinense</i>) root rot and wilt disease management strategy through genetic resistance, chemical application and proper choice of rotational crops
Prof. Kallunde P. Sibuga	F	Department of Crop Science and Production - Sokoine University of Agriculture P.O. Box 3005, Morogoro, Tanzania Telephone: 255 023 2603511/2/3/4; Cell: (+25507454 974 528 Fax: 255 023 2604651 Email: sibuga@suanet.ac.tz sibuga88@yahoo.co.uk	Legume biomass transfer for enhancing productivity of maize in <i>Striga</i> infested farmlands: the case of Iringa district, Tanzania.
Prof. H. R. Mloza-Banda	M	Department of Crop Science - Bunda College, University of Malawi, P. O. Box 219, Lilongwe, Malawi Email: mlozab@yahoo.co.uk	Towards benchmarking conservation agriculture in prevalent cropping systems of Malawi
Dr. George N. Chemining'wa	M	Department of Plant Science and Crop Protection College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, University of Nairobi, P. O. Box 29053 – 00625 Nairobi, Kenya Phone: +254 721723806 Email: um-chemin@hotmail.com	Enhancing productivity of dry bean in the face of climate variability through drought resilient varieties
Dr. Johnny Mugisha	M	Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Makerere University, P.O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda Tel.: 256-41-531152/256-773155702; Fax: 256-41-531641; Email: jomugisha@agric.mak.ac.ug	Enhancing potato production and market access in Uganda

Proposals Preselected for funding under the November 2009/2010 Competitive Grants Scheme Call ID: RU/CGS/GRG/15/11/09

Name of PI	Sex	PI Contact details	Project Title
Dr. Beatrice Were	F	Department of Biological Sciences - Moi University, P. O. Box 3900-30100, Eldoret, Kenya. Email: wbeatrice@hotmail.com	Assessment of biological nitrogen fixation (BNF) of groundnuts (<i>Arachis hypogaea</i> L.) after soil amendment with calcitic and dolomitic lime-stones in acid soils of western Kenya and eastern Uganda
Dr. Domingos Cugala	M	Faculty of Agronomy and Forest Engineering Eduardo Mondlane University Main University Campus - Av. Julius Nyerere, Maputo, Mozambique Phone: +258-21492177/8, Fax: +258-21492176 Email: dcugala@uem.mz ; dcugala@gmail.com	Assessment of the fruit fly, <i>Bactrocera invadens</i> , pest status and the impact of the parasitoid, <i>Fopius arisanus</i> on its populations in Mozambique
Dr. Benjamin Oginga Danga	M	Department of Agricultural Resource Management, Kenyatta University, P.O. Box 43844-00100, Nairobi, Kenya: Tel: +254 202310720; Fax: +254 20 811575 / 811517. Email danga.benjamin@ku.ac.ke .	Soil properties effects and management of organic residues to improve C sequestration, reduce N losses and improve crop yields
Dr. Herbert Talwana	M	Department of Crop Science - Faculty of Agriculture, Makerere University P. O. Box 7062, Kampala Uganda Tel: 0414 – 540464/533580/077521685 Email: haltalwana@agric.mak.ac.ug	Improving green gram (<i>Vigna radiata</i>) productivity for nutritional diversification, income and food security in Uganda
Dr. Charles Masembe	M	Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, Makerere University, P.O. Box, 7062, Kampala, Uganda Phone: +256-712455987 Email: cmasembe@zoology.mak.ac.ug ; alt email: cmasembe@gmail.com	Fisheries and aquaculture adaptation and conservation strategies in Uganda's changing climate
Dr. Philip Nyeko	M	Department of Forest Biology and Ecosystems Management, Makerere University P.O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda. Tel: 0414 543647 (office), 0392 967729 (cell); Fax: 256 414 533574; E-mail: nyeko@forest.mak.ac.ug	Evaluation of <i>Metarhizium anisopliae</i> for integrated management of termites on maize and <i>Grevillea robusta</i> in Uganda and Kenya
Dr. Agnes Namutebi	F	Department of Food Science and Technology - Faculty of Agriculture Makerere University. Tel: +256-712-958736; Fax: +256-414 533676; asnamutebi@agric.mak.ac.ug asnamutebi@yahoo.co.uk	Conserve and screen indigenous plant biodiversity and products of a premium value produced on smallholder farming systems of Lake Victoria Basin in East Africa
Dr. Fredah K. R. Wanzala	F	Department of Horticulture, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, P.O. Box 62000-00200, Nairobi, Kenya Telephone: +254-67-52711/52181-4, Fax: +254-67-52164 Email: freda@agr.jkuat.ac.ke fredawanza@yahoo.com	Production of disease-free papaya (<i>Carica papaya</i> L.) planting materials of known sex for commercial fruit production
Prof. Lilly C. Bebora	F	Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Veterinary Pathology, Microbiology and Parasitology, P. O. Box 29053 – 00625, Nairobi, Kenya Phone: +254 0- 722614 621 Email: lilybebora@yahoo.com	Enhancing village chicken productivity through parasite management for effective Newcastle disease vaccination in Kenya
Dr. Peter Ebanyat	M	Department of Soil Science - Faculty of Agriculture Makerere University, P. O. Box 7062, Kampala Uganda Email: ebanyat@agric.mak.ac.ug ; ebanyate@yahoo.com Tel: +256 772 595440, Fax +256 414 531641	Adapting soybean varieties to soil fertility variability for increased productivity in smallholder systems of Uganda
Dr. Natasha Sofia Ribeiro	F	Faculty of Agronomy and Forest Engineering, Eduardo Mondlane University (FAEF-UEM) - Campus Universitario, Edifício #1, P.O. box 257, Maputo, Mozambique; Telephone: +258- 21496238; Fax: +258- 21496238; Email: nribeiro@uem.mz	Contribution to the establishment of a fire monitoring and management plan for the sustainable woodlands management in Niassa National Reserve, northern Mozambique
Dr. Feiten Abay	F	Assistant Professor in Plant Breeding Mekelle University, Ethiopia P. O. BOX 231, fetien.abay@yahoo.com Tel: +251344410974 Fax: +251344409304	Development of improved scald tolerant barley varieties with superior end-use (malt) and nutritional quality for dry land areas of the northern Ethiopia
Dr. Susan Balaba Tumwebaze	F	Faculty of Forestry & Nature Conservation - Makerere University P.O. Box 7062, Kampala Tel: 256 754742065 E-mail: tumwebaze@forest.mak.ac.ug / balaba2@yahoo.com	Impact of land use/cover change on soil carbon stocks, livelihoods and opportunities for mitigation on Mt. Elgon region of Uganda
Dr. Sebastian W. Chenyambuga	M	Department of Animal Science and Production, Sokoine University of Agriculture P.O. Box 3004, Morogoro, Tanzania Tel. (office): +255 23 260 4617, Mobile: +255 784 754574 Fax: +255 23 260 4562 Email: chenya@suanet.ac.tz or chenyasw@yahoo.com	Development of management practices for sustainable improvement of indigenous goats in Tanzania

A New Regional PhD Programme in AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL INNOVATION STUDIES (ARIS) to be launched in 2011

Background

New knowledge and technologies are the key drivers of agricultural and rural development but they are themselves not sufficient to bring about development. Most critical is the institutional arrangement that allows the utilisation of knowledge and technologies from diverse sources in a coordinated and integrated way to bring about social and economic benefits to the people involved. This is essentially the framework of innovation system which is defined as a *network of organizations, enterprises and individuals focused on bringing new products, new processes and new forms of organization into economic use, together with the institutions and policies that affect the systems behavior and performance* (Rajalahti et al., 2008). Innovation systems thinking and practice is a relatively new discipline requiring a new type of professionals. The academia being the major source of skilled manpower development needed to transform the economy and develop industry must quickly respond to this critical need for new types of professionals.

A consortium of three East African Universities, namely, Makerere University in Uganda, Egerton University in Kenya and Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania in partnership with Wageningen University in the Netherlands and Montpellier SupAgro in France have developed a regional PhD programme in Agriculture and Rural Innovation Studies (ARIS). The initiative has been developed under the umbrella of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM). Seed funding for designing the program was obtained from the European Union (EU) ACP-EDULINK funded project on "Strengthening Agricultural and Rural Innovation Systems in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa: A Regional PhD Programme".

What is new in ARIS?

The purpose of the programme is to produce top-level skilled professionals with interdisciplinary orientation to guide logical development of institutions and structures for sustainable utilization of knowledge and technologies in agricultural and rural development in an integrated way. The uniqueness of the programme lies in its transformative nature by combining theoretical grounding and practice. It seeks to advance transformative learning through action research to catalyze change as well as improving trans-disciplinary research to create deeper and holistic understanding of the complexities in agricultural and rural development in Africa. It is not just another academic PhD programme

but one that seeks to make a difference in the world of practice in agricultural and rural development informed by rigorous theoretical, conceptual and methodological analysis.

The programme integrates essential elements of new learning focused on three spheres:

- I** – referring to personal development
- We** – referring to community/societal engagement, social learning, collectivity
- It** – referring to the science or classical content and ways of doing things

Curriculum

A curriculum has been developed through a consultative and participatory process involving a wide range of relevant stakeholders in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania as well as international stakeholder organizations. The three East African universities (consortia) are in the process of getting the programme approved through their relevant organs. The course duration is three years with one year of course work and two years of research leading to a thesis. The curriculum comprises of the following courses and seminar series:

Semester I	Semester II
Agricultural and Rural Development in Africa	Knowledge Management and Communication
Participatory Methods and Action Research for Innovation in Livelihoods and Agricultural Systems	Organizational and Institutional Development for Rural Transformation
Innovations for Agricultural and Rural Development	Application of Innovation Systems in Agricultural and Rural Development
Research Designs	Agricultural Services Delivery and Social Entrepreneurship
Quantitative Research and Statistical Applications	
Qualitative Research	
Seminar Series	
Personal Mastery and Soft Skills (PMSS)	
Scientific Writing and Publishing	
Peer Learning and Mentorship	

Modus Operandi

The regionality of the programme is premised on the recognition of capacity gaps and the value of harnessing existing regional capacity and collaboration with Euro-

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

pean and other universities in the North. The programme will be approved by Makerere University, Egerton University and Sokoine University of Agriculture. Each of the three universities will admit 5-10 students every year. For purposes of quality assurance and efficiency, all the students admitted in the three universities as a cohort will be brought together for the first year to undertake course work in a central place in one of the three universities. The course work will be conducted in teams comprising of professors from the partner European Universities, the consortium of East African Universities and from other organizations.

After course work, the students will return to their respective countries to conduct research supervised by teams of African and European based scientists. The award will be by the respective universities where the students are admitted. The programme is therefore conceived as a capacity building initiative for high quality PhD training in agricultural and rural innovations.

For more specific information, contact the following persons in the three universities:

Makerere University	Egerton University	Sokoine University of Agriculture
Dr. Florence Birungi Kyazze National Coordinator Uganda, Department of Agricultural Extension/ Education, Makerere University, P.O. Box 7062, Kampala. Uganda, Tel: Mobile, +256712566952, Fax: + 25641531641, E-mail: fbirungikyazze@agric.mak.ac.ug	Prof. Christopher Onyango National Coordinator Kenya, Department of Agricultural Education and Extension, Egerton University, P.O. Box 20115, Njoro, Kenya Tel: +254 722902908, Email: onyangochris@yahoo.com	Prof. Mlozi Malongo National Coordinator Tanzania, Department of Agricultural Extension and Education, Sokoine University of Agriculture, P.O. Box Morogoro, Tanzania, Tel: +255787022609, Email: malom2003@yahoo.co.uk



Workshop on Experimental Design and Data Analysis (under-utilised crops)

August 23-27, 2010

Between August 23 and 27th, 2010, the International Foundation for Science (IFS), Bioversity International, RUFORUM and other partners will conduct a training workshop on experimental design and data analysis **with the focus on under-utilised crops research**. The course will be held in Entebbe, Uganda. If you, or someone you know may benefit from such a course, applications are welcome. In particular, female scientists are encouraged to apply.

Those researchers who are actively pursuing research relevant to under-utilised crops and who feel that they would greatly benefit from such a course are invited **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** to send an abstract (half page with title) of their research project which should have been in progress for a minimum of one year. **Candidates only from the following countries will be considered: Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Ethiopia and Mozambique.** We encourage people working on inter-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder research projects.

Applicants should have a minimum of a Master's qualification and have been actively pursuing their under-utilised crops-related research for at least 12 months. They should be scientists more or less at the beginning of their research careers and less than 40 (or less than 45 if your previous higher degree was obtained within the last 5 years).

If you have any special experimental design or data analysis challenges, please describe these problems at the end of your abstract.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 10th August, 2010 and should be sent to both e-mail addresses below:

Richard A Hall, International Foundation for Science, Karlavägen 108, SE 11526, Stockholm, Sweden. Tel +46 8 545 818 14 Email: richard.hall@ifs.se and Per Rudebjer, Bioversity International, Via dei Tre Denari 472/a, 000 57 Maccarese, Italy. Tel: +39 066118388 Email: p.rudebjer@cgiar.org. Send copies to Dr. Wellington Ekaya at w.ekaya@ruforum.org

For more Information, Please visit www.ruforum.org

THE RUFORUM FIELD ATTACHMENT PROGRAM AWARD (FAPA)- Supplementary Call for the 2010 Field Attachment Award

These grants are intended to provide support for more effective research into use by RUFORUM GRG students. The Award will be valid for use after handing in the completed M.Sc thesis for examination and while waiting for results. It is anticipated that the grantees will use the Award 1 October-31 December 2010.

A summary of the key requirements is given below but all prospective applicants are referred to the General Information and Guidelines which are available in the web site for full details visit www.ruforum.org.

Purpose:

- To provide an opportunity to continue the work of the Project with communities in finalising implementation or scaling up of some of the accepted findings from the research;
- To provide a local implementing agency (local government, farmers group, NGO, government department, research agency, private company etc) with the specialised knowledge of the student for better institutionalisation of new approaches and to enable them to assess the employability of the student/s; and,

To provide the student with an opportunity to obtain working experience within an organisation and to make contacts for employment in the future.

Description:

- Students will make contact with an organisation and arrange for an attachment for the three months after they have completed their thesis;
- Students will continue with the work they have been doing and should describe this clearly in their application;
- Winning applicants may be expected to provide a short presentation or poster paper at the Biennial Meeting in September on what they will be doing during the field attachment – this could be linked to the presentation of the project;
- Grantees will normally be paid the stipend as an advance each month with the balance to be paid at the end of the attachment when all reports have been received;
- The agency the student works with will be required to provide a brief verbal or written confirmation to the Supervisor at the end of each month that the student attachment is progressing as expected. They are then requested to submit a written report on the work carried out (by the middle of the last month of attachment) to the student's supervisor and at the end of the attachment to provide the student with a reference (unless the work was not satisfactory). RUFORUM may request to receive a copy of this confirmation;
- The student will be expected to provide the editor of the RUFORUM Newsletter with a short insert (1/4 page) on their work with the community at the end of months one

and two;

- The student will be expected to provide a one page write-up of their experience for the RUFORUM alumni association newsletter at the end of month two;
- A report by the student on their experiences and on potential areas for further research and action should be submitted to the RUFORUM Secretariat through the supervisor, at the end of the attachment;

The University will submit a brief financial report showing confirmation of receipt of the monthly stipend by the student together with the report from the host agency and the student's final report.

Qualification

- The attachment must be for work directly related to implementing or scaling out part of the work carried out during the RUFORUM Graduate Research Grant project;
- The grantees must be RUFORUM graduates;
- The University, through the Dean, must provide a letter of support to the application
- There must be proof of acceptance of the attachment by the host organisation;

Evidence of demand for this from the local community will be an added advantage

Application Process

1. Students make contact with the communities and organisations and establish the feasibility of such an arrangement;
2. The Student must prepare a brief proposal as outlined in the Guidelines for the FAPA;
3. No financial breakdown is required. This will be a monthly stipend of US\$200 paid to the student. An advance of approximately \$400 per month will then be provided to the student to cover all their transport, living, meeting and incidental expenses to achieve their objective, including all costs that are not covered by their host agency. Project proposals should not be developed in a way that requires significant co-funding in order for the work to be successful unless there is commitment in writing of the co-funding by the host agency;
4. Applications should be forwarded, together with the support evidence, to the RUFORUM Secretariat by 1st July 2010;
5. The applications will be reviewed by the Secretariat for compliance and the winning grants will be selected by the Technical Committee; and,

Applicants will be advised of the outcome by late September 2010. **Applications should be submitted to secretariat@ruforum.org and copies to m.osiru@ruforum.org**

Reflective Learning Emphasized Through Action Research In Universities

The purpose of the Community Action Research Programme (CARP) is to strengthen engagement of RUFORUM universities with development practice, more specifically smallholder farming communities and other actors engaged in agricultural R&D practice in support of smallholder farmers in the eastern, central and southern Africa region. Key attributes of the Call are:

1. Piloting innovative approaches for university outreach to build community entrepreneurial capacity. The aim is to demonstrate that university capacity can and should be harnessed to support agricultural communities. Although initial grants are for 3 years, it is hoped that activities will be up and out-scaled for another 3-5 years, thus facilitating long term engagement of universities with communities;
2. Scaling up and out research outputs from especially the most successful FORUM/RUFORUM research projects; and,
3. Use the CARP to promote experiential learning and feedback lessons from CARP to strengthen university curricula and overall university research, training and outreach programmes.

In August 2009, the RUFORUM Technical Committee met in Nairobi, Kenya to design guidelines for the RUFORUM Community Action Research Programme (CARP). Subsequently, the RUFORUM Secretariat issued a Call for Proposals in September 2009 with deadline date for Submission set as 15 February 2010.

Response to the CARP Evaluation

The Secretariat received a total of 32 Proposals, but only 24 met the eligibility criteria. Eight proposals were disqualified: three were from non eligible universities, three were received after deadline date for submission and two were inexcusably beyond the page limit. The 24 proposals which met the compliant check were sent to five independent evaluators with long experience in African research systems.

Results of the CARP Evaluation

The Technical Committee met in April 2010 and concurred with the independent evaluators report and selected the proposals below for funding. Additional funding is being solicited to fund additional CARP projects. Each of the CARP projects will receive US\$300,000. The CARP is funded with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the African Caribbean and Pacific

Science and Technology Programme of the European Commission (ACP S&T) 'Outreach Project' (Contract number Fed/2009/217080).

List of selected Projects under the Community Action Research Programme

Name of PI	Sex	PI Contact details	Project Title
Dr. Peter Ebanyat	M	Department of Soil Science, Makerere University, P.O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda. Tel: +256 772 955440 Email: ebanype@yahoo.com ; ebanyat@agric.mak.ac.ug	Strengthening University-Farming Community engagement for Improved and Sustainable Livelihoods (SUFACE)
Prof. John Robert Okalebo	M	Department of Soil Science, Chepkoiel Campus, Moi University, P.O. Box 1125, Eldoret, Kenya. Mob: +254 727 819023 Email: rokalebo@yahoo.com	University Outreach Support to Farmer Associations in West Kenya
Prof. Emmanuel Kaunda	M	NEPAD Regional Fish Node-SANBio, P.O. Box 219, Lilongwe, Malawi. Tel: +265 1 277260/268, Fax: +265 1 277364/281 Mob: +265 999 510796. Email: ekaunda@yahoo.com ; ekaunda@bunda.unim.mw	Enhancing fish production and marketing for food security and rural incomes of small-scale producers in Malawi

Proposal Finalisation Workshop

On 16 and 17 June, 2010, the winning teams were brought together to finalise their proposals. A fourth Team from Kenyatta University, that was also scored by evaluators highly, but for which funding was not immediately available was also invited to the training workshop. RUFORUM hopes to continually provide support to the three projects to ensure that they are implemented within the spirit of the CARP Call.

For more information, please contact Dr. Moses Osiru at m.osiru@ruforum.org



FSC Summer School 2010: Disease-Related Malnutrition (abridged announcement)

Location and date

The Food Security Center (FSC) and the Institute for Biological Chemistry and Nutrition invite undergraduate and graduate students to attend the FSC Summer School 2010 "Disease-Related Malnutrition", which will be held at the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart, Germany from September 20 to October 8, 2010.

Aim

The summer school aims to impart a basic understanding of the complex interactions between essential nutrients and malnutrition.

Target group

The summer school is aimed at undergraduate students in natural sciences (primarily, but not exclusively, nutritional, agricultural or biological sciences) at the Master of Science level, but is also open for Ph.D. students.

Scholarships

There will be twelve FSC/DAAD scholarships available for students from developing countries. The scholarship is not transferable and requires students to arrive in Stuttgart (Germany) no later than September 19 and to leave no earlier than October 8, 2010.

Contact/course instructor

For further questions, please contact Dr. Frank Email: jan.frank@nutrition-research.de

Course website: <http://www.nutrition-research.de/fsc.html>



RUFORUM ICT Staff participate in the 8th E-learning@greenwich conference



The University of Greenwich based in London, United Kingdom, successfully hosted two major events in its calendar: the annual teaching and learning conference (6th of July 2010) and the 8th Elearning@greenwich conference (7th of July 2010). The theme for the e-learning conference was "Future Learningscapes: a 21st Century Challenge". Baroness Tessa Blackstone (Vice Chancellor, University of Greenwich) officially opened the conference that was attended by over 100 people. Professor Grainne Conole, a Professor of e-Learning at the Institute of Educational Technology based at the UK Open

University, gave a passionate keynote address titled "Predicting the future - fact or fantasy"? She provided a critical review of new technologies and considered the implications for education. She emphasized the three facets of our current work as part of "Learning in an open world programme –(i) a recent review of Web 2.0 technologies,(ii) a review of Open Educational Resource initiatives, and (iii) the development of a social networking site for learning and teaching, Cloud works.

A number of other exciting presentations were lined up. Ms Nodumo Dhlamini and Miss Joan Apio represented RUFORUM at the conference and made a joint presentation titled "New Visions, Strategies and Policies needed to manage future learningscapes: a case study of RUFORUM universities". The key messages from the RUFORUM presentation were:

1. There are exciting ICT infrastructure-related developments in Africa. African universities must embrace and adapt to the changes. However, there is inadequate preparedness to support future learning environments.
2. But there are some ICT success stories in African universities
3. Universities the world over need to prioritize scenario mapping of future learning environments

Worthwhile investments should focus on designing new visions, strategies and policies. University leaders could understudy and learn from the social networking models in terms of planning the infrastructure, the content management systems and the people to support the future learning environments. **Story by Ms. Nodumo Dhlamini. For more information on the conference, please contact her at n.dhlamini@ruforum.org**

Announcements, Events, Opportunities and more

Regional PhD Programme in Soil and Water Management hosted by Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania starts in September/October 2010. Applications for 2010 intake closed. For more information, please send email to: abel-kaaya@yahoo.co.uk or btiisekwa@yahoo.co.uk or w.ekaya@ruforum.org

Regional PhD Plant Breeding and Biotechnology hosted by Makerere University, Uganda starts in September/October 2010. Applications close on 15th August 2010. The Programme will commence on 1st November 2010. Further information on "How to Apply" is available at <http://www.sgs.mak.ac.ug>. Enquiries to be directed to pokori@agric.mak.ac.ug or crop@agric.mak.ac.ug or w.ekaya@ruforum.org. Full advert can be accessed from www.ruforum.org under announcements.

Regional PhD in Dryland Resource Management hosted by University of Nairobi, Kenya starts in November 2010. Applications close 30th September 2010. For more information, please send email to: deanagric@uonbi.ac.ke or rgkinuthia@gmail.com or w.ekaya@ruforum.org. Full advert soon to be available at www.ruforum.org under announcements.

Regional MSc in Research Methods hosted by Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya starts in October 2010. Some scholarships available. Applications for admission and for scholarship open until 30th August 2010. For more information, please visit <http://www.jkuat.ac.ke>. You may also send email to: dean@agr.jkuat.ac.ke or

egmamati@gmail.com or w.ekaya@ruforum.org

Research scholarships for visiting post-docs, sandwich PhD scholarships, and excellence scholarships for the FSC-supported PhD Programme "Global Food Security" at University of Hohenheim, summer school at University of Hohenheim

Germany. For more information please visit www.foodsecurity.de. You may also send inquiry email to w.ekaya@ruforum.org or ekaya@africaonline.co.ke

Partners Annual Planning Meeting of the DAAD- funded Security Centre Project will be held at the Imperial Resort Beach Hotel, 7th - 9th September 2010. Partners in the project come from Germany, Africa, Asia, Latin America. For more information about the FSC Project, visit www.ruforum.org and www.foodsecurity.de

Regional Stakeholder Meeting on Neglected and Underutilized Species of crops to take place in Nairobi, 26th -27th July 2010, hosted by University of Nairobi. This is an ACP (S&T) Project Activity in Eastern Africa. For more information, send email to knkabuu@yahoo.com or mkwapata@yahoo.com or ekaya@africaonline.co.ke or p.rudebjer@cgiar.org

Workshop on Experimental Design and Data Analysis (focusing on under-utilized crops research) to take place in Entebbe, Uganda, August 23-27, 2010. Applications close on 10th August, 2010. For further details and application, please visit www.ruforum.org. You may send inquiry email to Richard.hall@ifs.se or p.rudebjer@cgiar.org or w.ekaya@ruforum.org

Workshop on Scientific Data Management for University Lectures teaching research methods to be held 17-26 August 2010 at Imperial Resort Beach, Entebbe. Please send expressions of Interests to secretariat@ruforum.org with copies to a.akwang@ruforum.org

Please visit RUFORUM Website (www.ruforum.org) for these and many other opportunities, events, announcements, etc

United Kingdom Announces Support for Higher Education in Africa

At a meeting at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Accra, Ghana, on Tuesday 18th July 2006, Gareth Thomas, Minister for International Development, announced that the Department for International Development (DFID) will contribute £3.5 million over the next four years to help establish a new programme of support for higher education in Africa. The programme is designed to help higher education act as a catalyst for poverty reduction and underpin the achievement of the UN's Millennium Development Goals. The funding will enable the Association of African Universities (AAU), based in Ghana, to further enhance regional partnerships in line with recommendations highlighted by the Commission for Africa.

Gareth Thomas said: "Higher Education Institutions have a vital role in revitalising education across Africa. In doing so they need to be tied in more closely with national programmes for helping developing nations reach key Millennium Development Goals, especially in the acceleration of efforts to make better progress in improving the quality of education in primary school. This programme, like our Development Partnerships in Higher Education scheme, is designed to act as a catalyst in the fight against poverty in Africa and underpin the achievement of the MDGs".

Welcoming the announcement Akilagpa Sawyerr, Secretary-General of the AAU, said "a revitalised higher education system is now generally recognised as critical to the overall development of Africa. While the burden of revitalisation rests principally with African higher education institutions themselves and their governments, the task will be greatly facilitated by collective action at the regional level on common problems and opportunities, as well as by support from development partners". This, he said is recognised in the African Union's Draft Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015), as it was in the report of the Commission for Africa. For more information, Please visit this link. Source <http://www.aau.org/e-courier/issue.htm?no=34>

Sokoine University of Agriculture Set to Launch Course-based PhD Training

PhD Programme will support CAADP Pillar 1

Sokoine University of Agriculture will in October 2010 launch its first course based PhD training programme. The Programme, modeled along the lines of USA training, will involve one year of intense course work followed by 2-3 years of field research in the home countries of the students. The training programme was designed jointly by 25 member universities of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and the Alliance for A Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Soil Health Programme. It will draw students and faculty from across Eastern, Central and Southern Africa region and beyond.

This is the first time Sokoine will implement course based PhD training. Sokoine offers PhD training, but until now, only by thesis research. The new **PhD programme in Soil and Water Management** will offer specialization in three areas:

- Land Use Management
- Integrated Soil Fertility Management
- Water Resources Management

The new PhD Programme will contribute to building the required human resource to drive the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) implementation of its Pillar 1 thrust, that is, of increasing access to sustainable land use and water management. About 60 students from across Africa applied for admission to the PhD programme, and 16 have been admitted to start the programme in October 2010. The next intake is due late next year. The Programme is being implemented through a generous grant from AGRA of US\$1,867,497. RUFORUM has provided US\$480,000 and will support other institutional strengthening activities, including development of e-course modules and skill enhancement training for students, faculty and university management.

For more details about the PhD Programme, please contact Dr. Abel Kaaya (email akaaya@suanet.ac.tz or abel-kaaya@yahoo.co.uk) and Dr. Wellington Ekaya at RUFORUM Secretariat (email: w.ekaya@ruforum.org)

Announcement

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE (CHEA)

15-19 November 2010, Speke Resort, Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda

"African universities and other institutions of higher learning ultimately will be responsible for replenishing the stock of human capital in national research and extension services".....As stated by NEPAD in the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity "...urgent action must be taken to restore the quality of graduate and postgraduate agricultural education in Africa."

RUFORUM announces the Ministerial Meeting on Higher Education in Agriculture. We invite interested individuals and institutions to register online at www.ruforum.org

The meeting will serve to:

1. Review progress in implementing the Dar-es-Salaam meeting of Ministers and the Cape Town Declaration of Ministers responsible for Science and Technology;
2. Facilitate international networking to spur and sustain re-engineering of Higher Education Institutions in Africa;
3. Mobilize African universities to be more pro-active in engaging in Africa's development and in particular to make their due contribution to research and innovation; and,
4. Mobilize political and development commitment for increasing investments in Higher Education in Africa

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) Plot 151 Garden Hill, P.O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 414 535939; Fax: +256 414534153 Email: secretariat@ruforum.org



JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE MSC IN RESEARCH METHODS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified applicants to pursue a two – year Master's degree in Research Methods tenable at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology in Kenya. The MSc in Research Methods is designed to train professionals who will support agricultural, natural resource management and socio-sciences research throughout the region. The programme aims to produce research methods specialists who will be able to work across the social, economic and biophysical sciences to make solid contributions in enhancing the effectiveness of modern integrative research. The course provides a strong foundation in research conceptualization, design, data collection, data management, statistical analysis and reporting. While it has been built on the traditions of statistics and biometrics, it extends these by placing them in the context of research for development.

The course is highly practical in nature; built around research that is carried throughout sub-Saharan Africa. It aims to prepare graduates for work in research programmes. The course uses innovative discovery and problem-based teaching approaches delivery is done through novel methods. Resource persons for the programme are drawn from universities and other institutions in the region and beyond. The course is suitable for graduates in statistics or applied mathematics who are fascinated by agriculture and rural development, or those with agriculture, biological or Social Sciences background that are comfortable with mathematics and numbers.

With support from the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), this course was launched in 2009 at JKUAT following a consultative process with stakeholders to try and fill the gap in capacity in Research Methods in the region. The second intake for MSc Research Methods for the 2010/2011 academic year will be in October 2010. Therefore, applications are invited from qualified candidates from East and South Africa regions.

Eligibility for Admission

An applicant for Master of Science in Research Methods should be;

- A holder of at least Second Class Honours (Upper Division) degree in Agricultural, Biological, Social Sciences or Statistics/Mathematics from a University recognized by the University Senate **OR**
- A holder of a Second Class Honours (Lower Division degree in the disciplines in (a) above and related field of study from a University recognized by the University Senate shall be considered provided that the candidate has at least two years relevant work experience since graduation.
- Working with a National Research Institution will be an added advantage.

Application Process

The application (in English) should include the following:

A duly completed application form for admission to JKUAT obtainable from JKUAT office of the Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies upon payment of a non-refundable application fee of Kshs.1500 (US\$25.00). Forms can also be downloaded from JKUAT website; www.jkuat.ac.ke.

Three letters from the applicant's referees, including at least one from a supervisor in a previous academic institution.

The application package should be sent by registered mail/courier to:

Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies, JKUAT, P.O. BOX 62000-00200, Nairobi, Kenya.

All applications must be received by 31 August, 2010.

For more information about the course, please contact: **The Director, BPS, JKUAT, Tel: 254 067-52711 Ext. 6114 or 254 067-52125 Email: director@bps.jkuat.ac.ke or Dean, Faculty of Agriculture Email: dean@agr.jkuat.ac.ke Tel: 254 067-52711 Ext. 4428 or 067-52193**



**REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES FORUM FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN AGRICULTURE
GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCEMENT [Call ID: RM/GF/M/10]
MSc in RESEARCH METHODS**

Scholarship Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a member-based organisation of 25 universities in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) whose goal is to strengthen graduate training and agricultural related research. This is done by providing resources and peer support to generate knowledge, research products and human resources to support **agricultural development**. RUFORUM is involved in Regional graduate programmes that are responsive to stakeholder needs and national and regional development goals.

RUFORUM has identified limited capacity in research methods as a constraint to excellent research for development in the ESA region, and hence has initiated a program of building capacity in this area. One component of that is the MSc in Research Methods launched in 2009. The MSc in Research Methods aims to train professionals who will support **agricultural and related researchers**. The course provides a strong foundation in research design, data collection, data management and statistical analysis. Whilst built on the traditions of statistics and biometrics, it extends these by placing them in the context of research for development. The programme aims to produce research methods specialists who will be able to work across the social, economic and biophysical sciences and who will be able to make solid contributions to enhancing the effectiveness of modern, integrative research. The course is highly practical, built around research being carried out in East and Southern Africa. It provides a professional training, aiming to prepare graduates for work in research programmes in the region. The MSc course uses innovative discovery and problem-based teaching approaches. The MSc course is suitable for graduates in statistics or applied maths who have a passion for agriculture and rural development, or those with an agriculture or biology background who are comfortable with maths and numbers.

The course will run for 24 months starting in October / November 2010.

Programme host

The programme will be hosted in Kenya by Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), but resource persons will come from universities and other institutions in the region and beyond. For further information and application process, please send email to dean@agr.jkuat.ac.ke and egmamati@gmail.com. Further details can also be found at <http://www.jkuat.ac.ke> and www.ruforum.org.

Scholarship eligibility and requirements

RUFORUM is offering a limited number of scholarships. Applicants should first apply to JKUAT for admission to the programme. Proof of admission to the programme is a prerequisite for consideration for scholarship.

What the scholarship covers

The scholarship will cover application fee, tuition fees, research costs, economy class return air fare (s), medical cover and living expenses. Full details will be given on admission. ***The scholarship does not cater for family members/dependants of students.***

Application process

The application package (in English) should include the following:

- A duly filled and signed fellowship / scholarship application form, available at www.ruforum.org under announcements.
- Letters from the applicant's referees, including one from previous academic institution.

The application package should be sent by email as a single zipped folder to: w.ekaya@ruforum.org and ekaya@africaonline.co.ke.

Applicants also have the option of sending hard copy applications by **registered / trackable** courier to the address below. In both cases, acknowledgement will be sent to applicants via email.

RUFORUM SECRETARIAT,

Attn: Program Manager, Training & Quality Assurance

(Scholarship Application - RM/GF/M/10)

Plot 151 Garden Hill, Makerere University, P.O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda. Tel: +256-41-4535939; +254-722-278249

Emails : w.ekaya@ruforum.org and ekaya@africaonline.co.ke [send to BOTH]

For any urgent inquiries please call: +254-722-278249 (24 hrs) or +256-41-453939 (office hrs)

Scholarship Application Deadline: All applications must be received by end of day on **30th August 2010**.

MAKERERE

P.O. Box 7062 Kampala Uganda
Fax: 256-414-531641



UNIVERSITY

Tel: 256-414-533580
Email: crop@agric.mak.ac.ug

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

DEPARTMENT OF CROP SCIENCE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PHD POSITIONS IN PLANT BREEDING AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

1. Background

Strengthening plant breeding, biotechnology and seed systems has been identified as a core strategic investment area in Sub-Saharan Africa by various continental, sub-regional and by several National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS). Investing in these areas is critical to enhance progress towards achieving a continent free of hunger, malnutrition, poverty and sustainable exploitation of the environment. The restoration of crop productivity as the mechanism to address the above development challenges requires a strong and effective human capital and working national plant breeding systems.

To achieve this goal, Makerere University in partnership with 25 Universities in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa under their umbrella organization the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) has developed the PhD Programme in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology. The Programme has received its first cohort of students and now invites applications for the second cohort. The Programme is run as a regional capacity building initiative to assure shared vision, net-working, and low transaction costs with the degree offered by Makerere University.

2. Programme attributes

1. The goal is to produce "well-grounded" plant breeders, knowledgeable and with skills to work in private and public sectors as researchers, trainers and policy advisors
2. The research is based on identified regional constraints such as those identified by the Sub-Saharan and Sub-regional Africa regional research organizations.
3. It integrates plant breeding, seed systems and biotechnology (molecular biology, bioinformatics and cell and tissue culture) at PhD level using local crops and facilities and draws personnel in and outside of the region.
4. It includes training in emergent sciences as well as critical areas of agronomy, disease and pest management and entrepreneurship.
5. The Programme is run on a course work and thesis basis.

3. Quality attributes of our graduates

On completion of this programme, graduates will be able to:

1. Use different scientific disciplines related to plant breeding, biotechnology and seed systems to produce new varieties and address value-chain needs;
2. Discuss and provide policy guidance such as on seed industry and applications of molecular biology and biotechnological methods used by agricultural researchers;
3. Design and run plant breeding programmes;
4. Manage seed enterprises; and,
5. Work and or provide leadership in multi-actor platforms (from production to marketing).

4. Who qualifies

All applicants with the following attributes are eligible to apply

1. Must be holders of a relevant Master of Science degree in agricultural sciences particularly, crop science, crop protection, horticulture or other plant sciences from a recognized University.
2. They must be holders of a Masters of Science degree in agriculture and related disciplines of Plant sciences.
3. Candidates to this programme should be able to serve target end-user institutions during and upon completion of the course
4. Women applicants are especially encouraged to apply.

5. How to apply

Applicants for admission to the Programme must satisfy all minimum requirements for admission into a PhD programme at Makerere University. Fifteen places are available and application forms must be received by 30th August 2010. The application in hard copy should be addressed to the Director School of Graduate Studies Makerere University P.O. Box 7062 Kampala Uganda. The envelope should be labeled "Application for PhD in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology."

The Programme will commence on 1st November 2010. Further information on "How to Apply" is available at Details of the applications can be found at <http://www.sgs.mak.ac.ug>. Enquiries should be directed to pokori@agric.mak.ac.ug or crop@agric.mak.ac.ug (Attention: Head, Crop Science Department).



RUFORUM GRADUATE RESEARCH GRANTS – CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Call ID: [RU/CGS/GRG/15/10/10](#)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE: [OCTOBER 15TH, 2010](#)

For selection in March 2011

BACKGROUND

This is to announce the Third Call for Proposals of the RUFORUM Graduate Research Grants (GRG). The purpose of the Call is to support capacity building at graduate level and to link universities more closely with rural communities and research and development agencies. Please consult submission guidelines for writing Graduate Research Grants proposals. Please stick closely to the guidelines provided.

For more information on RUFORUM and the Graduate Research Grants, please visit www.ruforum.org

TIME FRAME for Call ID [RU/CGS/GRG/15/10/10](#)

Deadline for Proposal submission to RUFORUM Secretariat by **15th October, 2010**.

Compliance Review and send to External Reviewers by **1st November 2010**

External Reviewers to return proposals with comments to Secretariat by **15 December 2010**

Secretariat to compile proposals for review by Technical Committee by **1st February 2011**

Results from the selection will be communicated to PIs in **April, 2011**.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

A soft copy of the complete application package must be submitted by email (all supporting documents, including from collaborators must be included in the same email from the PI). Where an applicant submits more than one proposal, each must be sent separately. Applications should be addressed to:

The Grants Manager

RUFORUM Secretariat,

[Call ID: *specify*]

Plot 151 Garden Hill, Makerere University

P.O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda.

Tel.: +256-414-535939; Fax: +256-414-543153

Email: cgs@ruforum.org; with copies to secretariat@ruforum.org; m.osiru@ruforum.org and ntwalica@gmail.com