

RUFORUM MONTHLY

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

University of Malawi launches two regional PhD programmes in support of the CAADP Process

19 PhD students start training with lecturers drawn from across Africa and NEPAD-University Fisheries Network launched



Above: A Fish Pool project at Bunda College

The University of Malawi, in partnership with 24 other RUFORUM Universities, has launched two regional PhD training programmes in support of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). The CAADP was launched by African Heads of States and Governments in 2003 as a blue print for revitalizing African economic development. The CAADP aims at achieving 6% annual growth in the Agricultural sector, which is the engine for economic development in most African countries. The CAADP addresses four key investment areas (Pillars), (i) extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems, (ii) improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access, (iii) increasing food supply and reducing hunger, and (iv) agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption. Implementation of the CAADP is however constrained by the limited absorptive capacity in the continent, especially the human resource capacity to drive and guide

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- **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 in the last week of every month ■

ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Conference on Agro-Biotechnology, Biosafety and Seed Systems in Developing Countries: AGBIOSEED 2010. Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala Uganda 8-11 March 2010

RUFORUM strategic Plan Review. Bellagio, Italy, 12-16 April 2010

RUFORUM Annual General Meeting Zimbabwe, 4-6 August 2010

RUFORUM Biennial Conference. 13-17 September, 2010

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

RUFORUM Deans Meeting, 17-21 May, 2010

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

RUFORUM Website link now available at www.ruforum.org



RUFORUM Universities ranks improve

Webometrics, an organisation that monitors university performance worldwide has released its official ranking of universities globally. In Africa, Universities in South Africa maintain their top position in the Continent and are ranked highly even globally.

Webometrics does the ranking twice a year according to the number of times a new article appears on the Internet about research done at the institution. This is considered an indicator of the impact and prestige of the university and its commitment to disseminating research outcomes. Among the RUFORUM 25 Universities, Makerere University was ranked highest (15th position), followed by the University of Zimbabwe (23rd position) and University of Nairobi (28th position). See page 2 for more details.

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Top 100 Ranked African Universities

Continent Rank	University	World Rank			
1	University of Cape Town	317	51	Université de Batna	5,598
2	University of Pretoria	531	52	Tshwane University of Technology	5,662
3	Stellenbosch University	549	53	Université Mentouri de Constantine	5,715
4	University of the Witwatersrand	688	54	Université Virtuelle de Tunis	5,809
5	Rhodes University	997	55	University of Ilorin	5,846
6	University of Kwazulu Natal	1,014	56	University of Zululand	5,882
7	University of the Western Cape	1,032	57	Alexandria University	5,883
8	University of South Africa	1,290	58	Central University College	5,946
9	Cairo University	1,387	59	Université Mohammed V Souissi	5,983
10	American University in Cairo	1,614	60	University of Malawi	6,114
11	Ain Shams University	1,713	61	Obafemi Awolowo University	6,265
12	University of the Free State	2,095	62	University of Fort Hare	6,302
13	University of Johannesburg	2,179	63	University of Ibadan	6,396
14	Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University	2,300	64	Université M'Hamed Bougara de Bumerdes	6,472
15	Makerere University	2,685	65	Université Ferhat Abbas Setif	6,509
16	Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar	2,828	66	Egerton University	6,548
17	North West University	3,023	67	University of Zambia	6,769
18	Mansoura University	3,100	68	Université Djillali Liabes	6,784
19	Al Akhawayn University Ifrane	3,416	69	Université d'Alger	6,792
20	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology	3,527	70	University of Tanta	6,851
21	University of Namibia	3,562	71	Al Azhar Al-Sharif Islamic Research Academy	6,854
22	Strathmore University Nairobi	3,623	72	Université Saad Dahlab Blida	6,924
23	University of Zimbabwe	3,694	73	Université Abdelhamid Ibn Badis Mostaganem	6,928
24	University of Dar Es Salaam	3,750	74	University of Jos	7,000
25	Université Cadi Ayyad	3,781	75	College of Medicine University of Malawi	7,108
26	Université Abou Bekr Belkaid Tlemcen	3,782	76	Kenyatta University	7,189
27	University of Mauritius	3,792	77	École du Patrimoine Africain	7,190
28	University of Nairobi	3,897	78	Université des Sciences et de la Technologie Houari Boumediene	7,217
29	Cape Peninsula University of Technology	3,954	79	University of Lagos	7,246
30	Addis Ababa University	4,022	80	École Supérieure des Communications de Tunis	7,274
31	Durban University of Technology	4,050	81	Nile University	7,323
32	University of Botswana	4,148	82	Sokoine University of Agriculture	7,337
33	École Mohammadia d'Ingénieurs	4,256	83	Moi University	7,352
34	Arab Academy for Science & Technology and Maritime Transport	4,288	84	Institut National des Postes et Telecommunications Maroc	7,385
35	National University of Rwanda	4,310	85	Université Hassan II Ain-Chock	7,424
36	Assiut University	4,335	86	British University in Egypt	7,445
37	Polytechnic of Namibia	4,480	87	South Valley University	7,476
38	Université Senghor d'Alexandrie	4,538	88	Mogadishu University	7,498
39	German University in Cairo	4,586	89	Université des Sciences et de la Technologie d'Oran Mohamed Boudiaf	7,509
40	University of Ghana	4,627	90	Vaal University of Technology	7,520
41	Faculté des Sciences Rabat	4,691	91	Université Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah Fes	7,537
42	Zagazig University	4,746	92	Suez Canal University*	7,605
43	Universidade Eduardo Mondlane	4,860	93	Université de Nouakchott	7,666
44	Université Mohammed Premier Oujda*	4,900	94	Minufiya University	7,689
45	University of Khartoum	4,941	95	Central University of Technology	7,846
46	Helwan University	4,978	96	Université Mohammed V Agdal	7,850
47	Université Abdelmalek Essaadi*	5,313	97	Ashesi University*	7,906
48	Université de Ouagadougou	5,371	98	Université d'Oran	7,934
49	Mauritius Institute of Education	5,539	99	Monash University South Africa	8,027
50	Sudan University of Science & Technology	5,550	100	Université Mohamed Khider Biskra	8,043

University of Malawi launches two regional PhD programmes in support of the CAADP Process

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development processes. To respond to these challenges, African Universities are pooling efforts to train the required human resource to enable more effective implementation of the CAADP process and other development efforts. These efforts involve bringing experts from the RUFORUM 25 universities and beyond to train in common facilities (in this case at Bunda College of Agriculture). After one year of intensive course work and professional skill development, students return to their home countries to conduct development relevant research.

PhD in Aquaculture and Fisheries – objectives:

1. To develop and build capacity supporting economic advancement through CAADP process, especially in the Aquaculture and Fisheries sector
2. To equip students with a deeper understanding of the theoretical framework underlying aquaculture and fisheries sciences and practices
3. To equip students with skills in articulating aquaculture and fisheries issues for public and private sectors, as well as, for international and non-governmental organizations.
4. To strengthen regional collaboration while rationalizing the use of existing resources (human and physical) in the region



Above: Hon. Mrs. Margret Mauwa with some of the stakeholders

On Monday 15 February 2010, the Malawi Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Mrs Margaret Mauwa, MP, officially launched the two new PhD programmes at the University of Malawi Bunda College of Agriculture campus. The occasion was attended by senior Government officials, NEPAD officials, the newly appointed Vice Chancellor of University of Malawi, Profes-

sor Emmanuel Fabiano, and delegates from over 20 countries. The PhD programme in Aquaculture and Fisheries Sciences aims at supporting African countries to better harnesses and manage the aquaculture and fisheries sector, while the second, PhD programme in Agricultural Resource Economics, aims to produce a cadre of well trained professionals to support policy processes. Bunda has a state of the art training facility in Aquaculture and Fisheries, and has served as a regional training node for the SADC region for nearly 10 years. The College also boasts of a very high concentration of PhD trained Agricultural Economics and is well linked internationally. The Minister in her Statement noted that the two new programmes are in line with the continent-wide and Malawi own efforts to ensure food security for Africa. She welcomed efforts by the Universities to work together and support development agenda in the continent.

During the same occasion, the Minister also launched the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)-University Fisheries Network (FISHNET), which brings together universities across the continent and other actors in the Fisheries sector. The Network will serve to facilitate networking and engagement of universities in the NEPAD processes. After her address, the Minister and other delegates toured exhibition by the PhD students and Bunda staff and also visited various facilities at Bunda. During the visit, delegates noted the excellent facilities at Bunda, and that Bunda is serving as a leading centre for postgraduate training in Africa.

For further information on each of the programmes, Please contact Bunda College: bcapincipal@bunda.unima.mw; jkangombe@bunda.unima.mw; marphiri1996@yahoo.com and RUFORUM Secretariat secretriati@ruforum.org; ekaya@africaonline.co.ke



Above: Hon. Mrs. Margret Mauwa with some of the Students

ACP - S&T PROGRAMME OF THE EU INCEPTION PLANNING MEETING



The ACP Science and Technology Programme is an ACP-EU co-operation programme launched in June 2008 that funds partnership projects through an open Call for Project Proposals. Its overall objective is to support African, Caribbean and Pacific countries in formulating and implementing science and technology (S&T) policies that can lead to sustainable development and to poverty reduction through economic growth and progressive integration in the world economy. It specifically aims at strengthening the internal S&T capacity of ACP countries to support research, development and innovation in the ACP region at three levels: (1) Institutional, administrative and policy making; (2) Academic research and technology; and (3) Business and civil society. The programme promotes interdisciplinary approaches to sustainable development by co-ordination and networking in applied research; instruments for collaborative research, and management of research activities and reinforcement of research. The programme targets the creation or consolidation of sustainable networks at intra ACP-level with linkages to international networks; increased capacity to assess research needs to facilitate the formulation and implementation of research policies; increased capacity and incentives to research network partners to prepare and submit project proposals to funding agencies, including for example the EC's 'Seventh Framework Programme for research and technology development (FP7); research results better capitalized and dis-seminated; and improved quality of research results.

Inception Meeting Sets the Stage for Implementation of three ACP-S&T Projects

RUFORUM has recently (December 2009) received three grants from the ACP S&T programme:

1. Building human and institutional capacity for enhancing the conservation and use of neglected and underutilized species of crops in West Africa, and Eastern and Southern Africa— FED/2009/217072
2. Building the capacity of African University graduates to foster change through agricultural innovation— FED/2009/217070
3. Shifting from Outreach to Engagement: transforming Universities response to current develop-

ment trends in agricultural research and training in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. FED/2009/217080



Participants for the INNOVATIONS project inception meeting joined by RUFORUM Regional Coordinator, Prof Adipala Ekwamu (second right seated)

These projects involve African and European partners. To foster cross learning, RUFORUM arranged a joint inception planning meeting for all the three projects.

In the case of the innovations project, the joint inception meeting hosted by RUFORUM for its partners in Entebbe between 10th and 12th February 2010 saw the development of a detailed implementation plan in addition to setting the stage for joint implementation of the project. The 3-year project aims to contribute towards poverty reduction in rural areas through strengthening of national and regional capacities to contribute to and facilitate innovation processes for rural development in Eastern and Southern Africa. The project has the specific objectives of:

1. Enhancing partnerships for effective networking and institutional change management;
2. Developing and implementing a part-time mid-career professional training course on the facilitation of agricultural innovation processes;
3. Strengthening Innovations capacity of university graduates for Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D);
4. Building cross-disciplinary networks of expertise on the role of agricultural research in facilitating rural Innovations; and

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Inception Meeting Sets the Stage for Implementation of ACP-S&T Innovations Project

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5. Sharing lessons learnt on the mid-career professional training course and Innovations curricula.

A total of 22 people participated from all implementing partner institutions which included Egerton University (Kenya), Bunda College of Agriculture - University of Malawi (Malawi), Makerere University (Uganda) and Royal Tropical Institute - KIT (Netherlands). The associate partners for the project are: Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA). The meeting benefitted from the contribution from experiences in project management and innovation from various partner organizations including KIT, RUFORUM, the universities and specific lessons were tapped from the NEPAD e-Africa initiative.



There were plenary discussion sessions to build consensus on issues and also small group discussions to generate the various outputs required by the end of the workshop.

The partners renewed their commitments to the project and spelt out their roles and contributions to the project successes. RUFORUM as the lead implementer will provide the required financial resources to partners as well as overseeing project implementation with the guidance of the Action Steering Committee (ASC). The Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) as an organization specialized in Knowledge Management will mainly provide methodological support to the various activities, specifically for the realization of the two main outputs: the mid career training and the adapted curricula. Participating universities will implement activities through design and mounting of the courses while also contributing to project M&E and lesson sharing. General roles were also assigned to the Associate Partners.

During the three day meeting the partners familiarized themselves with the other partners and two projects as well as the design of the three projects. For the innovations project, they designed the comprehensive project management procedures including the specific roles of partner institutions, work plans with detailed budget allocation as well as developing the project M&E framework and performance management plan. The participants also

identified synergies among the three projects including having joint strategies for project communication. The participants specifically revisited the budget and budget allocations against activities and partner roles. The 2010 annual work plans for the partners were also developed in addition to the overall project work plan for the three year project cycle. Provisional harmonized draft was generated as well as a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) implementation plan. A complete ToR for partners spelling out specific roles was generated and participants also designed the draft communication and risk management strategies for the project. These outputs have since been compiled into one document representing the project implementation plan that will guide project executing.

For immediate action, the meeting laid out specific way-forward plans including immediate launch in partner universities, production of communication products and continued awareness raising and reaching out to other relevant projects and policy organs. Critical issues to sustainability were also discussed and ways to institutionalize them agreed upon. Partner universities agreed to immediately form project management teams to implement the activities. An Action Implementation Committee (ASC) was set up to oversee regional implementation of the project. As part of the project communication strategy, a project blog was set up to facilitate communication during and after the workshop. On a daily basis the site provided a one-stop shop of brief about the meeting proceedings. The site is located at: <http://ruforuminnovationsproject.blogspot.com/>) has since been improved to serve as the basic project communication platform to be linked to RUFORUM website (<http://www.ruforum.org>) and the websites of partner organizations. A full briefing on the project and other relevant project documents as well as brief bio-data of the participants can be accessed from the site. At the end of the meeting participants deliberated on the need for a project acronym. Suggestions were made for innovatively engaging students at the universities to design project logo to go with the suggested acronym of GO4IT – *Graduate Opportunity*



Reorienting tertiary education in East and Southern Africa for relevance: An Inception Meeting for the European Commission Funded Project “OUTREACH”

The African Union's Second Decade of Education Plan for Africa calls for a complete revitalization of higher education in Africa, to ensure the emergence of strong and vibrant institutions engaged in development-oriented research, teaching, community outreach and enrichment services to the lower levels of education; and functioning in an environment of academic freedom and institutional autonomy, within an overall framework of public accountability. This is primarily the thrust of the recently launched Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) led Project 'Shifting from Outreach to Engagement: Transforming Universities Current Response to current development trends in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa'. The project aims to facilitate the creation of responsive university programmes (research, education and outreach) that deliver competent graduates to support farmers and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) establish sustainable agro-food value chains. Supported by the European Commission, the Project makes available 1.2million Euros to three universities in East and Southern Africa: Moi University (Kenya), Makerere University (Uganda) and University of Malawi's Bunda College of Agriculture. To provide backstopping support, and required expertise, Wageningen University and Research Center (WUR) in the Netherlands is a key project partner.

For a long time universities have been undertaking research and development activities as part of their core responsibility of training graduates to drive development processes in the region. It would be unfair to say that this has been without success- there are clear stories on universities impacting on their communities. To take some examples from the Forum on Agricultural Resource Husbandry (FORUM) programme, in 1993, Makerere University released a cowpea variety 'MU93', the first release

from a university in Uganda since the late 1960's. The variety release showcased, with much success, university-research-farmer linkages including strengthening farmer participation in the research and training process and providing capacity building services to district extension services. Similar successes have been observed with the better bananas (BetBan) in Uganda of Makerere University, Uganda; the phosphate rock evaluation project (PREP) of Moi University, Kenya and the case of soybean in the Chi-yinka region of Zimbabwe. Another successful case was managing Beneficial Interactions of Legume Intercrops (MBILI), that was focused mainly upon improving the performance of pulses within smallholder maize-legume intercropping systems of western Kenya. These 'success stories' have not been adequately touted by universities, because few studies have been undertaken to evaluate their real contribution towards achievement of National as well as the Millennium Development Goals. However, even more important though, is that despite these successes, the current impact of university contribution still leaves Sub-Saharan Africa far short of the target that African leaders have set for the continent of achieving 6% growth per capita GDP annually.

RUFORUM believes that this shortcoming can be largely tackled by moving universities beyond their traditional focus on simple agrarian production and productivity based challenges towards a more broad-based focus on value chains and making available graduates that can better support post production field activities. Lessons learnt since independence have shown that farmers are shrewd managers, but are faced with a multitude of challenges that are often insurmountable. Where Government support systems are in place, farmer often fail to benefit either because they are not aware (lack information) or lack requisite capacity to make full use of these initiatives. Further, graduates leaving the universities lack the requisite skills to support farmers to add value to their farm produce and meet market standards and requirements. Thus Universities must be able to 'engage' on more equal terms with farmers, other SME's and stakeholders. This requires **skills in post-field production activities such as agro-processing, marketing and negotiations**, increased research in development of agro-processing and marketing and importantly **improved linkages** between researchers,



Above: The participants in the Outreach project Meeting

ACP - S&T PROGRAMME OF THE EU INCEPTION PLANNING MEETING

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farmers and other stakeholders to ensure adequate demand articulation and response.

The 36 Month OUTREACH Project aims at strengthening university engagement with communities by equipping faculty and graduate students to foster change in communities. The project is designed to deliver five outputs:

1. Capacities and skills of at least 60 lecturers, 160 students and at least 20 partners to manage effective advisory services for improved agro-processing and entrepreneurship enhanced;
2. At least 300 farmers engaged by the end of the action;
3. Curricula of universities training and outreach programmes will have been reviewed to incorporate innovative approaches to learning and practice.
4. An experiential-learning model for transforming the way university outreach programmes respond to and link with farmers and agro-industry will have been piloted.
5. Partnerships for effective delivery of innovative university advisory services programmes for improved agro-processing and entrepreneurship will be strengthened.

Between 10-13 February, 2010, the OUTREACH project partners held their first meeting—an inception meeting—at the Imperial Resort Beach Hotel in Entebbe. The meeting brought together over 20 stakeholders and project partners from Africa, Europe, and USA representing various stakeholder groups including farmers and farmer organizations, universities, CGIAR, Non-governmental organizations and Civil Society Organisations, among others. The main purpose of the three day meeting was to develop a project implementation plan for the project. The project will develop synergies with other initiative such as RUFORUM Community Action Research Programme, RUFORUM Graduate Research Grants, other programmes such as the Agricultural Rural Innovations Studies PhD Programme and the EC funded Innovations Project.

For more information on the Project please contact:

m.osiru@ruforum.org



Group Session during the outreach project meeting

RUFORUM launches project on enhancing the conservation and use of neglected and underutilized species of crops in Eastern, Western and Southern Africa

Background

Biodiversity provides food, income, medicinal, aromatic and cosmetic products, ecological health and many other products and services. Agricultural biodiversity is a source of food and nutritional security and income opportunities, particularly in areas where there are limited live hood options and vulnerability is high as is the case in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa. Mobilizing agricultural biodiversity, in particular neglected and underutilized species (NUS) is a powerful approach to enhancing nutritional security and income while at the same time giving visibility and voice to local communities, especially women who often are the custodians of agricultural biodiversity. However the production and marketing of NUS (e.g. leafy vegetables, roots, tubers, pulses) are constrained by *inter alia*, sidelining by policymakers, R & D and education agendas, breeding and

agronomic challenges, low status image attached to NUS, limited experience and capacity of scientific research institutes and universities to address agronomic and market – related constraints at all the levels of the NUS value chain.

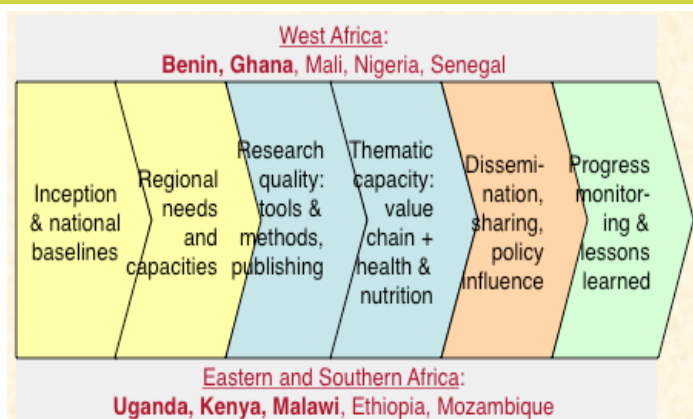
The project on *building human and institutional capacity for enhancing the conservation and use of neglected and underutilized species of crops in West Africa, and Eastern and Southern Africa* was conceived in



Sale of leafy vegetables: typical African market scenario

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RUFORUM launches project on enhancing the conservation and use of neglected and underutilized species of crops in Eastern, Western and Southern Africa



2007 in a side meeting on agricultural biodiversity during RUFORUM biennial meeting in Malawi. RUFORUM and Biodiversity International initiated discussions, and involved a number of other partners. Following a series of discussions, a partnership crystallized, a proposal was submitted to the ACP (S&T) programmes and funded in November 2009.

The Overall Objective of the project is *to contribute towards poverty reduction and greater food and nutrition security in Africa through enhanced conservation and use of NUS*. Specifically the project will develop capacity among scientists in ten countries in West Africa and Eastern and Southern Africa to formulate, design, implement, and disseminate the results of research on NUS.

Inception workshop

The inception workshop in Entebbe, Uganda brought together the NUS project partners from East and Southern Africa, West Africa and Europe. The Objective was to pro-

vide a platform for partners to discuss and internalize the project, review and make concrete work plans, and have a shared vision of the expectations. The workshop was attended by RUFORUM, ANAFE, Biodiversity International, International Foundation for Science, University of Nairobi, University of Malawi (Bunda College), Crop, Aromatic and Medicinal plant biodiversity Research and Development Institute (IRDCAM) and Crops for the future.

In a key note presentation, Per Rudebjer and Stephano Padulosi, both from Biodiversity International articulated the needs and opportunities of NUS from a food insecurity and poverty reduction perspective. The two presenters captivated participants by articulating rich and practical examples on the value of NUS from all continents (below).



During the three days at the workshop, project partners reviewed the project and contract documents to clarify, articulate and agree on:

1. Scheduling of activities – 2010 and after
2. Budget for each partner
3. Deliverables for each partner
4. Partner roles and responsibilities
5. Letters of agreement

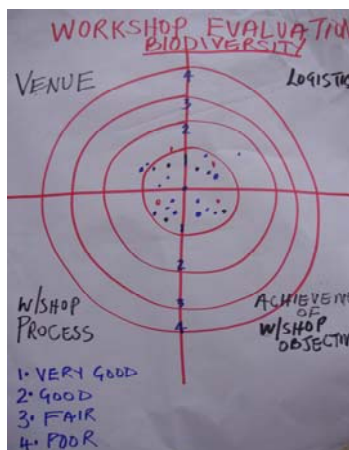
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NUS project inception workshop participants

RUFORUM launches project on enhancing the conservation and use of neglected and underutilized species of crops in Eastern, Western and Southern Africa

The workshop was facilitated by Per Rudebjer (Biodiversity International) and Wellington Ekaya (RUFORUM). It was an exciting three days, during which partners enriched the process with experiences and innovative ideas of how to implement the project, involve other stakeholders, and how to communicate. The workshop was punctuated by sessions seeking synergies with other ACP (S&T) projects on innovations and outreach, both coordinated from RUFORUM secretariat.



In the final analysis..

Dr Ekaya used a simple graphic tool for participants to evaluate the workshop. The outcome is presented on the left.

At the closing ceremony, Dr Alexandre Dansi, the Executive Director of IRDCAM expressed his gratitude to RUFORUM and partners for a lean and well-coordinated

workshop. He sent participants laughing by giving famous French sayings of the wise.

RUFORUM wishes to thank all workshop participants and looks forwards to an exciting three-year phase of implementing the project.

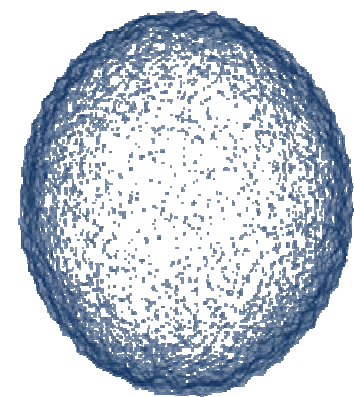
For more information, please contact authors; Dr. Wellington N. Ekaya, RUFORUM Secretariat, Email: ekaya@africaonline.co.ke & w.ekaya@ruforum.org and Per Rudebjer, Bioversity International, Email: p.rudebjer@cgiar.org. Also visit www.ruforum.org for more information on RUFORUM.

“research on NUS is still limited and the potential of the neglected species remains largely under-exploited”

Prof. Onesmo Ole MoiYoi, Chairman of Council, Kenyatta University



Universities have a Niche out of Copenhagen Climate Change Conference (COP15)



**COP15
COPENHAGEN**

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2009

to 18th November 2009. The conference which was a culmination of many meetings brought together scientists, world leaders, civil society representatives, private sector investors and other actors. Dr Washington

RUFORUM was represented in at the recently concluded World Conference on Climate (The Fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the fifth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 5), in Copenhagen, Denmark from 7th

Ochola, RUFORUM Programme Manager – Planning Monitoring and Evaluation – a climate change expert with wide experience and publications in climate change science joined several other world experts during the meeting held at the Bella Centre Copenhagen, Denmark. Support for his participation came from The Common market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) which is partnership with RUFORUM in various capacity development initiatives including climate change adaptation.

The meeting was aimed at getting world leaders and nations to have a comprehensive climate agreement by addressing the key challenges: targets and actions; financing (of "low-carbon development and adaptation"); and building an effective global carbon market". The meeting witnessed long hours of negotiations and drafting with hundreds of side-events show-casing wide

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Universities have a Niche out of Copenhagen Climate Change Conference (COP15)



Dr Ochola in circle with Kenyan Prime Minister, H.E. Raila Odinga and members of Kenya's parliamentary Select Committee on Environment at the Conference

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range of initiatives and exhibits. The international climate change agreement at Copenhagen worked with pre-conference meeting outputs of the Ad Hoc Working Group under the Kyoto protocol (AWG-KP) and the Ad

Hoc Working –term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA). Dr Ochola took part in many country level and Africa-wide negotiations, attended a number of side events including those targeting capacity building, technology measures, technology Action Programs, Side Event on Technology Transfer. Dr Ochola also met a number of donor representatives who expressed willingness to work with African universities in addressing climate change.

Some demonstrations and protests occurred during the two-week conference. The "Copenhagen Accord" that emerged after the conference however, fell short of the expectations of many



observers nevertheless the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the US-backed climate deal as an "essential beginning". The Copenhagen Accord recognises the scientific case for keeping temperature rises below 2°C, but does not contain commitments for reduced emissions that would be necessary to achieve that aim. One part of the agreement pledges US\$ 30 billion to the developing world over the next three years, rising to US\$ 100 billion per year by 2020, to help poor countries adapt to climate change. Earlier proposals, that would have aimed to limit temperature rises to 1.5°C and cut CO₂ emissions by 80% by 2050 were dropped. An agreement was also reached that would set up a deal to reduce deforestation in return for cash from developed countries. The

agreement made was non-binding but U.S. President Obama said that countries could show the world their achievements. On the capacity building side universities have a key role to play in backing any further actions in international negotiations, adaptation and mitigation measures, policy formulation, technology development and training.

At the end of the meeting special focus was made on climate change and its relationship with agriculture. Under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action of the Convention (AWG – LCA) under Cooperative sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions in agriculture [BAP, 1b(iv)] a text evolved that calls on "*Parties to promote and cooperate in the research, development, including transfer, of technologies, practices and processes that control, reduce or prevent anthropogenic GHG emissions that could improve the efficiency and productivity of agriculture systems thereby contributing to food and livelihood security.*" This position is further reinforced by paragraph 7 of the Copenhagen Accord which states that "we decide to pursue various approaches, including opportunities to use markets, to enhance the cost-effectiveness of, and to promote mitigation actions. Developing countries, especially those with low emitting economies should be provided incentives to continue to develop on a low emission pathway."

Mainstreaming climate change in university curriculum and other activities is no longer a luxury and RUFORUM is repositioning itself to lead this process though strategic partnerships, resource mobilization and capacity building. For instance, during the meeting, the steering committee of the COMESA backed African Climate Change Knowledge Networks met on a daily basis to consolidate ideas for expanding the impact of the network. A number of post-Copenhagen activities have been lined up beginning with a meeting held in Nairobi between 14th and 15 January 2010 to plan activities of the network.

This is story has been reproduced from the RUFORUM Newsletter 2009, Volume 3 Issue 12

Network will bolster African fisheries research

Fisheries research must meet the needs of fishermen Flickr/dmitri_66



[LILONGWE] A new African network is aiming to increase the number of aquaculture and fisheries scientists on the continent and boost its dwindling fish stocks. The Fisheries University Network (FishNet), led by the

New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), was launched at the Bunda College of Agriculture in Malawi this month (15 February). It will recruit and train scientists on fisheries at member universities, in line with both national and pan-African development agendas.

"It is widely [known] that Africa lacks critical mass of fisheries scientists to adequately undertake various important functions along the value chain of fisheries and aquaculture from production to marketing and trade," Emmanuel Kaunda, regional technical coordinator for fisheries in the Aquaculture Department at the University of Malawi, told *SciDev.Net*.

Kaunda quoted Food and Agriculture Organization figures that fish supplies have dropped from about 17 kilograms per capita in the 1970s to less than seven kilograms per capita in 2006 for most African countries.

FishNet will facilitate information and resource sharing; policy dialogue; networking with strategic partners and mobilisation of resources, to address challenges holding back aquaculture and fisheries research in Africa. As well as conducting research into inland fisheries and aquacul-

ture development, FishNet will ensure that research findings find their way to fish farmers and fishermen on the continent. The network is expected to work with the Partnership for African Fisheries (PAF), a programme for developing fisheries reforms in Africa. It will also receive around US\$10.7 million from the UK Department for International Development (DFID), said Tim Bostock, a senior fisheries advisor at DFID.

The Malawi meeting also saw the launch of post-graduate degree programmes in aquaculture and fisheries by the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture, a consortium of 25 universities in Eastern and Southern Africa established in 2004 and hosted by the University of Malawi. Kaunda said this was a major step in training African scientists and practitioners to respond to Africa's needs in fisheries and aquaculture production. Sloans Chimatiro, senior fisheries adviser to NEPAD, said that fisheries research conducted by academics and students must include studies of farms and fishing communities to ensure that the research meets people's needs. The initiatives follow NEPAD's action plan for fisheries and aquaculture development endorsed by African heads of state at the Fish for All Summit in 2005 in Abuja, Nigeria.

This story is a supplement to the cover story on Page 1. For more information, please contact Charles Mkoka <http://www.scidev.net/en/news/network-will-bolster-african-fisheries-research.html>

THE RUFORUM FIELD ATTACHMENT PROGRAM AWARD (FAPA)

RUFORUM announces the **Field Attachment Programme (FAPA)** which is intended to improve training at post-graduate level specifically through ensuring quality and relevance of the university graduates to the job market. This is expected through improvement in the connections between graduate students and their target job markets i.e. to the relevant firms that offer employment particularly with local government, NGOs, and the private sector (especially agribusiness firms). The Programme makes available Fifteen (15) awards each year to M.Sc. and PhD students participating in RUFORUM programmes. Relevant details are described below. There is an open call, available on the RUFORUM Website (www.ruforum.org), where proposals are submitted throughout the year. The grants are for up to a maximum of US\$2,000 for a maximum period of 3 months to cover subsistence and other basic requirements for MSc. Students being trained under RUFORUM Programmes and attached to RUFORUM Universities. Proposals may be received throughout the year, but will usually be considered only twice a year (normally August/September and February/March).

For more information, please contact: **The Grants Manager RUFORUM Secretariat**, secretariat@ruforum.org with copies to m.osiru@ruforum.org and ntwalica@gmail.com