

RUFORUM MONTHLY

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

CREATING LINKAGES WITH FARMERS AND AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE PROVIDERS

Kenyatta University School of Agriculture and Enterprise Development held a two (2) day training workshop on **"Diagnosis and Management of Biotic Stress on Crops"**. The workshop which was held on 9th and 10th March, 2012 targeted thirty (30) semi-commercial farmers and Agricultural service providers from all over the country. The main objectives of this training workshop were:

1. To help the participants distinguish between various causal agents of plant diseases.
2. To understand the basic procedure of diagnosis and identification of various plant pathogens and pests.
3. To understand management measures for various plant diseases and pests.

The workshop which was partially sponsored by Gatsy Charitable Foundation through Nematology Initiative for Eastern and Southern Africa (NIESA) brought on board other key agricultural stakeholders including: RUFORUM, Amiran Kenya, Kenya National Federation of Agricultural Producers (KENFAP) and Horticultural Crops Development Authority (HCDA) who either sponsored participants and/or supported the preparation of training materials.



Above: Ag. Dean School of Agriculture and Enterprise Development and the training convener, Prof. Waceke Wanjohi addresses participants at the official opening of the workshop

The opening session was graced by Prof. Wainaina—Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), presenting Prof. Olive Mugenda, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Waceke Wanjohi (Workshop Convener and Ag. Dean, School of Agriculture and Enterprise Development), Mr. James Arim (General Manager, Technical & Advisory Services) HCDA. In her key workshop speech, the Vice-Chancellor emphasized the importance of this kind of training which directly impacts on the farmers, "A lot of resources are used every year by the government and other devel-

opment partners to address the challenge of food shortage in our country. Establishing strategic platforms where researchers and scientists disseminate their findings and provide solutions to the problems bedeviling the agricultural sector directly to the farmers, is therefore very important." The training was divided into five (5) major sections representing five major biotic stress factors in agricultural crops namely: Plant parasitic nematodes, Plant pathogenic fungi, plant pathogenic bacteria, plant viruses and crop pest. Each section was handled by an expert in

(Continued on page 2)

- **RUFORUM Monthly** provides information on activities of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture.
- This **Monthly Brief** is available on the last week of every month ■

ANNOUNCEMENTS

3rd RUFORUM Biennial Conference. 24 – 28 September 2012. Entebbe, Uganda

8th RUFORUM Annual General (AGM). September 2012. Entebbe, Uganda

Conference 2012: Growing the Bioeconomy – Social, Environmental and Economic Implications. 2 - 5 October 2012, Banff, Alberta, Canada

Training of Trainers on Climate Change Adaptation for Agriculture & Natural Resource Management October, 2012

Climate change adaptation in agriculture and natural resources management. 18 February – 01 March 2013

More information on RUFORUM activities can be accessed on the RUFORUM BLOG at <http://ruforum.org/a/ruforumblog/>

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; or visit the RUFORUM Website at www.ruforum.org.



CREATING LINKAGES WITH FARMERS AND AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE PROVIDERS

(Continued from page 1)

that field drawn from various departments in Kenyatta University, and mostly from the School of Agriculture and Enterprise Development. These include Prof. W. Wanjohi, Dr. George M.Kariuki, Dr. Maina Mwangi (all from the Department of Agricultural Science and Technology), Prof. Elizabeth Kokwaro (Department of Zoological Sciences), Mr James Mwangi (Department of Plant and Microbial Sciences) and Dr. Elijah Ateka, from JKUAT (Department of Horticultural Sciences).



Above: Ms. Jacinta Mugo a dairy, fruits and vegetable farmer in Embu (Jangwani farm) giving a contribution during the training session

While expressing her gratitude at the end of the two days training, Ms Jacinta Mugo, a dairy, fruits and vegetable farmer in Embu (Jangwani Farm) emphasized the need to hold such training where farmers to interact with researchers, “we have learnt a lot within these two days on what destroys our crops despite investing so much in expensive fertilizers and other inputs, we are going to implement the various measures we have learnt to control pests and diseases. We also humbly request for more forums where farmers interact direct with researchers in Kenyatta University.”

Mr. Justus Monda, a cereal and pyrethrum farmer in Molo and Chairman, Pyrethrum Growers Association of Kenya was thrilled at having undergone the two days training: “to me this is a revolution. The training was very relevant since it has enlightened us on management of nematodes and other soil borne pests and diseases which are a great challenge to pyrethrum and cereal farmers in my area.”

“I have learnt a lot and especially benefitted on learning how to identify nematode related diseases which is a big challenge to us, small scale vegetable farmers. We are very grateful to Kenyatta University for choosing farmers to be part of this training, we promise to share the knowledge we have learnt with other farmers back in the villages,” said Juliana Ndeti, a farmer in Kambaa Irrigation Scheme, Machakos County.

The Registrar (Academic) Dr. D.M Muindi while giving his closing remarks reiterated Kenyatta University’s commitment to provide quality education and training for individual and societal development. He congratulated the participants for their resilience and determination to acquire new knowledge which will help them address the challenges of crop losses that occur as a result of crop damage by living organisms. He further hailed the School of Agriculture and Enterprise Development for showing that it is possible for researchers in universities to move from “ivory towers” to directly address the problems in the problems faced by the society and especially the small scale farmers. “This creative training approach, if replicated to more farmers and service providers, will no doubt translate into increase in food production and poverty reduction.” In a jubilant moment, the participants were each presented with a participatory and training certificate.

Engaging Value Chain Stakeholders

Through the RUFORUM Grant (RU 2009 GRG 11), the project supported four people to attend this training course. The participants included a leader of a women’s group in Kirinyaga, a Ministry of Agriculture official and two extension staff nominated by Kamurugu Agricultural Development Initiative (KADI), a community based organization in Embu district. After participating in the course the participants have written to express their gratitude to the course organizers acknowledging it was timely and hugely beneficial to their work of increasing food security, income and improving livelihoods of Kenya farmers. The other grant (RU 2012 07) sponsored two farmers who are involved in tomato production in the Mwea growing area. These farmers benefited very much especially with respect diagnosis and identification of root-knot nematodes. This is evident from their response so far. The Principal Investigator (PI) was the coordinator of the course and was very key in ensuring farmers were well trained on diseases diagnosis and management. He oriented the course to be farmer driven, a key thrust of RUFORUM. The project contributed to the preparation and printing of the manual that was used by the participants and that will now find ready application among agricultural farmers in Kenya.

The RUFORUM approach aims at creating linkages through the Principal Investigators (PI) initiatives of linking farmers to the Agricultural organisations and relevant ongoing research

Story submitted by Elijah Waweru, from Kenyatta University, School of Agriculture and Enterprise Development.

NEW INTAKE FOR THE PHD DEGREE PROGRAMME IN DRY LAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Dryland Resource Management Regional Programme is hosted and coordinated by the University of Nairobi, Kenya on behalf of the RUFORUM network of universities. The programme started in 2008 with support from RUFORUM, Rockefeller Foundation and the International Development Research Centre. It aims at building Africa's dryland innovation capacity. The programme's first and second intakes had 18 and 8 students respectively, coming from Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. The third (2011) intake consists of 10 students. The brief highlights of their profiles are given below.



Fikir Alemayehu Woldemichael is an Ethiopian who holds a Masters degree in Tropical Land Resource Management from Mekele University (in 2006) and a Bachelors in Geography obtained in July 1999, from Addis Ababa University. For the last 9 years, she has worked as

a teacher, and an environmental specialist on a community based project in Ethiopia. She has also undertaken GIS and remote sensing consultancies in Kenya and Cameroon. Her interests include; working with rural communities, and particularly indigenous and marginalized groups to protect forests and other natural resources using participatory eco-cultural mapping and alternative livelihood options. She has co-authored publications and has produced a number of land resource maps and reports. Her current research interests focus on, climate change in marine and coastal areas, including its impact on coastal communities. Woldemichael can be contacted by email at fikiral@yahoo.com.



Anthony Egeru is a Ugandan citizen born on 25th September, 1982. Anthony works with Makerere University as Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Environmental Management. He holds MSc. Environment and Natural Resources (2010) and Bachelors of Arts with Education (Geography Major)

(2007) obtained from Makerere University, Uganda. He is currently pursuing his PhD in Dryland Resources Management at University of Nairobi. Anthony has developed competences in biomass energy assessment, land use planning, remote sensing and GIS, environmental education, participatory assessment and mapping, documentation of indigenous knowledge, community and rural development. He has great interest in transformative research, climate change, pastoral livelihoods, drought and flood monitoring and management and early warning systems. Anthony's current area of research engagement is climate variability and change, food security and forage productivity issues in the cattle corridor of Uganda where he is focusing at the effect of climate variability and change on forage productivity in Karamoja. Anthony can be contacted by email at egeru81@educ.mak.ac.ug or egeru81@yahoo.co.uk



Waswala Brian is a Kenyan Research Scientist working with the Kenya Wildlife Service. He holds an MSc. (Environment and Natural Resource Management) and a BSc. (Wildlife Management and Conservation) from Makerere University (Uganda) and the University of Nairobi (Kenya) respectively. Having worked with di-

verse ecosystems and cultures in Kenya, Brian is articulate in ecology and conservation (tropical savannas, forests, wetlands and threatened species); wildlife management; community awareness and sensitization; and climate change. He is currently undertaking PhD. studies in Drylands Resource Management at the University of Nairobi. Brian's interests are indigenous knowledge, natural resource exploitation, natural resource mapping and climate change. Brian can be contacted by email at brian-marv@gmail.com or waswala@kws.go.ke.



Patrick Wekondi Watete is a Kenyan national born on 15th January 1965. He is a Principal Livestock Production Officer in the Ministry of Livestock Development. He is currently deployed as Provincial Range Management Officer, Rift Valley Province, Nakuru. He holds an MSc. Degree (Natural Resources

Management, 2009) from Egerton University, Njoro and BSc. Degree in Range Management (1989) from Nairobi University. Patrick has been actively involved as a trainer in participatory extension methodologies. His research interest is in the area of climate change and pastoral development. Patrick can be contacted by email at pwatete@yahoo.com, pwatete@gmail.com



Hirut Yirga Tejeji is an Ethiopian national, married with two children. She was born on 10th March 1979. She did her BSc in Animal Production and Management (2004) at Debu University, and MSc in Animal Nutrition (2008) at Haramaya University, Ethiopia. She worked as a lecturer in

(Continued on page 4)

PHD DEGREE PROGRAMME IN DRY LAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

(Continued from page 3)

the School of Animal and Range Science of Haramaya University. Hirut is currently pursuing her PhD in Dryland Resource Management in the University of Nairobi, Kenya under the sponsorship of RUFORUM and Haramaya University. Her research interest is "Improvement of Small Ruminant Feeding to Mitigate Climate Change in Semi-Arid Parts of Ethiopia" Hirut can be contacted by email at hirutyirga1@gmail.com



Joseph Ssekandi is a Ugandan aged 31years, studied a BA degree in Ethics and Development Studies from Uganda Martyrs University, MSc Environment and Development from the University of Reading and a PGD in Teaching and Learning in Higher Institutions. Joseph works with Uganda Martyrs University where he teaches Systems and Agro-ecologies in the

MSc Agro ecology programme. He has also taught Environmental and Sustainable Development. He has worked on a water and environment framework for a model village in central Uganda in partnership with Notre Dame University. He has done research on livelihood diversification into artisanal mining as adaptability to climate change. He is currently working on a PhD thesis concept focusing on soil erosion and livelihood diversification in Uganda: the viability of available options. Joseph can be contacted by email at sekjoseph@gmail.com



Richard Osaliya is a Ugandan and was born on 12th January, 1980. He holds a Bachelor of Urban Planning Degree and a Master of Science in Environment and Natural Resources (Makerere University). He has worked as an Independent Consultant based in Uganda. He has over 6 years of experience in consultancy

covering Environmental Assessment, Audit, Urban Planning, and Natural Resource Management for private, national and international bodies such as GIZ and IGAD. He has worked as a Part-time Lecturer at Kyambogo University and Makerere University (Uganda). He is a certified Quality Management Systems Internal Auditor. Mr. Osaliya is a member of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), Uganda Institute of Physical Planners' (UIPP), Uganda Association of Impact Assessment (UAIA), East African Association of Impact Assessment (EAAIA), and the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA). His primary research interest is in

modelling climate change impact on water resources, integrated water resources management, water stress, GIS application and pastoral livelihood and also ecosystem evaluation and environmental assessment. Richard can be contacted by email at osaliya@yahoo.com or osaliya@gmail.com



Makoude Perez A. Bolo is a Kenyan citizen. She has been a Lecturer in the Department of Education and Natural Sciences, Presbyterian University of East Africa since January 2011. She is currently heading the science department and coordinating Suba campus at the University. She holds an MSc. Degree (Plant Physiology and Biochemistry, 2009) from The

University of Nairobi and a Bachelor of Education Science Degree (Botany and Zoology and Chemistry from Maseno university). Her research topic is on the determination of the dormancy and developing germination protocol for *Sesamum latifolium* (dryland wild simsim). She has managed to publish a paper on the same: "Makoude, P.A., Akunda E.A., Nyamongo D.O., Hay F. and Oeba V. (2010). Nature of Dormancy in *Sesamum latifolium*. Journal of Seed Science Research and Technology". Bolo can be contacted by email at perezanya@gmail.com



Samuel Mwangi Macharia is a Kenyan male born on 14th October 1972. He holds a BSc in Appropriate Technology from Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya and an MSc in The International Environmental Framework from International University of Andalusia, Jaen, Spain. His thesis was based on an inquiry into the effectiveness and application of access and benefit sharing in

Kenya. He has been the lead focal point for the Katoomba Group, a network of professionals working on payments for ecosystem services. He has previously worked as a research scientist at the Kenya Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge, National Museums of Kenya. He now works at the Utafiti Centre for Research and Technology in capacity building, research and knowledge management, and teaches part-time at the Land Resource Management and Agricultural Technology Department, University of Nairobi. Mwangi's research interests are in environmental policy, climate governance, ethics and sustainable use of dryland resources. Mwangi can be contacted by email at smmwangi@gmail.com

(Continued on page 5)

PHD DEGREE PROGRAMME IN DRY LAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI



(Continued from page 4)

Elizabeth A. Ouna is a Kenyan. She holds an MSc Degree (Microbiology, Kenyatta University), a BSc. General and Higher National Diploma (Applied Biology). Her MSc. Research was on "Entomopathogenicity of Hyphomycete fungi to fruit fly species *Bactrocera invadens* (Diptera: Tephritidae) and their potential for biological control on mango". She works at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology as a Research Assistant/Curator of Microbial Germplasm and has wide research experience in dissemination of IPM technologies using entomopathogens, semio-chemicals/physical cues. Her research interests include development of bio-fertilizers, use

of open source tools for mitigation in climate change and policy analysis for agriculture in the ASALS. Elizabeth can be contacted by email at awuor.ngiya@gmail.com

NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL- AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MOZAMBIQUE (IIAM)



The Mozambique Minister of Agriculture, Mr José Pacheco, has appointed Dr Inácio C. Maposse as Director General of the Agricultural Research Institute of Mozambique (IIAM). Maposse is succeeding Dr Calisto Bias who will be coordinating an Agricultural Development Project in the north of Mozambique. Dr Maposse is a Mozambican citizen who holds a BSc degree in Agronomy from the Faculty of Agronomy and Forestry Engineering (FAEF) of the Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM), an MSc in Agronomy from the University of Nebraska (Lincoln, Nebraska, USA) and a PhD in Agronomy from Auburn University (Auburn, Alabama, USA).

Prior to his appointment as IIAM Director General, Dr Maposse served as an Associate Professor at the UEM, one of the founding members of the RUFORUM. In this capacity he taught Pastures and Forages, Biometry and Research Methods. His research focused on forages and multi-purpose crops. He held senior positions and has served in various committees. He currently chairs the Agricultural Scientific Council (an Advisory Body of the Minister of Science and Technology of Mozambique) and he is a member of the Steering Committee of the Southern Africa Regional Forum for Training (RAFT). Dr Maposse was active in the creation of RUFORUM when he served as Dean of FAEF (2001-2005) and he also served as Director for Co-ordination of Higher Education in the Ministry of Education and Culture (2007-2008). In his new position, he is expected to drive the processes towards the implementation of the new IIAM strategic plan, which places agricultural research as a key in the CAADP framework.

OBITUARY: DR GEORGE MATIYA– BUNDA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, MALAWI



Dr. George Matiya passed away in the late hours of 15th February, 2012 and was laid to rest at his home, Adija Village in Liwonde on 17th February, 2012. Dr. Matiya was born on 4th July, 1970 at Rumphu Distric Hospital. He went to a Primary School in Lumbadzi and proceeded to Bwaila Secondary School in Lilongwe where he spent his life until 1989. He was selected to University of Malawi, Bunda College of Agriculture in 1989 and pursued a Diploma and Degree in Agriculture and graduated in 1994. He enrolled into the MSc program in 1998. He worked in the Malawi Government, Fisheries Department as a Fisheries Socio-Economist and later joined Bunda College of Agriculture on 4th July, 2000 as a Lecturer in Fisheries and Aquaculture Economics. In April, 2004 he went for his PhD studies in Japan and Graduated on 29th March, 2007 and returned to Bunda College of Agriculture. On 1st July, 2007, Dr. Matiya was promoted to the Grade of Senior Lecturer. Till his death, he was the Dean of Environmental Sciences at Bunda College of Agriculture and has served as Dean for 3 years. He is survived by a wife and four children. Dr. Matiya will be missed by many, especially Bunda College, for his various academic and administrative leadership roles in Malawi and Internationally. May His Soul Rest in Peace!

NIGERIA'S NEW SCIENCE FUND-DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING RESEARCH IN THE COUNTRY

Nigeria is to get a dedicated science fund similar to the US National Science Foundation, to provide support for research in the country.

The National Science Research, Technology and Innovation Fund, announced last month in January, 2012, will be run by an independent board and headed by Nigeria's president Goodluck Jonathan, a scientist by training.

Nigeria's recent Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy, approved in December 2011 by Nigeria's highest decision-making body, the Federal Executive Council, advocated for a minimum of one per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) to be spent on science by the public and private sectors, and international organizations.

The fund has been set up in line with recommendations of the policy, but specifics on how it will operate have not yet been released.

A source in the science ministry said that the money for the fund would come from the government, along with the private sector and development agencies.

At present, research funds come primarily from the budgets of individual agencies and of international agencies. There is no specific science fund.

Previous research funds have been proposed, such as one in 2006 with a planned endowment of US\$5 billion from oil revenues – but none of these were proposals was successful. But hopes are high for this new fund as the idea comes from the new STI policy, which the government says it will start implementing soon.

The permanent secretary of the science ministry, Dere Awosika, said that the Ministry of Finance was due to announce the budget of the fund in the next two weeks.

Nigeria's Minister of Information, Labaran Maku, said the creation of the fund meant the country was "taking a major step" in realizing its development agenda, 'Vision 2020'.

The fund will be independent, managed outside the regular government funding system and open to applications from all Nigerian research organizations, said Maku.

The Director-General of the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure, Olusegun Adewoye, an ASI Fellow, called on the government to provide an endowment of US\$10 billion.

He said the country needs a science strategy to decide how to spend the money. "Before the money is touched at all, there should be a strategic plan for what Nigeria needs to do in 2, 5 and in 25 years," he said, adding that Nigeria should concentrate on building up research areas that it can succeed in.

The President of the Nigerian Academy of Science, Oye Ibidapo Obe, another ASI Fellow, suggested to SciDev.Net that a percentage of national tax income should be set aside to finance the fund.

He said the fund should be operated in a transparent way by a committee consisting of members of the Nigerian Academy of Science and similar organizations.

The Secretary-General of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences, Justin Epelu-Opio, another ASI Fellow, welcomed the fund and said his academy would advocate a similar fund in Uganda.

ASI Fellows is a recognition awards program of the African Scientific Institute: www.asi-org.net

Source: African Scientific Institute Emeka Johnkingsley, Abuja, 21 February 2012

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR - DEAN FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, EGERTON UNIVERSITY



Prof. A. K. Kahi is an Associate Professor of Animal Breeding and Genetics at Egerton University's Department of Animal Sciences. He was appointed Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Egerton University in October 2010. He obtained his BSc (Animal Production) in 1992 and MSc (Animal Production – Animal Breeding and Genetics option) in 1995 from Egerton University in Kenya and Doctor of Agricultural Sciences from the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart, Germany in 2000. Prof. A. K. Kahi has wide experience of livestock production systems and their economics and a special interest in the definition of breeding objectives for different production systems, genetic improvement, computer simulation, genetic evaluation, experimental and observational quantitative genetics, molecular genetics, genomics, health and disease resistance, value chains analysis and development and capacity building in post-secondary education institutions. He has authored or co-authored several publications including several papers in the premier internationally refereed animal science journals, books and book chapters/case studies. His contacts are: Faculty of Agriculture, Egerton University, P. O. Box 536, 20115 Egerton, Kenya, Tel: +254 51 221 7737/ 221 7684/5 Mobile: +254 72 785 0007 and E-mail: a.kahi@incip.org, akahi@egerton.ac.ke or alexanderkahi@yahoo.com

'INTERNATIONAL PAY' PROMISE FOR UGANDAN SCIENTISTS

Uganda's president, Yoweri Museveni, has promised again to raise scientists' salaries to near international levels.

Museveni made the declaration during a speech at Makerere University at the end of 2011.

He said that science and technology were essential to raise Africa from poverty and urged Ugandan scientists not to be lured to Europe and North America.

"Scientists in Uganda should be remunerated to near international standards. And this will be done."

But Museveni said there was resistance from his government, which wanted salaries to be based on "protocol" rather than profession and economic contribution. At present members of parliament in Uganda earn approximately ten times as much as scientists.

Museveni made a similar pledge in 2010, which was followed in July of that year by a 30 per cent salary hike funded with US\$8 million from the 2010–11 budget. Scientists welcomed the rise but maintained they could still earn six to ten times more abroad.

A Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development official contacted by SciDev.Net confirmed last week that there would be a salary increase in the next financial year but that it would be "peanuts". The official said the rise would reflect individual scientists' contribution to economic growth.

A senior economist in the same ministry said scientists should be paid according to their productivity. But "what have Ugandan scientists produced? There are no innovations," he declared.



Keith Muhakanizi, acting deputy secretary to the treasury in the Ministry of Finance, said Uganda's tax base is small and would benefit from scientific innovations that had economic value.

Scientists are supported by ventures such as the Food Technology and Business Incubation Centre at Makerere University, which was established in 2009 with government funding of 4.485 billion Ugandan shillings (US\$ 1.8 million), he said. The 2010–11 budget allocated an extra US\$540,000 to the Uganda Industrial Research Institute for near-market research and innovation.

Ministry of Finance officials say the only innovation from such investments is a poultry vaccine launched last year. But Paul Nampala, the former Executive Director of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences, rejected accusations that scientists are failing to contribute to the economy. He said the role of scientists was to innovate; commercialisation was for entrepreneurs.

Charles Mugoya, Programme Manager at the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), said Museveni would need a critical mass of supporters in government to achieve a substantial pay rise. "Best practice the world over is that salaries are pegged on profession and contribution to the economy, not protocol," he said.

Eriabu Lugujjo, head of the Department of Electrical Engineering at Makerere University, welcomed the prospect of any salary rise. "You forgo a lot of things while training to become a scientist, only to earn peanuts," he said.

Museveni first pledged to raise scientists' salaries after he came to power in 1986.

This article was written by Esther Nakkazi, published by Scidev.net on the 11 January 2012.

'Government pays protocol, they don't pay output'



My name is Esther Sebuliba and I have completed an MSc in Forestry at Makerere University. This MSc was successfully funded by RUFORUM and FOREAIM. I was honored to be selected by RUFORUM to disseminate my research findings to the communities where my research was done under the RUFORUM Field Attachment Programme Award (FAPA). The research was conducted at the Sugar Corporation of Uganda Limited (SCOUL), Lugazi and aimed at field testing of the mycorrhiza biofertilizer developed. It was a very revealing, exciting and learning experience. The experience is still ongoing but preliminary results were presented in the Uganda Sugarcane Technologists Association conference which took place 7th - 8th April 2011. During the conference, I came to learn that biofertilizers have been longed for by all sugarcane companies in the region. Attempts to acquire and even test them on sugarcane plantations were fruitless despite the fact that they are being applied in India. This experiment lit a candle that had for one reason or another been put out. Why mycorrhiza? Due to the soil degradation brought about by the continuous farming and low input, mycorrhiza would serve as a remedy to enhance among others water and nutrient uptake especially in P deficient soils, as well as reduce disease, pest and pathogen attacks. The performance of the isolate on sugarcane yield indicators has prompted the managers of SCOUL to transfer the experimentation from one hectare experimental land to five hectare commercial land. After this test the isolate will qualify for large scale production. Thank you very much RUFORUM for this opportunity, Lugazi is waiting and in a few months, we hope, all shall be smiling. HOORAY FAPA.

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD) IN AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES SCIENCE

Deadline for DAAD Scholarships: 31 May 2012



Launch of the 2012-2013 Africa-wide 'Women and Young Professionals in Science' Competitions

Call for Abstracts:

'Feeding 1 billion in Africa in a Changing World'

Deadline: 14 May 2012.

The CTA/ FARA/IFS/ ANAFE/ RUFORUM consortium, in collaboration with AGRA and NPCA, is pleased to announce the launch of its 2012-2013 Africa-wide women and young professionals in science competitions. With a population of approximately 1.03 billion in 2011, and a growth rate of 24 million per annum, Africa's population is expected to double by 2050. The continent needs to increase agricultural productivity in a sustainable manner as well as find endogenous solutions to respond to the challenges. Africa's investment in science and innovation remains low; and only one African university is listed among the top 500 in the world. Women are under-represented in all areas of policy, education and research and many of Africa's youthful population; 70% aged 30 or younger do not see a future in agriculture or science. The continent faces a knowledge and skills gap as ageing scientists and academicians retire. The 2012-2013 Africa-wide competitions will evaluate, recognize and reward the contributions of women and young professionals who are involved in: (i) Pioneering and innovative research; (ii) Communicating their research results and technological developments; and (iii) Advocating for policy change as well as influencing policy processes through their research. They will also raise awareness of the need for valuing and sustaining the engagement of women and young professionals and facilitating their contribution to Africa's socio-economic transformation. Read the announcements and concept note on the RUFORUM website at www.ruforum.org.

Lancement des concours 2012-2013 « Femmes et sciences » et « Jeunes professionnels et sciences » en Afrique

Appel à résumés :

« Nourrir 1 milliard d'Africains dans un monde en évolution »

Date limite de soumission : 14 mai 2012

Le consortium CTA/FARA/IFS/ANAFE/RUFORUM, en collaboration avec l'AGRA et l'APCN, a le plaisir d'annoncer le lancement des concours 2012-2013 « Femmes et sciences » et « Jeunes professionnels et sciences » en Afrique. Avec environ 1,03 milliard d'individus en 2011 et une augmentation de 24 millions d'habitants chaque année, la population africaine devrait doubler d'ici 2050. Le continent doit accroître durablement la productivité agricole et trouver des solutions endogènes face aux défis qui se posent. Le niveau des investissements dans la science et l'innovation en Afrique reste faible et seule une université africaine figure parmi les 500 premières universités du monde. Les femmes sont sous-représentées dans les domaines de la politique, de l'enseignement et de la recherche, et la jeunesse (âgée de 30 ans et moins, soit 70 % de la population), dans sa majorité, ne voit pas d'avenir dans l'agriculture ou la science. De manière générale, l'Afrique fait face à un manque de connaissances et de compétences compte tenu du départ à la retraite de nombreux chercheurs et universitaires. Les concours des sciences en Afrique 2012-2013 permettront d'évaluer, de reconnaître et de récompenser les contributions des femmes et des jeunes professionnels impliqués dans : 1) une recherche pionnière et innovante ; 2) la communication de leurs résultats de recherche et avancées technologiques ; 3) le plaidoyer en faveur d'un changement de politique et qui influencent le processus d'élaboration des politiques à travers leur recherche. Ils permettront par ailleurs de mieux sensibiliser à la nécessité de valoriser et de pérenniser l'engagement des femmes et des jeunes professionnels scientifiques, mais aussi de faciliter leur contribution à la transformation socio-économique de l'Afrique. Lire les annonces et la note conceptuelle sur le site RUFORUM le www.ruforum.org.



The 3rd RUFORUM Regional Biennial Conference



RUFORUM is a network of 29 universities in the Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA) region. The 2012 RUFORUM Biennial Conference is the third in the series. The main objective of the conference is to provide a platform for agricultural research for development stakeholders in Africa and beyond to actively exchange findings and experiences, while at the same time learning lessons towards improving performance of the agricultural sector and ultimately people's livelihoods. The Biennial conference is especially dedicated to graduate students and their supervisors, grantees in RUFORUM member universities and alumni - it is a platform for peer review, quality control, mentorship, networking and shared learning.

CONFERENCE SUB-THEMES

1. Risk and vulnerability in African agriculture
2. Value chains and innovation platforms
3. Innovations in agricultural information, communication & knowledge management
4. Natural resource management
5. Plant and animal health management
6. Agricultural Marketing, trade and policy
7. Strengthening S&T capacity in Africa: Engaging women and youth
8. Monitoring and impact assessment
9. Partnerships and networking

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Extended Abstracts - 30th April 2012
(See sample abstracts on the RUFORUM Website)
Online Registration – 30th July 2012
Exhibition Pavilions – Online Booking

We are pleased to inform you that the Third RUFORUM Biennial Conference will be held in Entebbe, Uganda in conjunction with the RUFORUM Annual General Meeting from

24 to 28 September, 2012

Please note these dates and block them to schedule your attendance to this important event



**For More Information,
Please Contact:**

Ms Nodumo Dhlamini

Email:

n.dhlamini@ruforum.org

OR

secretariat@ruforum.org

Telephone: +256 414 535 939

Website: www.ruforum.org



This conference will be hosted by Makerere University in partnership with the RUFORUM Secretariat and Other Partners

