

Monthly Newsletter – January 2009



Our Mission is to strengthen the capacities of universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of small-holder farmers through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact-oriented research, and the maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, national agricultural research institutions, and governments.

New Staff Appointments

We are pleased to announce the appointment of a total of 10 new members of staff as approved by the Board of Directors during the July 2008 Board Meeting. The new staff include:

Dr. Washington Ochola

Programme Manager- Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation

Ms. Nodumo Dhlamini

Programme Manager- Information & Communication

Dr. Wellington Ekaya

Programme Manager - Training & Quality Assurance

Dr Moses Osiru

Program Associate, Networking & Advocacy

Ms. Birungi Irene M

Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Agnes Akwang Obua-Ogwai

Programme Assistant – Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Ms. Joan Apio Evelyn

Programme Assistant- Information & Communication

Mrs. Claire Akun Ntwali

Programme Assistant-Grants

Ms. Sylvia Chindime

Programme Assistant Training & Quality Assurance

Mr. Emmanuel B. Galla

Accountant

EDULINK Projects

RUFORUM was awarded 3 EDULINK ACP-EU Grants in the following areas:

1. Enhancing Research Capacity and Skills in Eastern and Southern Africa (ERESA)
2. Catalysing change in African Universities by strengthening leadership, management and cross-cutting professional Skills of Eastern and Southern African Universities. (CCAU)
3. Quality Assurance Management QAM (Full name)

The fourth grant is funding a project in Agricultural Rural Innovation Systems and RUFORUM is in partnership with Makerere University in its implementation.

Rockefeller Foundation Funds RUFORUM Projects

The Rockefeller Foundation is funding the following programs within RUFORUM universities:

1. **Enhancing adaptation to climatic change in Africa by linking agro-meteorology and agriculture** – the goal of this project is to develop capacity for the region to design coping strategies to enhance resilience of the region to climatic change and variability.
2. **Enhancing regional capacity for management of Trans-Boundary Animal Diseases in the Great Rift Valley countries of Eastern Africa** - the goal of this project is to develop a framework and mechanisms for multi-stakeholder engagement in livestock health management for improved livelihoods in the ESA region through pilot management of TADs

For additional information on these two projects please contact the Program Manager (Quality Assurance & Training) at RUFORUM on this email address: ekaya@africaonline.co.ke

SCARDA Projects

RUFORUM was contracted to be the lead service provider in implementing a capacity building project called Strengthening Capacity for Agricultural Research and Development in Eastern and Central Africa (SCARDA-ECA). SCARDA, which is a programme of FARA (Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa) and its Sub-Regional Organisations (i.e. ASARECA, CORAF and SADC) is a 30 month programme that has two phases. The overall goal is to strengthen the institutional and human capacity of African Agricultural Research and Development systems to identify, generate and deliver research outputs that meet the needs of the poor people. The stakeholders of the SCARDA project include: DFID, FARA, ASARECA, NRI, ISAR, ISABU, ARC, Universities of Egerton, Makerere, Nairobi, Sokoine and Jomo Kenyatta. The activities of the project include

MSc Training and Capacity Strengthening of the NARS . For additional information, please visit the RUFORUM website (www.ruforum.org)

Highlights

- IFS (International Foundation of Science) has selected RUFORUM as a focal node for its operations in Eastern Africa . IFS will have an office at the RUFORUM Secretariat. In the meantime, RUFORUM will also handle Southern African activities.
- RUFORUM formally launched PhD regional programs
- RUFORUM has graduated 240 MSc and 6 PhDs
- RUFORUM formally launched its PhD regional programmes and a total of 40 PhD students are being trained.

Upcoming Events

- EDULINK inception workshops have been planned for 23-25 February 2009, at the Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel, Entebbe, Uganda
- The Climatic Change Meeting is scheduled for the end of May 2009 in Entebbe, Uganda.

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is made up of a consortium of 25 member and associate universities, namely:

Member Universities:

Africa University, Zimbabwe

Eduardo Mondlane University Mozambique

Egerton University, Kenya

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya

Kenyatta University, Kenya

Makerere University, Uganda

Moi University, Kenya

Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania

University of Malawi

University of Nairobi, Kenya

University of Zambia

University of Zimbabwe

Associate Universities:

Gulu University, Uganda

Haramaya University, Ethiopia

Kordofan University, Sudan

Kyambogo University, Uganda

Mekelle University, Ethiopia

National University of Burundi

National University of Rwanda

Uganda Martyrs University

Université Catholique de Bukavu, Dr-Congo

University of Botswana

University of Gezira, Sudan

University of Lesotho

University of Swaziland

RUFORUM Contact Details

Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

ISSN: 1819-401X

Plot 151 Garden Hill Road, Makerere University Main Campus
P. O. Box 7062, Kampala-Uganda
Tel: +256 414 535939
Fax: +256 414 534153
Email: eadipala@agric.mak.ac.ug Website: www.ruforum.org