

18th RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

Theme: Strengthening Africa's Agri-food Systems in the Post COVID-19 Era – Opportunities and Challenges

Proposal Writeshop: African Agricultural Adaptation Research

Date: 10 - 11 December 2022,

Time: 8:00am – 17:00pm

Venue: Lecture Room F3, University of Zimbabwe

Facilitators:

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1.0 Introduction

Project proposal development skills are crucial for researchers in Africa in order to mobilize research resources that are increasingly competitive, yet essential for the continued engagement of researchers and sustained performance of the science, technology and innovation sector. Unfortunately, such skills are rarely catered for in the universities curricular.

In light of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) found it imperative that PhD younger scholars as well as faculty members under its network of universities should engage in short training (write-shop) in research project proposal development with a focus on research for development (R4D) relevant within the African development context. The objectives of the write-shop are (i) to impart skills in interdisciplinary research proposal development, and (ii) initiate research teams and collaboration for various project development and implementation efforts in the region. The effort will have a specific focus on **“African Agricultural Adaptation Research” to develop projects in response to the Call highlighted below:**

CO-ORGANISERS:



<https://scienceforafrica.foundation/funding/african-agriculture-climate-adaptation-research-system-request-for-proposals>

2.0 The approach

The approach will be largely hands-on, but enriched with facilitators’ guiding highlights in plenary sessions as introductions to most contemporary issues in Project Proposal Development. Participants will be divided up into multidisciplinary working groups each with not more than six. Each working group will draw consensus on the regional problem to be addressed in the proposal. Facilitators will guide the groups and where need be individual participants right from problem identification up to production of proposal drafts targeting current research calls and/ or specific development challenge or study of interest. The groups, with the help of the facilitators, will set criteria for selection of the research teams to be fronted for the implementation of the projects. The participants will also be guided through the application for grants processes with particular focus on the critical stages.

This training will be a unique experience that will offer participants a one-one interaction opportunity with the facilitators, along with working groups. The write-shop will be conducted face-to-face, as a physical meeting. The Facilitators will exercise flexibility in implementation of the training with a view to customize and focus on participants needs and experiences as well as the specific requirements of the Call. It is hoped that this will facilitate participants to learn as well as unlearn concepts in winning proposal development. The tentative Program Profile is presented in Table 1 below. Prior to the training, a needs assessment survey will be conducted and the analysis will be used to customize the program to suit participants needs/ key areas of emphasis, as appropriate.

Table 1: Program for delivery

Dates	Activity
Day 1: 10 th Dec. 22	Participants needs assessment, each participate to respond to a short survey
	Key issues in scholarly writing with a focus on proposal development
	Logical steps in proposal development
	Problem Analysis and Idea Consolidation
	The Log frame approach in proposal development
	Objectivities profile – Goal, Purpose, Specific Objectives & Activities
Day 2: 11 th Dec. 22	Methodology – Work Plan & Budget
	Literature and its application / use in proposal development
	Background
	Title selection & Executive summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidation of proposal drafts • Key issues for winning proposals

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