

The Seventh African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference 2021

Delivering Research and Innovations in Agricultural Greenhouse Gases

A Collaboration between the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture and the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases

Dates: 27th -29th October, 2021

Time: 1400-1700 EAT

Concept Note

Background

The central role played by agriculture in climate change has been under represented in previous years' discussions and agreements under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This was addressed under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Issues directly related to agriculture, such as food production and security, human rights, gender, ecosystems and biodiversity, are explicitly mentioned in the Agreement concluded by the UNFCCC at its 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) in 2015. The agreements specifically reference safeguarding food security and ending hunger and underline the importance of protecting food production when reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the majority (80%) of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) submitted by countries committed identify agriculture as a priority sector for adaptation and mitigation actions, thus creating a framework for climate action in the sector.

Improving productivity in developing countries presents a great opportunity to achieve emissions reductions while simultaneously addressing sustainable development goals relating to food security and economic development. As such, understanding GHG emissions in the agriculture sector offers countries an opportunity to plan better their actions to reduce GHG emissions while maintaining agricultural productivity and resilience while meeting the needs of their population.

Therefore, the Government of New Zealand, through the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA) and the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), collaborated to build international research partnerships and science capability to reduce agricultural greenhouse gases in the context of improving farm productivity and contributing to global food security.

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CO-ORGANISERS:



	<p>The Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA) is primarily a network of governments interested in agricultural GHG emissions and their effect on climate change and food security. It aims at i) developing networks of researchers who work in this area, ii) collaborating and sharing information and technologies out to the farmers. The Alliance is focused on research, development and extension of technologies and practices that will help deliver ways to grow more food (and more climate-resilient food systems) without growing GHG emissions. The Alliance promotes an active exchange of data, people, and research to help improve agricultural GHG research and enhance participating countries' scientific capability.</p> <p>The RUFORUM is a network of 129 African universities with the mission of strengthening the capacities of universities to foster innovations responsive to the demands of small-holder farmers. This is done 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.</p> <p>Through the formal partnership between the GRA and RUFORUM, eight Graduate Research Grants, administered by RUFORUM to recipient universities, have been funded to build the capability of graduate and post-graduate level students in Africa to conduct applied research on agricultural greenhouse gases. The Grants are supporting eight Principal Investigators (individual senior lecturers of a RUFORUM member university) and 16 Master students from African Universities to study GHG in pastoral livestock production systems over the next two years. The Grants are also linked to other relevant research activities of GRA members and partners.</p>
	<p>RUFORUM will be hosting the Seventh Africa Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference, 06-10 December 2021 in Cotonou, Benin, West Africa. A number of Pre-Conference events have been arranged. RUFORUM, in partnership with the GRA, will convene pre-conference side event from 27 – 29 October 2021 to share experiences and explore the opportunities, areas of interest and initiatives to support research and innovation in agricultural GHG emissions. The side event will attract experts from higher agricultural education institutions, agricultural organisations, and development partners engaged in financing or technically supporting agricultural research in Africa.</p>
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Showcase some of the ongoing work of the GRA-RUFORUM partnership that is focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generating GHG emissions information on the continent to inform the design of efficient agricultural production systems • Building capacity of African scientists on GHG emission estimations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing resilience; and Strengthening national measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) for low emissions agricultural development. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Share experiences and models for agricultural GHG research and collaboration Raise awareness among RUFORUM members of the research being undertaken and the opportunities for collaboration on agricultural GHG emissions research.
Outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A list of individuals and institutions interested in receiving further information about the GRA and RUFORUM activities A synthesis report of the presentations and discussion Key messages from the event will be developed into a policy brief to support GRA member countries, and partners improve agricultural GHG research and collaboration in sub-Saharan Africa.
Approach and Methodology	The virtual side event will be organised as a series of presentations from experts and panel discussants. Information and initial questions can be shared in advance, but the sessions shall enable expert exchange and adapted to ensure discussions are relevant and appropriate for the level of expertise. The side event will be virtual and interactive.
Participants	Participants will include development partners, policy actors, scientists, and students from universities in and outside Africa
Dates and registration link	The sessions will be held virtually on Wednesday 27 – Friday 29 October 2021 virtually. Registration Link: https://bit.ly/3ijYybg
Organizers	The event is organized jointly by the GRA and RUFORUM in collaboration with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), with support from the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre, funded by the Ministry of Primary Industries, New Zealand.
Contacts	<div>Ackim Mwape Ackim.Mwape@nzagrc.org.nz</div> <div>Runyararo J Rukarwa r.rukarwa@ruforum.org</div>

Programme

Delivering Research and Innovations in Agricultural Greenhouse Gases		
Registration Link: https://bit.ly/3ijYybg		
Time		Responsible
Day One, 27th October 2021; Chair: Dr Runyararo Jolyn Rukarwa		
Registration		Selma N. Nghituwamhata; Mr Moses Waswa
Session I: Opening Session		
14:00-14:15	Remarks by Chair	Runyararo Jolyn Rukarwa
	Remarks from RUFORUM	Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
	Remarks from GRA	Hayden Montgomery, GRA
14:15-14:35	Keynote address: <i>State of agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GHG) mitigation research in sub-Saharan Africa</i>	Linde du Toit, University of Pretoria
14:35-14:45	Discussion	All participants
Innovation across borders: regional models for financing agricultural research and collaboration		
Session II: Models and experiences from partner institutions		
14:45-15:05	Session will highlight: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful cases of South-South Cooperation in research, development, and capability building for agriculture. Discussion about challenges on the organizational aspect of funding research and cooperation mechanisms and examples of success stories in overcoming these challenges. 	Yemi Akinbamijo, Executive Director, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)
15:05-15:25		Ravi Ketharpal, Executive Secretary, Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)
15:25-15:45		Eugenia Saini, Executive Secretary, Regional Fund for Agriculture Technology (FONTAGRO)
15:45-16:00	Q & A + Wrap up	Hayden Montgomery
Session III: The CGIAR climate change mitigation research agenda post-2021		
16:00-16:15	Presentation of proposed CGIAR Initiative "Livestock, Climate and System Resilience"	Polly Erickson, Program Leader Sustainable Livestock Systems, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
16:15-16:30	Presentation of proposed CGIAR Initiative "Mitigation Initiative Toward Improved	Lou Verchot, Agroecosystems and Sustainable Landscapes, The

	GHG budgets and co-benefits in Agri-Food SysTEms” (MITIGATE+)	Alliance of Biodiversity International and CIAT (ABC)
16:30-16:45	Q&A	All
16:45-17:00	Wrap up	Ackim Mwape
Day Two, 28th October 2021: Chair: Selma Ndapewa Nghituwamhata		
14:00-14:05	Opening Remarks by the Chair	
Session IV: Experiences on agricultural GHG training and research in Africa		
14:05-14:25	Keynote address: <i>Realising the role of research networks and collaborations in delivering GHG and Climate Solutions</i>	Daouda Kone , Director of the Capacity Building Department, West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL)
14:25-14:35	<i>Discussion</i>	All participants
14:35-15:20	GRA-RUFORUM Projects Updates by Principal Investigators i) Franke Linus – University of Free State ii) Mwanjalolo Majaliwa – Makerere University iii) Isa Kabenge - Makerere University iv) Dossa Luc Hippolyte – University of Abomey Calavi	Principal Investigators /participants
15:20 – 15:30	Discussion	
15:30-16:10	i) Caroline Wambui – Maseno University ii) Constatine Katongole - Makerere University iii) Frank Masese – University of Eldoret iv) Pascaline Ciza Azine – Evangelical University in Africa	
16:10-16:25	Discussion	
16:25-16:40	CaSSECS, Carbon Sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions in (agro) Sylvopastoral Ecosystems in the Sahelian CILSS States	Paulo Salgado , La recherche agronomique pour le développement, Montpellier (CIRAD) El Hadji Traoré , Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute (ISRA)
16:40-17:00	Q&A + Wrap up	Ackim Mwape
Day Three, 29th October 2021, Chair: Dr Ackim Mwape		
14:00-14:05	Opening remarks by chair	
Session V: Improving quantification of agricultural GHGs		

14:05-14:20	Update on the GRA and CCAFS “CLIFF-GRADS” PhD Awards Program	Ekaterina Bessonova , GRA Veronica Ellis , GRA
14:20-14:35	Agricultural GHG emission database establishment: Dataman, CEDERS - GRA	Tony Van Der Weerden , GRA
14:35-14:50	Regional support to national livestock GHG inventories and identification of mitigation options in Southern Africa – NZAGRC	Andreas Wilkes , New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre (NZAGRC)
14:50-15:00	Q&A + Wrap up	Selma Nghituwamhata
Session VI: Setting up effective research programmes to best provide evidence for policymakers: Perspectives from the European Union		
15:00-15:15	Towards implementation of joint EU-Africa initiatives	Piero Venturi , EU Science Counsellor to the African Union
15:15-15:30	Perspectives on the European Union Green Deal /Farm to Fork Initiative-Towards a Strategy with Africa	Marta Iglesias , Senior Research Programme Officer, European Commission
15:30-15:40	Q&A + Wrap up	Runyararo J. Rukarwa
Session VII: Role of African agricultural universities and their contribution policy development		
	Three Breakout Sessions on key actions and strategies to strengthen the Science-Policy nexus in Africa	
15:40-16:15	<i>Parallel Session 1</i>	Rapporteur 1: Alice Mweetwa
	<i>Parallel Session 2</i>	Rapporteur 2: Anthony Egeru
	<i>Parallel Session 3</i>	Rapporteur 3: Mwanjalolo J.G Majaliwa
16:15-16:45	Reports from the groups and discussions (<i>each rapporteur 5 Minutes</i>)	
16:45-17:05	Opportunities for research collaboration on agricultural GHG emissions research	Free interactions
Session VIII: Closing		
17:05 – 17:10	Remarks from RUFORUM	Runyararo Jolyn Rukarwa
17:10-17:15	Remarks from GRA	Hayden Montgomery