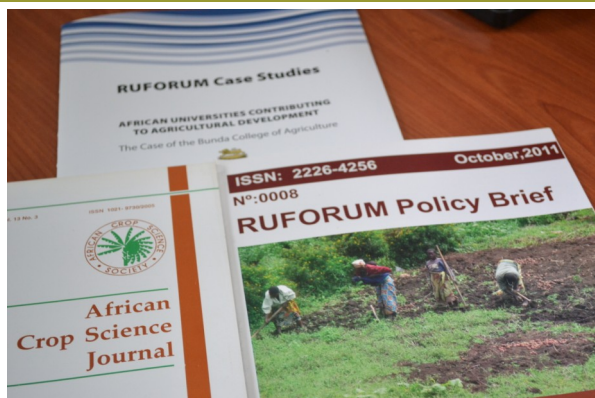


# RUFORUM MONTHLY

## SHOWCASING SOME OF OUR PUBLICATIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



The RUFORUM Secretariat has been engaged in production of publications throughout this year.

We would like to thank our partners and member universities for their support to enhance the network visibility.

Please refer to the following links to access these publications;

1. [RUFORUM Case studies>>](#)
2. [RUFORUM Policy Briefs>>](#)
3. [Presentations from the Network>>](#)
4. [RUFORUM Monthly Newsletters>>](#)

To access more of these resources, please visit [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org)

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

As yet another year draws to a close we would like to once again thank you for partnering with and supporting the RUFORUM activities this year. This year we celebrate;

- New partnerships and linkages created resulting from the just concluded 2012 Biennial Conference, that was held in Entebbe, Uganda - with new collaborations from Brazil, China and India.
- New partnerships with Pacific universities and Australian universities
- Expansion of our Membership from 29 universities to 30 universities - with the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi joining the network
- Coming on board of Carnegie Corporation of New York to strengthen our Regional programmes - training PhD graduates in African Universities
- Launch of the Tertiary Education for Agriculture Mechanism (TEAM Africa) - Partnership & Networking for Strengthening Agricultural Innovation and Higher Education in Africa



Working with African Universities to train the next generation of Agricultural Scientists is our passion and we are glad that this year, we have seen this strengthen through the quality of research papers produced for the Biennial Conference. [Please click here to view these papers.](#)

We value your patronage and appreciate your confidence in us. We look forward to more fruitful collaborations with you in the coming year.

On behalf of all of us at the RUFORUM Secretariat, We wish you a very happy holiday and New year.

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](mailto:secretariat@ruforum.org); or visit the RUFORUM Website at [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org).

- **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

**Field Attachment Program Award (FAPA): Call for Proposals for the 2013 Funding Round.**

Deadline for application is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012 [Read more>>](#)

**Doctoral Regional Research Grants (DoGs): Call for Proposals 2012** [Read more>>](#)

**Competition Announcement and Extension of Deadline: IMPRESSA AWARDS 2012.** [31<sup>st</sup> May 2013](#)

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

## CORNELL RECEIVES \$25.2M IN FUNDING FOR NEXT GENERATION CASSAVA BREEDING

Cassava, a rough and ready root crop that has long been the foundation of food security in Africa is finally getting the respect it deserves. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID) are investing \$25.2M to improve the staple crop's productivity and build human and technical capacity for plant breeding in sub-Saharan Africa.



The five-year project is hosted by Cornell University with five partner institutions: the National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI) in Uganda, National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI) in Nigeria, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Nigeria, Boyce Thompson Institute (BTI) for Plant Research in New York, and US Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, in California.

"Partners on the Next Generation Cassava Breeding project will use a state-of-the-art plant breeding approach known as genomic selection to improve cassava productivity for the 21<sup>st</sup> century," said Ronnie Coffman, Cornell professor of plant breeding and genetics, director of International Programs, and the principal investigator on the multi-partner grant.

"Increased support for strengthening the research capacity in Africa and harnessing novel technologies are critical to improving overall agricultural productivity and food security for poor people," said Yona Baguma, project coordinator for NaCRRI who aims to unlock the potential of cassava in Africa and mobilize a whole new generation of cassava growers.

"Next Generation Cassava provides a great opportunity for us to harness the power of modern science for faster delivery of best-bet cassava varieties for smallholder farmers," said Chiedozi Egesi, assistant director at NRCRI and head of cassava breeding, who works to biofortify cassava with essential micronutrients and make it more nutritious.

Cassava breeding is typically a lengthy process; it takes almost a decade to multiply and release a new variety. Genomic selection can shorten breeding cycles, provide more accurate evaluation at the seedling stage, and give plant breeders the ability to evaluate a much larger number of clones without the need to plant them in the target environment. Using genomic selection, new releases of cassava could be ready in as little as six years.

"Next Generation Cassava will give breeders in Africa access to the most advanced plant breeding technologies to deliver

improved varieties to farmers more rapidly," said Peter Kulakow, cassava breeder and geneticist with IITA, one of the project's three Africa-based partner institutes. "This project will ensure that cassava genetic research is on a par with other top food crops such as wheat, rice, maize and potato."

Africa's small farmers produce more than half of the world's cassava, or about 86 million tons from over 10 million hectares. The tough woody plant is predicted to be one of the few crops that will benefit from climate change. It requires few inputs and can withstand drought, marginal soils and long-term underground storage. A cash crop as well as a subsistence crop, the storage roots of this perennial woody shrub are processed, consumed freshly boiled or raw, and eaten by people as well as animals as a low-cost source of carbohydrates. No other continent depends on cassava to feed as many people as does Africa, where 500 million people consume it daily.



Photo credit: [AFRICASTI](#)

The cassava team at Cornell also includes scientific leader Jean-Luc Jannink, research geneticist with the US Department of Agriculture and adjunct professor in the department of plant breeding and genetics, and Tim Setter, chair of the department of crop and soil science.

The partners will share cassava data, expertise, and information on a publicly available website ([www.cassavabase.org](http://www.cassavabase.org)) being developed by Lukas Mueller of BTI.

In addition to using the latest genomic information from cassava sequencing to improve productivity and yield, project partners will incorporate cassava germplasm diversity from South America into African breeding programs, train the next generation of plant breeders, and improve infrastructure at African institutions. They will also hold awareness-building workshops for farmers, scholars, researchers and policy makers.

For more information see [www.nextgencassava.org](http://www.nextgencassava.org) or contact: Linda McCandless, Email: [llm3@cornell.edu](mailto:llm3@cornell.edu)

## MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN PLANT BREEDING AND SEED SYSTEMS WELCOMES THE THIRD COHORT

African Universities have been challenged to produce the required human resource to lead innovations to address the increasing food insecurity and other livelihood issues facing the continent. In particular, there is urgent need to build capacity to improve crop productivity and enhance sustainability of Africa's natural resources as a means to overcoming food insecurity and improve household incomes. In these efforts, strengthening plant breeding programmes and seed systems is considered a priority intervention.

Given the current limited numbers of Plant Breeders in Sub-Saharan Africa and the urgent need to have functional seed systems, Makerere University in partnership with 29 other universities in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa initiated a regional training programme based at Makerere University to produce MSc. graduates as a short to medium term response to the plant breeding gap in the region. This is part of RUFORUM initiative to support skill development in priority areas responding to the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP).

In 2008 twenty one students from eight African countries were admitted by Makerere University as the first cohort of the MSc Plant Breeding and Seed Systems program. All these 20 students have graduated. In February 2011 the second group of 20 students was welcomed at the Kabanyolo campus of Makerere University College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

We are pleased to profile the third intake which commenced their study on 11th August, 2012 with sponsorship from different partners such as RUFORUM, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), iAGRI-USAID, EAAPP-World Bank and self funding.



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\*\*\*\*\*



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\*\*\*\*\*



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**Msc. Research Project:** Inheritance to aroma

(Continued on page 4)

## MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN PLANT BREEDING AND SEED SYSTEMS WELCOMES THE THIRD COHORT

*(Continued from page 3)*

quality in rice

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## MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN PLANT BREEDING AND SEED SYSTEMS WELCOMES THE THIRD COHORT

*(Continued from page 4)*

**Msc. Research Project:** Breeding for resistance to the Common Bacterial Blight in Uganda

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\*\*\*\*\*



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**Name:** Mwendo Marco Martin

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For information about this program, please contact Dr. Richard Edema at [redema12@yahoo.com](mailto:redema12@yahoo.com) or visit the [program Blog](#). To know more about the various regional programs funded by RUFORUM, please visit the [RUFORUM website](#).

## UGANDA'S DONS WORST PAID IN THE REGION

Uganda's lecturers in public Universities are the lowest paid in East and Central Africa region, according to a comparative study done by a taskforce assessing jobs, staff and financing of Makerere University. The new study is based on a comparison of Makerere's best paid lecturer on the Government payroll, with those in other Universities in the region. Makerere, save for the vice chancellors pay, beats all other public Universities in the country in paying dons better salaries.

**Professor's pay**

On average, other Universities on the continent pay a professor about sh6.1M. For instance, the University of Nairobi pays a professor sh5.9M, sh4.6 at the University of Dar-es-

Salaam and sh4.6M at the University of Zimbabwe. More so, the University of Botswana pays a professor sh10.2M, while the University of Namibia pays sh8.7M. University of Swaziland pays sh6.9M.

**Lecturer's salaries**

Looking at other levels of lecturers' seniority; on average, the same universities pay an associate professor sh5.6M compared to Makerere's sh2.6M. Makerere also pays a senior lecturer sh2.4M yet counterparts on the continent pay them sh4.6M. While other universities pay their lecturers

*(Continued on page 6)*

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**  
**DOCTORAL REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**  
**Call ID: [RU/2012/DRS/01](#)**

This is to announce a Call for PhD candidates from West Africa and RUFORUM member universities to apply for the Scholarships to attend any one of RUFORUM Regional PhD Programmes. The eligible Regional PhD Programmes are;

- Dryland Resource Management, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- Plant Breeding and Biotechnology, Makerere University, Uganda
- Aquaculture and Fisheries Science, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi
- Agricultural and Resource Economics, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi
- Soil and Water Management, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania
- Agricultural and Rural Innovation, Makerere University, Uganda

Candidates will be required to show proof of acceptance into one of these programmes. Please [click here](#) to access the full or visit [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org).

## UGANDA'S DONS WORST PAID IN THE REGION

(Continued from page 5)

sh4M and assistant lecturers sh2.2M, Makerere alternatively pays lecturers sh2.09 and their assistants 2.06M. However, note should be taken that all the computed salary figures exclude allowances. It is also true that each of these countries have a varied cost of living from that of Uganda

### Why task force was born

The task force was formed in an agreement between the Prime Minister, Amama Mbabazi and the university during the September 2011 strike of lecturers. It was tasked to review the current macro and micro-organizational structures of the university, conduct a job analysis followed by a job evaluation of all the jobs in the institution and to recommend the optimal establishment of each unit. It is also expected to develop and recommend strategies of improving current financing sources of the university.

### Dons quit Makerere

The study, partly explains why there is massive exodus of top dons from Makerere University nowadays. Public universities in Uganda are witnessing a mass exodus of lecturers and professors of recent, a move that is believed to be fueled by meager pay to the dons and alternative better pay abroad. In certain instances, public universities have been forced to freeze some academic programmers and others overly relying on junior staff to lecture.

### Government hopeful

But the Government says there should be no cause for worry, since most of the senior lecturers have just crossed to private universities in Uganda.

The permanent secretary of the education ministry, Francis-Xavier Lubanga, says there is need to study the findings in detail, before the Government can give its response to the matter. He, however, notes that there are several factors which can explain the salary disparity; a reason why the ministry needs to first comprehend the findings of the study. Makerere, Kyambogo, Busitema, Gulu and Mbarara University of Science and Technology are still having the highest attrition rate of their lecturers.

### Resignations worrying

Makerere, in between 2010 and this year, has lost over 25 top dons, with most of them at the level of professors. Gulu University loses over 10 senior lecturers every academic year, according to its management. Mabarara Uni-

versity of Science and Technology lost 20 dons to the US in September, while six others are expected to leave this month. It was also revealed that researchers are also massively leaving the university due to funds for research.

The University's academic registrar, Stephen Bazirake, blames the exodus on the poor pay of dons. Gulu University's vice chancellor Prof. Pen-Mogi Nyeko says most of the staff that are sent to upgrade by the university, later leave for greener pastures. According to sources at Makerere University, "at every appointments board's sitting, two to four resignation letters of senior dons are submitted. Makerere has of recent lost top dons like Dr. Gyaviira Taban-Wani, Dr. Jose Ghislain Quenum, Prof. John M. Kasenene, Dr. Isyagi Micongora, Dr. Esther Mayambala Kisakye, Dr. George W. Kivumbi and Dr. Denis Byamukama. Among other senior dons who have called it quits at Makerere are Dr. G.W. Pariyo, Dr. Japheth Emmanuel, and Dr. Moses Ebuk's.

The McGeorge report by the visitation committee shows that apart from academic qualifications, the provision of quality education is to a large extent, limited by scarcity of experienced academic staff at the most senior levels of the academic ladder. **Story by Conan Businge from the New Vision 20th December, 2012.**

### Current monthly salary for Ugandan public Universities (1USD=UGX 2,500)

Job Title	Makerere	Kyambogo	Busitema	Mbarara	MUBS	Average Monthly
Vc	Sh3,073,892	Sh13,655,500	Sh5,512,000	Sh4,389,632	Sh5,051,935	Sh5,280,493
Dvc	Sh3,023,715	Sh6,000,000	Sh4,520,250	Sh2,967,008	Sh4,209,946	Sh3,453,487
Professor	Sh2,978,324	Sh3,030,646	Sh3,889,419	Sh2,440,978	Sh3,570,853	Sh2,651,703
Associate professor	Sh2,868,283	Sh2,680,595	Sh3,001,631	Sh2,160,966	Sh3,151,339	Sh2,310,469
Lecturer	Sh2,099,467	Sh1,654,241	Sh2,115,791	Sh1,432,530	Sh1,907,156	Sh1,534,864
Assistant lecturer	Sh2,022,805	Sh1,300,453	Sh1,931,645	Sh1,164,621	Sh530,305	Sh1,324,972
Teaching Assistant	Sh1,707,999	Sh1,286,776	Sh1,802,576	Sh1,059,842	Sh1,466,900	Sh1,220,682

### Current monthly salary for different Universities in Africa

University	Prof	Assoc. Prof	Senior Lecturer	Lecturer	Assistant Lecturer
Makerere University	Sh3,026,895	Sh2,899,928	Sh2,457,776	Sh2,099,467	Sh2,061
University of Nairobi	Sh5,982,600	Sh5,026,017	Sh4,091,317	Sh3,674,450	Sh3,199,733
University of Dar Es Salaam	Sh4,599,400	Sh4,216,333	Sh3,356,600	Sh2,545,833	Sh2,081,950
University of Butare	Sh4,501,900	Sh3,914,950	Sh2,718,733	Sh2,363,183	Sh1,888,467
University of Zimbabwe	Sh5,080,183	Sh4,934,367	Sh4,028,267	Sh3,765,233	
University of Botswana	Sh10,226,233	Sh9,531,167	Sh8,711,083	Sh6,777,117	
University of Namibia	Sh8,672,300	Sh7,497,533	Sh6,556,333	Sh6,184,100	Sh4,866,333
University of Swaziland	Sh6,926,183	Sh6,507,150	Sh5,434,000	Sh4,881,933	Sh4,195,100
Average of foreign Universities	Sh6,126,962	Sh5,565,931	Sh4,669,264	Sh4,036,415	Sh2,286,793