

RUFORUM MONTHLY

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

Minister Appeals for Promotion of Science and Technology through Supporting Training and Research

Honorable Matia Kasaija, the Minister of State responsible for Finance, Planning and Economic Development in the Government of Uganda was able to spare his valuable time to officiate during the opening ceremony of the joint launch of the five ACP-EU EDULINK II supported projects. These five projects will be implemented by the RUFORUM member universities and were launched on the 3rd of December 2013 at the Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel in Entebbe Uganda. The ACP-EU EDULINK Program represents a harmonized approach for the implementation of European Commission funded programs in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States for improving the effectiveness, management, visibility and the impact of ACP-EU co-operation in the field of higher education. The purpose of the program is to strengthen the capacity of Higher Education Institutions in the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of states at two levels: (1) institutional / administrative and (2) academic.

Also present during this occasion were the Executive Secretary of RUFORUM, Professor Adipala Ekwamu, the Principal of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at Makerere University, the Principal Investigators of the five projects, representatives of the international project partners, RUFORUM staff and representatives of the regional collaborating universities.

In his remarks Hon Matia Kasaija thanked the European Union Commission for funding the five projects. He also paid tribute to the RUFORUM Secretariat for facilitating much needed resource mobilization for the universities. He reiterated that the Government of Uganda was fully committed to the promotion of science and technology through training and research. Hon Kasaija underscored the importance of partnerships and collaboration and the need for universities to

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- The **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

Dear Reader,

We welcome you to our Second issue for the year 2014.

We hope that you will enjoy the issue and find it appropriately informative.

-Newsletter Editor-



Hon. Matia Kasaija, Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development, in Uganda with Prof. Adipala Ekwamu visiting the RUFORUM Booth during the launch

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Minister Appeals for Promotion of Science and Technology through Supporting Training and Research

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embrace collaboration as a way of reaching out to non academic actors. He alluded to the fact that food and nutrition security were socio-economic development priorities for Africa and that in order for Africa to achieve progress in this important area, one of the pre-requisites was a “conflict free environment that promotes innovation”.

The Honorable Minister indicated that he was pleased to note that each of the five projects were inherently designed to address food and nutrition security by ensuring quality teaching and research in the agricultural, environmental, entrepreneurship, food and nutrition sciences. The five ACP-EU EDULINK funded projects that were launched by the Minister are:

- 1) Establishing and Piloting Postgraduate Programs for Supporting Agricultural Development in Post Conflict Countries of Central and Eastern Africa
- 2) Partnerships to strengthen university food and nutrition sciences training and research in Eastern and Southern Africa
- 3) Concerted Fit-for-purpose PhD training in aquaculture and fisheries to improve food security and livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa
- 4) Strengthening University capacity to enhance competitiveness of Agribusiness in East and West Africa
- 5) Strengthening human resource capacity to foster Agricultural and Rural Innovations in Eastern Africa

Please visit this link for more information on the ACP-EU EDULINK Program: <http://www.acp-edulink.eu/>



Hon. Matia Kasaija, with participants who attended the meeting in Entebbe, Uganda

Project summaries of the five ACP-EU EDULINK II supported projects

Strengthening Human Resource Capacity to Foster Agricultural and Rural Innovation in Eastern Africa

Lead Institution: Makerere University

Contact Person: Dr. Paul Kibwika

Contract Number: FED/2013/320-091

EC Grant: EUR 488,165.97

Sector: Agriculture and Food Security

Location: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Denmark, The Netherlands, France

Duration (months): 36

Partner 1: Egerton University

Partner 2: Sokoine University of Agriculture - Tanzania

Partner 3: RUFORUM

Partner 4: Wageningen University

Partner 5: AGRENIUM

Partner 6: University of Copenhagen

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Project summaries of the five ACP-EU EDULINK II supported projects

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Project Summary

The specific objectives are to: 1) Facilitate mobility of students and staff for capacity strengthening of the partner institutions and mutual learning. 2) Reduce the cost through online delivery of certain modules of mobility and enable a wider access to the PhD programme Agricultural and Rural Innovation (ARI) which was developed via a previous EDULINK project. 3) Establish national stakeholder platforms to guide training and research in agricultural and rural innovation. 4) Link ARI and the PhD programme Agricultural Transformation by Innovation (Agtrain) for mutual learning and experimentation between students and staff from East Africa and Europe. The points of linkage have been identified to be via a joint field-based module.

Dairy Chain - Strengthening Capacity of Higher Education Institutions in Eastern and Western Africa to Enhance Efficiency in the Dairy Value Chain

Lead Partner: Egerton University

Contact Person: Prof. Dr. Alexander K. Kahi

Contract Number: FED/2013/320-157

EC Grant: EUR 499,940.70

Sector: Agriculture and Food Security

Location: Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria

Proposed duration (months): 36

Partner 1: Obafemi Awolowo University - Nigeria

Partner 2: University of Education, Winneba

Project Summary

This project is based on the need for new knowledge and methods of doing business in a young and emerging dairy sector in Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria. Agricultural higher education institutions (HEI) will need to continuously strengthen their capacity to meet the new demands of this knowledge-led and market oriented transformation to boost dairy and value added production.

The project is designed to reinforce and intensify exchange and collaboration between HEI in Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana and Europe with an urgent need to upgrade the institutions, human resources and curricula to produce young professionals equipped with the relevant skills, including the introduction of inter-disciplinary teaching and problem-solving skills. Curricula for dairy production with a poverty-reduction focus will be developed jointly focusing on the relevance to the needs of the dairy sector

and labour market, ensured through an integrated evaluation and quality management system. Special emphasis will be placed on developing HEI-labour market linkages as the nucleus of curriculum improvement regarding quality and relevance.

Deploying Interactive On-line Networking Platform for Improving Quality and Relevance of African University Graduates to Labour Markets

Lead Partner: Egerton University

Contact Person: Professor Bockline Omedo Bebe

Contract Number: ED/2013/335-687

EC Grant: EUR 497,873.85

Sector: Agriculture and Food Security

Location of the action: Kenya, Uganda, Europe

Proposed duration (months): 42

Partner 1: Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

Partner 2: Makerere University

Partner 3: RUFORUM

Partner 4: AGRINATURA - Network of European Agricultural Universities

Project Summary

This action broadly aims at strengthening the capacities in three universities in Kenya and Uganda towards reforming graduate curricula, graduate training and education with greater participation of the agricultural labour markets and a large pool of global expertise. Currently graduates and their lecturers have limited interaction with the labour market due to a lack of effective administration and academic frameworks to open opportunities for graduates to learn practical lessons relevant to the needs of the labour market. This action targets closing this gap by deploying innovative interactive online technology networking platform to promote the institutional networking of universities and a global pool of professionals and the labour market. The platforms will enable the participating universities to efficiently and effectively supervise, mentor, track and network their graduates, graduate alumni and faculty staff within a community of researchers, academics, practicing professionals and the agricultural labour market.

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Project summaries of the five ACP-EU EDULINK II supported projects

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Partnerships to strengthen university food and nutrition sciences training and research in Eastern and Southern Africa

Lead Institution: Makerere University

Contact Person: Dr John Muyonga

Contract Number:

EC Grant: EUR 583,747

Sector:

Location: Kenya, South Africa, Uganda

Duration (months): 42

Partner 1: Stellenbosch University

Partner 2: Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

Partner 3: RUFORUM

Partner 4: South African Association of Food Science and Technology (SAAFoST)

High postharvest losses, low produce quality and dismal value addition limit the benefits derived from food production in Africa. Malnutrition is also wide spread on the continent and this is attributable, among others to inadequate food availability, insufficient levels of some essential nutrients in the staples that dominate diets and inadequate nutritional knowledge among the populations. In spite of current food and nutrition research and training efforts in universities in the regions, these problems persist. PASUFONS project seeks to enhance university capacity to contribute to amelioration of these problems through improving the relationships between training institutions and the food and nutrition sectors in Eastern and Southern Africa and by facilitating sharing of training and research resources. The project commenced in November 2013, with financial support from ACP-EU Co-operation Programme in Higher Edulink II under DCI-AFS/2013/331-203.

Objectives

Overall Objective: To enhance the contribution of Higher Education Institutions to food and nutrition security of communities in Eastern & Southern Africa

Specific Objective: To improve the capacity of Higher Education Institutions in Eastern and Southern Africa to provide practical training and research solutions in food and nutrition sciences.

Expected Project Results: Project management and coordination structure established; Academic programs reviewed and tailored to produce highly skilled food and

nutrition science graduates; Institutional framework for identifying and responding to stakeholders' research and training needs established ; Training and research capacity in food and nutrition sciences at participating universities improved; Platform for research and training collaboration for Higher Education Institutions in Eastern and Southern Africa established and operationalised. Project outcome will include higher graduate employability and a better performing food and nutrition sector.

Establishing and Piloting Postgraduate Programmes for Supporting Agricultural Development in Post-conflict countries of Central and Eastern Africa

Lead Partner: Makerere University

Contact Person: Dr. Majaliwa Mwanjalolo

Contract Number: FED/2013/320-203

EC Grant: EUR 500,000.00

Sector: Agriculture and Food Security

Location: Burundi, DRC, Madagascar, Uganda, Belgium and France

Duration (months): 42

Partner 1: Université Catholique de Bukavu

Partner 2: Université de Antananarivo

Partner 3: RUFORUM

Partner 4: AGREENIUM

Partner 5: University of Ghent

Partner 6: Montpellier SupAgro

Partner 7: Université de Burundi

Project Summary

The specific objective is to establish post graduate training programs supporting agricultural development in the targeted ACP countries. The action will facilitate staff networking including institutional arrangements for demand driven postgraduate training. Three academic programmes will be developed and will support the upgrading of qualifications of the ACP academic staff. The action will also deliver a study programme in high level skills required by the national and regional labour markets. Policy guidelines will be developed to enable the targeted universities to align to the 3-2-3 License Master Doctoral system, thus contributing to national and regional policies and development plans for co-operation in higher education. An exchange programme will contribute to increased mobility of post graduate students and teaching staff.

European Union INTRA ACP Academic Mobility Programme funds 7 Proposals

Following the 2013 INTRA ACP EU call for proposals that was launched in February 2013, RUFORUM Secretariat organised a write shop for university members from 11-14 April 2013 in Entebbe Uganda and its objectives were to; a) Guide universities into working together to foster networking in the field of higher education and b) Develop draft applications to respond to INTRA – ACP Academic Mobility Call for proposals. The Mobility programme supports training of MSc and PhD students across different countries. It also supports staff exchanges.

At the end of 4 day write shop, 10 proposals were drafted under the leadership of 10 universities; 9 of which were RUFORUM member universities within Eastern, Central and Southern Africa and 1 other university from West Africa (University of Legon, Ghana). The proposal writing process was followed up with a 3 days finalisation write shop held 17-19 May 2013 in Uganda. The Secretariat organised the event to support the universities in the final submission of the 10 proposals.

The proposal writing process was concluded on 10th June 2013 with the submission of 10 proposals from various themes. Of the 10 proposals that were submitted to the EU under the support of RUFORUM Secretariat, 3 of them led by University of Botswana, University of Ghana, Legon and Makerere University were selected for funding by the European Commission. (See table below).

No	Ref	Country	Applicant Organisation	Partnership Name	Max.EU grant €
1.	384246	Botswana	University of Botswana	Mobility to Enhance Training of Engineering Graduates in Africa (METEGA)	€ 2.548.500
2.	384257	Uganda	Makerere University	Inter-University Cooperation to Train Crop Scientists for Enhancing Agriculture	€ 2.548.800
3.	384298	South Africa	Stellenbosch University	Transdisciplinary Training for Resource Efficiency and Climate Change in Africa II (TRECCAfrica II)	€ 2.550.000
4.	384248	Ghana	University of Ghana	Partnering for Health Professional Training in African Universities (P4PHT)	€ 2.515.275
5.	384201	Madagascar	Universite D'Antananarivo	Partenariat inter-universitaire entre l'AFRique et l'Océan-Indien pour le Développement (PAFROID)	€ 2.537.750
6.	384146	Cameroon	Universite De Yaounde	Entreprenariat, Ressources, Management, Innovation et Technologies (ERMIT)	€ 2.509.650
7.	384205	Nigeria	University of Ibandan	Postgraduate Academic Mobility for African Physician-Scientists	€ 2.132.650

Table source @<http://www.acp-edulink.eu/>

The Secretariat is very grateful for efforts put in by the universities because despite the fact that proposals from only three universities succeeded, the initiative is going to involve mobility of students and staff from more than 21 other Universities including, University of Abomey Calavi- Benin; Universite Cheikh Auta Diop de Dakar- Senegal; Mekelle University-Ethiopia; Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology- Ghana; University of Pretoria-South Africa; University of Free State- South Africa; University of Juba- South Sudan; Catholic University of Bukavu- DR Congo; Mzuzu University- Malawi; University of Eduardo Mondlane- Mozambique; Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology- Kenya; University of Zambia- Zambia; Gulu University- Uganda; Moi University- Kenya; Ain Shams University- Egypt; University of Cape Coast- Ghana; University of Mali and Polytechnique- Mali; Uganda Martyrs University- Uganda; Stellenbosch University- South Africa; University of Nairobi- Kenya; University of Burundi- Burundi and University of Lesotho- Lesotho.

The proposal writing process provided a good platform for the universities to learn how to involve themselves in high level resource mobilisation calls for proposals. It was also an opportunity to make professional contacts with universities in various regions of Africa. RUFORUM thanks PEAPARD for supporting the writeshops and congratulates the universities that participated in the writeshops, together with the Stellenbosch University for taking up four of the seven spots for the INTRA ACP proposals that were selected for funding under Lot 1 (Africa). Highlights of three of the selected projects are given in the following section. [Click here to view the selection Year 2013 \(Call EACEA 45/12\)](#)

Mobility to Enhance Training of Engineering Graduates in Africa (METEGA)

This initiative to promote Mobility to Enhance Training of Engineering Graduates in Africa (METEGA) seeks to harness the potential by sharing capacities and expertise of ten African Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the broad area of Engineering. Whereas individual HEIs may not have adequate capacity in terms of human resources and infrastructure to offer internationally competitive graduate training, collectively their capacity can be strong enough to do so. These HEIs include: University of Botswana, Makerere University, University of Zambia, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Gulu University, Moi University, Eduardo Mondlane University, Ain Shams University, University of Cape Coast and University of Mali and Polytechnique.

It is hoped that the experiences gained from this collaboration will lead to mutual strengthening of capacity of the individual Higher Engineering Education Institutions (HEEIs) to offer competitive graduate training programmes in the long-term. In addition it will enhance the capacity of the universities recently affected by civil strife to rebuild their human resource to offer good quality academic programmes and conduct useful research in their respective countries. Given resource (human and financial) and infrastructural constraints, no single HEI in Africa is able by itself to produce graduates with all the requisite qualities. This then calls for collaboration to share and exchange expertise, capacities and experiences among staff and students in African HEIs.

The vast majority of universities offering engineering programmes lack the capacity to produce products enviable

and competitive enough to immediately have an impact in the engineering world. In the sub-Saharan Africa, engineering offers great promise for growth, poverty reduction and environmental services but it has to be linked with other sectors. A regional approach is needed to effectively innovate in engineering education. The world needs to establish effective engineering education processes of high quality to assure a global supply of well-prepared engineering graduates; engineers who act locally but think globally. It is imperative that technical know-how be supplemented with professional skills to develop a generation of adaptive engineering leaders capable of addressing the multiple challenges of an ever changing world.

The proposed project seeks to establish and nurture collaboration of University of Botswana with other HEIs in Africa to jointly improve the relevance of their training programmes and to produce relevant graduates (M.Sc. and Ph.D.) to contribute to poverty eradication, increase agricultural productivity through better technologies, water harvesting and irrigation, value addition and environmental management. As a demonstration of African solidarity in Higher Engineering Education Institutions (HEEIs), the initiative seeks to twin the relatively weak HEIs (from countries emerging out of conflict e.g., Uganda, Mozambique, Mali) with their stronger counterparts to support each other in capacity strengthening for graduate engineering training. The collaboration will be anchored in providing students the opportunity to access high



Above: Project Partners from the different implementing countries

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Mobility to Enhance Training of Engineering Graduates in Africa (METEGA)

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quality training in a multi-cultural African context; staff exchange to complement and learn from each other through joint teaching and supervision; and sharing of facilities for training and research. These students will have access to a wide array of fields with engineering sectors. Specifically, nine Masters programmes and four PhD programmes are targeted. These are:

1. Masters of Science in Agricultural Engineering based at University of Botswana, Botswana
2. Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering based at University of Botswana, Botswana
3. Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering based at University of Botswana, Botswana
4. Masters of Science in Agricultural Engineering based at Makerere University, Uganda
5. Masters of Data Communication and Software Engineering based at Makerere University, Uganda
6. Doctor of Philosophy in Software Engineering based at Makerere University, Uganda
7. Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering based at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Kenya
8. Masters of Science in Textile and Industrial Engineering based at Moi University, Kenya
9. Masters of Engineering in Agricultural Engineering based at University of Zambia, Zambia
10. Masters of Science in Environmental Engineering based at Ain Shams University, Egypt
11. Masters of Science in Irrigation and Hydraulics Engineering based at Ain Shams University, Egypt

12. Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Engineering based at Ain Shams University, Egypt
13. Doctor of Philosophy in Irrigation and Hydraulics Engineering based at Ain Shams University, Egypt
14. Masters of Philosophy in Postharvest Technology based at University of Cape Coast, Ghana

This combination of programmes targets some of the critical areas in engineering training for poverty eradication, value addition, employment creation, agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability. It is part of the effort to produce a diversity of professionals who need to work together to create the desired impact especially in the farming communities in Africa. Within the agricultural sector, the programmes, build the scientific capacity in the disciplines of irrigation and hydraulics engineering, Agricultural engineering, postharvest technology as a crosscutting themes critical in research and training; environmental management; soils and water management; and the translation of knowledge and technologies into innovations that bring about tangible economic and social benefits to society. The rare opportunity in this is the possibility to create interaction between the programmes so that the students begin to see the interrelationship between their different disciplines and to start nurturing relationships that will support their operation in an inter-disciplinary manner. In the same vein, the staffs start to break their disciplinary barriers to promote cross-disciplinary interaction in training and research to be able to address complex development problems more effectively

Partnering for Health Professional Training in African Universities

Human Resource for Health (HRH) is vital in the delivery and sustainability of healthcare and systems, yet the world is challenged by serious shortage of health workers especially in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. The shortage has been found to be one of the barriers to the achievement of health care, development and poverty eradication. In order to address this problem, there is need to increase the number of highly trained professionals to meet the population needs and promote health education.

The Partnering for Health Professional Training in African Universities (P4PHT) project is an academic mobility project which aims at building capacity of professionals with a view to expand the health workforce size in the target countries and subsequently improve well-being of communities through: improving health and quality of life of the communities through the prevention and treatment of disease; promoting healthy behaviours of the communities through Public Health Education; carry out surveillance and epidemiological studies for informed decision making; promote environmental Health through sensitization programmes; lead and manage health institutions effectively and efficiently; and, promoting research and advocacy for appropriate health policies.

The partnership is composed of the University of Ghana, Ghana; Makerere University, Uganda; Uganda Martyrs University, Uganda; Stellenbosch University, South Africa; University of Nairobi, Kenya; Moi University, Kenya, Eduardo

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Partnering for Health Professional Training in African Universities

Mondlane University, Mozambique; University of Burundi, Burundi; University of Juba, South Sudan; University of Lesotho, Lesotho, Universite Catholique De Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo. The institutions in this training partnership are well established in terms of infrastructure, academic resources and academic instructors. The project seeks to benefit different health professionals from the African region through the mobility scheme. The beneficiaries are envisaged to come from partner and non-partner institutions from Africa who would benefit from a wide range of health programmes/fields in Medical Sciences; Life Sciences; Public Health; and, Nursing and Midwifery.

The PhD and Master programmes to be offered by the partners are;

1. University of Ghana - MSc./Mphil in Applied Health Social Sciences, M.Phil Anatomy,
2. Makerere University-Doctor of Philosophy in Health Sciences, Master of Nursing (Midwifery and Women's Health), Masters of Public Health (MPH)
3. University of Nairobi - Masters of Dental Surgery in Paediatric Dentistry, Prosthodontics, Periodontology and Oral and Maxillofacial surgery
4. Stellenbosch University - PhD in Medical Microbiology, PhD in Haematological Pathology, Masters in Microbiology, Masters in Virology, Masters in Cytopathology
5. Uganda Martyrs University - MSc. Health Sciences Management
6. Moi University - Master of Science in International Health Research Ethics (MSc. IHRE)

The scheme is an opportunity for Africa HEIs to initiate mutual interaction and build high level professional human-resources capacity for quality training in health education and thus secure quality health services delivery. The training of Masters and PhDs students will enhance the production of vital human resource for the Africa region. Our expectation is to produce high quality graduates who are competent enough to be employable since there is already large vacuum of highly skilled labour force. With harmonisation of the programmes within the mobility, the graduates are expected to have equal employment and academic opportunities in any of the partner institutions.

Inter-University Co-operation to Train Crop Scientists for Enhancing Agriculture in Africa (CSAA)

The ACP-EU under its academic mobility programme, MwalimuNyerere, has provided funding to support training of graduate students in African universities. In this mobility programme twelve African partner institutions will collaborate in the training of professionals to enhance agricultural productivity and assure food security for sub-Saharan Africa. 43 Masters and 20 PhD will be trained in the thematic areas of Plant Production and Protection, Environment and Adaptation to Climate Change, Management of Protected Areas and Natural Grasslands, Dryland Management for Agriculture, Agro-forestry and Environment, Research Methods and Approaches in Agriculture and Women and Gender in Agriculture. In addition 10 administrative staff will participate in a capacity building program mainly in areas of financial and international student management among others. Mobility partners will either act as sending and/or hosting institutions. The project will provide fellowships for full degree programs (PhDs and MSc) as well as short term mobility for students and staff and will run from 2014 until 2018.

The project is expected to contribute to a) access to quality education and training b) resource rationalization c)

regional networking and peer support d) quality assurance and student mobility e) hasten training of mid-carrier level scientists f) providing new cadre of scientists and provide mobility of staff and students.

The Call for applications will open on 05th February 2014 and will close on 25th March 2014. All applications sent to the host institution and co-ordinating will be submitted online. Information on host institutions and their admission requirements will be placed on the programme website (<http://mambosms.ug/CSAA/>). Please note that candidates will only be allowed to apply to institution outside of their home countries. **Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.**

For more information on the CSAA Intra-ACP mobility programme contact Prof. Patrick Rubaihayo: prubaihayo@gmail.com Website: (<http://mambosms.ug/CSAA/>)

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Inter-University Co-operation to Train Crop Scientists for Enhancing Agriculture in Africa

Below: A table showing the selected programmes and respective universities under the CSAA

Host institution	Programme	Number of fellowships	Language of instruction	Website	Contact person
Makerere University	PhD Programme in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology	8	English	www.mak.ac.ug	prubaihayo@gmail.com
University of Ghana Legon	PhD in Plant Breeding	4	English	www.wacci.edu.gh www.ug.edu.gh	soffe@wacci.edu.gh
University of Pretoria	PhD in Plant Sciences	4	English	www.up.ac.za	Kwezi.mzilikazi@up.ac.za
University of Free State	PhD in Agriculture	4	English	http://www.ufs.ac.za	witthuhnc@ufs.ac.za
Makerere University	MSc in Plant breeding and seed systems	3	English	www.mak.ac.ug	prubaihayo@gmail.com
Makerere University	MA in Gender Studies –	5	English	Womenstudies.mak.ac.ug Chuss.mak.ac.ug/schools/wgs	Dr. Consolata Kabonesackabonesa@ss.mak.ac.ug kabyanga@yahoo.com
University D'Abomey Calavi	MSc in Management of protected areas and Natural Grasslands	3	French	www.leabenin-fsa.uac.net www.uac.bj	assogbadjo@gmail.com
University D'Abomey Calavi	Masters in Biometrics	3	English	www.leabenin-fsa.uac.net www.uac.bj	assogbadjo@gmail.com
Universite Cheikh Auta Diop de Dakar	MSc in Pesticides and Plant Protection	3	English/ French	www.ucad.sn	Prof Kandioura NOBA kandioura.noba@ucad.edu.sn
Universite Cheikh Auta Diop de Dakar	MSc in Plant and Microbial Technology	2	English/ French	www.ucad.sn	Prof Kandioura NOBA kandioura.noba@ucad.edu.sn
Mekelle University	MSc in Climate and Society	2	English	www.mu.edu.et	Dr.AtinkutMezgebu atinkut@yahoo.com
Mekelle University	MSc in Dryland Agronomy	3	English	www.mu.edu.et	Dr.AtinkutMezgebu atinkut@yahoo.com
University of Ghana	Mphil in Crop Science	4	English	www.ug.edu.gh	soffe@wacci.edu.gh
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology	MSc in Seed Science Technology	4	English	www.knust.edu.gh	Jaddosak@yahoo.com
University of Pretoria	MSc in Forest Management and Environment	1	English	www.up.ac.za	kwezi.mzilikazi@up.ac.za
University of Pretoria	MSc in Bioinformatics	2	English	www.up.c.za	kwezi.mzilikazi@up.ac.za
University of Free State	MSc in Sustainable Agriculture	3	English	http://www.ufs.ac.za	witthuhnc@ufs.ac.za
Eduardo Mondlane University	MSc in Crop Protection	5	Portuguese/ English	www.uem.mz	Dr Joao Mutondo Joao.mutondos@gmail.com ; Dr DomingosCugala dcugala@uem.mz

Strengthening Partnerships for the Regional MSc programmes with ADECEA

The University of Burundi, founded in 1964, will with support of RUFORUM, and ACP_EU EDULINK II programme, launch its first postgraduate programmes in Agricultural Sciences in 2015. These will be among the few postgraduate programmes to be offered by the University since its founding. To support the planning process, the RUFORUM Secretariat under the leadership of the Executive Secretary, visited the Faculty of Agronomy and Bio-Engineering in December 2013, to facilitate dialogue with staff members, university management and key stakeholders in Burundi, including senior policy makers in the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Education and Scientific Research. The plan is to launch 1-3 MSc programmes in the faculty under the ADECEA project—The objective of the visit was to provide RUFORUM with information that would be used to guide the process of MSc programme development in the faculty following a participatory approach. It also gave RUFORUM a preliminary view of the direction that should be taken when supporting the programme development process by highlighting the priority areas while considering both human resource capacity at the faculty and National priority thrusts (increasing agricultural productivity, value addition and improved post-harvest handling and strengthening agri-business and entrepreneurship).



Above: The Secretariat team with Dr. Bigirimana (first from left) IRRI Bujumbura Coordinator

The launch of the MSc training is part of the long-term planning process undertaken by RUFORUM to assist in rebuilding human and institutional capacity in Burundi, a country devastated by several years of civil strife. In 2008 RUFORUM, following a gap analysis study conducted by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) designed an intervention strategy for responding to the human resource needs for agricultural research in the country. The first was to take advantage of SCARDA (Strengthening Capacity for Agricultural Research for Development in Africa), a Dfid funded project, to map out priority training areas for strengthening research capacity at the National Research Institute in Burundi (ISABU). Subsequently five MSc graduates

were trained in neighboring universities (Makerere, Egerton University, University of Nairobi and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology) and all the five have returned to Burundi and are leading research activities in the country.

To further address the human resource needs, RUFORUM and IDRC in 2010 carried out a follow up study where they identified Master and Doctoral training areas that would contribute to strengthening ISABU and University of Burundi to contribute more effectively to improving the food security situation in the country. The areas identified included; Plant Breeding & Biotechnology, Food Science, Fisheries and Aquaculture and Environment and Natural Resources Management. Subsequently RUFORUM sourced funding and is supporting training of 8 MSc and 1 PhD students in different universities in Africa through the SHARE project (Intra ACP Academic Mobility Programme). More recently RUFORUM and its partner Universities secured additional funding from the Intra-ACP Academic Mobility Programme to support training of additional MSc and PhD students in different universities in Africa (this includes 4 MSc and 2 PhD students in Health Sciences, and 2 MSc and 2 PhD in Agricultural Engineering).

The December visit at the university involved inspection of the various faculty structures including classrooms and laboratories under the direction of Dr. Freedom King, the Dean, Faculty of Agronomy and Bio-Engineering. This was followed by a meeting with Dr. Joseph Bigirimana, the Coordinator, International Rice Research Institute, Bujumbura. The team toured IRRI facilities. The courtesy visit at IRRI was followed by a meeting with 29 faculty members to brainstorm on priority areas for MSc programme development. Separate meetings were held with Government officials and scientists of ISABU. The visit was concluded with the launch of the ADECEA project on 12 December 2014 by the University Rector, Professor Gaston Hakiza. The event was attended by 15 University administrators, a representative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Dr Vasey Mwanja, a representative from the University of Antananarivo in Madagascar, Professor Jean Rasoarahona media personnel from various radio and TV networks in Burundi. During the launch, the Rector informed the gathering that after consultations, the university was to develop three Masters Programmes to be launched by March 2015.

Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources Graduates its First PhD Students under the two Regional Programmes

In 2009 the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) worked with the University of Malawi and launched two regional PhD programmes at Bunda College of Agriculture (now Lilongwe University for Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) namely; PhD in Agricultural Resource Economics and PhD in Aquaculture and Fisheries Sciences. Overall, the Regional PhD Programmes aims at developing high caliber scientists to serve three functions:

- Provide a pool of highly trained faculty to build capacity for the continent (train more professionals)
- Train research scientists for the National Agricultural Research System and other research and extension bodies and
- Provide a pool of highly trained technical experts to guide development process and policy frameworks in Africa.

The first five students have graduated from the programme, and are profiled below. Thirteen others are due to complete by the end of this year.



Dr Horace Happy Phiri - Undertook a PhD study under the regional programme in Agricultural Resource Economics at LUANAR. His thesis title is the **political economy of agricultural policies in Malawi – A case of Maize Policies**. He is now a lecturer at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Dr Fanuel Kapute - Undertook a PhD study under the regional programme in Aquaculture and Fisheries Sciences at LUANAR. His thesis title is **Quality and Risk assessment of whole fresh Lake Malawi chambo (*Oreochromis nyasalapia*)** species. He published three scientific papers in international peer reviewed journals. He is now a senior lecturer at Mzuzu University in Malawi.



Dr Wales Singini - Undertook a PhD study under the regional programme in Aquaculture and Fisheries Sciences at LUANAR. His thesis title is **Bio economic Approach to rebuilding Chambo (*Oreochromis spp.*) and Kambuzi (*Haplochromine spp.*) fish stocks of Lake Malombe in**



Malawi. He published six scientific papers in peer reviewed journals. He is now a senior lecturer and the Dean of a faculty at Mzuzu University in Malawi.

Dr Joshua Valeta undertook a regional programme PhD programme in Aquaculture and Fisheries. His thesis title is **Designing a re-circulating incubation system basing on technical and bio-physical factors for improved artificial egg hatching in *Oreochromis Karongae* (Pisces: Cichlidae)**. He published one paper in the international Journal of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Other two papers are under review by the Journal of Agriculture Engineering of CIGR and the AJFAND. He is currently a senior lecturer at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Malawi.



Dr Alexander Kefi Shula, a Zambian undertook a Regional PhD Training in Aquaculture and Fisheries Sciences at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Malawi. His thesis title is **Influence of dietary soya beans (*glycine max (l.) merr.*) protein and lipid combination, and androgen (17α – methyl testosterone) levels on the growth and reproduction of *oreochromis andersonii* (castelnau, 1861)**. He has published 4 scientific papers in international journals. Currently he is working as a Scientist and Researcher at National Aquaculture Research and Development Centre (NARDC) in Zambia.



RUFORUM congratulates the five graduates, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) and acknowledges International Development Research Center (IDRC) and Carnegie Cooperation of New York for the funding support.

University of Zimbabwe MPhil Student awarded 2013 IPNI Award



Above: Tariro Gwandu

University of Zimbabwe (UZ) Mphil Student, Ms Tariro Gwandu of the Faculty of Agriculture has been awarded the 2013 International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) International Award, becoming one of only three winners from Sub-Saharan Africa among a total of 26 global winners.

The awards of US \$2,000 are available to graduate students in sciences relevant to plant nutrition and management of crop nutrients. Ms Gwandu is about to finish her MPhil Thesis entitled “Translating integrated soil fertility management knowledge into crop productivity benefits

through farmer learning and participatory action in eastern Zimbabwe.”

The overall objective of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of participatory information management and smallholder farmer learning alliances, in promoting farmer access to the use of Integrated Soil Fertility Management technologies to increase crop productivity. The study addresses one of the focal areas of the Soil Fertility Consortium for Southern Africa (SOFECSA), to develop approaches for taking scientific knowledge and technologies from laboratories and research stations to beneficiary communities in Zimbabwe and other parts of Southern Africa. She is being supervised by Dr Florence Mtambanengwe and Professor Paul Mapfumo from the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Engineering. Interestingly, she is the second SOFECSA Research Group students to win this international honours after Ms Grace Kanonge in 2011, again from the University of Zimbabwe. Ms Gwandu's study is funded by the RUFORUM. To know more about the IPNI Awards, Please [Read more>>](#)

MSc Plant Breeding Student awarded John Axtell Graduate Award

Patrick Ongom Obia, a former student of the MSc Program in Plant Breeding and Seed System at Makerere University has won the John Axtell Graduate Award in Plant Breeding and Genetic worth US2000 prize. He now works in Prof. Gebisa Ejeta the World Food Prize Winner as his Graduate student. Patrick was recognized for his excellence in Academic performance in Agronomy and a Communication to Crop Improvement through Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics.



Above: Patrick Ongom

John Axtell was nationally and internationally for his research on sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor* L.) who made valuable contributions to the agricultural sciences during his 34 years of tenure at Purdue University. The trademark of Axtell's university career was interdisciplinary research. He consistently and increasingly worked towards developing a team effort in addressing research problems in protein quality, tannin biochemistry, and forage quality of sorghum. Internationally his contributions in basic research findings, germplasm enhancement, graduate student education, and leadership in plant breeding and genetics are widely recognized. His greatest passion was for long-term institution building and for human capital development, tools that he believed were essential for improving the lives of the poor in developing countries. [Read more>>](#)

Announcements

- 1) eLearning Africa 2014 Conference: 28 – 30 May, 2014, Kampala, Uganda.
- 2) 4th RUFORUM 2014 Biennial Conference Joaquim Chissano International Conference Centre, 21–25 July 2014 Maputo, Mozambique.
- 3) The RUFORUM 10th Annual General Meeting (AGM) Maputo, Mozambique
- 4) 6th All Africa Conference on Animal Agriculture (AACAA) 27 – 30 October 2014 Nairobi, Kenya
- 5) African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), September 2-4, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Contact Us

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