

# RUFORUM MONTHLY

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

## Regional Agricultural Forum Pledges to Spread Expertise

The 9th Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) annual general meeting has been concluded in Kigali, Rwanda. The three-day conference held recently was officially opened by Rwanda's Prime Minister, Pierre Damien Habumuremyi at Kigali Serena hotel.

There were exhibitions mounted by RUFORUM partnering universities and agriculture-related organisations showcasing their latest technologies and innovations, including RUFORUM Secretariat, Rwanda Agricultural Board, CABI, National University of Rwanda, Makerere University, University of Nairobi, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Malawi), and University of Swaziland.

Habumuremyi launched Dirty Hands, Fine Minds: The Story of an Agricultural Research and Training Network in African Universities, a book highlighting the RUFORUM network's achievements over the past ten years of its existence. It was authored by Mary Anne Fitzgerald and Megan Lindow.

### International experience

The book highlights RUFORUM programmes drawn on solid international experience which identifies how universities are central to achieving successful agricultural transformation. The book shows how RUFORUM member universities are building strong ties to business enterprises to provide role models, case studies and enhancing opportunities. The book also highlights collaborations among RUFORUM universities that have given students, staff and farmers access to the knowledge and facilities within those universities.

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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 first issue for the year 2014.

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

-Newsletter Editor-



The Rwanda's Prime Minister, Pierre Damien Habumuremyi visiting the RUFORUM Booth

### In This Issue

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## Regional Agricultural Forum Pledges to Spread Expertise

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The prime minister later handed over IMPRESSA awards to Africa's top three research scientists whose work had a continental impact. The first prize went to Prof Richard Kiprombeyi from Moi University, Kenya; the second to Prof Robert Okalebo from Eldoret University, Kenya as a distinguished scientist in the area of Soil Management in Africa. Prof Emmanuel Kaunda from Bunda College of Agriculture, University of Malawi got the prize for developing the Fisheries and Aquaculture Centre that has benefited many.

Two outstanding scientists in Agriculture in Rwanda were also awarded for improving peoples' livelihoods: Dr Charles Bucyaca, a lecturer in the department of Agricultural Sciences was recognized for writing a paper on soil conservation technology used by farmers such as cover terracing which has impacted on the farming communities in Rwanda; and Dr Desire Kagaba working with the Rwanda Agricultural Board, for his work in agricultural watershed management.

Five outstanding innovative farmers in Rwanda were also given trophies and cash to improve their farming activities in recognition of their distinguished efforts and commitment to improve the agricultural sector. RUFORUM Chairman Prof Levy Nyagura handed over the trophies to Consolae Twimbazimana, Simeo Gyizimana and Flora Uwera, among others.

The prime minister thanked RUFORUM for taking a bold step to reach out and promote a broad agenda of not the "Ivory Tower Syndrome" but working in a partnership model that has changed many lives. He appreciated RUFORUM for making a difference in graduate training, saying over 20 Rwandan students had benefited, trained and returned home. He added that to-date RUFORUM support to Rwanda's agricultural research had reached a tune of \$9m with support from donors.

He added that the government of Rwanda would like to be actively involved in the network by linking Rwanda agricultural universities with private institutions, providing exposure to RUFORUM network facilities, accessing network centres of excellence, carrying out research and fighting pests and diseases, among others.

The conference brought together, permanent secretaries, vice chancellors, deans and principals from the partnering universities, colleges and faculties. The committee of deans and principal's held a pre-Annual General Meeting and discussed various issues including the need

to improve on the visibility and funding of the network activities, the relevance of the curriculum, graduate completion rates, governance issues, quality assurance and the proposed mobility programme of Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA), among other issues.

Regular meetings of the deans and principals are a key channel for networking, sharing and learning, collective discussion and agreements on regional initiatives that influence change for the better focus in the colleges, faculties and universities in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa.

### **Graduate training**

The RUFORUM secretariat tabled the proposal of the Graduate Training Assistantship (GTA) under which the host university provides fellowships/student assistantship that will include waiver on tuition fees and all other related programme fees. The hosting university also provides the staff member with some research funds available at the university, have such students registered for a PhD or MSc and then fix the candidate on the timetable to teach at the host university as part of their contribution.

The sending university, on the other hand, will provide their staff or PhD student with return tickets and all related travel expenses including living-out allowances and research support during the mobility period. The proposal was seen as a good initiative that would promote academic mobility among partnering universities as part of the effort to train a pool of PhD level academic staff that would also promote regional integration and cross fertilization of expertise.

RUFORUM Chairman Prof Levy Nyagura, vice chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe, described the deans as champions of research and implored them to support the GTA initiative. This, he said, was an indirect way of financing postgraduate studies and a strategy of dealing with limited financial resources to support graduates.

"Let us have a common vision as RUFORUM family regarding uplifting each other in terms of academics. The bottom line is to accept the idea. We have not come up with implementation modalities. The secretariat will engage with you deans and principals and prepare a dossier to that effect. You should bring suggestions of what you think should be done to make

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## Regional Agricultural Forum Pledges to Spread Expertise

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the scheme effective and efficient for future academics," he appealed.

In the same forum, the deans were also requested to ensure that postgraduate students complete their studies within the stipulated timeframe. This followed the deans and principals committee meeting, which raised concerns over some students who were taking too long to graduate.

Nyagura asked deans and principals to consider themselves as responsible for creating a good academic environment for students to complete the studies and graduate as skilled professionals. "Deans and principals should gauge the number of admissions vis-a-vis the number of

supervisors and guide the system on what is possible regarding postgraduate admission and the existing capacity," he advised.

The conference was punctuated by presentations from other agricultural organizations including ASARECA, CTA and CARDESSA. All RUFORUM partnering universities received membership certificates. RUFORUM is a consortium of 32 member universities in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. The principals and deans responsible for agriculture in these universities are the main entry point of implementation and achievements of RUFORUM output and impacts.

*This article was featured in the Observer Newsletter. Dated 14 January, 2014. Story written by Agaba Issa Mugabo and Jane Anyango- Makerere University.*

## Makerere University Graduates 10 PhDs under the Plant Breeding and Biotechnology Regional Programme

Beginning of January 2014, 10 PhD graduate students will be starting a new chapter in their lives as Doctoral Degree holders in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology. Since 2008, RUFORUM and the Uganda Millennium Science Initiative (MSI) have been providing financial support to a regional PhD programme in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology hosted at Makerere University in Uganda.

The PhD programme aims at developing and strengthening the human resource and research capacity for crop improvement and related development areas in Sub-Saharan Africa. Twelve other students are due to graduate by end of 2014. Another 8 are finalizing their course work and are due to start research in April 2014.

The Intra ACP-EU Academic Mobility programme, has recently provided eight PhD scholarships for students in Sub-Saharan Africa to train at Makerere under the Plant Breeding and Biotechnology Programme; they are to start their programme in August this year. RUFORUM takes the opportunity to wish the 10 new PhD graduates a successful career. Below is a profile of the new PhD holders.



**Dr. James Mwololo** is Kenyan. His doctoral thesis title is ***Resistance in Tropical Maize to the Maize Weevil and Larger Grain Borer***. Out of this PhD research, he published three papers in international peer

reviewed journals. He is now employed as a lecturer at Pwani University in Kenya.

**Dr Phyllis Muturi** is Kenyan. Her doctoral thesis title is ***'Resistance to the African and spotted stem borers in sorghum in Kenya***. She has published two scientific papers in International Peer reviewed Journals. She is currently working at a CGIAR center - ICRISAT in Nairobi.



**Dr Edmore Gasura** is Zimbabwean. His thesis title is ***Developing selection criteria for improving the grain yield of early maturing maize***. He published three scientific papers from his thesis work in international scientific journals. He is now working as a lecturer at University of Zimbabwe.

**Dr Mcebisi Maphosa** is Zimbabwean by nationality. His thesis title is ***Enhancing genetic resistance to soybean rust disease***. He published five scientific papers in peer reviewed international journals. He has since graduation been appoint-



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## Makerere University Graduates 10 PhDs under the Plant Breeding and Biotechnology Regional Programme

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ed the acting Dean of Faculty of Agriculture at Lupane University.



**Dr Abel Sefasi** is a Malawian. His PhD thesis title is *Efficient regeneration and transformation systems for improving resistance to weevils in Ugandan Sweet potato cultivars*. From his PhD thesis research he published four papers in the international peer reviewed journals. He is now a lecturer at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources in Malawi.



**Dr Langa Tembo** is Zambian. His PhD thesis title is *Resistance to Stenocarpella maydis and Fusarium graminearum cob rot pathogens in tropical maize*. He published two scientific papers in international journals. He is now a lecturer at University of Zambia.



**Dr Laban Frank Turyagyenda** is a Uganda. His doctoral thesis title is *towards improvement of Ugandan cassava germplasm for drought tolerance*. A total of three scientific journal papers were published from his thesis work. Since completing his PhD studies he is working with the National Agriculture Research Organisation (NARO) in Uganda.

ing with the National Agriculture Research Organisation (NARO) in Uganda.

**Dr Mhike Xavier** is Zimbabwean.

His thesis title is *Marker assisted recurrent selection in early generation selection for drought tolerance in maize breeding for farmer variety access and adoption*. He has published three scientific papers in international journals. He is now working with a seed company in Zimbabwe.



**Dr Kassim Sadik** is Ugandan. For

his PhD thesis he worked on '*Enhancement of somatic embryogenesis in recalcitrant East African Highland bananas*'. He published two papers from the research and two others are under journal review. He is currently working with the Uganda National Advisory Services



**Dr Alexander Bombom** is Ugandan.

His thesis research was on *Interaction of mutant loci opaque-2 with waxy on kernel quality and disease susceptibility in maize*. He published two journal papers and one is under review. He is currently employed as a research scientist with a CGIAR centre-ILRI in Nairobi, Kenya



### Tribute to Dr Samuel Muchena– RUFORUM Board Member



The death of Dr Samuel Muchena, eminent plant geneticist and the brains behind the dwarf maize hybrid, has robbed Zimbabwe and Africa of an exceptionally gifted person. Dr Muchena died at the age of 69 at Parirenyatwa Hospital where he was recovering after undergoing surgery for a brain tumour. He had been on the RUFORUM Board since its founding.

Dr Muchena was carefully but sharply outspoken on issues of scientific structure and the need for Zimbabwe to embrace biotechnology to enhance its food security and solidify its national base of agricultural research. "I feel strongly that we really need to find ways to

restore our capabilities in this area of agricultural research and development," he once said

Dr Muchena's enduring achievement in his career spanning close to four decades, was the development of the dwarf maize hybrid seed which out yielded conventional hybrid varieties by 40 percent under drought conditions.

He was passionate about the dwarf seed variety. "Our idea was to modify the plant to fit well in environments where water and fertilisers are usually scarce and limit production," he said in a 2006 interview. "Vice-versa, we wanted to find a variety that would, in good soils with good water and with adequate fertiliser, produce a good yield." You can read more on this story by [clicking here>>](#)

## RUFORUM Member Universities receive privileged access to CAB Abstracts Database and CABI Compendia

RUFORUM's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) was hosted by the Government of Rwanda and the National University of Rwanda. The theme focused on "Sustaining and Mobilizing RUFORUM Universities for Effective Engagement in Agricultural Development and Transformation in Africa". The meeting was officially opened by Rwanda's Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Pierre Damien Habumuremyi at Serena Hotel. It was during the three day event at Rwanda's capital city Kigali, that the strategic collaboration between CABI and RUFORUM allowing 32 universities to access the CAB Abstracts database and Compendia was launched.

CABI and RUFORUM's collaboration comes at a time when RUFORUM is celebrating achievements it has made in Africa over the last 10 years. RUFORUM has strengthened 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. This was marked by the launch of a book titled *Dirty hands, Fine Minds: The story of an Agricultural Research and Training Network in African Universities*

Comprehensive agricultural research and capacity building in agricultural knowledge management for graduates remains critical, if they are to positively impact the economic development of small holder farmers. The CABI and RUFORUM partnership aims at strengthening tertiary agricultural education in Africa by providing access to valuable scientific information. This is being accomplished through provision of privileged access to the CAB Abstracts Database through the CAB Direct interface and CABI Compendia (Crop protection, Animal Health Production, Aquaculture and Forestry Compendia) to all the 32 universities that make up the RUFORUM consortium. Universities in the consortium now have access to over 10 million records, comprising of 200,000 full text documents comprising of journal articles, conference papers, annual reports, books and book chapters, monographs, newsletters, discussion papers, technical information, field notes and theses. Key subjects covered by the database and compendia include agriculture, animal and veterinary sciences, environmental sciences, plant sciences, microbiology and parasitology, food and nutrition, human health as well as leisure and tourism.

CABI also participated in the RUFORUM exhibition alongside the National University of Rwanda, Makerere University, University of Nairobi, University of Swaziland, and Bunda College-University of Malawi in showcasing their innovations and partnership initiatives.

This collaboration will improve access to agricultural scientific information, facilitate the training of quality graduate students and produce quality research responsive to the demands of small holder farmers.

For more information, please contact David Onyango: [d.onyango@cabi.org](mailto:d.onyango@cabi.org)



David Onyango explains the CABI-RUFORUM collaboration to Rwanda's Prime Minister Rt Hon Dr Pierre Damien HABUMUREMYI at the RUFORUM AGM exhibition

## Featuring the New Dean – University of Swaziland



Prof. Pinkie Eunice Zwane, a Swazi by birth, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Consumer Sciences at the University of Swaziland. She was appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013. She holds a B.Sc. in Dietetics from Michigan State University, an M.Sc. in Clothing, Textiles and Merchandising from Oklahoma State University, and a PhD in Textiles and Consumer Science from Florida State University, United States of America. Her research interests are on product development using indigenous materials and functional wear, food security, body profiles of Africans and sizing of apparel for Africans. Her contact details are: University of Swaziland, P. O. Luyengo, Swaziland, M205, Tel: +268 25170505, Fax: +268 25274441 and e-mail address: pezwane@uniswa.sz

## Featuring the New Deputy Vice Chancellor – University of LUANAR

Prof. Emmanuel Kaunda is the newly appointed Deputy Vice Chancellor of Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) - Bunda campus in Malawi. He became the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the new University, June 2013. As an accomplished scholar and academic at LUANAR, he has excelled through the various ranks of Senior Lecturer (1999), Associate Professor (2004) and full Professor (2009) publishing more than 50 articles in peer reviewed scientific papers conference proceedings and has supervised close to 15 MSc students. He is currently External Examiner of University of Ghana and University of Namibia and the Editor in Chief of the Malawi Journal of Aquaculture and Fisheries (MJAF). Professor Emmanuel Kaunda was the first African Scientist to age the Tropical fishes of Malawi using otoliths (paper published in 2003 in African Journal of Zoology "Life history traits of *Bathyclarias nyasensis (Siuloidei)* from Lake Malawi".



He has Headed the Aquaculture and Fisheries Science Dept, Bunda College (2003-2005) and at the age of 41, was Vice Principal of Bunda College for 6 years (2004-2010) coordinating more than 20 consultancy teams to provide expert advice to various organizations in Agriculture, Livelihoods, Food Security, Policy, Trade, Aquaculture & Fisheries. He has led the establishment of Innovative Fish Farmer Network Trust (and is its current Chair of the Board). He is the initiator and current coordinator of African Fisheries Expert Pool - Afri-FishNet, and also Initiator of Youth for Fish Programme – YFFP.

Professor Emmanuel Kaunda has been coordinator of the NEPAD Regional Fish Node since 2006 through which he has built partnerships with the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and COMESA. He has led implementation of RUFORUM funded Community action research with 9 partners, and BIOFISA Fish Project with 3 partners in 2 countries and was Regional Coordinator of SARNISSA project with 7-9 international partners.

As a resource mobiliser, he has assisted in the development of Bunda as a negotiator for Team for Japanese Grant Aid – US\$6 million, ICEIDA funding Regional MSc, Regional BSc programme US\$1 million, Press Trust Hostel (approx Malawi Kwacha 60 million), Nature Building Complex (approx Mk100 million), Programmes Coordinating Office (approx MK35 million), Flanders Project (EUR1.2 million) among others. In total, he has facilitated a acquisition of approx US\$ 22 million- for the development of Bunda supporting research and outreach including the RUFORUM funded Fish Community Action Research program.

Professor Kaunda was recently accorded Aquaculturist of Year 2011 by the Association of Aquaculture for Southern Africa (AASA) after getting the Best PhD Seminar Award in 2000 at Rhodes University in South Africa. He is married and has four children. Professor Kaunda attributes his success to God, supporting colleagues, his mentor and current boss, the Vice Chancellor, Professor G Y Kanyama Phiri; of late, to a dedicated and dynamic team of young professionals at the NEPAD FISH NODE, LUANAR, and finally to his supportive family that prays for him. His favorite dish is Nsima and stewed local chicken.

## Research Fosters Small Holder Farmer Demand for Technology

*“Harnessing the power of legumes for Striga asiatica management in Iringa district, Tanzania”*



Prof K.P. Sibuga

*Striga asiatica* is among the parasitic weeds that have serious negative effects on maize production in affected parts of Tanzania. The current *Striga asiatica* infestation in Iringa District, a major maize growing area, is relatively new especially when compared to other parts of Tanzania where it occurs. Under the RUFORUM initiative to build an operational platform for university engagement with local communities

through research, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in Tanzania submitted a proposal to implement a project titled **“Legume biomass transfer for enhancing productivity of maize in *Striga* infested farmlands: the case of Iringa district, Tanzania.”**

RUFORUM allocated a total of US \$ 60,000 (sixty thousand United States dollars) over the period 2010-2012, extended to 2013 at no cost, to implement project activities in the villages of Mangalali and Kiwere in Iringa district. Two MSc students registered at SUA took primary responsibility for planning, setting and managing on-farm trials as part of capacity building and in working with maintaining sufficient scientific rigor in data collection. Working with farmers and extension staff from the district and the two villages, student Mabula David reported that the legumes produced large quantities of biomass particularly sun hemp (*Chrotalaria ochroleuca*), 34.08 tons/ha, velvet bean (*Mucuna pruriens*), 29.83 tons/ha) and cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*), 29.70 tons/ha) and reduced the *Striga* weed seed bank by a maximum 35% where sun hemp residues were incorporated. Furthermore, student Rebeca Hpelwa determined that the residues released most of the N within the first eight weeks of incorporation into the soil implying that benefit from the legume biomass can be maximized by ensuring that the residues are incorporated by end of September for the following crop of maize which is planted in November/December. The N released from mineralization of the residues resulted in increases in the range of 90 – 102% at Mangalali, with much higher increases of 169 – 553% recorded at Kiwere village. She was further able to demonstrate that residues of leguminous species particularly cowpea, sunhemp and velvet bean increased organic carbon by 5-14% in Mangalali village and 36-38% in Kiwere village.

*Working as a team, the researchers, farmers, graduate students and local extension workers, gained extensive knowledge and skill*

Working as a team, the researchers,

farmers, graduate students and local extension workers, gained extensive knowledge and skill in legume production, legume incorporation into the soil, *Striga* biology and the benefits of legumes in a maize-based cropping system. The studies demonstrated that the highest maize yields were attained following incorporation of cowpea residues (3.7 tons/ha) which was similar to that obtained with application of urea fertilizer (also 3.7 tons/ha). Other legume residues that resulted in similarly high maize yields were sun hemp (3.5 tons/ha) and velvet bean (3.4 tons/ha).



Above: A field experiment on *Striga asiatica* management

Throughout the study period, a total of 10 farmers offered their farm space for trials. However, contact with other farmers was facilitated through village meetings and two farmers' field days through which a total of 200 farm families approximating 1,000 persons have been reached in the two villages. Having conducted all field activities within the villages and with farmers and local extension workers in the forefront, farmers gained from experiential learning and made comparisons of the crop, while in the field and after harvest, using data collected with their participation. The self-evident performance of the crop prompted an official request from the District Agricultural and Livestock Development Officer (DALDO), for the same technologies to be extended to 18 other *Striga asiatica* affected villages. This official request made to the Principal Investigator (Prof K.P. Sibuga of SUA), serves as indication of the fact that research conducted to solve priority farmer problems can trigger further demand for research on others constraints limiting productivity of maize and other crops. New funding arrangements need to be sought for further engagement where such demand exists. Therefore Principal Investigator has initiated dialogue with the Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture (Plant Health Services Department), in search for further support to solve the *Striga* problem.

**Article submitted by Prof K.P. Sibuga, a RUFORUM Principal Investigator . Email: [sibuga88@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sibuga88@yahoo.co.uk)**



# JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

## OFFICE OF THE DEAN FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

### Call for Applications

#### Regional MSc Program in Research Methods

Applications are invited for the above postgraduate program for the 2014/2015 academic year commencing May 2014.

#### **Introduction: MSc. Research Methods**

The MSc in Research Methods intends to train professionals who will support agricultural, natural resource management and socio-sciences research throughout the region. The course provides a strong foundation in research conceptualization, design, data collection, data management, statistical analysis and reporting. While it has been built on the traditions of statistics and biometrics, it extends these by placing them in the context of research for development. The programme is designed to produce research methods specialists who will be able to work across the social, economic and biophysical sciences to make solid contributions in enhancing the effectiveness of modern integrative research.

#### **Program Objectives**

- 1) To produce graduates with a solid foundation in research methods concentrating on professional and soft skills and equipped with current tools for today's research.
- 2) To promote collaborative network amongst regional institutions to enable them share and exploit existing research potential within the region to inform relevant policy.

#### **Program Structure**

The program shall normally extend for a period of two years. The program shall consist of coursework, examinations and thesis. The first year of study shall be devoted to coursework, seminars and examinations. Second year will constitute Internship and thesis writing. JKUAT will host the programme. Experts to teach in the program will come from RU-FORUM partner Universities. Likewise admission shall be open to especially residents of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa but applications from other regions are also welcome. Instruction is in English.

#### **Admission Requirements**

An applicant for Master of Science in Research Methods should either be;

- a) A holder of at least Second Class Honours (Upper Division) degree in Agricultural, Biological or Statistics/Mathematics from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) OR
- b) A holder of at least a Second Class Honours (Upper Division) degree, or its equivalent in Agricultural, Biological or Statistics/Mathematics from a University recognized by the JKUAT Senate OR
- c) A holder of a Second Class Honours (Lower Division) degree in the disciplines in (a) above and related field of study from JKUAT or any other Institution shall be considered provided that the candidate has at least two years relevant work experience since graduation OR
- d) A holder of other qualifications recognized by JKUAT Senate as being equivalent to (a), (b) and (c).

#### **Important Dates**

Application deadline is 31st March 2014. Application forms are available at JKUAT on payment of a non-refundable fee of Kshs. 1500 or US\$25. The forms can also be downloaded at [www.jkuat.ac.ke](http://www.jkuat.ac.ke). The course commences in May 2014.

#### **Scholarships**

Limited number of scholarships will be available. Applicants with their own funding are encouraged to apply.

#### **For more information**

Limited number of scholarships will be available. Applicants with their own funding are encouraged to apply.

Contact: Dean, Faculty of Agriculture; P.O. Box 62000 – 00200 Nairobi, Kenya. Email: [dean@agr.jkuat.ac.ke](mailto:dean@agr.jkuat.ac.ke)/  
[losenge@agr.jkuat.ac.ke](mailto:losenge@agr.jkuat.ac.ke) For more details please visit [www.jkuat.ac.ke](http://www.jkuat.ac.ke)





**REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES FORUM FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN AGRICULTURE  
GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCEMENT (CALL ID: RM/GF/M/14)  
MSC IN RESEARCH METHODS**

**Scholarship Background**

Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a consortium of 32 Universities in Eastern Central and Southern Africa (ECSA) with a goal to strengthen graduate training and agricultural related research. This is achieved by providing resources and peer support to generate knowledge, research products and human resources to support agricultural development. RUFORUM has been involved in Regional graduate programmes that are responsive to stakeholder needs and national development goals. RUFORUM has received funding from Bill and Melinda Gates to support training of students on **Master's Degree Program in Research Methods** hosted at **Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in Kenya** for the academic year 2014/2015. Accordingly, applications are being invited for these scholarships.

**Scholarship Eligibility and requirements**

RUFORUM is offering a limited number of scholarships. Applicants **MUST** first apply to JKUAT for admission/acceptance to the university programme. A proof of admission to the programme will be needed before the scholarship award. Priority will be given to applicants who are already staff members and research scientists from RUFORUM Universities and National Research Institutes in the RUFORUM countries, respectively. Special consideration will be given to applicants from outside Kenya. **Women are highly encouraged to apply.**

**What the Scholarship Covers**

The scholarship will cover application fees, tuition fees, research costs, economy class return ticket (for foreign students only), medical cover and living expenses. Full details will be given on admission. It is important to note that **the scholarship will not cater for family members/dependents of students**

**Application process**

The application submission will be online through the RUFORUM Website ([www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org)) and will open from **24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014**. Please **DO NOT** send your application packages by email or post. The package to upload (in English) shall include the following;

- 1) Duly filled fellowship/scholarship application form
- 2) Two Letters from the applicant's referees, including one from previous academic institution

For any urgent inquiries please email the Training Officer at the RUFORUM Secretariat: [s.chindime@ruforum.org](mailto:s.chindime@ruforum.org) and a copy to [secretariat@ruforum.org](mailto:secretariat@ruforum.org).

**Scholarship Application Deadline**

All applications must be received by end of day on **30<sup>th</sup> March 2014**.

## RUFORUM Secretariat Offices Expand

We are pleased to announce that the RUFORUM Secretariat Offices have expanded with an annex office opposite the current Secretariat. This was made possible with support from the hosting university, Makerere University that allocated Secretariat a building to house its staff.

This comes at a time when the RUFORUM Network is growing and needs more staff to manage the increasing demand for its services. This expansion gives opportunity for the Secretariat to address the issue of inadequate space for the current staff at the existing office and future staff growth.

The Secretariat thanks Makerere University for its support and pledges to continue strengthening its service delivery to the RUFORUM Network.



Do you have a story you would like to publish in the RUFORUM Monthly Newsletter? We accept submissions from readers, and will publish articles that interest us and match our focus for the network. Please tell us why this story is interesting and make sure your SHORT description is composed of grammatically correct complete sentences - as your article will be published as is.

### HELPFUL HINTS

All articles are reviewed to make sure they match our editorial focus and direction. If you would like to see your article published, please keep the following things in mind while you are submitting your story:

- 1) Keep it under 400 characters (the shorter the better)
- 2) Please include a photo 100k or under
- 3) Spellcheck, proofread and edit - we won't rewrite your post, and we won't publish poorly written work
- 4) Please make sure to carefully read our site to understand our tastes and editorial focus before you submit your story.

## 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) 24th July, 2014 Maputo, Mozambique
- 4) African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), September 2-4, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 5) UbuntuNet 2014 Conference: 13-14 November, 2013, Lusaka Zambia.

## Contact Us

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).

