

# RUFORUM MONTHLY

## RUFORUM BOARD AND STAFF MEETS WITH AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION OFFICIALS



As part of efforts to strengthen Regional and International networking and partnerships, a delegation from RUFORUM visited and held discussions with officials of the African Union Commission (AUC). The RUFORUM delegation was led by the Board Chair (Prof. Levi Nyagura, the Vice Chancellor University of Zimbabwe) and comprised of the Vice Chair (Prof. Pen-Mogi Nyeko, the Vice Gulu University), Prof. Mabel O. Mbuga (Board Member and Vice Chancellor Kenyatta University), Prof. Aggrey Abate (Board Member and Vice

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- ***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

**The RUFORUM Annual General Meeting** 18-20 September, 2013 Kigali, Rwanda

**11<sup>th</sup> African Crop Science Society Conference.** 14-17 October, 2013 Entebbe Uganda

**ICT for Agriculture: International Conference.** 4-8 November 2013 Kigali, Rwanda

**Monitoring and Evaluation training / Refresher workshop** Nairobi, Kenya: 10 - 12th, September, 2013

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

## RUFORUM DELEGATION MEETS WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

A delegation of five Vice Chancellors from the RUFORUM network were part of the delegation that met with Ambassador Dr. Richard Sezibera, the Secretary General the East African Community (EAC) and his staff in Arusha, Tanzania on the 6th August 2013. Prof. Adipala Ekwamu the RUFORUM Executive Secretary and Ms. Nodumo Dhlamini were part of the RUFORUM delegation. The purpose of the meeting was (1) to debrief the Ambassador and his senior staff about RUFORUM and the ongoing efforts to engage African universities in regional policy frameworks, especially in the agricultural sector;



(2) to initiate discussions on the possibilities of wider EAC support towards promoting African centers of excellence in higher education in agriculture in the EAC region; (3) to discuss the possibility of legitimization of RUFORUM as one of the agencies of the EAC in terms of building capacity for agricultural development in the EAC region, and (4) to request the Secretary General to lobby for inclusion of Higher Education in Agriculture in the agenda of EAC Heads of States and Governments. As a follow up the RUFORUM Secretariat is engaging with the EAC Secretariat staff to define how RUFORUM could institutionally relate to the EAC, to define areas of collaboration based on the EAC Food Security Action Plan and the Climate Change Master Plan and putting in place a strategy for engaging more closely with other EAC activities.

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 BOARD AND STAFF MEETS WITH AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION OFFICIALS

(Continued from page 1)

Chancellor University of Juba), Prof. Nono Girma Amente (Board Member and Vice Chancellor Haramaya University), Prof. Kindeya Gebrehiwot (Deputy Vice Chancellor, Mekelle University) and Prof. Adipala Ekwamu (Executive Secretary RUFORUM). Also present were RUFORUM staffs - the Programme Manager ICT (Ms. Nodumo Dhlamini) and the Programme Manager Competitive Grants System (Dr. Paul Nampala). The visit was to (a) Debrief the Commissioner for Rural Development and Agriculture, H.E. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime and her senior staff about RUFORUM and the ongoing efforts to engage African universities in regional policy frameworks, especially in the agricultural sector; (b) Initiate discussions on the possibilities of wider AUC support towards promoting African centers of excellence in higher education in agriculture in the ECSA region; and, (c) To discuss the possibility of legitimization of RUFORUM as one of the agencies of the AUC in terms of building capacity for agricultural development in the ECSA region.

The RUFORUM delegation was well received and in particular RUFORUM's interest in working with the AUC was welcomed and follow up efforts will be made to formalize arrangements through an explicit Memorandum of Understanding. The Commissioner pointed out that the African Union Commission and in particular the Departments of Rural Development and Agriculture and that of Science and Technology are very inter-

ested in RUFORUM's undertakings. She further noted with concern that the CAADP Pillar IV did not adequately consider Higher Agricultural Education; and advised that since 2014 has been earmarked by Africa's Heads of States and Governments to be the Year of Agriculture and Food Security coinciding with celebrations of 10 years of the CAADP, RUFORUM and other regional initiatives in HAE have a lot to contribute by mobilizing universities to effectively participate and inform country investment plans and shape the agribusiness development sector. In addition to the over 20 staff from the Department of Rural Development and Agriculture, the RUFORUM delegation also met and interacted with staff from the Department of Science and Technology. The RUFORUM delegation observed that there are several areas of mutual interest between the AUC and the RUFORUM network and resolved that RUFORUM should engage with the AUC and demonstrate the potential of universities as key institutions for effectively delivering knowledge, technologies and innovations of interest to the AUC to end-user groups (including smallholder farmers) at the grassroots. The RUFORUM delegation invited AUC to join in the Universities celebrations of 10 years of CAADP which will coincide with the RUFORUM Biennial Conference to be held 09-12 July 2014 in Maputo, Mozambique.

## RUFORUM PARTICIPATES IN THE AUSTRALIA AFRICA UNIVERSITIES NETWORK FORUM AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN) Forum and AGM was held at the Darlington Centre, University of Sydney, Sydney in Australia from 8-9 July 2013. As part of the RUFORUM network's international networking and partnerships agenda, Professor John H. Muyonga, the Dean School of Food Technology, Nutrition and Bio-engineering at Makerere University and Ms Nodumo Dhlamini the ICT Program Manager at RUFORUM, attended this event. The African High Commissioners based in Australia - from Botswana, Ghana, Uganda and South Africa also participated in this event. During the Government and Business Plenary the representatives from AusAID, Australia Department of Foreign Affairs, AIFSC / ACIAR called on the AAUN and RUFORUM to take advantage of the renewed interest in Africa by the Australian Government. The session on leadership and governance focused on Internationalization of Higher Education, African Higher Education in relation to Internationalization and the growing need for Research Infrastructures for Innovation. Both the RUFORUM Network and the AAUN are grateful to the Australian government for the investments that it is availing to Africa – particularly the Australia Africa Awards.



Above: Professor John Hearn, AUUN Chair addresses the meeting



## SIDA RENEWS FUNDING SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA

From 2002 to June 2013, Sida granted financial support to Rwanda estimated around \$41M. Sida has approved a third phase of support effective September 2013, of about \$9M per year for five years. According to the agreement, the new partnership fund will mainly support postgraduate training both in Rwanda and abroad at Master's and PhD levels.

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2013, the Rwanda Minister of Education, Dr. Vincent Biruta, officiated at the launch of the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the research cooperation between the National University of Rwanda (NUR) and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The launch coincided with the start-up meeting of the third phase of NUR- Sida Research cooperation which took place from 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013 at Boni Consilli Hotel located in Huye District in Rwanda. This meeting brought together team leaders and supervisors from NUR and Sweden who are engaged in joint research and training activities in the areas of Environment, Peace and Development, Geographical Information System (GIS)S, Economics and Management, Agriculture, Medicine, E-governance , Applied Mathematics, Library and ICT infrastructure.

While addressing the participants, the Minister of Education,



L-R: Dr. Desire Ndushabandi (NUR VRAF), Dr. Vincent Biruta (Minister of Education), Prof. Manasse Mbonye (NUR Ag. Rector) and Dr. Pernilla S Rafiqui (First Secretary in the embassy of Sweden in Rwanda).

Dr. Biruta, praised the bilateral relationship between Sweden and Rwanda. He commended Sida for its support to Rwandan education which is critical for development of the country. He emphasized that Sida support through the training in human capacity and quality of education contributes to the economic transformation leading to the attainment of the sustainable development.

The first Secretary in the embassy of Sweden in Rwanda who is also in charge of Research, Dr. Pernilla S. Rafiqui reiterated the will of Sida to continue the collaboration with NUR in research because Sida believes that the development of Research sector is a key to the development of countries. In her speech, Dr. Rafiqui also encouraged graduates to continue being very active in research after graduation because the NUR- Sida cooperation does not have only to train people but also has to contribute to the improvement of the research culture.



Participants at the NUR Sida 3rd phase start up workshop

On behalf of the NUR community, the Acting Rector of NUR, Prof. Manasse Mbonye mentioned different achievements registered by NUR as a result of Sida support including the launch of Master's and PhD programs, training of staff in research methodology, research dissemination through conferences, publication of scientific journals, creation of the Directorate of planning and development, establishment of Information management system at the university, and support to research infrastructure such as development of ICT and library facilities.

During this 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of NUR- Sida cooperation, the Faculty of Agriculture (FACAGRI) of NUR will to embark on in-house postgraduate training to improve the research environment and research capacity in agricultural sciences. The programme will provide the country with a critical mass of researchers and analysts, who are able to plan, produce and use research which is relevant in Rwanda's process of transforming agriculture into a profit making enterprise. FACAGRI of NUR in collaboration with SLU will start MSc and PhD Programmes in *Animal Science*, *Plant Breeding and Genetics*, and *Plant Protection and Phyto-sanitation*, *Agricultural Economics and Agro-forestry* and *Soil management*. These programmes will start in 2014.

It is expected that RUFORUM Member universities will play a key Role in a successful implementation of the graduate programs by not only being involved in curriculum development, but also in providing regional supervisors for post graduate students, and providing access to research facilities, where needed. The National University of Rwanda became a member of RUFORUM in 2009. Through the RUFORUM network, over 20 young Rwandese have been trained in agricultural sciences and they have since returned to Rwanda to support the National Agricultural Research System.

**Story adapted by Dr. Solange Uwituzze, initially published by Mr. Jean Baptiste Micomyiza at <http://www.nur.ac.rw/spip.php?article1363>**

## RUFORUM STRENGTHENS ITS PARTERSHIPS AT THE FARA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SCIENCE WEEK

Professor Orlando Antonio Quilambo (Vice Chancellor Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique) and Professor Adipala Ekwamu (RUFORUM Executive Secretary) led a 12 member team from the RUFORUM Network that participated in the FARA Agriculture Science Week activities. RUFORUM is grateful for the support that it received from FARA to enable the participation of the network members. ANAFE in collaboration with RUFORUM, FARA, NEPAD, CTA, World Agroforestry Centre, CIFO and other partners, led the planning and holding of the side event that focused on *"Reforming Curricula in Higher Education in Africa: Realities, Challenges and Opportunities"* on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2013 as part of the Agriculture Science Week. Panels discussed the process of curriculum review and reforms in Tertiary Agricultural Education (TAE) institutions; curriculum review and reform and the reality of the delivery; cases of innovative and special curricula and how to initiate, develop and implement relevant curriculum reforms.



**Professor Orlando Antonio Quilambo (Vice Chancellor Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique) presents gift to Outgoing Executive Director Professor Monty Jones**

A plan of action to address the emerging recommendations during the next three years (2014 – 2016) was agreed on: (1) Establish a working group on curriculum reforms – tasked with mapping a strategy for improving the processes of curriculum review and delivery in African universities, spearheaded by ANAFE, RUFORUM and other TAE networks; (2) Publish the proceedings of the side event as a paper for the benefit of all stakeholders; (3) Develop innovative curricula frameworks and enhance linkages with quality assurance bodies (IUCEA, CAMES) for input and accreditation of the outputs and (4) ANAFE and RUFORUM to jointly spearhead resource mobilization to facilitate reflection meetings and training for university leaders and lecturers.

## RANKING OF RUFORUM MEMBER UNIVERSITIES CONTINUE TO IMPROVE

The Ranking Web or Webometrics is the largest academic ranking of Higher Education Institutions. Since 2004 and every six months an independent, objective, free, open scientific exercise is performed by the Cybermetrics Lab (Spanish National Research Council, CSIC) for the providing reliable, multidimensional, updated and useful information about the performance of universities from all over the world based on their web presence and impact.

Webometrics does the global ranking **twice a year according to the number of times a new article appears on the Internet about research done at the institution. This is considered an indicator of the impact and prestige of the university and its commitment to disseminating research outcomes.**

This year we are pleased to report improvement in the ranking of RUFORUM member universities. In comparison to the previous ranking, the following universities have continued to improve. Among the 32 member universities, **Stellenbosch University was ranked highest (3rd position dropping**

**from 1st position, followed by Makerere University (4th position previous from the 9th position), followed by University of Nairobi (14th**

**position dropping from the 12th position), University of Zimbabwe (33rd position dropping from 24th position) and Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (42nd position previously 45th position).** We have seen an improvement from 12 to 15 of the 32 RUFORUM universities ranked among the top 100 African universities; 14 universities were also ranked under top 500 excluding the 15 mentioned universities above in the ranking. See page 4 and 5 for more details.



**Stellenbosch university, a new member to the network takes lead among the 32 RUFORUM member universities**

Africa Ranking	World Ranking	University	Country	Presence Rank*	Impact Rank*	Openness Rank*	Excellence Rank*
1	381	University of Kwazulu Natal	South Africa	1370	368	817	549
2	390	University of Cape Town	South Africa	765	692	751	266
3	462	Stellenbosch University	South Africa	451	638	642	448
4	696	Makerere University	Uganda	635	832	786	854
5	719	University of the Witwatersrand	South Africa	1883	1360	315	422
6	746	University of Pretoria	South Africa	503	1237	341	607
7	834	University of the Western Cape	South Africa	2904	770	2371	1247
8	1113	Obafemi Awolowo University	Nigeria	3289	717	10083	2156
9	1191	Rhodes University	South Africa	1420	1747	1308	1190
10	1206	Cairo University	Egypt	1590	2480	1976	653
11	1419	University of Dar Es Salaam	Tanzania	3546	1477	7286	1842
12	1545	University of South Africa	South Africa	457	2019	780	1854
13	1574	American University in Cairo	Egypt	437	1828	1658	1999
14	1624	University of Nairobi	Kenya	619	2883	1119	1323
15	1699	Mansoura University	Egypt	1795	3627	2057	961
16	1749	University of Johannesburg	South Africa	2427	3374	930	1209
17	1887	Ain Shams University	Egypt	1887	4383	3429	907
18	1917	University of Ghana	Ghana	1620	3359	6019	1438
19	1924	Assiut University	Egypt	3325	3711	686	1369
20	1964	Université d'Antananarivo		9824	1953	13407	2392
21	2053	Maseno University	Kenya	3498	1361	8090	3510
22	2094	North West University	Nigeria	2335	4623	993	1228
23	2106	Auchi Polytechnic	Nigeria	17775	561	13657	5080
24	2109	University of Ibadan	Nigeria	8218	4083	4932	1317
25	2149	University of Lagos	Nigeria	4410	2922	9204	2040
26	2232	Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University	South Africa	3459	4179	3132	1587
27	2372	University of the Free State	South Africa	4883	5227	2197	1268
28	2496	University of Khartoum	Sudan	2516	4711	388	1854
29	2523	Al Azhar University	Egypt	11283	4964	8325	1431
30	2600	Addis Ababa University	Ethiopia	1060	5848	3181	1353
31	2640	University of Nigeria	Nigeria	8218	3796	7771	2253
32	2693	Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar	Senegal	5614	5094	4646	1719
33	2761	University of Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	5192	5436	6745	1625
34	2800	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology	Ghana	3435	5212	3665	1884
35	2825	Misurata University (Misrata University)	Egypt	6045	1243	16218	5080
36	2896	Alexandria University	Egypt	1827	7767	2274	998
37	2947	Zagazig University	Egypt	5086	6585	2072	1470
38	2971	Université des Sciences et de la Technologie Houari	Algeria	7428	6274	4810	1556
39	2977	Jimma University	Sudan	9113	4328	10137	2423
40	3024	El Asher University	Egypt	16924	1408	17513	5080
41	3093	University of Tanta	Egypt	6672	6678	2119	1598
42	3112	Universidade Eduardo Mondlane	Mozambique	3607	5346	3810	2231
43	3127	University of Botswana	Botswana	2969	5939	4413	1973
44	3152	Cape Peninsula University of Technology	South Africa	5373	5561	1562	2200
45	3156	University of Agriculture Abeokuta	Nigeria	3211	4955	1633	2584
46	3166	Yaba College of Technology	Nigeria	4998	1706	12842	5080
47	3193	Tshwane University of Technology	South Africa	5060	6436	4185	1782
48	3225	Université Mentouri de Constantine	Algeria	2193	6691	1876	1854
49	3313	Helwan University	Egypt	6907	6533	3363	1884
50	3439	École Nationale d'Architecture Rabat	Morocco	7599	1851	17628	5080
51	3453	Université des Sciences et de la Technologie d'Oran Mohamed Boudiaf	Algeria	9263	5795	6404	2274
52	3475	Université Badji Mokhtar de Annaba	Algeria	9468	6561	10367	1922
53	3489	Kenyatta University	Kenya	381	6339	2536	2369
54	3514	University of Namibia	Namibia	3392	6129	1725	2392
55	3527	University of Zambia	Zambia	6466	7283	14555	1646
56	3545	Université de Bejaia	Algeria	7772	5843	9241	2369



Africa Ranking	World Ranking	University	Country	Presence Rank*	Impact Rank*	Openness Rank*	Excellence Rank*
57	3574	Minia University	Egypt	3881	7553	2313	1826
58	3640	Libyan International Medical University	Libya	7489	2263	11187	5080
59	3714	University of Mauritius	Mauritius	6389	6137	2438	2540
60	3770	Suez Canal University	Egypt	2884	9492	3006	1260
61	3817	Polytechnic of Namibia	Namibia	626	4185	1523	4086
62	3851	Université Mohammed V Agdal	Morocco	2394	8071	7559	1806
63	3865	Université Abou Bekr Belkaid Tlemcen	Algeria	3758	6286	2983	2702
64	3887	University of Malawi	Malawi	10423	8785	13254	1408
65	3942	Université Djillali Liabes	Algeria	9890	8135	5319	1795
66	3954	University of Fort Hare	South Africa	6193	8103	7018	1842
67	3954	Université Virtuelle de Tunis	Tunisia	2961	2929	2987	5080
68	4061	Institut Supérieur d'Électronique et des Réseaux de Télécommunication ISERT	Morocco	9768	2518	19506	5080
69	4071	University of Benin	Algeria	9172	6492	6582	2661
70	4117	Benha University	Nigeria	2491	7302	434	2661
71	4255	South Valley University	South Africa	7643	8434	3554	2016
72	4302	Université de Batna	Algeria	5556	7324	2394	2620
73	4341	Université Abdelmalek Essaadi	Morocco	9802	7253	8304	2507
74	4394	Ahmadu Bello University	Nigeria	3585	8235	3544	2274
75	4413	Université Mohammed Premier Oujda	Morocco	4545	9088	4512	1910
76	4458	Minufiya University	Algeria	7229	7714	4939	2469
77	4470	National University of Rwanda	Rwanda	1575	6708	4408	3103
78	4480	Al Akhawayn University Ifrane	Morocco	2530	4984	3633	4086
79	4508	Gulu University	Uganda	18782	4283	17769	4086
80	4520	Université Abdelhamid Ibn Badis Mostaganem	Algeria	4995	7250	4262	2810
81	4534	University of Ilorin	Nigeria	7321	6478	2593	3186
82	4538	Université Hassan II Ain Chock	Morocco	1312	8844	8859	2091
83	4615	Fayoum University	Egypt	4544	9128	1757	2105
84	4634	Université d'Abomey-Calavi	Benin	1443	8188	10157	2392
85	4769	Hubert Kairuki Memorial University	Tanzania	15809	4262	14085	4440
86	4789	Durban University of Technology	South Africa	744	7289	4947	3103
87	4803	Moi University	Kenya	7071	8514	11062	2274
88	4852	Sokoine University of Agriculture	Tanzania	9547	8962	7584	2156
89	4872	Université de Tunis El Manar	Tunisia	10483	10803	7979	1431
90	4897	German University in Cairo	Egypt	8709	7244	4783	3037
91	5042	Université de Sfax	Tunisia	16706	10823	15034	1388
92	5080	Université d'Oran	Algeria	11568	8699	7516	2369
93	5090	University of Limpopo	South Africa	11414	9018	5639	2274
94	5143	Egerton University	Kenya	6101	8274	1807	2810
95	5153	Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences	Tanzania	16083	10579	13779	1570
96	5166	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology	Kenya	3974	7821	6160	2982
97	5263	Université de Yaounde I	Cameroon	12871	11160	11752	1466
98	5269	Kafrelsheikh University	Egypt	6199	10389	3243	1973
99	5325	Université Saad Dahlab Blida	Algeria	11052	9470	8793	2200
100	5360	Université Ferhat Abbas Setif	Algeria	6707	9636	5081	2274

## RANKING OF RUFORUM MEMBER UNIVERSITIES IN THE TOP 500 IN AFRICA

141	7260	National University of Lesotho	Lesotho	16711	10546	17031	2752
155	7939	Mekelle University	Ethiopia	8676	11149	13805	2982
185	9383	Africa University	Zimbabwe	17548	9786	14794	4440
239	11503	Botswana College of Agriculture	Botswana	16167	12262	14321	4440
330	13521	Kyambogo University	Uganda	11839	13567	8457	5080
357	13897	Busitema University	Uganda	17862	13647	15664	5080
412	14879	Mzuzu University	Malawi	11895	14574	19506	5080

## RUFORUM INTRODUCED TO DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS IN WASHINGTON

The RUFORUM Executive Secretary Professor Adipala Ekwamu and selected Secretariat Staff (Dr Paul Nampala, Ms Nodumo Dhlamini and Mrs Agnes Obua-Ogwal) participated in meetings in Washington to introduce RUFORUM to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation staff, USAID and IDRC during the period 28th July – 2nd August 2013 at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation offices in Washington D.C., USA. A representative of the African Capacity Building Foundation, James Kakooza, participated in the meetings. A member of the RUFORUM Board of Trustees, Dr Mary Shawa, Principal Private Secretary Ministry of Gender of the Government of Malawi, and Professor Kay Muir-Leresche, RUFORUM Technical Committee Chair from South Africa joined the RUFORUM delegation. The Washington visit also provided opportunity for the Secretariat staff to work with Dr Joyce Mook, Dr Patrick Okori, Prof. Kay Leresche and Dr Howard Elliott to develop a proposal for possible support from the BMGF.



## FARMERS IN KENYA PRESENTED WITH A FAVORABLE OPTION



Above: Grace A. Achiando

Personal ambitions to do something about the food security situation in Kilifi district of Kenya led me to research on existing techniques smallholder farmers can adopt to act as buffers against the challenges brought on or exacerbated by climate variability. My research focused on one of the biggest challenges bothering farmers, which is the increased incidence of pests. The maize stalk borer, an insect pest that causes huge losses of maize of up to 20% in the Coast province of Kenya, usually affects maize plants from as early as two-leaf stage. The worst stage of infestation for the maize plant is at the knee-height length implying that it is also the opportune time for intervention if a farmer is going to reap from the harvest. It has been observed that increased stalk borer infestation is directly related to fluctuations in rainfall amount and rainfall patterns. Stalk

borer attacks increase as rainfall decreases, making farmers incur even huger losses of their produce. The common control measure that farmers have adopted is by use of a chemical called bull dock. However, bull dock is an expensive chemical and most farmers tend to under-apply it in order to cut costs. The recommended rate is 3-4 kilograms of bull dock per acre. Majority of farmers apply 1 kilogram of the chemical for whatever size of the farm.

Through the RUFORUM Field Attachment Program Award (FAPA) I won a grant, which enabled me to link up with researchers to up-scale a technique aimed at controlling the maize stalk borer. This strategy known as Push-Pull technique presents farmers with a safe and cheaper way of controlling the stalk borer. Together with the KARI-Mtwapa researchers we are engaged in conducting on-farm trials with 30 small holder farmers from six districts in Kenya. Push-pull technique is an approach that involves a combination of crops that are planted together with maize. Napier grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) is planted as a border crop in the maize field. Desmodium, a leguminous plant is intercropped with the maize. Napier grass, which harbours some natural chemicals, pulls the stalk borer away from the maize. It defends itself by secreting a sticky substance which physically traps the pest and limits its damage. Desmodium on the other hand emits chemicals or kairomones which repel the stalk borer moth away from the maize plants. This pushes the pest away from the maize. Desmodium is slow growing and therefore does not interfere with the performance of maize even as an intercrop. Moreover it is capable of fixing nitrogen and improving soil structure and fertility. The added benefit of using the Push-Pull technology for the farmer is that the desmodium also has an advantage of being a rich source of protein making it a highly nutritious animal feed.

Because of the FAPA I have been able to achieve one of my Msc thesis expectations of up-scaling my research findings since capacity building of local communities is a central element of up-scaling. Apart from the 30 farmers who are currently directly involved in the on-farm trials, a good number of smallholder farmers are expected to adopt the technology as it is not only simple but also cost saving and augurs very well with the participatory approaches my Msc research advocates to Agricultural Information and Communication Systems. **Grace A. Achiando is a student at Egerton University, She can be contact by Email: [graceolilo@yahoo.com](mailto:graceolilo@yahoo.com).**



Maize crop under Push-Pull

## RUFORUM PHD STUDENTS GAIN SKILLS IN SCIENTIFIC DATA MANAGEMENT

Skill enhancement training for Post Graduate students remains a key intervention strategy for RUFORUM in ensuring the quality of research. To supplement courses offered at different universities, RUFORUM regularly organizes short training courses to address gaps areas identified by faculty and students. Accordingly, the Secretariat organized a five day training (22-26 July 2013) on Scientific Data Management for 28 PhD students in following University Programs; PhD Agricultural Rural Innovation - Egerton University, PhD Plant Breeding and Biotechnology - Makerere University and PhD Dryland Resource Management - University of Nairobi.

The objective of this training was to equip the students with skills in data analysis and presentation of research findings in a format that ensures wider dissemination as peer reviewed publications and policy formulation. The training was conducted by a team of three resource persons - Prof. Margaret Nabasiye, Dr. Vincent Oeba, Dr. Susan Balaba, and Dr. Thomas Odong.

The students felt that the training was timely because most of them are at a research design and data collection stage. *"This is a perfect time to participate in this training because I am at a critical stage of data collection and beginning to organize the data,"* said Nantale Gauden – a PhD Student - Plant Breeding and Biotechnology at Makerere University.

In executing the trainings, RUFORUM realizes that the SDM training and other similar trainings not only equip the graduates with skills but also create a platform for exchanging knowledge, sharing experiences and lessons emerging from the different regional programs and for networking future researchers and leaders in the continent. The trainings so far conducted have already led to development of collaborative research projects such as the recent ACP-EU EDULINK grant to Egerton University led by Dr. Patience Mshenga.



## COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN RUFORUM AND EARTH UNIVERSITY – COSTA RICA



**Above: Visitors and EARTH University Staff outside EARTH Administration Block**

RUFORUM's top mandate is to build the innovation capacity for Africa's universities to engage in development practice and policy. In particular RUFORUM's intervention strategies are aimed at enhancing University capacity to respond to the needs of small holder farmers in

sub-Saharan Africa. At the moment RUFORUM employs a multi-faceted approach to achieving its mandate among them: Commissioning demand driven and participatory research conducted by Focus Faculty; Catalysing the establishment of regional training programs that are premised on responsive curricula; and Strengthening the networks for Agricultural Tertiary Education in Africa and beyond. The aspect of capacity building at all levels runs through the different intervention strategies however and of key importance in all this are the students, who graduate from RUFORUM supported programs.

RUFORUM's effort at broadening the horizon of its Faculty and University Administrators to ensure Universities realize their potential to respond to the current development context lead to a learning visit at Earth University in Costa Rica by RUFORUM Vice Chancellors, Deans and other Faculty. We are pleased to share some of the feedback from this trip.

#### **Personal description of the lessons and experiences drawn from the visit to Earth University**

*As a head of department, the challenge has been how to make graduates more relevant to the communities around*

*(Continued on page 9)*



## COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN RUFORUM AND EARTH UNIVERSITY – COSTA RICA

(Continued from page 8)

and beyond the University. The trip to EARTH University provided a learning opportunity on how to develop programs that are mutually beneficial to communities and the student. Some of the models that can be adapted from the EARTH teaching model are the graduate Project, community service and entrepreneurship. While the University has had these programs, the way they are implemented at EARTH are different leading to different outcomes. The community outreach could be augmented by developing agricultural tourism models and incubators where students learn through testing of technologies and farmer visit to learn the various technologies for crop production along the entire value chain. There were lessons on effective management, resource mobilization, effective curriculum and incorporating environmental concerns in decision making. There is need for increased collaboration with EARTH University for developing and implementing the lessons as a whole in the university or adapting some of the models in training of agriculturalists in our institution. **Anderson K. Kipkoech [DR.] - University of Eldoret**

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One key lesson that sank deep following my visit to EARTH is the need to direct all our activities towards realizing the vision and mission of our universities, no matter what happens. Everyone at this University, from top administrators to faculty, staff and students seem to have their eyes on this prize. Secondly, Universities need to lead by example - they need to 'walk the talk' in terms of the training provided to students. The farm enterprise that EARTH runs is testimony to the viability of what they are doing. Our Universities can do a lot in this regard. **Haroon Sseguya, PhD - Makerere University**

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Change is a function of a change driven leadership that builds and consistently supports a team of change desiring members to know where and how they get to their dream. At earth University, the leadership has over the years envisioned their staff and students. They know their vision, mission, and uphold their values to the core. This is a key lesson for my University to positively impact on our communities. **Dr. Peter Ebanyat – Makerere University**

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That agriculture graduates can be trained to be socially and environmentally so aware and responsible to the extent of incorporating these ideals into their work and business. At the university level, field attachments can be better planned and objectively executed to produce better skilled students. The result is a graduate who is very well anchored scientifically and who readily accepts leadership challenges regardless of the circumstances. The University of Eldoret can learn to better plan our field attachments and develop tools to monitor student progress during attachment. We will also think of in-

novating ways of improving the teaching of entrepreneurship training by including some practical aspects, albeit without funds. **Prof. Julius Onyango Ochuodho (PhD) - University of Eldoret.**

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The Visit to Earth University is the best thing that has happened to me this year. The Earth model of teaching is the dream of Africa and Uganda in particular, in training Agriculturalists that are practical do not shun soiled hands and have a bearing to environmental equity. The model that encourages ethical and leadership skills has capacity to produce Agriculturalists that will not only have entrepreneurial skills but also will be ethically upright and will be able to lead others. Uganda Martyrs University is starting a special programme in September 2013 - The Bachelors' of Agriculture, which curriculum rhymes with the Earth model and a lot will be incorporated in this curriculum. Thanks to RUFORUM and management of Earth University for this great opportunity. **Julius Mwine – Uganda Martyrs University**

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My visit to Earth University has revealed to me that Earth University is an amazing example of what education ought to be. The University is a living laboratory where students are learning how to grow food and manage natural resources sustainably through experiential learning philosophy. In addition to the technical skills, students learn to be change agents who return to their countries and lead entrepreneurial initiatives with positive impact. EARTH University doesn't just preach entrepreneurship it also embraces it by producing and selling. I believe that it is very possible for Universities in Africa to start 'walking the talk' and make Earth University be their torch bearer. **Charity Chonde PhD – Lilongwe University of Agriculture & Natural Resources**

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The visit to Earth University proved to me that it is very possible for Universities in Africa to influence development of their societies and economies as a whole. What seems like just a myth or wish – using students as agents of change can become a reality. When developing the RUFORUM Theory of Change one of the key outcomes that was defined as a likely achievement of the interventions of RUFORUM is the training of PROACTIVE STUDENTS. At the time this seemed a bit fuzzy but after my participation in the trip to Earth I realized that there is actually a process that can be adopted in order for the students in Africa to become proactive graduates – professionals with values and, who can steer and facilitate development processes for the growth of society. I learnt a lot more but this is what struck me the most. **Claire Akun Ntwali - RUFORUM**

## MOBILIZING REGIONAL CAPACITIES TO TRAIN NEXT GENERATION OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENTISTS THROUGH REGIONAL PHD PROGRAMMES

In 2008, RUFORUM launched the innovative regional approach of building capacity of member universities, and training Africa's next generation of agricultural scientists through mobilizing regional capacities and international partnerships. One component of this regional approach was the course-work-based regional PhD programmes. To date, RUFORUM has launched six Regional PhD Programmes. The seventh programme – PhD Food Science and Technology is yet to begin in September 2013 at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

In the broader perspective, the initiative is as part of RUFORUM's contribution to building the required capacity to support the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Specifically the programmes are designed to address the need to: 1) build the teaching and research capacity of member universities; (2) enhance capacity for training and research that targets improving food and nutrition security, and access to knowledge; and (3) build capacity in emerging areas of “challenge” in the agricultural development landscape, so that Africa does not lag behind the rest

of the world

These programmes are being hosted at different RUFORUM Member universities with comparative advantage in terms of the technical staff and State of the Art facilities to support the implementation of the programmes. To date (August 2008), a total of 155 students have been enrolled into the seven regional programmes with details indicated in table 1. The timeliness of completion for all the programmes has ranged from 75% to 90%.

In implementing the regional doctoral programmes, RUFORUM has put in place a deliberate policy to promote gender representation. Overall, the regional programmes have attracted 35% female participation.

RUFORUM acknowledges financial support received from various development partners to train the PhD graduates in Africa. In particular RUFORUM recognizes support from Rockefeller Foundation, IDRC-Canada, and Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), The German Academic Exchange Programme (DAAD) and Carnegie Corporation.

Regional PhD Programmes	Host University	Grand Total	Total Females	Total Males	Year of Launch
Plant Breeding and Biotechnology	Makerere University, Uganda	28	8	20	2008
Agricultural and Resource Economics	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi	13	6	7	2009
Aquaculture and Fisheries Science	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi	12	2	10	2009
Agricultural and Rural Innovation	Makerere University, Uganda	22	8	14	2012
Agricultural and Rural Innovation	Egerton University, Kenya	9	8	1	2012
Dryland Resource Management	University of Nairobi, Kenya	46	16	30	2008
Soil and Water Management	Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania	25	6	19	2010
Food Science and Technology	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology				To start September 2013
<b>Total</b>		<b>155</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>101</b>	

### PROFILING THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA



**Solange Uwituze (PhD)**, a Rwandese by nationality who graduated from Kansas State University (KS, USA) with MSc. (2008) and PhD (2011). She is currently the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Deputy Chair of the Deans Committee of RUFORUM. Dr. Uwituze has also been the Vice Dean for research, consultancy, and post graduate programs of FACAGRI, and Head of Animal Production Department. She is involved in a number of research projects focusing on impact assessment of ‘One cow per poor family’ program, assessment of nutritive values of alternative animal feeds such spent mushroom substrates, some forages such as *Chloris gayana*, and milk value chain analysis in Rwanda. She has headed faculty teams that successfully wrote a number of faculty development projects such as the Women Leadership Program in Agriculture (WLP) which is starting a gender sensitive MSc. Agribusiness program at NUR, the one of a kind in Rwanda, under the sponsorship of USAID. the Research Training Partnership Programmes as an integral part of Institutional Research Capacity Strengthening through which FACAGRI is launching MSc. and PhD programs under the sponsorship of Sida, and a NICHE project aiming at creation of a Crosscutting Food Security Center under the funding of NUFFIC. She has had publications in peer reviewed journals and international conference proceedings, mainly on papers relating to beef cattle nutrition, and to a lesser extent, dairy sector. Dr. Uwituze is reachable at the following contact by Email: [suwituze@nur.ac.rw](mailto:suwituze@nur.ac.rw); [solangeuwituze@gmail.com](mailto:solangeuwituze@gmail.com).

## CARNEGIE / RUFORUM DOCTORAL GRANT AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT 2013

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is collaborating with Carnegie Cooperation of New York in the implementation of a project entitled *Training World Class Agricultural Scientists in Africa*. The project is providing Doctoral Grants (DoGs) to the RUFORUM supported PhD Programmes hosted in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa, as well as accepting applicants from the West Africa region who have been offered admission to study at in any of the RUFORUM Regional Programmes. Specifically the project aim to: 1) Enhance and strengthen doctoral programs within Africa in order to train people in an environment that ensures greater relevance to African realities in their courses and research, 2) Enhance the quality and marketability of regional programs by providing scholarships that give exposure to the high quality opportunities that have been established and to support the faculty and universities to continue with the innovative approaches and curricula adopted.

**RUFORUM is now pleased** to announce the recipients of the grants from the project awarded scholarships through a competitive and rigorous selection process. The grants are in three main categories namely; **Final Year Grants (10)**, **two year Research grants (11)**, and **Full Scholarship grants (8)**. The details of each category are as follows

#### A) Final Year Grants

Under this category, Carnegie through RUFORUM has offered **\$10,000** to each successful candidate. This targets the students who are in their final year of PhD Studies at any of the RUFORUM Member University and require supplementary money to complete on time. The aim is to support the candidates to finalize their research, produce thesis and disseminate the research result outcomes to the communities. Table 1 below is a list of the successful applicants for this category.

**Table 1: List of the successful recipients for the RUFORUM/CARNEGIE Final Year Grants**

No	Name	Gender	Nationality	Host University	Programme
1	Jane Yatuha	F	Ugandan	PhD Aquaculture and Fisheries Sciences	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi
2	Wales Singini	M	Malawian	PhD Aquaculture and Fisheries Sciences	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi
3	Horace Phiri	M	Malawian	PhD Agriculture and Resource Economics	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi
4	Hellen Kongai	F	Ugandan	PhD Agriculture and Resource Economics	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi
5	Phyllis Muturi	F	Kenyan	PhD Plant Breeding and Biotechnology	Makerere University, Uganda
6	Shelmith W. Munyiri	F	Kenyan	PhD Plant Breeding and Biotechnology	Makerere University, Uganda
7	James K. Mwololo	M	Kenyan	PhD Plant Breeding and Biotechnology	Makerere University, Uganda
8	Gabriel Ddamulira	M	Ugandan	PhD Plant Breeding and Biotechnology	Makerere University, Uganda
9	Yazan Ahmed M. Elhadi	M	Sudanese	PhD Dry land Resource Management	University of Nairobi, Kenya
10	Darwin Dodoma Singa	M	Malawian	PhD Soil and Water Management	Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania

#### B) Two Year Grants

The two year research grants have been awarded to students who are registered at RUFORUM member universities but are self-financed or have partial funding for their doctoral research projects. The value of the grant is \$13,500 per student to support research and supervisory costs. Details are in table 2 below.

**Table 2: List of the successful recipients for the RUFORUM/CARNEGIE Year two grants**

No	Name	Gender	Nationality	Host University	Programme
1	Richard Ossaliya	M	Ugandan	University of Nairobi, Kenya	PhD Dry land Resource Management
2	Patrick Watete	M	Kenyan	University of Nairobi, Kenya	PhD Dry land Resource Management
3	Lloyd Haambiya	M	Zambian	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi	PhD Aquaculture and Fisheries Sciences
4	Chloe Kamigabo	F	Ugandan	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi	PhD Aquaculture and Fisheries Science
5	Rodger Akatwijuka	M	Ugandan	Makerere University, Uganda	PhD Plant Breeding and Biotechnology
6	Walter Okello-Anyanga	M	Ugandan	Makerere University, Uganda	PhD Plant Breeding and Biotechnology



## CARNIGIE / RUFORUM DOCTORAL GRANT AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT 2013

No	Name	Gender	Nationality	Host University	Programme
7	Nantale Gauden	F	Ugandan	Makerere University, Uganda	PhD Plant Breeding and Biotechnology
8	Fikir Alemayehu	F	Ethiopian	University of Nairobi, Kenya	PhD Dry land Resource Management
9	Joseph Ssekandi	M	Ugandan	University of Nairobi, Kenya	PhD Dry land Resource Management
10	Antony Egeru	M	Ugandan	University of Nairobi, Kenya	PhD Dry land Resource Management
11	Tolera Abera	M	Ethiopian	Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania	PhD Soil and Water Management

**C) Full Scholarships**

Full grants scholarships invited applicants from ECSA and West Africa. The scholarship coverage extension to West Africa is specifically to initiate the interaction of RUFORUM Universities and the West African Universities for the purposes of building linkages, networks and mutual learning and sharing of experiences.

The Full grants are covering the following; tuition, stipend, research and field supervisor and return tickets. The value of each of the grants is **\$60,000 and \$65,000** for ECSA and West Africa, respectively.

**Table 3: List of the successful recipients for the RUFORUM/CARNIGIE full scholarships grants**

No	Name	Gender	Nationality	Host University	Programme
1	Kwadwo Kesse Mireku,	M	Ghana	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi	PhD Aquaculture and Fisheries Sciences
2	Muhammad Sabiu Suleiman	M	Nigeria	University of Nairobi, Kenya	PhD Dry land Resource Management
3	Chikondi Makwiza	M	Malawi	University of Nairobi, Kenya	PhD Dry land Resource Management
4	Komi, Gentle Wilson	M	Nigeria	Makerere University, Uganda	PhD Agricultural and Rural Innovation
5	Deborah Alio	F	Uganda	Makerere University, Uganda	PhD Agricultural and Rural Innovation
6	Sara Akello	F	Ugandan	Makerere University, Uganda	PhD Agricultural and Rural Innovation
7	Odogwu, Blessing Adanta,	M	Nigeria	Makerere University, Uganda	PhD Plant Breeding and Biotechnology
8	Emmanuel Afutu,	M	Ghana	Makerere University, Uganda	PhD Plant Breeding and Biotechnology

**JKUAT Launches Regional PhD Program in****Food Science and Nutrition*****DAAD offers in-region scholarship support***

In September 2013, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) will launch a regional course-work based PhD Program in Food Science and Nutrition. This will be the seventh of RUFORUM network's regional programs. RUFORUM's regional programs *inter alia* aim at building capacity for teaching and research among the member universities. The PhD program in Food Science and Nutrition specifically aims at producing graduates with a strong foundation in Food Science and Nutrition with hard and soft skills in the profession, while at the same time promoting collaborative regional networking in Food and Nutrition disciplines.

The program will start off with ten students drawn from the Eastern, Central and Southern Africa Region. The German Academic Exchange Programme (DAAD) through the in-region scholarship program has provided three scholarships through a competitive process. The three scholarships were awarded to the following:

1. Abozaid Babeker Mohammed from University of Gezira, **Sudan**
2. Mesfin Wogayehu Tenagashaw from Bahir Dar University, **Ethiopia**
3. Phoebe Kaddu Mukasa from Kyambogo University, **Uganda**

RUFORUM secretariat on behalf of JKUAT would like to thank DAAD for the scholarships. For more information about the program, please contact the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, JKUAT. Email: [dean@agr.jkuat.ac.ke](mailto:dean@agr.jkuat.ac.ke). For general information on RUFORUM's regional programs, please visit [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org).