

RUFORUM MONTHLY

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

RECOGNIZING ACHIEVERS IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

In 2009, RUFORUM in partnership with CTA, FARA, ANAFE, AGRA and NEPAD launched the Impact Research and Science in Africa (IMPRESSA) Award Competitions. IMPRESSA Award is part of the African Agriculture Science Competitions and Awards (for details visit: www.ruforum.org). The IMPRESSA Award is a token to recognize achievers in agricultural science and research for increasing agricultural productivity and improving livelihoods of farmers and the rural work force in Africa. An Expert Panel consisting of the above partners manages the Award process. **See Full Story on Page 3.**

IMPRESSA Award Criteria

- Contribution to agricultural knowledge through research as evidenced by high quality publications in peer reviewed journals
- Development oriented scientific research with demonstrated impact
- University postgraduate teaching and student supervision, student and staff mentorship
- Demonstrated engagement with peer researchers, farmers, extension and policy
- Contribution towards institutional capacity building
- Sustained and demonstrated dissemination of research findings and outputs to diversity of consumers



Picture: Participants at the recently concluded FARA General Assembly (19-24 July, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso) at the 'Gender' Side Event. Right to left are Irene Frempong, Director Capacity Strengthening, Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA); John Dixon, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research and Godfrey Kayobyo from Nkoola Institutional Development Associates. The Regional Coordinator and five other RUFORUM Staff attended the Assembly and various side events.

RUFORUM UNIVERSITIES IMPROVE WEBOMETRICS RANKINGS

Webometrics, an organisation that monitors university performance worldwide has released its official global ranking of universities for July 2010. In Africa, Universities in South Africa maintain their top position in the Continent and similarly at global level. Webometrics releases the ranking twice a year which is based on university online research publications. Among the RUFORUM 25 Universities, Makerere University was ranked highest (13th position) (See Table on Page 2), followed by the University of Nairobi (26th position) and University of Zimbabwe (30th position). **Please visit <http://www.webometrics.info> for more information.**

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; or visit RUFORUM Website at www.ruforum.org.

- **RUFORUM Monthly** provides information on activities of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture.
- This **Monthly Brief** is available on the last week of every month ■

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RUFORUM Annual General Meeting. 5-7 August 2010 Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Regional Conference on Building Capacity for improved Food and Livelihood Security in Africa. 13-17 September, 2010 Entebbe, Uganda

Ministerial Conference on Higher Education in Africa. 15-19 November, 2010 Speke Hotel Muyonyo, Kampala, Uganda. To register online, please visit www.ruforum.org.

CTA-RUFORUM Training Course on Scientific Data Management For ECSA, 16-27 August, 2010, Entebbe Uganda.

More information on RUFORUM activities can be accessed on the **RUFORUM BLOG** at <http://ruforum.wordpress.com>

TOP 100 AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES AT WEBOMETRICS

Africa Ranking	University	World Ranking	Africa Ranking	University	World Ranking
1	University of Cape Town	340	51	Université Abdelmalek Essaadi	5,172
2	Stellenbosch University	538	52	Université des Sciences et de la Technologie Houari Boumediene	5,219
3	University of Pretoria	539	53	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology	5,246
4	University of the Witwatersrand	808	54	Sudan University of Science & Technology	5,246
5	University of Kwazulu Natal	904	55	University of Ilorin	5,484
6	Rhodes University	1,024	56	Université Hassiba Ben Bouali	5,520
7	University of the Western Cape	1,124	57	University of Zululand	5,537
8	University of South Africa	1,219	58	Université Mohammed V Souissi	5,566
9	University of Johannesburg	1,422	59	Université Djillali Liabes	5,681
10	Cairo University	1,604	60	University of Zambia	5,681
11	American University in Cairo	1,657	61	Obafemi Awolowo University	5,756
12	University of the Free State	1,750	62	Université Badji Mokhtar Annaba	5,762
13	Makerere University	2,158	63	Université Saad Dahlab Blida	5,777
14	Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar	2,175	64	École Supérieure des Communications de Tunis	5,859
15	University of Khartoum	2,208	65	University of Malawi	5,863
16	Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University	2,304	66	University of Jos	5,882
17	Mansoura University	2,728	67	Alexandria University	5,882
18	Ain Shams University	2,825	68	University of Lagos	5,936
19	Al Akhawayn University Ifrane	2,904	69	Tshwane University of Technology	5,936
20	Université Cadi Ayyad	2,996	70	Université Abdelhamid Ibn Badis Mostaganem	5,998
21	University of Mauritius	3,067	71	École du Patrimoine Africain	6,040
22	University of Dar Es Salaam	3,118	72	University of Fort Hare	6,149
23	Cape Peninsula University of Technology	3,154	73	Université Mohammed V Agdal	6,196
24	Addis Ababa University	3,166	74	Moi University	6,275
25	North West University	3,175	75	Université d'Alger	6,275
26	University of Nairobi	3,190	76	Institut Agronomique et Veterinaire Hassan II	6,304
27	Université Abou Bekr Belkaid Tlemcen	3,207	77	University of Benin	6,324
28	National University of Rwanda	3,330	78	Université Hassan II Mohammadia	6,337
29	University of Namibia	3,364	79	University of Ibadan	6,425
30	University of Zimbabwe	3,368	80	Kenyatta University	6,464
31	Strathmore University Nairobi	3,556	81	Université de Nouakchott	6,518
32	University of Botswana	3,646	82	University of Garyounis	6,681
33	Faculté des Sciences Rabat	3,750	83	Université Mohamed Khider Biskra	6,718
34	École Mohammadia d'Ingénieurs	3,768	84	Université d'Oran	6,796
35	Polytechnic of Namibia	3,838	85	British University in Egypt	6,822
36	Université Mentouri de Constantine	3,853	86	Al Azhar Al-Sharif Islamic Research Academy	6,830
37	Université de Ouagadougou	4,024	87	Minufiya University	6,869
38	Assiut University	4,190	88	College of Medicine University of Malawi	6,914
39	University of Ghana	4,224	89	University of Tanta	6,928
40	Université Virtuelle de Tunis	4,349	90	Mogadishu University	6,941
41	Durban University of Technology	4,392	91	Université Ferhat Abbas Setif	6,993
42	Université Senghor d'Alexandrie	4,396	92	Mauritius Institute of Education	7,013
43	Helwan University	4,410	93	Vaal University of Technology	7,083
44	German University in Cairo	4,530	94	Université des Sciences et de la Technologie d'Oran Mohamed Boudiaf	7,099
45	Université de Batna	4,658	95	École Nationale Supérieure d'Informatique et d'Analyse des Systemes Ensias	7,137
46	Université Mohammed Premier Oujda	4,667	96	Université Ibn Tofail Kenitra	7,137
47	Zagazig University	4,691	97	Egerton University	7,153
48	Universidade Eduardo Mondlane	4,696	98	Université Hassan II Ain-Chock	7,165
49	Arab Academy for Science & Technology and Maritime Transport	4,921	99	University of Nigeria Nsukka	7,170
50	Université M'Hamed Bougara de Boumerdes	5,059	100	Université Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah Fes	7,196

RUFORUM LAUNCHES THE IMPRESSA AWARD (CONT)

(Continued from page 1)

The decision on Award winners is the responsibility of an Independent International Expert Evaluation Panel.

In 2009/10 the Expert Panel received a total of 10 nominations as follows: Ethiopia – 2, Kenya – 4, Sudan – 1, Uganda – 2, Zimbabwe – 1. The Independent Evaluation Panel was led by Dr. Monty Jones, Executive Director of FARA, Professor Didier Pillot, President Agrinatura, Dr. Win Andriesse, Wageningen University and Professor Dixelius Christina of Swedish Agriculture University.

Winners of the 2009/10 (Inaugural) IMPRESSA Awards

The 2009/10 IMPRESSA Awards ceremony was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso during the FARA 5th Africa Science Week and General Assembly. The prizes were presented by Dr. Papa Abdoulaye Seck, the Director General of Africa Rice Center in Senegal.

FIRST PLACE: PROF. SHEUNESU MPEPEREKI

Prof. Mpepereki is a Zimbabwean, born in 1951. He is a Professor of Soil Science at University of Zimbabwe, and currently Professorial Chair at the same university. Prof. Mpepereki was recognized for his outstanding Soya bean research and



outreach, which has made significant contribution to food and income security in Zimbabwe. He ably linked university research process to private sector, policy and other actors and used the research to train several scientist for Zimbabwe. He has published over 70 articles in refereed journals, books, extension manuals, newsletters, brochures and information sheets. He has also supervised over 40 graduate students. He received a trophy and US\$ 10,000.

SECOND PLACE: PROF. BELAY KASSA

Professor Belay Kassa was born on August 3, 1961 in Ethiopia. He is a Professor of Applied Economics and President of Haramaya University. Prof Kassa has previously served Haramaya University as Academic Registrar and Research Vice President in addition to teaching, research and outreach responsibilities. He was recognized for his outstanding leadership and networking. Through his efforts, Haramaya University is a beneficiary of



AGRA's Programme for African Seed Systems and Soil Health Programme. These two programmes provide funds to equip laboratories and train students in soil science and seed science and technology at Haramaya University. Prof. Kassa received a trophy and US\$ 7,000.

THIRD PLACE: PROF. MARY O. O. ABUKUTSA

Prof. Mary O.O. Abukutsa is a Kenyan National born in 1959. She is a Professor of horticulture at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya. She is an authority on African indigenous vegetables. She has worked as a



researcher in NERICA-rice research initiative promoted by Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and AICAD. She has supervised 55 undergraduate and 20 postgraduate students and published 30 peer reviewed journal papers, 40 papers in refereed conference proceedings and 5 book chapters. In 2009 she was the Winner of the Women in Science Competitions. Prof. Abukutsa received a trophy and US\$ 5,000. The full citations for the three winners are available at www.ruforum.org. Also, the report on the Young Professionals and Women in Science Competitions will be posted in the August 2010, Newsletter.

LAST ANNOUNCEMENT

Regional Conference on Building Capacity for Improved Food and Livelihood Security in Africa

Deadline for Abstracts: 10th August 2010

Abstracts should be submitted to
acss@agric.mak.ac.ug; with copy to
Secretariat@ruforum.org

For more information, Please visit
www.ruforum.org

SADC-ICART WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING PROPOSAL AND SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

The SADC Secretariat through the Implementation and Co-ordination of Agricultural Research and Training (ICART) project sponsored a regional workshop on proposal development and scientific communication for young scientists in southern Africa. The workshop which was coordinated by RUFORUM was held in Lusaka, Zambia between 17th and 25th May 2010 for 48 Masters students drawn from Free State University in the Republic of South Africa, University of Zambia in Zambia, University of Zimbabwe in Zimbabwe and Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania. The participants were from a very broad background and areas of discipline as well as nationalities. The ICART project is a five-year regional project funded under the 9th European Development Funds (9th EDF). It is implemented by the SADC Secretariat, within the Agricultural Research and Development Unit of the FANR Directorate. ICART Project support ranges from strengthening capacity for appropriate technology generation to empowerment of researchers and development practitioners to organize into knowledge sharing networks.



Participants at the SADC-RUFORUM Workshop in Lusaka

The workshop was facilitated by Dr Washington Ochola of RUFORUM together with Prof. Robert Obura and Dr Isaiah Tabu both of Egerton University in Kenya. The three have wide experience in proposal and scientific writing facilitation. The workshop principally aimed at tackling the defi-

ciencies in proposal and scientific writing skills in universities that make it difficult for scientists to win competitive grants and conduct quality research. These deficiencies also limit contribution of the regional scientists to advancement in science and knowledge, while poor communication skills impair the visibility of university Research for Development (R4D). It targeted the postgraduate students, the future scientists and academic staff in universities and national research institutions who play important roles in research for development.

By enhancing broad communication and scientific writing skills in young scientists and seasoned researchers in the region SADC and RUFORUM hope to jointly help realize the dream of greater contribution of Southern African scientists to development and global knowledge. Rather than provide skill enhancement training at the individual university level, it was considered more efficient to tackle these deficiencies by group learning event organized for the benefit of postgraduate students from different universities in Southern Africa. The workshop involved presentations, discussion and experience sharing as well as computer based practical work. The training was participatory, interactive and practical involving output-based development of proposals and concepts targeting active calls for proposals including International Foundation for Science (IFS) young scientists' grants and other calls. The participants also developed extended abstracts and posters for the upcoming RUFORUM biennial conference set for 13-17 September 2010 in Entebbe, Uganda.

AAU Awards 21 Research Grants to Africa Post Graduate Students

At the request of RUFORUM, the Association of African Universities (AAU) has provided 21 Research grants to the following institutions:

- 6 grants (each US\$ 3,500) to PhD students at the University of Nairobi;
- 1 grant (\$2,500) to one MSc. student at the University of Nairobi
- 1 grant (US\$ 3,500) to a PhD student at University of Cape Town, South Africa.
- 1 grant (US\$ 3,500) to a PhD student at Kenyatta University; .
- 6 grants (each US\$ 2,500) to MSc. Students at Kenyatta University; and,
- 6 grants (US\$ 2,500) to MSc. Students at Sokoine University of Agriculture;

RUFORUM thanks AAU for supporting research of the African students.

AFRICA MUST STRENGTHEN CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT CAADP

Highlights of FARA General Assembly Capacity Strengthening Side Event

Africa is implementing several initiatives to revamp agriculture and ensure that it addresses the endemic food and nutrition insecurity as well as poverty. As part of the activities to promote, share knowledge and experiences, as well as support convergence and consensus building on Africa's development thrusts, the 5th Agricultural Science Week and The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) General Assembly with an overall theme of "**African** Agricultural Innovation in a Changing Global Environment" was held in Ougadougou, Burkina Faso from 19th to 20th July 2010. It was attended by over 700 delegates across the world. A Capacity Strengthening side-event on "**New** directions for agricultural knowledge centres and networks in strengthening capacities for African agricultural innovation" was part of the activities. The Capacity Strengthening side-event was organized by FARA in conjunction with The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), The University of the Free State, South Africa, Agri-NATURA and Sup-Agro, France, Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH (InWent). It was underpinned by the following:

- The 2009 RUFORUM/CTA African Agriculture Faculty Deans' meeting that identified key action points for increased engagement of African Universities in agricultural development and research.
- The 2010 GCARD meeting which discussed and approved the *Capacities' Montpellier Action Plan (CAPMAP 2010-2020)* calling for the revamping of capacity building systems for IAR4D.
- New thrusts in agricultural development focusing on value chains requiring significant changes in curricula and approaches to capacity building.
- The current focus on using innovation systems to deliver development solutions requiring mobilization of consortia to harness the available capacities in and outside of Africa.
- The return of agriculture to development agenda that requires increased investment, new and wider partnerships between Northern and Southern Universities.
- The need to build capacity to catalyze and consolidate implementation of Pillar IV of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

These and other issues guided the design and discussion of the side event with the purpose of "**ensuring concerted action and targeted advocacy for research, capacity building, enabling policies and institutional change.**" The event consisted of five sessions, involving high-level panel discussions, keynote presentations, thematic discussions and an

exhibition. The five sessions included, (i) Experiences in capacity strengthening for agricultural research and development in Africa, (ii) Engendering agricultural research and development for enhanced participation of women, (iii) Education and training in Sub-Saharan Africa, (iv) Realizing the potential of Africa's youth: linking university education, research and business in sustainable agriculture (Launch of UniBRAIN), (v) Moving forward the Capacities Montpellier Action Plan (CAPMAP), and (vi) Consolidation of sessions (i-v) outcomes. The meeting in general, advanced a framework for concerted action by a range of African institutions, international agencies, researchers, communities and government agencies at different levels in capacity strengthening for the agricultural sector.

Outcomes and Recommendations

1. Intensifying agricultural education in SSA. Two major recommendations were made:

Realisation of CAPMAP. The meeting recognized two major approaches to capacity strengthening (i) The initial training of human resources on skills and expertise for supporting innovation, i.e., "Building Capacities for Capacity Building" and (ii) The continuous upgrading of capacities of all the professionals and stakeholders who have a role in the innovation chain. The meeting noted that the CAPMAP is based on the premise that success of capacity building initiatives however excellent can only have impact on policy issues when they are part of a larger convergence and political alliances at a higher scale. The meeting **recommended that:** FARA and its partners in the region, as well as development partners, converge, implement and promote recommendations in the CAPMAP to improve impact level, harness diversity, build institutions, consolidate and up and out-scale lessons, and strengthen advocacy for investments in capacity strengthening for ARD in Africa.

Intensification of capacity strengthening by Universities and their networks. Whereas the CAADP process contains several opportunities for strengthening capacities for agricultural development, it is not clear how the contemporary approaches to research and innovation capacity strengthening can be done to mobilize the needed capacity. The meeting noted the disconnect in some cases, and the weak linkages in most cases, between research, agricultural education, outreach and other development activities including agribusiness. Moreover, the complex agricultural development landscape requires

(Continued on page 6)

Highlights of FARA General Assembly Capacity Strengthening side event (Continued)

integration of capacity strengthening initiatives for coherence, synergy, value-addition, cost-effectiveness and impact. Accordingly, improving the “*reach*” of capacity strengthening programmes will require clarification of (i) The structure, scope and scale of interventions, (ii) Who the targets are, and (iii) The time frame for implementation. In line with these, the CAPMAP and aspirations of CAADP the **meeting recommended**:

- Consolidation of achievements from the innovative regional capacity building initiatives such as SCARDA and others in the region.
- Intensification of advocacy for investment in Higher Education (HE) at the Ministerial Conference on HE in Agriculture in November 2010 under the leadership of RUFORUM, FARA and other partners.
- Enhancing capacity and support African institutions to source and contribute to the use of global resources for capacity development, ARD and development activities.
- Strengthening capacity in Africa for foresight planning by engaging regional and global institutions to support medium to long term strategic planning for the continent.



RUFORUM Exhibition at FARA General Assembly. **Above Left:** Sylvia Chindime and Mayada Beshir (RUFORUM Ph.D student) **Above Right:** Dr. Richard Edema, Prof. Adipala Ekwamu and Dr. Richard Okori outside the exhibition Stall.

2. Linking University education, research and business in sustainable agriculture

The meeting noted that agribusiness success is needed to boost growth of the agricultural sector. It was also noted that the strategy of catalyzing partnerships between Universities and private sector following the concept of innovation incubators needs support. The meeting adopted the definition of an incubation center, i.e., “an organization managed by **specialized professionals**, whose main aim is to **increase the wealth** of its community by promoting the **culture of innovation** and the **competitiveness** of its associated businesses and knowledge-based institutions in the agro-allied sector’. The meeting also took cognizance of

two critical factors that influence success of agribusinesses in Africa, i.e., **The operational environment** that affects performance and **internal success** factors that affects human resource productivity and quality, market penetration and leadership. On the basis of these and other discussions it was recommended that:

- The UniBRAIN approach to promoting agricultural innovation and improving tertiary agribusiness education in Africa by linking universities with business and research through university-led agribusiness incubators be promoted and lessons captured for up-scaling purposes.
- FARA and its partners advance proposals for providing all interested parties with easy access to constantly up-to-date information on ongoing and pipeline initiatives for strengthening Africa’s capacity to build capacity in agriculture and natural resources and identify the critical gaps and a business plan to guide investment on a continent-wide scale.

3. Engendering agricultural research and development

The meeting noted (1) The misconceptions about gender roles from community to organization level that undermine the design, implementation and sustainability of development initiatives especially those that involve women such as in agriculture and (2) MDG 3 on promoting gender equality and empowering women remains a challenge for Africa. It recommended:

- **Creating an enabling policy and structural environment** for gender mainstreaming through policy audit and reform, restructuring and budgeting.
- **Increasing enrolment, retention and performance of women** in higher education, organizations and agricultural development activities by consolidating, up and out-scale best practices such as mentoring, social support programmes, remedial training, affirmative action etc.
- **Engaging and intensifying partnerships between local and international institutions**, to advocate, promote and strengthen capacity among ARD, Agricultural Education and Training, farmer and rural development agencies addressing gender concerns in agriculture and rural development.
- **Developing monitoring and evaluation systems** for performance management of gender targeted interventions in agriculture and other development initiatives including mutual accountability.

Meet the RUFORUM Secretariat Staff



Prof. Adipala Ekwamu
Regional Coordinator



Dr. Moses Osiru
Program Associate and
Manager
Networking, Advocacy
and Grants



Dr. Washington Ochola
Program Manager
Planning Monitoring &
Evaluation



Ms. Nodumo Dhlamini
Program Manager
Information Communi-
cation & Technology



Dr. Wellington Ekaya
Program Manager
Training & Quality
Assurance



Mr. Wilson Ombima
Program Manager
Finance & Administration



Mrs. Claire Ntwali
Program Assistant
Networking, Advocacy
and Grants



Mrs. Agnes Obua-Ogwai
Program officer
Planning Monitoring &
Evaluation



Miss. Joan E. Apio
Program Assistant
Information Communi-
cation & Technology



Miss. Chindime Sylvia
Program Assistant
Training & Quality
Assurance



Mrs. Irene .B. Lubega
Administration



Mr. Emmanuel Galla
Accountant



Mr. Francis Latigo
Driver



Ms. Sarah Nagitta
Office Assistant



Mr. Salongo J. Lubega
Driver

Interns at the Secretariat

RUFORUM recently recruited three interns to support the secretariat. They are working under the Networking , Advocacy and Grants department and International Foundation for Science (IFS). Below are the names of the interns;

Miss. Elizabeth Nambi– Networking , Advocacy and Grants

Mr. Sam Oluka- Networking , Advocacy and Grants

Mr. Kwesiga Apollo Kamugisha—International Foundation for Science (IFS) East African Hub

For more information on each staff member and interns, please visit www.ruforum.org

THE ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES (AAU) AWARDS TWO GRANTS TO RUFORUM

The Association of African Universities and RUFORUM have further strengthened their collaboration towards engaging African universities to respond to the Millennium Development Goals. In addition to previous research grants to RUFORUM Member Universities (See page 4) AAU has awarded two grants to RUFORUM, totalling £200,000 under AAU's programme on "Mobilisation for Regional Capacity Initiative" (MRCI) that is funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom. The two AAU supported RUFORUM Projects, each for a duration of 18 months (May 2010 to November 2011) are highlighted below:

Enhancing the Contribution of Universities to Development Processes in Eastern and Southern Africa. This MRCI Project brings together RUFORUM, Makerere University and the University of Malawi's Bunda College to explore approaches to re-orient university activities for development relevance; ensuring responsiveness to evolving stake-

holder demands; strengthening capacity for engagement at different levels, including with policy and strengthening networking to ensure cross learning and economies of scale and scope. The Project inception meeting will be held during the Annual General Meeting of RUFORUM in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Transforming Teaching and Learning in RUFORUM Universities through the Development of E-Content. Egerton University and Bunda College of Agriculture are the implementing partner universities, focusing on the MSc Agricultural Information Communication Management (Egerton University) and the PhD in Aquaculture and Fisheries Science (Bunda College of Agriculture). The key outcome of this project will be e-learning content for the ten selected courses in the two academic programmes. For further information on this project please visit the project blog on: <http://mrci315.wordpress.com/>

PAEPARD OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED AT THE FARA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The **Platform for African – European Partnership in Agricultural Research for Development (PAEPARD)** Phase II Project was officially launched in a colourful ceremony at the recently concluded FARA General Assembly in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 20 July, 2010. Supported by the European Commission (Contribution of Euro 5.5M), and building on the PAEPARD Phase I, PAEPARD II aims to build joint African-European multi-stakeholder partnerships in agricultural research for development contributing to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The specific outcome is *enhanced, more equitable, more demand-driven and mutually beneficial collaboration of Africa and Europe on agricultural research for development with the aim of attaining the MDGs*. The main beneficiaries of the project are European and African ARD stakeholders including the constituents of FARA and EFARD, who will be better organized, coordinated and able to successfully participate in European and other research programmes. The PAEPARD African consortium is coordinated

the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and the European consortium is coordinated by Agrinatura – EEIG on behalf of European Forum for Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD). The launch was officiated by Dr. Monty Jones, Executive Director, FARA and Dr. Paola Sarfatti, Director, Agrinatura EEIG.

The project is designed into seven work packages (WP): (1) mobilizing European stakeholders; (2) mobilizing non-research African stakeholders; (3) information and communication; (4) capacity building; (5) innovation partnerships; (6) advocacy and (7) project management and coordination. Each work package has a leader and co-leader combining African and European organizations (see below) RUFORUM, together with ICRA are leading Work Package 4 on Capacity Building.

Table 1: PAEPARD Implementing Partners in Africa and Europe

Work Packages	LEADERS	CO-LEADERS
WP1: Mobilizing European Partners	AGRINATURA	CSA
WP2: Mobilizing African non-research partners	PAFFO	FANRPAN
WP3: Information & communication	AGRINATURA	FARA/CTA
WP4: Capacity building	RUFORUM	ICRA/CTA
WP5: Innovation partnerships	FARA/CTA	COLEACP
WP6: Advocacy	AGRINATURA/NRI	PAFFO
WP7: Management	FARA	AGRINATURA/EFARD



Above: Adipala Ekwamu, RUFORUM Regional Coordinator (right) chatting with Jon Daane (ICRA) centre, and David Radcliffe (European Commission).