

# RUFORUM MONTHLY

## UGANDAN BASED MEMBER UNIVERSITIES HOST RUFORUM 8TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On the 24th November, 2012, RUFORUM held its 8th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel, Entebbe-Uganda that was hosted by the four Uganda based member universities, that is, Makerere University, Gulu University, Kyambogo University and Uganda Martyrs University.



Above: Vice Chancellors and Board members at the RUFORUM Annual General Meeting in Entebbe, Uganda

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## MAKERERE UNIVERSITY WINS THE AGRF AWARD 2012

Makerere University College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) has been recognised among leaders and visionaries in promoting a Green Revolution in Africa by The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) Forum.



Dr. Richard Edema (left) Receives the Award from Kofi Anan (Right) in Arusha Tanzania

The University was on September 28, 2012 recognized as one of the best institutions for the commitment and excellence in areas of Academia & Research during AGRF Awards gala dinner in Arusha. Others in this category were, The African Centre for Crop Improvement, at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa; and Advocacy Organizations - Rural Urban Development Initiatives (RUDI), Tanzania.

Dr. Richard Edema of the School of Agricultural Sciences received the award on behalf of Makerere University from the Chairman of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and former Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Anan. Other representatives from Uganda were former Minister of Agriculture, Kisamba Mugerwa, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture,

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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 the RUFORUM Website at [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org).

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

## MAKERERE UNIVERSITY WINS THE AGRF AWARD 2012

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Ugandan Ambassador Oliver Wonekha and representatives from the Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA).



**Above: Dr. Richard Edema posing with certificate at the college after returning from Arusha**

Dr. Edema said AGRA has been funding agricultural programs that have led to the production and release of new crop varieties like soybean by Makerere University. "Africa suffers from well prepared scientists and used to send students abroad for training. The University is playing a good role by conducting trainings at Makerere and that is why it has been recognised." He said.

He said, Makerere has been getting grants from RUFORUM, Bill Melinda gates, Rockefeller Foundation and others to train students in plant breeding across the region to address the issue of food security and hunger. "The region is using Makerere as an institution with a lot of wealth and expertise to build agricultural research in their countries and the university has done it effectively" he added

Since 2008, the School of Agricultural Sciences has had three cohorts of students trained in MSc. Plant Breeding and Seed Systems. The first group of 16 students came from Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan and Uganda in 2009. The second cohort of 19 students came from Rwanda, Mozambique, Tanzania, Southern Sudan, Kenya and Uganda. The recent group (third cohort) of 20 students came from Rwanda, Malawi, Tanzania, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

The AGRF Awards recognize Africa's top leaders in the quest to create awareness of public/private initiatives to build a sustainable African agri-business industry required to inspire a Green Revolution in Africa and make Africa food and nutrition secure.

The forum brought together African Heads of States, Ministers, farmers, private agribusiness firms, financial institutions, NGOs, civil society and scientists, to discuss the right way to scale up investments and innovation for sustainable agricultural growth and food security.

To access the full story, please visit the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University by [clicking here>>](#) or visit the African Green Revolution (AGRA) Forum to access the full conference Proceedings by [clicking here>>](#).

## UGANDAN BASED MEMBER UNIVERSITIES HOST THE RUFORUM 8TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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The meeting was well attended by Vice Chancellors from the RUFORUM member universities and other stakeholders. The overall guiding principle of RUFORUM is proactive engagement of universities with stakeholders in postgraduate training, research and development processes in the region. This year's AGM focused on key developments within the network including, but not limited to, operationalization of a revamped M&E system, consolidation of lessons for scaling up flagship programmes, namely Graduate Research Grants, Field Attachment Programme Award (FAPA), Community Action Research Programme (CARP) and the possibility of RUFORUM facilitating new research grants to support PhD training, harnessing ICTs in support of network agenda and other issues and concerns for African universities.

The AGM 2012 approved the admission of Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources as its 30th member university. The AGM also approved the expansion of its competitive Grants system to include support for PhD research grants.



**Photo: (Left) Prof. Fanuel Tagwira Vice Chancellor, Africa University, (Center) Prof. Levi Nyagura, Board Chair and Vice Chancellor, University of Zimbabwe and (Right) Prof. Nyeko Pen-Mogi Vice Chancellor, Gulu University at the AGM 2012 in Entebbe, Uganda**

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### RUFORUM SECRETARIAT CONVENED A MEETING OF DEANS FROM MEMBER UNIVERSITIES

Prior to the 2012 Annual General Meeting (AGM), RUFORUM Secretariat convened a meeting of Deans of Agriculture and related faculties from member universities. The main purpose of the meeting was to review progress made since the last Deans meeting in Malawi (2011), deliberate on recent developments and set the key actions for the next one year, including mechanisms for strengthening the Deans Committee in fulfilling its role as one of the organs for strengthening RUFORUM's regional, national and university level presence.

The Deans Meeting reviewed the activities of the RUFORUM network, with particular focus on enhancing the quality of the programs and ensuring that RUFORUM is able to deliver her mission and impact. Specifically, the meeting deliberated on strategies for enhancing quality of training and research and reviewed a recent publication on ranking of African universities. The meeting also reviewed issues raised by the Network graduate students during the meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2012. The review and discussion allowed the meeting to identify specific areas and indicators to improve performance of universities in general.



Above: Representative Deans from the RUFORUM member universities and the Secretariat staff at the Deans meeting in Entebbe, Uganda

### GULU UNIVERSITY AND MAKERERE UNIVERSITY PARTNER IN NEW SEED INITIATIVE PROGRAMME

The Integrated Seed Sector Development (ISSD) is a new program funded by the Dutch Embassy in Uganda which builds upon the strength of both the informal (farmers and community-based) and formal (Public and private) seed systems and seeks the integration both of these. ISSD guides specific interventions in identified seed systems, linking food and seed security sector development and aligning and harmonizing seed policies, programmes and practices in Uganda.

## ISSD Uganda



For appropriate local embedding and sustainable Local Seed Business (LSB) development the ISSD programme will partner with three Zonal Agricultural Research Development (ZARDIs) and will host teams of seed and agribusiness experts at each Institutes ZARDI to support project implementation. ZARDIs will work with the National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs) for access to varieties and seed markets; Uganda Cooperative Alliance (UCA) for the Area Cooperative Enterprise model and Savings and Cooperative Credit Organizations/ Micro Finance Institutes (SACCO's/MFI's) for access to finance. The programme will work with those partners that already closely work with farmers on seed production and /or marketing. It will partner with Makerere university and Gulu university in linking research to LSB practice and providing an evidence basis to the LSB model and strategies for innovation.

ISSD Uganda program aims to support the development of a vibrant, pluralistic and market-oriented seed sector, providing small holders farmers access to affordable quality seed of superior varieties. The following are the expected outputs of this program; i) Functional local seed businesses established, ii) Building local initiatives and partnerships, iii) Working towards a more robust seed system, iv) involving specifically marginalized groups, and v) Strengthen farmer groups in their entrepreneurship, among others.

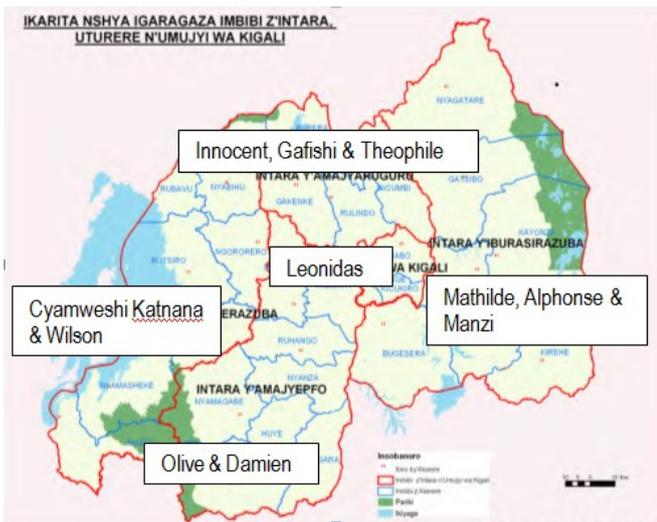
YOUNG AGRICULTURAL SCIENTIST CREATING IMPACT: FOCUS ON RWANDA

Responding to shortage of highly trained African scientists within the realm of agriculture in Rwanda Agricultural Organizations, RUFORUM through its regional programs offered opportunities for Masters level training (2008-2010) for the Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB)-ISAR scientists. Eleven MSc candidates were hosted in various African Universities namely; Makerere University-Uganda (Dusengemungu Leonidas, Cyamweshi Rusanganwa, Uwizerwa Mathilda, Nyombayire Alphonse, Shumbusha Damien, Ndacayisenga Theophile, Gafishi Martin and Habarurema Innocent), Egerton University-Kenya (Umunezero Olive and Dufitumukiza Wilson) and Jomo Kenyatta University-Kenya (Manzi Maximillian). All these people have already returned to Rwanda and are providing important contributions for agriculture development in the country through Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB). They have been deployed in different locations of the country in order to fill the gaps and grappling with the country's agricultural issues while identifying, generating and delivering research and extension outputs that meet the needs of small scale farmers (see map on page below).

extension workers, police, militaries, small traders, and drivers who ferry the fish to Kigali for sale, sellers, and consumers to come up with intelligent ways of exploiting, managing and conserving severely limited fish resources. From this IP derived the decision of putting the lake into a 2 months quarantine after every 6 months. Now, Mr. Dusengemungu L. is currently establishing innovation platforms for maize, common bean, rice and coffee in the Eastern Province of Rwanda, Kirehe District.

**CYAMWESHI Rusanganwa Athanase:**

Recently, he was nominated Director of NRM department where he coordinates activities related to Research and extension. His main duties include implementation of various soil conservation research programs to determine suitable mechanization and infrastructure development strategies; assisting in organising various technology transfer and training programs on soil conservation techniques for extension staff and the farming community; enhancing linkages between soil fertility management and sustainable intensification of crop production, and its greater integration within national agricultural policies and Farmers' mobilization for malnutrition eradication.



Below is a brief on what each of the alumni is involved in;

**Mr. Dusengemungu Leonidas:**

Recently, he was nominated as the director of Natural Resource Management & Mechanisation (NRM) and he has created an innovation platform focusing on fishing for enhanced management of Lake Kivu resources where fish stocks are heavily depleted. This platform has brought together fishermen, local leaders, researchers,



**Dufitumukiza Wilson:**

Currently, he is the Head of Tea Program where he coordinates Research & Extension activities related to tea crop. His main tasks include conception, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of participatory tea production research and extension projects, preparation and production of reports and publications on tea production among others. Other responsibilities within tea program include promotion of partnership with public-private at national, regional and international stakeholders on the improvement and development of tea production and conservation.

*More of the success stories of the young agricultural scientists can be found in a recently published RUFORUM case study. It can be accessed online at [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org) by [clicking here](#)>>.*



CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK SUPPORTS RUFORUM TO STRENGTHEN REGIONAL DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

The Carnegie Corporation of New York has provided US\$ one million to RUFORUM to support strengthening regional doctoral programs in African universities. The Grant falls under the Carnegie Corporation Higher Education and Libraries Program. The program recognizes that African universities have the potential to lead the changes needed for development, but are faced with staffing challenges. Highly skilled human capital is scarce and few organizations and universities can afford to allow their staff to stay away from work for the 4-5 years that attending an international PhD program would normally demand. Universities must become innovative with programs that are flexible, mobilize available resources to produce highly skilled leaders within Africa studying while they are still actively employed. The Carnegie support enhances the ongoing RUFORUM efforts to develop high quality, internationally competitive doctoral course work with supervision of the research in the student's home base.

The grant will support five key areas;

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 doctoral regional programs by providing scholarships and support the faculty and universities to enhance the innovative approaches and curricula adopted,
3. Build regional social capital by encouraging networking and greater inter-African exchanges,
4. Provide in service opportunities for PhD training,
5. Enhance Monitoring and Evaluation in universities.

The three year support has a strong focus on gender equity and support for university staff development. Ms. Andrea Johnson, the Carnegie Corporation Officer re-



Above: Andres Johnson (Middle) at the RUFORUM Secretariat

sponsible for the Grant visited University of Nairobi on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012 to familiarize with the regional PhD Dryland Resource Management Program. On 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012, she visited RUFORUM Secretariat, and later Makerere University to familiarize with the regional PhD Program in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology.

The Grant will support (i) 10 PhD students in their final year, mainly to finalize thesis write up, publication, conference participation and report back to communities the students worked with during their research phase, (ii) two year research for 10 PhD students who have successfully completed coursework, (iii) 8 students will receive full 3-year scholarships to undertake their PhD in any RUFORUM's regional programs. All scholarships will be awarded on a competitive basis with 6 of these scholarships earmarked for students from West Africa (iv) Faculty exchanges between West African and RUFORUM member universities and (v) Establishing a video conferencing facility at Makerere University, mainly to link the PhD Plant Breeding Program to related knowledge centres such as University of KwaZulu Natal, Stellenbosch University and Ohio State University. Further details and the calls for the first, second and third batch of grants can be found at [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org).

NEW PUBLICATION- GETTING THE GREEN REVOLUTION: WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?



A PhD Programme to Tackle Challenges of Ecology and Livelihoods in the Drylands: Climate change has impacted on livelihoods, food security and health across wide swathes of Eastern Africa's arid rangelands, producing a tremendous need for new knowledge, technologies, and scientists who are equipped to help the region withstand and adapt to the effects of climate change. For Dr. Mary Baaru, climate change became a clear and tangible reality when she travelled to an impoverished farming community in Northeastern Kenya to conduct field research for her PhD. Working closely with local farmers, and using Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques, she mapped the water and other resources available to the community, and studied the rainfall patterns in the area over the past 50 years. "The rivers were running dry, and the forests were disappearing. It was clear that the area was getting worse and worse," recalls Dr. Baaru, who recently earned her PhD through a ground-breaking regional programme in drylands resource management, offered through the University of Nairobi. [Read more>>](#)

**COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT and EXTENSION OF DEADLINE: IMPRESSA AWARDS 2012****Eligibility**

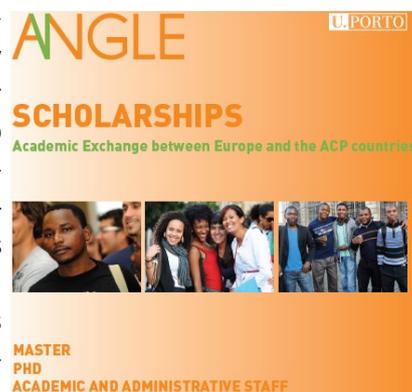
The 2012 IMPRESSA Awards competition will be restricted to agricultural researchers and scientists from the **29 RUFORUM member universities**. Participation in the competition is by peer nomination. Both individuals and teams whose work, done in sub-Saharan Africa has contributed to the objectives of IMPRESSA are eligible for nomination. **The Deadline has been EXTENDED to midnight 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.** Read More RUFORUM Secretariat address:

**Plot 151 Garden Hill, Makerere University, P.O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda Tel.: +256-414-535939**

**Attention: IMPRESSA Awards**

**The mandatory documents for the application are:**

1) Formal identity Card/Document (must be issued by a national authority) or Passport; 2) Statement of support from a higher education institution in an ACP country (mandatory for applicants coming from partner institutions); 3) Diploma of Bachelor Degree issued by an institution in one of the ACP eligible countries (only applies to Master candidates); 4) Certificate of enrollment in a PhD Course in a partner ACP Institution (only applies to PhD candidates); 5) Certificate of subjects and grades obtained / Transcript of records – an official document issued by the ACP candidate's institution (only applies to Master and PhD candidates); 6) Certificate issued by a partner ACP institution stating a brief job description of the candidate (only applies to Staff candidates); 7) Certificate of Language skills (if requested by the host institution); 8) Declaration of honor regarding eligibility.

**Application**

The application form is available exclusively at the partnership's website: <http://angle.up.pt>.

It is highly recommend the early organisation of all required documents, so as to make the application process as simple and efficient as possible. In order to increase the chances of being selected it is also recommend that applicants choose up to 3 different European Higher Education Institutions. However, 2nd and 3rd choice institutions may decide not to evaluate these applications depending on the total number of received applications.

**The call for applications is open from October to December 2012 at the partnership's website <http://angle.up.pt>.**

**FIELD ATTACHMENT PROGRAM AWARD (FAPA): CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE 2013 FUNDING ROUND**

The Field Attachment Program Award (FAPA) is a competitive grants program designed as graduate student internship to link thesis research findings and recommendations to application and use at community level. The FAPA grants are intended to provide opportunity for dissemination of research outputs with a view to inform policy development and hone students skills in participatory (with communities) problem identification and articulation of complex research.

**Key Dates**

Announcement/Call Release	1 <sup>st</sup> November, 2012
Deadline for Applications	30 <sup>th</sup> January, 2013
Notification of Results	March, 2013**
Commencement of Activity	April - June, 2013**

**\*\* While every effort will be made to comply with these dates, they are indicative only.**

**For more information about the FAPA:** Please refer to the Competitive Grants System (CGS) Grants Manual General Information and Guidelines which are available at [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org). All prospective applicants are advised to contact RUFORUM Secretariat via email [cgs@ruforum.org](mailto:cgs@ruforum.org) for the Application Form.