

RUFORUM MONTHLY

"PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKING FOR STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION IN AFRICA" - RUFORUM 3RD BIENNIAL CONFERENCE HELD

RUFORUM held its 3rd Biennial conference in Entebbe, Uganda from 24th -28th September, 2012. The conference was attended by 657 participants who represented 48 countries – from Eastern, Central, Southern and West Africa, Europe, USA, North America, India, China, South America and Israel. There were 212 women and 445 men. RUFORUM grantees constituted 11% of the total number of attendees and students 24%. We received over 400 extended abstracts and 200 posters. The edited and approved extended abstracts have been published in Volume 7 of the RUFORUM Working Document Series in three parts (Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3). You are invited to view Part 1 of the Extended Abstracts by [clicking here](#).

The conference had 13 side events all geared at promoting partnership and networking. It was officially opened by Hon. Tress Buchanayandi (Minister of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries, Government of Uganda) in the presence of Hon. John Chrysotom Muyingo (Minister of State for Higher Education, Government of Uganda), the recently appointment Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu and Prof. Adipala Ekwamu who made the welcome remarks. The five day conference was closed with the launch of an African wide initiative to strengthen Tertiary Agricultural Education (TEAM Africa). The launch was presided over by Hon. Bright Rwamirama and the Burkina Faso Minister of Education H.E Koumba Boly Barry. During the conference, there were 10 winners awarded for best poster presentation. To read more on this story, please turn to page 2 of this issue.



From left: Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu, Hon. John Chrysotom Muyingo and Hon. Tress Buchanayandi at the opening ceremony

- *R U F O R U M 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 30th November 2012 [Read more>>](#)

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

Competition Announcement and Extension of Deadline: IMPRESSA AWARDS 2012. [31st May 2013](#)

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

CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK AWARDS RUFORUM US\$1M GRANT

On September 24th 2012, the Carnegie Corporation of New York awarded RUFORUM a US\$ 1 Million dollar grant for training PhD graduates in Africa. The grant runs from 1st October, 2012 to 30th September, 2015. The grant will support Strengthening six PhD African regional doctoral programs.

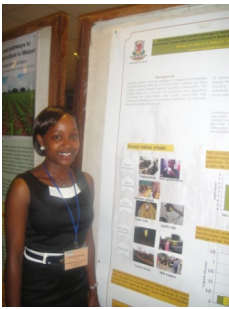
The grant will provide; i) 8 PhD scholarships for 3 students from Ghana, 3 from Nigeria and 2 from the RUFORUM network countries; ii) Research support for 20 PhD students, skill enhancement for the PhD students, networking across universities and with other development agencies and; iii) Documentation of the experiences and outcomes from this project. RUFORUM thanks Carnegie for its support towards the RUFORUM agenda of training the next generation of agricultural scientists for Africa.



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.



TOP 10 WINNERS FROM THE POSTER PRESENTATION EVALUATIONS-BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2012



Position: Number 1
Name of authors: Mwangi, L. W.
Title of poster: Handling practices and microbiology safety of traditional-pastoral fermented camel milk product (Suusa) in rural and urban Kenyan Markets.
Institution: Egerton university

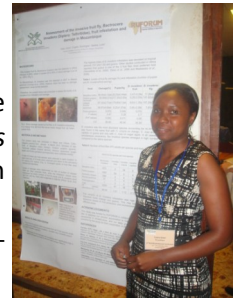


Position: Position 7
Name of authors: Eliud Gatambia
Title of poster: Establishment of a rapid in vitro system of papaya plantlets in a liquid media
Institution: Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

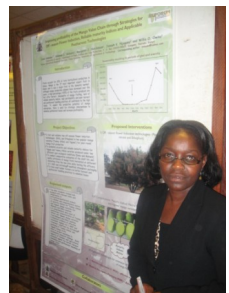
Position: Number 2
Name of authors: Teka Solomon
Title of poster: Evaluating the yield and components of malt barley varieties in the highlands of Tigray region, Northern Ethiopia
Institution: Mekele university



Position: Number: 8
Name of authors: Jose Laura
Title of poster: Assessment of the invasive fruit fly, Bactrocera invadens (Diptera: Tethritidae), fruit infestation and damage in Mozambique
Institution: Eduardo Mondlane University



Position: Number 3
Name of authors: Apio Sharon .I.
Title of poster: Analysis of the green gram value chain in Uganda
Institution: Makerere University



Position: Number 4
Name of authors: Jane Ambuko
Title of poster: Improving profitability of Mango value chain through strategies for off-season flower induction, reliable maturity indices and applicable post harvest technologies
Institution: University of Nairobi



Position: Number: 9
Name of authors: Mloza Banda, Kam-bewa D., Sikwese M.M, Kamoto, J
Title of the poster: An assessment of the process and pathways to achieve innovation in conservation agriculture in Malawi: A case study of Machinga Agricultural development Division
Institution: Bunda College of Agriculture

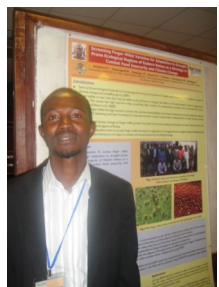
Position: Number 5
Name of authors: Rebeca Hepelwa
Title of poster: Role of legume biomass on improving soil fertility for maize production in striga infested soils in Iringa, Tanzania
Institution: Sokoine University of Agriculture



Position: Number: 10
Name of authors: Joseph Matofari
Title of poster: Consumer and regulator concerns about pastoral indigenous knowledge food processing: participatory analysis for producers' and consumers' benefits in Kenya
Institution: Egerton university



Position: Number 6
Name of the authors: Shibaio S.I/ (Left: Onwonga Richard one of the Principal Investigators)
Title of poster: Screening finger millet varieties for adaptation to drought prone ecological regions of eastern Kenya as a strategy to combat food security and climate change
Institution: University of Nairobi



Third RUFORUM Biennial Conference 2012 - Extended Abstracts Part 1 of 2

Extended Abstracts, Biennial Conference, RUFORUM third Biennial



ISSN: 1993-8462

Third RUFORUM Biennial Regional Conference
24 - 28 September 2012, Entebbe, Uganda
Partnerships and Networking for Strengthening Agricultural Innovation and Higher Education in Africa

Extended Abstracts Part 1 of 3

Editors: Tusiime G.; Majaliwa J.G.M.; Nampala P.; Adipala E.

UGANDA GOVERNMENT EARMARKS SUPPORT FOR POSTGRADUATE TRAINING AND RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES



Above: Hon. Tress Buchanayandi at the opening ceremony of the Biennial Conference in Entebbe

The Uganda Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries (MAAIF), through the Agricultural Technology and Agribusiness Advisory Services (ATAAS) Project will in the current financial year 2012 / 2013 provide support to build capacity of their staff / scientists in various fields

in agricultural sciences. The ATAAS Project will fund two doctoral students per Public Agricultural Research Organisation (PARI) and one Masters student – totaling to 40 scientists. In addition, the Ministry will under the East African Agricultural Productivity Project (EAAPP) support the training of 10 doctoral and nine masters students. Out of the 59 potential candidates, 78% have applied to the RUFORUM member universities.

The Agricultural Technology and Agribusiness Advisory Services Project (ATAAS) is designed to support the implementation of national programs under the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) and the

National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS). The project will support key activities along the research-extension-farmer-market value chain continuum through five components: (1) Developing Agricultural Technologies and Strengthening the National Agricultural Research System; (2) Enhancing Partnerships between Agricultural Research, Advisory Services and other Stakeholders; (3) Strengthening the National Agricultural Advisory Services; (4) Supporting Agribusiness Services and Market Linkages; and, (5) Program Management.

The support for postgraduate level training and research is intended to enhance development of agricultural technologies and strengthen the national agriculture research system; enhance efficiency and effectiveness of technology development; support improved delivery of demand-driven and market oriented advisory responsibilities services; ensure efficient execution of administrative: financial management, procurement functions, coordination of project activities, implementation of safeguard measures and effective use of M&E and ICT systems. Thirteen scholarships for doctoral and masters training have already been awarded to staff who will study at Makerere University. Apart from the long term degree training the support will also cater for short-term skills enhancement courses for staff.

WOMEN AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN SCIENCE COMPETITIONS HELD IN ENTEBBE

Forty-four (44) semi-finalists of the 3rd Africa-wide CTA/FARA/IFS/ANAFE/RUFORUM/NEPAD/AGRA Women and Young Professionals in Science competitions, participated in a "Scientific-Writing, Policy Advocacy and Communication Training workshop" in Uganda from 24-28 September, 2012. The workshop was held in conjunction with the 3rd RUFORUM Biennial Conference.

Semi-finalists also attended selected plenary sessions and networked with senior government and university officials, donors and RUFORUM alumni. One of the semi-finalists wrote to Judith Ann Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator, Science and Technology Policy, CTA saying; "This is Julius Hagan (PhD), one of the young professional scientists from Ghana. I would like to express my profound appreciation to the entire CTA team, Dr. Ekaya - RUFORUM and Prof. Obura - lead trainer and other associate sponsors (FARA, IFS, ANAFE, NEPAD, AGRA) for the competition and for the training workshop you organised for the semi-finalists. For some of us, it was an opportunity, once in a lifetime. Thanks for the exposure, accommodation,



CTA/FARA/IFS/ANAFE/RUFORUM/NEPAD/AGRA
3rd AFRICA-WIDE WOMEN & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN SCIENCE COMPETITION
SCIENTIFIC WRITING, COMMUNICATION AND POLICY ADVOCACY WORKSHOP

food, return ticket, per diem and the training. I promise to put into action all that I was taught. I really appreciate everything and promise to work hard to be among the top 10 finalists to represent my country in the finals. Once again thanks for the international exposure".

The semi-finalists are now required to revise their draft papers which they worked on during the Uganda training workshop. The final papers must be submitted by 16 November, 2012. They will be peer reviewed and evaluated by an expert panel. The top 10 in each competition, Women and Young Professionals in Science, will then vie for the top prizes at the FARA General Assembly in Ghana, in June 2013.

CTA IN COLLABORATION WITH RUFORUM HOLDS INK4DEV WORKSHOP IN ENTEBBE - UGANDA

RUFORUM in collaboration with the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) organized tripartite meetings which included the Training of Trainers on Information & Communication Management Strategy Development; Smart Tool Kit M&E Tools and Methods and ICT Tools for ARD (Agricultural Rural Development) Information Management (VPA-Visual Problem Appraisal, Web 2.0) as part of the 3rd RUFORUM Biennial Conference in Uganda, from 24-28 September 2012. A total of 70 participants attended this workshop.

This was the 4th edition of the InK4Dev Week that CTA was holding and was coordinated by Krishan Bheenick and Christine Webster (from CTA). Facilitators included Gashaw Kebede (Ethiopia) and Justus Ombati (Kenya) on ICM Strategy development; Sylvester Baguma (Uganda) and Richard Lamptey (Ghana) on SMART Toolkit M&E tools; Nicholas Kimolo (Kenya), Maureen Agena (Uganda), Robert Kibaya (Uganda), Loes Witteveen and Eva van den Broek (Wageningen University, Netherlands) on the ICT Tools for ARD Information Management.

The focus of the InK4DEV week, through the three groups, was;

- to expose the approach to ICM strategy development to a mixed group of representatives of ARD institutions



Above: One of the groups of participants who attended the CTA INK4DEV workshop

- to expose the participants, mostly from University backgrounds, to the principles of monitoring and evaluation of information projects, products and services.
- to sensitize participants on the use of ICT tools for Agricultural Information Management and Research - the Visual Problem Appraisal, applied to qualitative research and web2.0 tools for information sharing, online collaboration and community building

RUFORUM thanks CTA for its continued collaboration and support in the areas of Information and Knowledge Management.

LAUNCH OF THE TERTIARY EDUCATION FOR AGRICULTURE MECHANISM (TEAM AFRICA)



Hon. Bright K. Rwamirama (Left), Prof. Lillian Tibatemwa-Ekirikubinaza, Makerere University (Center) and Prof. Boly Hamidou TEAM Africa Consultant (Right) at the launch of TEAM Africa

The TEAM Africa initiative was officially launched on the 28th September, 2012 during the recently concluded RUFORUM Biennial Conference. The launch was preceded by the side event which focused on identifying strategies and approaches for initial implementation of the TEAM Africa initiative and engagement of Vice Chancellors.

Specifically, the Side-event aimed to:

1. Sensitize and engage African TAE institutions on the TEAM Africa initiative with recommendations on how the TEAM Africa can support TAE reform processes in Africa;
2. Identify and prioritize strategies to engage TAE institutions with national development strategies, including Poverty Reduction Support Papers (PRSPs), Development Strategies and Investment Plans/ CAADP country compacts;
3. Obtain commitments of Vice-chancellors to partner with TEAM Africa to achieve the desired outcomes.

The launch was attended by over 500 delegates from the RUFORUM Network, the African Network for Agriculture, Agro-forestry and Natural Resources Education (ANAFE); Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA); Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA), The World Bank, The American Association of Public and Land Grant Universities, AGRINATURA, Association of Indian Agricultural Universities and Association of African Universities. Hon. Bright K. Rwamirama, Uganda's State Minister for Animal Industry and Honorable Madame (Dr) Boly Barry, Minister of Education, Burkina Faso officiated at the occasion.

DIVERSIFYING COOPERATION: LESSON SHARING AND LEARNING WITH BRAZIL, CHINA, INDIA AND COSTA RICA

The Entebbe 2012 forum to promote “Partnerships and Networking for Strengthening Agricultural Higher Education in Africa,” took place during the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)’s 3rd Biennial meeting, of 24-28 September, 2012.

The meeting drew participants from Brazil, China, India, Costa Rica, Denmark, United Kingdom, USA, and over 20 countries from central, eastern, southern and western Africa represented by RUFORUM member universities and invited partners. The purpose of the meeting was to provide RUFORUM member universities and other higher education actors opportunity to better understand agricultural evolution in especially Asia and South America and the role that higher education played in the process, as well as explore opportunities for initial engagements. The meeting was conducted using plenary presentations and group work designed to identify areas of cooperation and lesson learning. The meeting called for;

Intensification of University engagement in agricultural and rural development and identified a number of issues critical for improved engagement of universities in agricultural development. They are summarized below:

Focus on development impact. Universities need to focus more on farmers. They need to generate innovations which impact on communities to attract support from governments. Universities also need to train students

who understand rural agenda by engaging them in rural situations to equip them with competencies for rural transformation.

Addressing rural energy demand.

Faculties and or universities need

to consider renewable resources in curriculum. Agriculture and renewable energy are interlinked and its inclusion will improve rural transformation focus of Universities in development.

Institutional policy support. University statutes and ordinances need to be reviewed in order to align R&D investments in universities with development initiatives of governments. This will improve government support

Lobby for national policy change. Universities ought to engage with policy institutions for strong commitment from government through supportive policies to universities, scientists, farmers and other stakeholders.

Improving quality of graduates is a key product. Universities can improve their competitiveness by exposing students to the real farm situations.

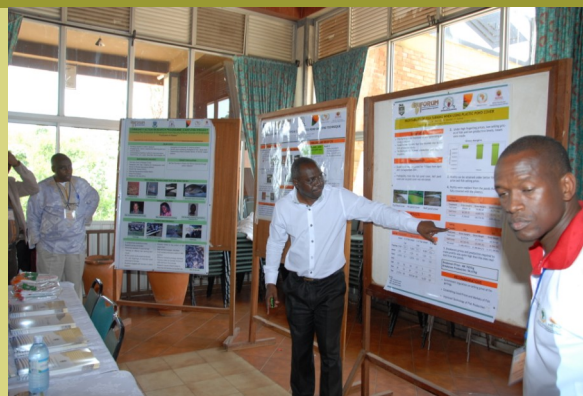


Above: Hon. Ruth Ssentamu Nankabirwa, with delegates at the side event meeting

RUFORUM SHOW CASES IMPACT THROUGH THE MAGNUM - PICTORIAL ONLY



Invited guests are walked through the different activities from the RUFORUM network and the RUFORUM Secretariat during the Magnum which was a side event hosted by the Secretariat





JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY
OFFICE OF THE DEAN FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE
Call for Applications



Regional PhD Program in Food Science and Nutrition

Applications are invited for the above postgraduate program for the 2013/2014 academic year commencing September 2013.

Introduction	The importance of food science and nutrition for health and development cannot be overemphasized. Food security and nutrition have become increasingly important areas of concern and interest internationally due to climate change, increasing world population with concurrent diminishing food security in the developing nations, increased incidences of nutrition-related diseases, the prevalence of famine, incidences of food borne diseases and safety issues. This persistent situation calls for a fresh look at nutrition as an integral and complementary part of food science. The program will provide advanced training for students seeking to upgrade their knowledge, skills and capability to innovate. The Food Science and Nutrition program will give students an in-depth understanding of various scientific aspects of human nutrition and food, including the composition and chemical properties of foods; nutrient functions and requirements; nutrient metabolism; physiological and biological aspects of foods and nutrients; food quality and safety; and the role of food in promoting health and the well being of individuals and communities. This programme therefore bridges the gap between food scientists and nutrition scientists. Training at Ph.D. level has traditionally been based on thesis and examination only. This program has incorporated a strong component of coursework that facilitates inclusion of new concepts in food science and nutrition in a rapidly changing dynamic world.
Program Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement a regional PhD program in Food Science built on a strong foundation of theoretical and practical instruction geared towards meeting the needs of the region and the attainment of MDGs. • To produce graduates with a strong foundation in Food Science and Nutrition concentrating on hard and soft skills in the profession. • To promote collaborative regional network in Food and Nutrition disciplines in order to achieve economies of scale and create synergy.
Graduate Profile	The program aims at producing graduates that are well grounded in the aspects of food science, nutrition and social sciences who will effectively respond to regional food and nutrition security issues.
Program Structure	The program shall normally extend for a period of three years. The program shall consist of coursework, examinations and thesis. The first year of study shall be devoted to coursework, seminars and examinations. JKUAT will host the programme. Experts to teach in the program will come from as many of the twenty nine RUFORUM universities. Likewise admission shall be open to all residents of East, Central and Southern regions of Africa.
Cost of the Program	The main cost elements are: Tuition, supervision fee amounting to US\$ 6245 excluding research costs. Living expenses for the entire duration of the course are estimated at US\$ 6720. Detailed fee structure is available at www.jkuat.ac.ke
Who can apply?	<p>Candidates must have a Master of Science degree in any of the following disciplines: Food Science and Technology, Nutrition sciences, Public Health, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Biological and Medical Sciences from universities recognized by the JKUAT Senate.</p> <p>Candidates of any other academic qualification(s) acceptable by JKUAT Senate as equivalent to 1 above.</p> <p>Female candidates encouraged to apply</p>
Important Dates	Application deadline is 31st March 2013 . Application forms are available at JKUAT on payment of a non-refundable fee of Kshs. 1500.00. The forms can be also be downloaded at www.jkuat.ac.ke
For more information	Contact: Dean, Faculty of Agriculture; P.O. Box 62000 – 00200 Nairobi, Kenya. Email: dean@agr.jkuat.ac.ke . For more details please visit www.jkuat.ac.ke