

# RUFORUM MONTHLY

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

## 16 GRANTS TO BE AWARDED TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> CALL FOR PROPOSALS: RU/CGS/GRG/30/10/11

The RUFORUM Graduate Research Grants (GRGs) are designed to support training of at least two MSc. students in RUFORUM member universities. The GRGs remains the flagship program of the RUFORUM Competitive Grants System (CGS) and since 2009, four Calls for Proposals have been issued with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation. Out of the three previous calls, 70 research grants have been awarded. The grants are at various stages of implementation. Following the 4<sup>th</sup> call for proposals, 16 proposals have been selected for funding during the academic year 2012-2013.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Call for proposals (CfP) was designed in the previous Technical Committee meeting in April, 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya and announced in May, 2011. To ensure that the Call was accessed timely by staff at RUFORUM member universities, RUFORUM ensured wide distribution of this CfP through:

1. Emailing to various member university faculty staff, Deans and Vice Chancellors
2. Posting on the RUFORUM website
3. Advertising in the RUFORUM Monthly Newsletter
4. Handing out the CfP to participants during the Proposal Training Workshops and other workshops held at member universities.

Proposal training workshops were also held for selected universities to ensure that new member universities were better able to compete in the CGS based on the lessons from the previous calls. The 4<sup>th</sup> Call deadline was originally set for September 30, 2011 but was delayed till October 30, 2011 to allow new member universities adequate time to submit proposals.



Above: The Technical Committee members who were present for the Proposal Evaluation in Entebbe, Uganda

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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

**ACP S&T (Innovations Programme) Annual Review meeting and KIT GO4IT proposal development.** Nairobi, Kenya. 5-9 March, 2012

**Agricultural Research in Africa Meeting.** 20 - 22 March, 2012. Brussels

**TEAM Africa Planning Meeting.** 26-28 March, 2012. Wageningen University and Research Centre Research (WUR)

**3rd RUFORUM Biennial Conference.** 24 - 28 September 2012. Dar es Saalam, Tanzania

**8th RUFORUM Annual General (AGM).** September 2012. Dar es Saalam, Tanzania

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

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



RUFORUM AWARDS GRANTS TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS FOR THE 4<sup>TH</sup> CALL FOR PROPOSALS

(Continued from page 1)

### Proposals Received and Compliance

A summary of the proposals received by the Secretariat in response to the 4<sup>th</sup> CfP is presented in Table 1. The Secretariat received 91 research proposals from 22 of the 29 member universities of RUFORUM, an increase from the 14 and 17 member universities that responded to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> CfPs, respectively. One non-member University (a university based in Nigeria) submitted an application. Analysis of the proposals submitted revealed that the spread of submissions was not very different to that in the last CfP, with three universities dominating the submissions. Staff from both Makerere University and the University of Nairobi submitted a total of 14 proposals each while Kenyatta University submitted 12 proposals. However, a number of universities submitted proposals for the first time including the University of Gezira, Gulu University, Mzuzu University, the University of Juba, Uganda Martyrs University and Haramaya University. These universities, with the exception of Haramaya University, have only recently been admitted to RUFORUM.

The ratio of female-male researchers submitting proposals for all the four calls of proposals has remained between 20% and 23% (See Table 1). The administrative check or compliance check, filtered proposals to ensure that they were from RUFORUM member universities, that each proposal had an M&E section as well as dissemination and advocacy section, and that the budgets were within the prescribed ceiling of US\$60,000. Ten proposals were rejected because they arrived beyond the deadline date (Midnight, 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2011). A number of proposals were rejected because they did not include M&E sections within their proposals as required by the Call. The outcome of this administrative check was communicated to all applicants. A total of 75 applicants passed the administrative check and were sent for external review. Each compliant proposal was sent to four reviewers who reviewed the proposal based on RUFORUM criteria and subsequently the RUFORUM Secretariat ranked the 75 criteria and submitted this and reviewers comments to the Technical Committee. This is a sub-committee of the RUFORUM Board responsible for vetting CGS proposals and awarding CGS grants.

The Technical Committee met in Entebbe, Uganda from 16 to 17 February, 2012 to consider the proposals evaluations reports. Sixteen (16) proposals were finally selected for funding (Table 2) subject to satisfactory revision. The Technical Committee noted the following;

1. It is difficult to explain how the \$60,000= budgetary limit "controls" the writing of the proposals. In review-

ing proposals one clearly identifies activities that would require much less than the \$60,000= while others would require much more. RUFORUM Secretariat should examine budgets of fundable proposals and guide the authors appropriately;

2. Nearly all proposals have "Characterization" components as main activities of the study; some are wholly so. For such studies, null hypotheses are the norm; they lack variable applications that would be controlled to cause effect. So, most studies are weak on innovation, and will result in generation of simple statistical relationships. The issue of limited statistical prowess in designing proposal activities still remains a challenge;
3. It looks like the issue of basing research proposals on a good understanding of literature has not yet taken root. Literature sections in many proposals were limiting and did not build up to identifying gaps and consequent objectives, and did not give quantitative or reference support to authoritative statements. Issues identified as gaps in the literature did not, unfortunately, always form the basis for further proposal development;
4. Many of the proposals now give expected outputs; but some with no actual clue on how they will be achieved (methodologies are not described in support);
5. Student coursework is still not part of the work plans; in many proposals, research activities and budgets for students start from day 1. Many defend this but research activities for student should be lighter in Year 1;
6. Some proposals are "following upon" previously RUFORUM supported projects. Summaries of these outgoing projects should be given, showing achievements (quantitatively) and identified gaps to be studied as a sustained search for solutions to the original challenge. A similar approach should be applied to the identified "Associated Projects";
7. In some cases, authors from universities that require "nurturing" have co-authors from universities that have the capacity and experience to nurture, but the proposals do not reflect this. Is this a question of participating co-PIs not being invited to contribute to the writing of proposals, or just not being able?

The Secretariat would like to add that one of the key aspects that earlier characterized the RUFORUM support (RUFORUM Brand) was the innovative, on-farm nature of the projects that RUFORUM would support, rather than pure on-station and laboratory work. This aspect will receive greater attention in future calls.

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TABLE 1: PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE DIFFERENT UNIVERSITIES

(Continued from page 2)

No.	University	No. of submissions	Male	Female
1.	University of Nairobi	15	10	5
2.	Makerere University	14	7	7
3.	Kenyatta University	12	10	2
4.	Egerton University	7	5	2
5.	Kyambogo University	6	6	0
6.	University of Namibia	5	4	0
7.	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)	4	3	1
8.	Moi University	4	2	2
9.	Gulu University	4	4	0
10.	University of Gezira	3	3	0
11.	Mekelle University	2	2	0
12.	University of Botswana	2	1	1
13.	University of Burundi	2	2	0
14.	National University of Lesotho	1	1	0
15.	Sokoine University of Agriculture	1	1	0
16.	University of Zimbabwe	1	1	0
17.	Bunda College, University of Malawi	1	1	0
18.	University of Swaziland	1	1	0
19.	Université Catholique de Bukavu	1	1	0
20.	Mzuzu University	1	1	0
21.	University of Juba	1	1	0
22.	Haramaya University	1	1	0
23.	Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi	1	1	0
24.	Ahmadu Bello University Zaria	1	1	0
25.	Eduardo Mondale University (UEM)	0	0	0
26.	Catholic University of Mozambique	0	0	0
27.	University of Kordofan	0	0	0
28.	National University of Rwanda	0	0	0
TOTAL		91	70	20

TABLE 2: LIST OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> CALL FOR PROPOSALS: RU/CGS/GRG/30/10/11

No.	Surname	Other	Title	Gender	University	Title
1	Ochwo-Ssemakula	Mildred	Dr.	Female	Makerere University	Diagnostics, cultural and biological techniques for management of aphid vectors and associated viral diseases infecting passion fruit in Uganda
2	Karungi-Tumutegyereize	Jeninah	Dr.	Female	Makerere University	Developing ecological management strategies for the aphid vectored cucumber mosaic virus on tomato in Uganda
3	Maina	John Wagacha	Dr.	Male	University of Nairobi	Management of mycotoxins in wheat: Assessment of the role of plant residues, cropping systems and diversity of fungal species on mycotoxin contamination of wheat
4	Okot	Marion W.	Dr.	Male	Gulu University	Enhancing local chicken productivity through strategic breeding and nutrition management in northern Uganda

(Continued from page 4)

TABLE 2: LIST OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> CALL FOR PROPOSALS: RU/CGS/GRG/30/10/11

No.	Surname	Other	Title	Gender	University	Title
5	Kimani	Paul M.	Prof.	Male	University of Nairobi	Selection for pod quality and multiple disease resistance in bush and climbing snap beans
6	Agbenin	John O.	Prof.	Male	University of Botswana	Engaging urban and peri-urban farmers in sustainable soil nutrient management to enhance produce and environmental safety in Gaborone Environs in Botswana
7	Lutaaya	Emmanuel	Dr.	Male	University of Namibia	Characterization of indigenous legumes and their utilization as pure stands or for over sowing of natural pastures
8	Ambuko	Jane	Dr.	Female	University of Nairobi	Improving profitability of the mango value chain through strategies for off-season flower induction, proper harvest scheduling and appropriate postharvest handling practises and technologies
9	Msiska	Orton	Dr.	Male	Mzuzu University	Development of quality and affordable fish feed for small scale fish farmers in Malawi
10	Ssekabembe	Charles	Dr.	Male	University of Swaziland	Enhancing productivity of maize-based cropping systems through additive intercropping with leafy vegetables
11	Kalyebara	Robert	Dr.	Male	Kyambogo University	Assessing the capacity of smallholder farmers to respond to market price incentives
12	Ogendo	Joshua O.	Dr.	Male	Egerton University	Botanical pesticides for bio-control of spider mites and anthracnose in french beans: A case of smallholder farmers in Kenya.
13	Gweyi	Joseph Patrick Onyango	Dr.	Male	Kenyatta University	African Nightshade distribution in Kenyan agroecologies in response to phosphorus and water status: Phenolics and related antioxidants profiling
14	Mukundi	John Bosco	Dr.	Male	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture	Spatial distribution and health status of urban agricultural production systems in the city of Nairobi, Kenya
15	Waiboci	Lillian	Dr.	Female	University of Nairobi	Determining the prevalence of brucellosis in livestock in selected pastoral/agro-pastoral areas in Kenya and evaluating the efficiency of rapid diagnostic kits used for diagnosis of brucellosis in humans
16	Walangululu	Jean Mambamba	Prof.	Male	Catholic University of Bukavu	Improving water management in irrigated rice production for South-Kivu, DR Congo

## RUFORUM MEMBER UNIVERSITIES IMPROVE THEIR WEB RANKINGS FOR 2012

Since 2004, the Ranking Web (or Webometrics Ranking) is published twice a year (data is collected during the first weeks of January and July to be published at the end of both months), covering more than 20,000 Higher Education Institutions worldwide.

The intention is to motivate both institutions and scholars to have a web presence that reflect accurately their activities. If the web performance of an institution is below the expected position according to their academic excellence, university authorities should reconsider their web policy, promoting substantial increases of the volume and quality of their electronic publications. In the recent ranking, outside South Africa and Egypt, Makerere University continues to rank highest in Sub-Saharan Africa in the 12<sup>th</sup> position while South Africa and Egyptian universities continue to top the first 11 positions (see table on the next page).

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## RUFORUM MEMBER UNIVERSITIES IMPROVE THEIR RANKINGS FOR 2012

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The recent ranking indicates that University of Nairobi improved significantly its rank from 26th position in Africa to 17th position in the recent ranking. Other RUFORUM universities ranked among the top 100 universities in Africa include University of Botswana (30), University of Zimbabwe (33), Kenyatta University (45), Egerton University (50), University of Namibia (58), University of Malawi (64) and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (76). To understand more on the processes involved, please visit the Web metrics website by clicking here <http://www.webometrics.info/index.html>.

CONTINENT RANK	UNIVERSITY	COUNTRY	WORLD RANK
1	University of Cape Town	South Africa	387
2	Stellenbosch University	South Africa	455
3	University of the Witwatersrand	South Africa	473
4	University of Pretoria	South Africa	646
5	Rhodes University	South Africa	651
6	University of South Africa	South Africa	729
7	Cairo University	South Africa	770
8	University of Kwazulu Natal	South Africa	778
9	University of the Western Cape	South Africa	992
10	American University in Cairo	Egypt	1,043
11	Ain Shams University	Egypt	1,094
12	Makerere University	Uganda	1,177
13	University of Khartoum	Sudan	1,216
14	University of Johannesburg	South Africa	1,287
15	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology	Ghana	1,338
16	Addis Ababa University	Ethiopia	1,367
17	University of Nairobi	Kenya	1,367
18	Mansoura University	Egypt	1,373
19	Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University	South Africa	1,378
20	University of the Free State	South Africa	1,499
21	Polytechnic of Namibia	Namibia	1,608
22	University of Benin	Benin	1,639
23	North West University	South Africa	1,677
24	Zagazig University	Egypt	1,682
25	University of Ghana	Ghana	1,727
26	Université Mentouri de Constantine	Algeria	1,837
27	Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar	Senegal	1,895
28	University of Dar Es Salaam	Tanzania	1,907
29	Al-Azhar University	Egypt	1,929
30	University of Botswana	Botswana	1,936

31	Assiut University	Egypt	1,994
32	Helwan University	Egypt	2,014
33	University of Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	2,118
34	Cape Peninsula University of Technology	South Africa	2,209
35	University of Agriculture Abeokuta	Nigeria	2,266
36	Université des Sciences et de la Technologie Houari Boumediene	Algeria	2,276
37	Université Cadi Ayyad	Morocco	2,324
38	University of Ibadan	Nigeria	2,515
39	Sudan University of Science & Technology	Sudan	2,517
40	University of Tanta	Egypt	2,806
41	Tshwane University of Technology	South Africa	2,855
42	Université Badji Mokhtar de Annaba	Algeria	2,884
43	Strathmore University Nairobi	Kenya	2,980
44	South Valley University	Egypt	3,029
45	Kenyatta University	Kenya	3,034
46	Mauritius Institute of Education	Mauritius	3,166
47	University of Nigeria	Nigeria	3,228
48	Arab Academy for Science & Technology and Maritime	Egypt	3,235
49	Obafemi Awolowo University	Nigeria	3,263
50	Egerton University	Kenya	3,305
51	Suez Canal University	Egypt	3,369
52	University of Lagos	Nigeria	3,486
53	Université Abou Bekr Belkaid Tlemcen	Algeria	3,487
54	Université Ferhat Abbas Setif	Algeria	3,509
55	Ahmadu Bello University	Nigeria	3,512
56	University of Mauritius	Mauritius	3,525
57	University of Fort Hare	South Africa	3,642
58	University of Namibia	Namibia	3,738
59	Al Akhawayn University Ifrane	Morocco	4,204
60	Université Mohammed V Agdal	Morocco	4,205
61	Alexandria University	Algeria	4,205
62	Universidade Eduardo Mondlane	Mozambique	4,278
63	University of Ilorin	Nigeria	4,302
64	University of Malawi	Malawi	4,354
65	Université Djillali Liabes	Algeria	4,358
66	Minia University	Algeria	4,364
67	Université d'Oran	Algeria	4,391
68	National University of Rwanda	Rwanda	4,407
69	École Mohammadia d'Ingénieurs	Egypt	4,451
70	Open University of Sudan	Sudan	4,488
71	University of Zululand	South Africa	4,551

## RUFORUM MEMBER UNIVERSITIES IMPROVE THEIR RANKINGS FOR 2012

CONTINENT RANK	UNIVERSITY	COUNTRY	WORLD RANK	CONTINENT RANK	UNIVERSITY	COUNTRY	WORLD RANK
72	Université Abdelmalek Essaadi	Morocco	4,618	88	University of Jos	Nigeria	5,681
73	University of Education Winneba	Ghana	4,632	89	Université Senghor d'Alexandrie	Egypt	5,738
74	Durban University of Technology	South Africa	4,686	90	German University in Cairo	Egypt	5,842
75	African Virtual University	Kenya	4,785	91	Université Mouloud Mammeri de Tizi Ouzou	Algeria	5,878
76	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology	Kenya	4,791	92	Kafrelsheikh University	Egypt	6,002
77	Presbyterian University College	Ghana	4,868	93	Université Hassan II Ain-Chock	Morocco	6,051
78	Al Azhar Al-Sharif Islamic Research Academy	Egypt	4,889	94	Benha University	Egypt	6,120
79	Université d'Antananarivo		5,071	95	Auchi Polytechnic	Nigeria	6254
80	Mogadishu University	Mogadishu	5,178	96	Hubert Kairuki Memorial University	Tanzania	6358
81	Faculté des Sciences Rabat	Morocco	5,194	97	Wisconsin International University College Ghana	Ghana	6492
82	Université Hassiba Ben Bouali	Algeria	5,212	98	Universidade Jean Piaget de Cabo Verde	Cape Verde	6515
83	Jimma University	Ethiopia	5,288	99	Fayoum University	Egypt	6562
84	University of Limpopo	South Africa	5,406	100	National Open University of Nigeria	Nigeria	6576
85	École Nationale Supérieure de l'Informatique (ex-INI)	Algeria	5,427				
86	Université de Batna	Algeria	5,541				
87	Groupe EIER-ETSHER	Burkina Faso	5,576				

## EALA PASSES LAW FOR REGIONAL EDUCATION BODY

The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) meeting in Kampala passed key amendments to the Inter-University Council for East Africa Act, giving the body powers to oversee accreditation of tertiary institutions in the region.

Assembly members overruled objections from the council of ministers that had expressed reservations about the amendments which among others, will grant institutions better regional mobility, only to get accreditation from the council to operate regionally instead of multiple applications to individual countries.

Mr. Peter Munya, Kenya's Minister in-charge of East African Affairs, had led the objections to the amendments, arguing that they would open the region to "fake" tertiary institutions.

The Bill, seeking to have a unified mode of accrediting higher institutions and enabling them function regionally throughout the community, was tabled as a private members' Bill three years ago by Ugandan EALA MP Wandera Ogalo.

It is believed, by the Bill proponents, that regional accreditation of higher institutions will open more opportunities for higher level of university enrollment.

With initial disagreements, the major contention was how the foreign institutions would be handled. Mr. Munya told Parliament that some of them are 'fake' and the council does not have the benchmarks to weigh their standards.

In the Bill, foreign institutions which seek to operate in East Africa get an application and a regional accreditation status to enable them carry out their activities without going through a national process.

The proposal tabled by the ministers was that a foreign institution should seek accreditation from the partner state it hopes to operate in before it goes regional.

Mr. Munya said the council is ill-equipped and cannot afford to handle the mandate of ensuring quality in the region. He said there would be a conflict of interest because the same members on the council board are the same who will need accreditation for their universities to run.

The law will promote, modernise and harmonise EAC university curricula.

**Story was published by Sheila Naturinda of the Daily Monitor on Friday, February 3, 2012. You can visit this link for more information:**<http://mobile.monitor.co.ug/News/-/691252/1319088/-/format/xhtml/-/159b6jzb/-/index.html>. **Email:** [snaturinda@uq.nationmedia.com](mailto:snaturinda@uq.nationmedia.com)

## JULIUS ONYANGO OCHUODHO IS PROMOTED TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



Prof. Julius Onyango Ochuodho is a Kenyan and Dean, School of Agriculture and Biotechnology at Chepkoilel University College, a constituent college of Moi University. He holds a PhD in Plant Science (Seed Science) from University of Kwazulu Natal in South Africa and is a specialist in seed science and seed technology, in addition to plant pathology. He was promoted to the position of Associate Professor by Moi University in May 2011. Prof Ochuodho has supervised many postgraduate students of seed science and seed technology, plant pathology and cropping systems. He has published 8 recent scientific papers in the aforementioned areas and is a reviewer for many journals. His major area of interest is improvement of seed quality and seed supply systems in the informal seed sub-sector, focusing on underutilized indigenous crops mostly grown by smallholder farmers.

Most of his recent publications have been in the areas of physiology of seed germination in weedy species – *Cleome gynandra* and wild mustard – *Brassica kaber*, and forest trees; forest tree – *Xanthozylum gillettei*; seed pathology – seed-borne/seed transmitted bacterial diseases potato and Brassica.

He is currently involved in several research projects and is the coordinator of the research project - Improvement of barley production (EABL), and is a major collaborator in other projects like Outreach/CARP – Shifting outreach to engagement with farmers, management of nematodes using *Crotalaria* spp (RUFORUM), ALV value chain research (Hort CRSP) and Production of maize and sorghum in acidic soils. These projects are funded by RUFORUM, Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), McNight Foundation and the Kenya National Council for Science and Technology. His contact address is School of Agriculture and Biotechnology, Chepkoilel University College, Moi University, P.O. Box 1125 - 30100, Eldoret Kenya. Office phone: 254 2035513008; Cell Phone 254 721871817; email: [juliusochuodho@yahoo.com](mailto:juliusochuodho@yahoo.com) ; [deanagriculture@mu.ac.ke](mailto:deanagriculture@mu.ac.ke) or [deansab@chep.ac.ke](mailto:deansab@chep.ac.ke)

## MEKELLE UNIVERSITY AWARDS TWO MAKERERE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Mekelle University has awarded two scholarships to two Makerere University students, Ms. Gumisiriza Margaret and Mr. Ssemwanga Mohammed for the Masters degree in Climate and Society that is hosted by Mekelle University. The two will be starting their studies at the end of February, 2012. The MSc Scholarships to the two students are through a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to Mekelle University. Fifteen Ethiopian students will also benefit from this support.



Ms. Gumisiriza Margaret is a Ugandan holding a Bachelors Degree Honours in Community Psychology from Makerere University. She has experience in Project Planning & Management and will be pursuing a Masters degree in Climate and Society at Mekelle University, Ethiopia. Her area of interest is in Climate affairs. She has worked with Pride Micro finance Limited as a Project manager and also as a Research Assistant with the Uganda National Agricultural Research Organisation. She can be contacted at [m5gundas@gmail.com](mailto:m5gundas@gmail.com).

Mr. Ssemwanga Mohammed is a Ugandan holding a BSc in Horticulture (Honours) from Makerere University College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences in Uganda and will be pursuing a Masters degree in Climate and Society at Mekelle University in Ethiopia. His research interests are in achieving food security under Climate Change and variability and studying the impact of Climate change on Carbon trade. He can be contacted at [ssemwangaali@ymail.com](mailto:ssemwangaali@ymail.com) and [ssemwangaali@gmail.com](mailto:ssemwangaali@gmail.com)



## BOOK PUBLICATIONS -Ecological Based Management of Termites in Semi-arid Ecosystems

Dr. Mugerwa Swidiq, one of RUFORUM's students has published a book titled "Ecological management of termites in semi-arid ecosystems" which has been published by LAMBERT Academic Publishing Company, Germany. The book can be purchased at [www.get-morebooks.com](http://www.get-morebooks.com). He acknowledges support from RUFORUM and University of Nairobi. The book originated from his PhD studies which were financed by RUFORUM. He would like to thank Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Dr. Wellington Ekaya and RUFORUM at large. Dr. Moses Nyangito (University of Nairobi), Dr. Denis Mpaiwe (MUK) and Dr. Cris Bakuneeta are highly appreciated for their technical input during development of the book. RUFORUM congratulates Dr. Mugerwa on his accomplishment. Dr. Mugerwa is a Systems Ecologist and is based at the National Livestock Resources Research Institute in Uganda. Email: [widiqk@yahoo.com](mailto:widiqk@yahoo.com).

## EAST AFRICAN PROGRAM PROMOTES UNIVERSITY EDUCATION FOR WOMEN



Above: Main entrance of the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Kenya. Photo: JKUAT

In East Africa, there has been a historic imbalance in the number of men and women pursuing and holding posts in post-secondary education, with relatively few women at the university level. But efforts are being made to increase women's presence in all levels of university education. Educator Martha Muhwezi recalls a graduation she attended recently at a science and technology institution in Uganda. "Only 17 percent [of those graduating] were women," she said. "And I remember it was one of the issues, which the minister who was the guest of honor was emphasizing, on what strategies should be put in place to ensure that the number of women goes up." Muhwezi, who is coordinator of the Uganda chapter of Forum for African Women Educationalists, says in Uganda and elsewhere in East Africa, the field of science has been viewed traditionally as a male domain. She says the Ugandan government is seeking to change that. "In the recent past, there have been a lot of campaigns, a lot of emphasis, including the government, making sciences compulsory at the secondary [school] level so that girls do not have an option of opting for humanities," she said.

### Push for science, technology

Similarly, in Kenya, an estimated 12 percent of students pursuing math and science majors in 2007 were women. But at one Kenyan university, 100 percent of the science and technology students are women. Dr. Wanjiru Wanyoike is Deputy Vice Chancellor of the Nairobi-based Kiriri Women's University of Science and Technology, the only university in East Africa to cater specifically to women. She says that part of the students' training involves taking gender courses to examine how culture has shaped the way society views women and their capabilities in the sciences and other areas. She says students are also groomed for supervisory positions.

### Leadership training

"When they are alone, for example here in Kiriri, we have the student body, so they take the leadership - you have the chairlady, the secretary, the vice-chair, so you find they are also having these leadership roles leading girls. In most mainstream universities you find that most of these leadership positions are occupied by boys," she said. And women-held leadership positions within university administrations are vital for providing role models for young women, says Pamela Apiyo, national coordinator of FAWE's Kenya chapter. She explains that top Kenyan universities now have women Vice Chancellors. "For example, at Jomo Kenyatta University of Technology we have Professor Mabel Imbuga," she said. "At Nazarene University, we have Professor Leah Marangu. At Kenyatta University we have Professor Olive Mugenda and we have Professor Brown at USIU. We are saying that these are interventions that will encourage girls to also aim high and aim for leadership positions." Women are also increasing their numbers and profiles in research institutions through such initiatives as the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development mentorship program. The so-called AWARD program was launched in 2008 by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

### Research programs

AWARD program director and founder Vicki Wilde says the initiative, which pairs junior female researchers with senior scientists, aims to increase women's leadership skills and visibility as well as their scientific knowledge. She explains that in 2008, less than one in four agricultural researchers in the East Africa region were women, and less than one in seven were in management positions in agriculture institutions. "We are seeing quite dramatic changes," she said. "For example, from our first two rounds of AWARD fellows, almost one-quarter of them have been promoted and another quarter completed their Masters' or PhDs. Almost half, 48 percent of our fellows, have received other awards: recognitions, fellowships, scholarships, grants. She says, in addition, there has been what she terms a "statistically significant increase" in participants' publications, which means that their research is increasingly being recognized by the scientific community. She says AWARD receives nearly 3,000 applications for 250 two-year fellowships.

**Source:** Cathy Majtenyi, Nairobi, February 18, 2012. *Voice of America*. <http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/east/East-African-Program-Promotes-University-Education-For-Women-139574513.html>.