

Mobilizing multi-stakeholders in Higher Agricultural Education write shop at RUFORUM Secretariat, Uganda (1-3 June 2017) with a focus on the LEAP AGRI and Bio innovate (Phase II) calls for Proposals 2017

Introduction

Dr Paul Nampala opened the workshop by welcoming everybody and stating the Goal of the workshop. A short presentation on **mobilizing multi-stakeholders in Higher Agricultural Education** was given. Everybody was invited to introduce him/herself by stating his/her: Name, country, organization and scientific discipline. The other RUFORUM staff presented also introduced themselves and their role was to assist with logistical matters, partnership composition and in the drafting and reviewing of proposals, as well as guiding the respective teams to submit.

Objectives of this Meeting

The objectives of this meeting were to:

- Mobilize stakeholders in HAE to share Research for Development ideas and initiate process of packaging these into winning proposals targeting active Calls, particularly the LEAP Agri and Bio innovate calls.
- Engage in dialogue on design and operations of National Forums for enhanced interaction/engagement of RUFORUM Member Universities in Uganda and Kenya with stakeholders in HAE
- Multi-stakeholder engagement is very key for quality, relevancy and impact of processes in the higher education sector
 - Curriculum design and delivery
 - Impactful Research and dissemination of innovations
 - Enhanced uptake through meaningful engagement with communities

All these underpin the need for partnerships between and among actors in the NARISs but this can only manifest if the actors are engaged in collaborative activities (projects/ programs, etc.) not just having MoUs.

RUFORUM organised this meeting which focused on mobilizing multi-stakeholders in Higher Agricultural Education and submission of proposals to Bio innovate and LEAP Agri. The LEAP Agri is a long term EU-Africa research and innovation Partnership on food and nutrition security and sustainable Agriculture. Operates under: the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020. The LEAP Agri aims to support the EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) and the implementation of the jointly funded EU-Africa Research and Innovation Partnership (endorsed by the EU-Africa Summit 2014). The call for proposal total budget per project is between €300K and €1,5M.

The Bioresources Innovations Network for Eastern Africa Development (BioInnovate Africa) Programme is a regional initiative supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) to assist countries in eastern Africa benefit from the revolutionary advances in biosciences, by converting such technologies into innovations for inclusive growth and sustainable development. BioInnovate Africa evolved from BioEARN – a regional network of research excellence in biosciences founded in 1999. BioInnovate Africa Programme has a US\$ 5 million grant funding over three years (2017–2020) to support scientists, researchers, innovators

and entrepreneurs in eastern Africa to link biobased research ideas and technologies to business and the market.

Participants

Participants were from Makerere University, University of Eldoret, Chain Uganda, Uganda Christian University, National Crops Resources Research Institute and RUFORUM Staff (Annex 1).

Call analysis

On the basis of the Call for proposals guidelines, the Bio innovate call was easy to understand and follow but the LEAP Agri was a bit difficult for participants to understand. A discussion was undertaken of the LEAP Agri call analysis. RUFORUM staff had to explain on the proposal requirements which included, who can apply, the requirements of each consortia, the budget ceiling for each country, funding agents and activities which can be funded under this call.

Thereafter, in a plenary session Mr Okalany went on to discuss on partnerships in the call. He went on to give participants cards to write their titles and proposed partnerships. Out of this discussion a total of 6 proposed titles were coined by the participants. The differences of this call and other calls RUFORUM member universities were responding to were highlighted.

The participants were expected to have the following in mind;

- Eligible Partnerships with team members.
- Thorough knowledge of the Call documents.
- Project title and acronym.

The groups were at different stages of preparation, but all had an idea about their objectives. Nevertheless, it was evident that the participants had read this document before they arrived at the workshop but did not have clear understanding of what was required of them. The partnership/consortium structure were not ready, nor was the completion of parts of the 2017 application form template for all teams. Many relevant questions were raised principally with respect to call focus, partnership requirements, and eligibility and evaluation procedures. The session resulted in an improved understanding of the LEAP Agri 2017 Call for proposals and even in modification of proposal topics of various teams in order to meet the requirements of the funder. The session was appreciated by the participants and all participants deemed it very useful.

All participants received a copy of the 2017 Call guidelines and application form, and a copy of the eligibility criteria of the LEAP Agri call. RUFORUM also provided the participants with paper, flip-over charts, and markers and a printer. An Internet access facility was fully available at the Secretariat allowing the participants to search for useful information for the proposals. All groups needed the RUFORUM Secretariat's assistance on the issue of partnerships.

As for the Bio innovate Phase II call, it was building on previous efforts (Phase 1), but with more emphasis on linking bio based ideas and technologies to business and the market. This call had three thematic focus areas of: a) value addition to agro produce and creation of agribusiness opportunities, b) agro/biowaste conversion in support of climate change mitigation and

environmental sustainability and c) development of policies that foster bioscience innovations in the region.

Project titles and partnership composition

The teams for both calls had varied areas of interest as shown in the Annex 3.

Impact Pathways and Theory of Change

The necessity and way of completion of the impact pathways and Theory of Change was introduced by Mr Moses Waswa. Although found very interesting and useful, it took some time before all of the participants understood the logic of these tools, how an impact pathway and theory of change need to be built up and how the items need to be presented. The participants appreciated the acquired knowledge. However, it was clear that most participants did not really understand the two tools. Mr Waswa, had to work with individual teams on the two tools. This was found to be very helpful support and contributed to a more effective use of the time available and a more or less complete overview of activities.

A peer review session took place on the Cassava proposal from NaCRRRI which was the most advanced and almost complete one. Even after this peer review other teams still had complications and Mr Waswa suggested the participants were to send their proposals and he would help them online.

Management of the National Forums and challenges in the operationalization of the National Forums

The session involved requests for members to brainstorm the possible avenues needed to enhance the functionality of the national forums as well as considering whether engaging in the national forums was worthwhile. One member elaborated the major issue being the lack of continuity and hence the need for re-structuring. For the case of the Kenyan team, the team requested to know how to participate in the implementation of CAADP, and instead the government asked who they are to participate in the implementation. It was upon this that a request was made for re-organization of the national forums to ensure successful operations. The restructuring should address key issues including the host institution, the designation within the host institution, and remuneration of designated persons and funding of activities, and mobilization of diverse actors to participate in National Forums' activities. Universities and especially the Dean's Office which is currently the host of National Forums are very busy to fully concentrate on National Forums. Moreover, this position changes and when the office bearer leaves, RUFORUM activities are not passed on to the successors, who have to build a relationship and understand RUFORUM. The agenda of National Forums is not well defined at national level. A focal point that has convening power to bring together all actors in the agriculture sector at national level is required. Possibilities of engaging relevant ministries – Education and Agriculture needs to be explored. However, care needs to be taken because the two have limited complementarity in most African countries and one will need to take lead. The design at each country should therefore be adapted to the local conditions at national level. Important in the design is creating confidence in among actors and break existing barriers.

Success stories from organizations which have implemented similar initiatives should be explored such as FAO, WHO etc. should be consulted.

A request was then made for challenges from the perspective of the national research system (NARS). In response one member noted that there were funds meant for the national forums on one of the projects awarded by RUFORUM, but the funds were not utilized and sent back to RUFORUM. However, it was clarified that the funds for national forums are retained by RUFORUM which then forwards it to the universities

Relatedly, it was pointed out that political interference has a key role in the collapse of national forums as the case was for the cooperative societies. These cooperatives remained functional and had a vision, not until political interference came in, and they collapsed. The national forums have various stakeholders with varied interests and hence liable to collapse. This implied that the agenda of the national forums needs to be defined.

Suggestions were also made for the national forums to learn from successful forums like the CGIAR and the East African Community, in addition to improving the coordination of the national forums through a focal point. In case of changes in leadership of the focal personnel at the universities, suggestions were made to orient the incoming personnel by the outgoing personnel to ensure continuity of the national forums.

Engagement of stakeholders including NGOs and farmers right from the inception of a given project rather than involving them at the dissemination stage was also suggested as an avenue for strengthening the national forums. This could be achieved through the development of a proper model to enable meaningful participation by all stakeholders in the national forums

Conclusions and way forward

This write-shop was overall well appreciated by all participants in terms of contents, learning and facilitation. All groups promised to polish and submit their proposal before the deadline, but this may not have been the case taking into account what happened with some proposals before with some teams failing to do electronic submission on time.

Annex 1: List of participants

No	Name	Organization	Email	Telephone
1.	Nuwamanya Ephraim	NaCRRRI	wamanya@hotmail.com	0771881992
2.	Esuma Williams	NaCRRRI	esumawilliams@yahoo.co.uk	0782071148
3.	Kawuki Robert	NaCRRRI	kawukisezi@yahoo.com	0772537715
4.	Emmanuel Okalany	RUFORUM	e.okalany@ruforum.org	0774927973
5.	Rachuonyo Harold A.	UoE	rachonyo@yahoo.com	+254724788189
6.	Prof. Julius Ochuodho	UoE	juliuschuodho@yahoo.com	+254721871817
7.	Apollo Kasharu	Chain Uganda	kasharu@hotmail.com	0759942843
8.	Abigael Otinga	UoE	amarishas@yahoo.com	+254712211001
9.	Waswa Moses	RUFORUM	m.waswa@ruforum.org	0775098123
10.	Nampala Paul	RUFORUM	p.nampala@ruforum.org	0772468919
11.	Egeru Anthony	RUFORUM	a.egeru@ruforum.org	0782616879
12.	Ronald Kityo	RUFORUM	ronald.kityo@afjrd.com	0776438697
13.	Ssempijja Drake	MAK	drakesempijja@yahoo.com	0706456902
14.	Runyararo Rukarwa	RUFORUM	r.rukarwa@ruforum.org	0778441880
15.	Patrick Musinguzi	MAK	Musipato7@gmail.com	0772068824
16.	Prof. Majaliwa	MAK	majaliwa@gmail.com	0782428260
17.	Opolot Deogracious	MAK	dopolot8@gmail.com	0785538962
18.	Elly Ndyomugenyi	GU	ellyndyomugenyi@gmail.com	0772886613
19.	Robinson Odong	MAK	Rabin.odong@ymail.com	0772920965
20.	Elizabeth Kizito	UCU	lkizito@gmail.com	0752141377
21.	Peter Akoll	MAK	pakoll@cns.mak.ac.ug	0774438131
22.	Henry Massa	RUFORUM	h.massa@ruforum.org	0782339411
23.	Geraldine Matolla	UoE	gmatolla@yahoo.com	+254724951440
24.	Sylvanus Mensah	RUFORUM	m.sylvanus@ruforum.org	
25.	David Ekepu	RUFORUM	d.ekepu@ruforum.org	0779210076
26.	Nnam Jaqueline	RUFROUM	j.nnam@ruforum.org	

Annex 2:

Write-shop programme

Day 1

8:30 – 9:00	Record of attendance and introductions	Dr Jolyn Rukarwa
9:00 – 10:00	Introduction of the write-shop	Dr Paul Nampala
10:00 – 10:30	Discussions on proposal preparation process	All participants
10:30 – 11:00	TEA BREAK	All participants
11:00 – 12:00	Discussions on project title and partnership	Mr Emmanuel Okalany
12:00 – 13:00	Drafting of preliminary proposal	Teams
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK	All participants
14:00 – 17:00	Drafting of preliminary proposal	Teams

Day 2

- Recap of Day 1
- Drafting of preliminary proposal
- Presentation on the Impact pathway analysis and drafting theory of change
- Production of the Impact pathway (group work)
- Peer review Impact pathway analysis
- Presentation on National Forums
- Plenary discussion on National Forums
- Drafting of text for the application form

Day 3:

- Recap of Day 2
- Progress of the completion of the application form
- Continuation on production of the Impact pathways(group work) and theories of change
- Continuation of drafting of text for the application form
- End of meeting

Annex 3: List of Proposals for the LEAP call

No.	Proposed Title	Partners		Email	Telephone
1.	Development of structured inclusive markets and trade of African indigenous vegetable (AIV) value added products in East Africa	CHAIN Uganda (Applicant)	Apollo Kasharu	kasharu@hotmail.com	+256783 12 15 69; +256705 197440; 256759942843
		Kenyatta University	Joseph Onyango	josephonyango2002@yahoo.co.uk	
		University of Hoheheim	Patrick Winterhagen	p.winterhagen@uni-hohenheim.de	
		University of Hanze Holland	Maat Linda	d.a.maat@pl.hanze.nl	
2.	Commercialization of Cottage Level Cassava based Bioethanol, Starch and Animal Feed	Makerere University (Applicant)	Mukasa Settumba	sbmukasa@caes.mak.ac.ug	+256782670041
		Egerton University	Patience Mshenga	patmapenzi@yahoo.com	+254 722 361 991
		Wageningen University and Research Center	Luisa Trindade	luisa.trindade@wur.nl	+31 6 20290371
		Norwegian University of Life Sciences	Asgeir Almas	asgeir.almas@nmbu.no	
3.	Increased production and utilization of indigenous African vegetables (African nightshade) for improved community nutrition and health	University of Eldoret (Applicant)	Julius Ochuodho	juliusochuodho@gmail.com	+254 721 871817
		Uganda Christian University	Elizabeth Kizito	lkizito08@gmail.com	+256-312-794 770132
		University of Ghent	Patrick Van Damme	patrick.vandamme@ugent.be	
		University of Porto	Fernando Hermínio Ferreira Milheiro Nunes	fnunes@utad.pt	

4.	Promotion of optimized Crop-livestock-Fish Integrated systems in Eastern Africa (POIS-EA)	Makerere University	Majaliwa Mwanjololo	majaliwam@gmail.com	+256782428260
		University of Eldoret	Geraldine K. Matolla	gmatolla@yahoo.com	+254724951440
		University of Lisbon	Rosa	fhjrosa@isa.utl.pt	+351962362881
		University of Bergen	Birgit Kopainsky	birgit.kopainsky@uib.no	+4755583092
5.	University-based Community Action Research for improving viability of cereal-legume value chains towards water use efficiency and improved nutrition in Eastern Africa	University of Eldoret	Abigael Otinga	amarishas@yahoo.com	+254712211001
		Makerere University	Obaa Bernard	obaaben@gmail.com	+256772660006
		Royal Tropical Institute / Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen (KIT)	Posthumus Helena	h.posthumus@kit.nl	+31206684579
		Universidade de Lisboa	Monteiro da Silva Maria José	mjsilva@isa.ulisboa.pt	
6.	Innovation Production Methods for Functional Nutrients from Biomass	Cairo University	Abdallah S. Ali	abdallah.ali@agr.cu.edu.eg	+201013200116
		Makerere University	Dr. Isa Kabenge	isakabenge@gmail.com	+256772377172
		LUKE, Finland	Maria Lehto	marja.lehto@luke.fi	
		University of Granada	Dr. Ana María García Campaña	amgarcia@ugr.es	
		University	Andrea Schüch	andrea.schuech@uni-rostock.de	+49814983406
7.	MultiStockLink - Profiting from livestock: Fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration in	University of Hohenheim German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture	Brigitte Kaufmann		

	the pastoral livestock value chains to enhance resilience of pastoral systems in Uganda and Kenya	(DITSL, Germany)			
		University of Nairobi (UoN, Kenya)	Oliver Vivian Wasonga	oliverwasonga@uonbi.ac.ke ; oliverwasonga@gmail.com	+254722258765
		Makerere University (MAK, Uganda)	Anthony Egeru	a.egeru@ruforum.org	+256782616879
		University of Bergen (UiB, Norway)	Birgit Kopainsky	birgit.kopainsky@uib.no	+4755583092
8.	Value chain optimization for selected major cereal and oil crops in developing countries	Cairo University	Fadi Mohamed Hisham Abdelradi	fadi.abdelradi@agr.cu.edu.eg	+2025699524
		Gulu University	Basil Mugonola	b.mugonola@gu.ac.ug ; basil.mugonola@gmail.com	+256772459745
		Research Centre for Agri-Food Economy & Development (CREDA) Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)	Jose Maria Gil	chema.gil@upc.edu	+34935521210
		Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA)	Drogue Sophie	Sophie.Drogue@supagro.inra.fr	+33499612224
9.	Plasma-assisted N fixation project	University of Cape Coast	Kofi Atiah	kofi.atiah@ucc.edu.gh	
		Makerere University	Patrick Musinguzi	musipato7@gmail.com	
		Technische Universiteit,			

		Enhoven, Netherlands			
10	Dietary manipulation for increased production and nutrient levels in integrated indigenous chicken and pig enterprises	Gulu University	Elly Ndyomugyenyi	ellyndyomugyenyi@gmail.com	
		University of Eldoret	Harold Anindo	rachuonyo@yahoo.com	
		Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	Marta Lourenco	marta.lourenco@ilvo.vlaanderen.be	
		Ghent University			

List of Bio innovate proposals

No.	Proposed Team	Partner	Contact person	Email
1.	Developing a fortified and phytosanitized compost for increased agricultural productivity and environmental health in East Africa	Nelson Mandela Institute for Science and Technology	Revocatus Machunda	revocatus.machunda@nm-aist.ac.tz
		SNV- Tanzania	Edith Banzi	EBanzi@snvworld.org
		Makerere University	Patrick Musinguzi	musipato7@gmail.com
		University of Eldoret	Enos Wambu	wambuenos@gmail.com
2.	Accelerating Camel Products Value Chain Development in the Karamoja Cluster (ACAD)	Makerere University	Justine Namaalwa Jumba (Uganda)	namaalwa.justine@gmail.com
		Enterprise Uganda	Mukasa Ronald	ronald.mukasa@enterprise.co.ug
		NabuinZARDI	Paul Okullo	
		University of Nairobi	Wasonga Oliver	oliverwasonga@gmail.com
3.	Improving marketing and utilization of Sweet Potato Silage as an alternative Commercial Livestock feed in Burundi and Uganda	Confédération des Associations des Producteurs Agricoles pour le Développement (CAPAD), Burundi	Bararyenya Astere	barastere@yahoo.fr
		Makerere University	Mildred Ochwo-Ssemakula	mknossemakula@gmail.com
		Chain Uganda	Apolo Kasharu	kasharu@hotmail.com
4.	Integration of floating islands and culture of bivalves in bioremediation of fish effluents: potential source of protein in aqua feeds	Makerere University	Robinson Odong	rabin.odong@gmail.com ; rodong@cns.mak.ac.ug
		University of Eldoret	Geraldine Matolla	gmatolla@yahoo.com
		Source of the Nile (SON) Fish Farm, Uganda		