

RUFORUM MONTHLY

STRENGTHENING LINKAGES WITH RUFORUM MEMBER UNIVERSITIES

-FOCUS CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF BUKAVU (U.C.B.), DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO-



Above: Improving Infrastructural development. Two faculty buildings at Kalambo of Agriculture at Karhale

Catholic University of Bukavu (Université Catholique de Bukavu (U.C.B. in French), was honored by a curtsy visit for the first time by Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary of RUFORUM Secretariat. Although RUFORUM has been operating since 2004 and the Catholic University joined the RUFORUM network in 2008, we can not ignore the unrest in the DR Congo, particularly the eastern part of the country where the University is located.

This visit focused on; getting in situ on how the university is functioning, clarify the implementation of postgraduate programme through the funded Edulink project in which the university is partner through the faculty

of agriculture, inform the management of the university on the resource mobilization write shop focusing on the EU-ACP Intra Academic mobility programme call and outline the support of RUFORUM to the University of the post conflict country.

The university as a private university was created in 1989 by the decree of the Archbishop of Bukavu, operating since 1990 and declared from 2006 as public utility by presidential decree n° 06/106 of 12th June, 2006. As private University for development, U.C.B has three missions, namely teaching, research and outreach with Organs of the University being Board meeting, academic and scientific council, the management committee and the faculty council. The university is operating in four campuses scattered in the town but the main campus is under construction at Kalambo, 18 km from Bukavu where 2 faculty buildings are fully built. The faculty of agriculture is still operating at Karhale.

The faculty of Agriculture is one among five faculties (law, medicine, economics, agriculture and computer science) of the Université Catholique de Bukavu (U.C.B.). Crop production and soil science departments are operating in the faculty; the crop production department combines crop protection, crop physiology, crop improvement and crop husbandry. At the set up of the university, priority was given to crop production problems within the faculty of agriculture. With the increasing of population student in the faculty and the now reconstruction of the country in this post conflict period, soil science has opened the door since 2011-2012. This is the reason for thinking also about opening animal production and food chemistry and technology departments in the short running period.

The faculty has tied links with many partners for teaching, as well as for research. Among partners for teaching are, within the country, University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN), University of Kisangani

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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

The RUFORUM Annual General Meeting 18-20 September, 2013 Kigali, Rwanda

11th African Crop Science Society Conference. 14-17 October, 2013 Entebbe Uganda

ICT for Agriculture: International Conference. 4-8 November 2013 Kigali, Rwanda

Monitoring and Evaluation training / Refresher workshop Nairobi, Kenya: 10 - 12th, September, 2013

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

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.



STRENGTHENING LINKAGES WITH RUFORUM MEMBER UNIVERSITIES -FOCUS CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF BUKAVU (U.C.B.)

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(UNIKIS), IFA Kisangani; from outside the country, University of Burundi and the Catholic University of Louvain (UCL), whose universities helped a lot during the unrest period; among research partners are: VLIR, Gent University (Belgium), KUL (Belgium), INERA, CIALCA, CUD (Belgium), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Pharmakina, Bralima, RUFORUM, Anafe, etc.

Three farms of the University are at the faculty disposal; they are located 30 km around Bukavu and cover about 250ha; only one is used to produce seeds and about 60 cows are breed in. Forage research is conducted in the farm so as to better feed cows, especially during the dry season.

Soil and plant analyses, soil microbiology and analytical chemistry laboratories are operational; phytopathology and tissue culture laboratories will soon be operational. Computer laboratory, internet and university website are also operational; computer lab need to be enhanced and modernized. The main campus is being constructed at Kalambo, 18 km from Bukavu, on the way from Bukavu to Goma, where two buildings are fully completed.

The population of enrolled students and graduates (ingénieurs agronomes) is increasing year after year, starting from less than 100 in 1991-92 academic year to more than 600 in 2012-13. The first year combines students of the faculty of medicine and those of the faculty agriculture due to the fact that they have many common courses. Students are originated from all over the country but mainly from Sud Kivu province.

Four permanent professors, one in Crop improvement, two in Economic entomology and one in virology, nine M. Sc. in various domains and four Ingénieurs agronomes are



Prof. Adipala, Prof. Majaliwa and Prof. Walangululu at Kalambo

permanent academic and scientific staff. The faculty is also assisted by some academic (one in biochemistry, one in organic chemistry and one in nuclear physics and computer science) and scientific staff from other faculties of the university and from other Higher Education institutions and universities within the province and outside the province (Kisangani and Kinshasa).

Among scientific staff are six enrolled in Ph D studies; two other are doing their master's in water management and one in food technology.

The university is headed by the Vice Chancellor Abbé Dr Kagundu Karhamikire Paul and Prof. Dr Ir Walangululu Masamba, Dean of the faculty of agriculture. For more information on the university, [Please click here>>](#)

SPARC APPLAUDS WHITE HOUSE FOR LANDMARK DIRECTIVE

OPENING UP ACCESS TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Ensures that Taxpayer-Funded Research Available to Public

Washington, D.C. – The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) today applauded President Obama for issuing a landmark Directive to ensure that the results of taxpayer-funded research – both articles and data – are made available to the general public to freely access and fully use.

The action comes about after a ten-year campaign by the “Open Access” movement – scientists, universities, libraries, technology leaders, patient advocates, entrepreneurs, students, and every-day Americans – aimed at making taxpayer-funded scientific research freely accessible and fully reusable in a digital environment.

“This is a watershed moment. The Administration’s action marks a major step forward towards open access to scientific research,” said Heather Joseph, Executive Director of SPARC, which works to broaden public access to scholarly research. “The Directive will accelerate scientific discovery, improve education, and empower entrepreneurs to translate research into commercial ventures and jobs. It’s good for our nation, our economy, and our future.”

“Knowledge is power. It’s the power to innovate, to advance scientific discovery, to promote economic growth, and to create jobs. In 2013, we should be taking full advantage of the digital environment to disseminate the results of publicly funded research, not keep this knowledge locked away.”

Every year, the federal government uses taxpayer dollars to fund tens of billions of dollars of scientific research that results in thousands upon thousands of articles published in scientific journals. The government funds this research with the understanding that it will advance science, spur the economy, accelerate innovation, and improve the lives of our citizens. Yet most taxpayers – including academics, students, and patients – are shut out of accessing and using the results of the research that their tax dollars fund, because it is only available through expensive and often hard-to-access scientific journals.

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The potential economic benefits of opening up access to this research are estimated to be in the hundreds of billions of dollars. In instances where this kind of open access has already been enabled, remarkable examples demonstrate how powerful open access can be. Placing the Human Genome Project in the public domain, for example, enabled scientists everywhere to access the data. The \$3.8 billion investment in the project has had an estimated economic impact of almost \$800 billion.

Details of the White House Directive

The [White House Directive](#) affirms the principle that the public has a right to access the results of taxpayer-funded research and calls on all federal agencies with annual research and development budgets of \$100 million or more to provide free and timely online access to the results of that research. Articles reporting on the results of publicly funded scientific research must be made available after a 12 month embargo period. The Directive builds on the progress made by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the first federal agency to require public access to taxpayer-funded research. Since its implementation, the NIH policy enabled more than 90,000 new biomedical manuscripts to be made publicly available each year, resulting in millions of Americans having access to vital health care information. Demand for this information is extremely high, with more than 700,000 unique users accessing material from this repository each weekday.

The Directive comes as the bipartisan [Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act](#) (FASTR), is making its way through the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. "The Directive is a major achievement for both open access and open government. We should now take the next step and make open access the law of the land. We commend Senators Cornyn and Wyden and Representatives Doyle, Lofgren, and Yoder for introducing FASTR and call on Congress to pass it without delay," said Joseph. Media questions can be directed to @SPARC_NA or sparcmedia@arl.org.

UNIVERSITIES' CONSORTIUM ON EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES

What is it?

The Universities' Consortium on Extension and Advisory Services is affiliated with the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS). It is a platform for academia in universities and other training institutions, researchers in the field of extension, and/or service providers to various clientele along the agriculture value chain and in need of forms of support in rural livelihoods and wellbeing. The consortium was established out of a discussion on "new extensionist" capacities needed in extension and advisory services (EAS), specifically a meeting in Pretoria, 14-15 March 2013.

What are the functions?

- Championing the refining, advocacy, and dissemination of the concept of the "New Extensionist" (NE)
- Contributing actively to the NE theoretical and research base and actively factoring such information into teaching and research curriculums aimed at training agricultural extension practitioners
- Promoting a goodness of fit between the current realities and challenges in extension and the curricula of universities and training institutions
- Contributing to GFRAS objectives by providing evidence through research, documentation, and building theoretical bases for initiatives and directions
- Acting as a platform for sharing and exchanging information and expertise (e.g. manpower, curricula, materials)

- Contribute significantly to building and providing background material for a Handbook of Good Practice for agricultural extension practitioners in the employ of public extension services and academics training agricultural extension practitioners
- Providing guidance and expertise to GFRAS about regional and national processes (e.g. agricultural extension policy formulation, development of tools, methodologies and monitoring and evaluation)
- Contributing actively to the process of documenting the evolution and development of the practice, science and research of agricultural extension
- Undertaking actions to promote the science of extension through the GFRAS Annual Meeting, regional network activities, scientific conferences, and joint research projects and publications
- Contributing to the development and promotion of quality assurance norms and standards in extension training and delivery at all levels
- Serving as mentors and role models to stimulate the interest of youths to opt for careers in agricultural extension

How do I take part?

For more information or to become a member, please send your Name, Institution, Role, Area of specialization, Country, and Contact details to Dr Adolphus Johnson at dibi-jay2003@yahoo.com. For more information see <http://www.g-fras.org/en/messageboard/curricula-for-ras>

PROFESSOR STANISLAUS BERNARD LWAKABAMBA ASSUMES THE CHAIR OF UBUNTUNET ALLIANCE

UbuntuNet Alliance, the regional research and education network for Southern and Eastern Africa announces the appointment of Professor Stanislaus Bernard Lwakabamba as the new Chairperson of the Alliance with effect from 15 April 2013. Professor Lwakabamba will succeed Professor Zimani Kadzamira who stepped down from the position on 12th February 2013, after serving the Alliance with distinction for two 3-year terms.

The appointment of Professor Lwakabamba follows the successful completion of a search process by a Search Committee established by the Secretary General of the Association of African Universities (AAU), in accordance with Article 8.1 of the Deed of Incorporation of



UbuntuNet Alliance. Professor Lwakabamba is a distinguished academic who has a long association with the critical role of ICT in the development of education at tertiary and other levels. A mechanical engineer by training, he attained the rank of Professor as long ago as 1981. He has served in a variety of leadership positions including founding Rector of Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST); participant in setting up of the African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI); outgoing chairperson of the Inter-University Council for East Africa, and is currently Rector of the National University of Rwanda.

The outgoing Chairperson, Professor Zimani Kadzamira, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Malawi, said, "I am happy that the process of choosing my successor has gone smoothly. My six years as Chairperson has seen UbuntuNet Alliance grow to be the key player on the African continent in research and education networking. I wish Professor Lwakabamba every success in leading the Alliance as an important partner in the AfricaConnect project. I appreciate

the participation of our valued Board Members whose active involvement allowed us to promote the network. With the continued support of the Board I know Professor Lwakabamba will be an invaluable resource as he brings a wealth of expertise in technology and a wide network of contacts to help in expanding the efforts of UbuntuNet Alliance.

"I would like to thank Professor Zimani Kadzamira for his work as Chairperson of the Alliance for the last six years. He has done an extraordinary job for us. Many thanks for all his contributions to the Alliance", said Dr Francis Tusubira, the Chief Executive of UbuntuNet Alliance. "On behalf of the entire UbuntuNet Alliance community it is a pleasure to congratulate the new Chairperson for his appointment and to wish him a successful tenure in this very important position".

As Professor Kadzamira stepped down, Dr. Iman Abuel Maaly Abdelrahman, the Deputy Chairperson, acts as Chairperson of the Alliance until the 15th of April 2013 when Professor Lwakabamba will start his tenure of office.

About UbuntuNet Alliance: UbuntuNet Alliance is the regional Research and Education Network for Eastern and Southern Africa and manages UbuntuNet: the data network for the region. It was established in 2005 and registered in 2006 as a not-for-profit regional association of National Research and Education Networking (NRENs) in Eastern and Southern Africa. Its current membership comprises 14 NRENs in the region aiming at interconnecting with each other and connecting to other regional networks globally. The Alliance works towards enabling collaboration in research and education over world class networks. For more information on the UbuntuNet Alliance, please visit: www.ubuntunet.net/

NEW DEAN – FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

Prof. Pinkie Eunice Zwane, a Swazi by birth, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Consumer Sciences at the University of Swaziland. She was appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture with effect from the 1st February 2013. She holds a B.Sc. in Dietetics from Michigan State University, an M.Sc. in Clothing, Textiles and Merchandising from Oklahoma State University, and a PhD in Textiles and Consumer Science from Florida State University, United States of America. Her research interests are on product development using indigenous materials and functional wear, food security, body profiles of Africans and sizing of apparel for Africans. Her contact details are: University of Swaziland, P. O. Luyengo, Swaziland, M205, Tel: +268 25170505, Fax: +268 25274441 and e-mail address: pezwane@uniswa.sz.

A NEW GRANT TO SUPPORT M.SC TRAINING IN PLANT BREEDING AND SEED SYSTEMS AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

One of the RUFORUM regional Programs an M.Sc in Plant Breeding and Seed Systems will benefit from a new grant to support Cassava improvement. Cornell University is the lead Institution in this USD 22 Million; with collaborating Institution as IITA, NaCRRI/Makerere University and NRCRI-Nigeria. Through this grant “Next Generation Cassava”, the Program will have 8 M.Sc scholarship for students from East and Central African sub-region, including Southern Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya in the Plant Breeding program with a total is approximately USD 809, 567 available over 3.5 yrs. The new grant will ensure that the program is able to run a cohort IV of the M.Sc program (2014-2017).

This program has been managed by Dr. Richard Edema as the Coordinator with assistance from a visiting lecturer Prof. Paul Gibson. Prof. Paul Gibson travelled to San Diego for the launch/convening and recruitment of the students to join in August, 2014 is ongoing. During the visit to San Diego, Prof. Gibson attended the Plant and Animal Genomics (PAG) meeting along side. This program as trained; cohort 1 (16 students; all completed): cohort II (19 students; all writing due to submit Dec 2012 on-wards: cohort III (21 students; in coursework, drafting thesis proposals): cohort IV (secured!).

The RUFORUM Secretariat wishes to applaud the team at Makerere University for making this regional program a success and sustainable. Dr. Richard Edema can be contact at redema@agric.mak.ac.ug



Left to Right: Mrs. Pauline Gibson (2nd), Prof. Paul Gibson (4th) and Dr. Richard Edema (6th) and some of Grandaunts from the previous cohort

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE 11th AFRICAN CROP SCIENCE SOCIETY CONFERENCE
14TH - 17TH OCTOBER 2013, ENTEBBE, UGANDA**

Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) invites applications for participation in the above conference which will take place at the Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel in Entebbe, Uganda. RUFORUM has some limited funds to support current and former graduate students on a competitive basis to participate in this important conference. The 11th African Crop Science Society Conference theme is Sowing Innovations for Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security.

Sponsorship Eligibility

In order to be considered for this expression of interest, the applicant must;

1. be either current or a former student of any of the RUFORUM MSc and PhD regional programmes, or Graduate Research Grant or Community Action Research Programme
2. must have submitted an abstract to ACSS Local Organizing Committee at Makerere University (acss@agric.mak.ac.ug)
3. have submitted a full paper to the ACSS Local Organizing Committee at Makerere University

Documents to submit for expression of interest

1. A motivation letter for the funding support
2. A copy of the submitted abstract and conference full papers

Value of support

RUFORUM will provide the successful applicants with the following items; a return economy air ticket, local transport, modest out of pocket for incidentals during the conference, registration fees, membership subscription to African Crop Science, and airport pick up, accommodation, and conference package.

Application Method

Interested candidates are encouraged to apply by submitting the relevant document to Sylvia Mkandawire - Training Officer, Email: s.chindime@ruforum.org with a copy to secretariat@ruforum.org. The deadline for receiving applications is

31 August 2013.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**11th African Crop Science Society Conference**

Conference Theme: Sowing innovation for sustainable African crops production to meet food security under climate change.

14 - 17 October 2013

Entebbe Uganda

Change of Conference Location

The African Crop Science Society (ACSS) council and the 11th ACSS Conference Organizing Committee would like to inform all society members, participants and sponsors that the 11th ACSS Conference will not be held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, as previously announced. The Conference will now be held in the city of Entebbe, Uganda, which will be hosting the ACSS conference for the third time since 1993.

Date of the Conference

The conference opens [on October 14th, 2013](#), and the closes [on October 17th, 2013](#). Participants are encouraged to check into their places of accommodation by [October 13th](#) and check out by [the 18th at 10 am](#).

Conference Venue

The conference will take place at the Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel in Entebbe, Uganda. The hotel will hold a special rate for single occupants, B&B included.

Local Organising Committee

The Local Organizing Committee is chaired by Prof. Patrick Rubaihayo from Makerere University and ordinary member of the ACSS council. Contact details for Prof. Rubaihayo are as follows: Makerere University, Faculty of Agriculture, P.O. Box 7062, Kampala-Uganda; Mobile: [+256 772734416](#). Email: prubaihayo@gmail.com

Abstracts and Papers

The deadlines for submission and receipt of abstracts and papers are [August 31st](#) and [September 15th](#) respectively. The abstracts shall be sent to: prubaihayo@gmail.com. It is urged that all material be sent as soon as possible and on time as to avoid any organizational issues.

Registration Fees

Category	Early Registration by July 15	Standard between July 16 and August 31st	Late (After 31st August and at Conference venue)
ACSS Members	US\$250	US\$300	US\$350
Students	US\$250	US\$250	US\$250
Non-Members	US\$270	US\$ 320	US\$370
Accompanying person	US\$200	US\$250	US\$300
Exhibition Booth	US\$400	US\$450	US\$500

We welcome you to the 11th ACSS Conference. We expect more than 400 participants from all over Africa and we hope that you will enjoy the exciting scientific presentations and discussions. We are looking forward to seeing you again in Entebbe.

Prof. Luisa Santos, President ACSS Council

Prof. Patrick Rubaihayo., Chairman of 11th ACSS Conference Local Organizing Committee