

# RUFORUM MONTHLY

## SHARING LESSONS FROM JOINT IMPLEMENTATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT AMONG RUFORUM MEMBER UNIVERSITIES



RUFORUM member universities are coordinating a partnership project on climate change induced water resources vulnerability. The implementation is led by Egerton University (Kenya) and Makerere University (Uganda). In each country two Innovation Platforms (IP) have been identified with diverse agricultural domains and climate change induced water resources challenges. As part of the

partnership to support innovation by farmers, each country has put in place a partnership of stakeholders to guide the process of IP-level water resources management and feedback to university outreach, research and training. In Kenya, Egerton University is working in two sites in Rift Valley jointly with Ministry of Water and Irrigation Management, the Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA) and other NGOs including Farming Systems - Kenya. Some key follow up from this project is the possible renewal of the project and partnership for other universities in RUFORUM network. Submission of a proposal in the next calls is expected in October 2012. Egerton University reported winning an extra grant from the World Bank to have a regional climate change network. The modalities for the grant are being finalized and Egerton University will work with African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS), Nairobi in implementing the project. This project is complimentary to the Rockefeller funded Climate Change Adaptation -Access Project coordinated by RUFORUM Secretariat.

Through the Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation-ESPA/APPEAR research of the East African Great Lakes Observatory (EAGLO) project, coordinated by University of Nairobi, ESAP/APPEAR grantees were invited to a joint learning and scientific meeting. Five RUFORUM member universities were represented (Makerere University, University of Nairobi, Burundi university, University of Malawi and Kenyatta University). The EAGLO team proposed to support two scientists each from Nairobi University, University of Malawi and Makerere University to attend the RUFORUM Biannual Conference to share lessons and experiences gained from the efforts.

## TEAM AFRICA HOLDS FIRST JOINT IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS' MEETING

The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Joint Implementing Partners (RUFORUM and ANAFE) of the Tertiary Education for Agriculture Mechanism (TEAM) Africa was held on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 at Entebbe, in Uganda. TEAM Africa was created to determine and articulate the preferred modalities, processes, and approaches



Above: Some of the partners who attended the meeting in Uganda

through which support for strengthening Tertiary Agricultural Education (TAE) in Africa might be structured and implemented. TEAM Africa aims to 1) bring greater coherence to investments in TAE in Africa; 2) increase overall level of financial and technical support as well as attention to TAE; and 3) help facilitate and guide the reform of African TAE institutions, within the framework of CAADP. The Initiative is a direct outcome of the RUFORUM organised Ministerial Conference on Higher Education on Agriculture in Africa (CHEA) and specifically is an implementation of the Communiqué arising from the meeting. Housed at the RUFORUM Secretariat in Kampala, TEAM Africa is supported by a Coordinator, Prof. Hamidou Boly who will work closely with RUFORUM and ANAFE as Joint Implementing Partners that will oversee the overall implementation of the initiative.

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

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**3rd RUFORUM Biennial Conference.** 24 – 28 September 2012. Entebbe, Uganda

**African Network for Internationalisation of Education (ANIE) 4th ANIE Annual Conference.** 26–28 September 2012 Pretoria, South Africa. [More](#)

**Conference 2012: Growing the Bioeconomy – Social, Environmental and Economic Implications.** 2 - 5 October 2012, Banff, Alberta, Canada

**The International Conference on Management of Emergent Digital Ecosystems (MEDES)** 28-31 October, 2012. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. [More](#)

**Training of Trainers on Climate Change Adaptation for Agriculture & Natural Resource Management.** October, 2012

**Vacancies at EARTH University for the African faculty members available.** [More](#)

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



## HISTORIC GLOBAL AFRICAN DIASPORA SUMMIT HELD IN SANDTON, SOUTH AFRICA

The first ever Global African Diaspora Summit was held in Sandton, South Africa beginning on 23 May 2012, and concluded on Africa Day, 25 May 2012. The meeting was attended by Heads of States or representative of the 54 Member Countries of the Africa Union, Governments of the Caribbean Community, North America, South and Latin America.

The Summit began with welcome remarks by the Host, President Jacob Zuma which was followed by the remarks of Dr. Jean Ping, the Chairperson of the AU Commission, Honorable David Dinkins, former Mayor of New York, an Eminent person from the Diaspora, Honorable Arnold Joseph Nicholson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Honorable Samuel Hins, Prime Minister of the Republic of Guyana, on behalf of Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), Mr. Esteban Lasto, the Vice President of the Republic of Cuba and President Nguema of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. The opening session was concluded with the opening remarks of President Boni Yayi, President of the Republic of Benin and Chairperson of the Union.



**Above: President Zuma of South Africa making his remarks.**  
Picture source: africansuntimes.com

In his opening Statement, President Zuma expressed gratitude of his Government and the people of South Africa to Heads of States and Governments that have taken the time from their busy schedule to attend the event and acknowledged the sterling work of the AU Commission in preparing for the Summit. He linked the historic event to the impetus that led African leaders to create the Organization of African Unity and the centenary celebrations of the Africa Nation Congress (ANC) as the first African liberation movement. He further acknowledged the vision and commitment of the first generation of African leaders and their vision to see Africa taking its rightful place, with respect and dignity in global affairs.

In turn, the Chairperson of the AU Commission, H.E. Dr. Ping, thanked the Host President, President Jacob Zuma for his hospitality. H.E. Ping traced the historical Global Diaspora

Summit to the vision and agenda of the first generation of African leaders. He then provided a detailed overview of the events and processes that culminated in the Draft Declaration presented to the Summit. He observed that the Declaration offers a basic law and a working document that will support the objectives of rebuilding the Global African family. He concluded on the note that Member States and all other stakeholders must recommit themselves to the implementation agenda by providing necessary resources for the program and sustaining focus and interest in its consolidation and advancement. He pledged the dedication of the African Union Commission to this process and appealed to African leaders to ensure that the Declaration will be a living document that generations after us will come to applaud, respect and continue to implement.

Subsequently, the addresses of the Minister of Jamaica, Eminent Representative of the Diaspora, the Prime Minister of Guyana and the Vice President of Cuba, expressed their support for the AU's Diaspora Initiative. Each recalled the involvement of their people in the struggle for African liberation and pledged to work with the AU to ensure realization of its objective.

Finally, President Boni Yayi, the Chairperson of the Union, noted that processes of Regional Consultative conferences developed and consolidated the views, desires and objectives of Africans over all the world into the Draft Declaration that is now before the Assembly. He observed that the Summit was initially supposed to be held in 2008 but that the period since then had been put to good use in order to refine and consolidate the documents. He expressed gratitude for the work of the AU Commission and the South African government in preparing for this Summit and urged all leaders and Ministers to rededicate themselves to implementation of Summit outcomes and to provide necessary resources for this process.

Subsequently, a closed session of the Assembly considered and approved the Draft Declaration that was formally presented by Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa. The integrated Draft Declaration that was adopted had four basic elements. The first was a political declaration embodying vision, purpose and objectives. The second was a Program of Action that highlighted areas and programs required to support the implementation agenda. Third were implementation and follow-up mechanism embodying the instruments that would be employed to facilitate implementations of the outcomes and fourthly, five legacy projects that would give immediate, urgent and practical meaning to the Declaration.

The meeting ended with closing remarks by the Host, President Jacob Zuma and President Boni Yayi, the Chairperson of the African Union.

**Source: JOHANNESBURG, South-Africa, May 28, 2012/African Press Organization (APO).**

## RUFORUM ORGANISES PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT WRITESHOPS AS PART OF CAPACITY STRENGTHENING COMPONENT OF PAEPARD PROJECT

As part of the Platform for African European Partnerships in Agricultural Research for Development (PAEPARD) Project, RUFORUM organised three proposal development writeshops for the recent African Union and EDULINK calls. PAEPARD is a project coordinated by FARA to encourage research partnerships that balance both the needs of users as well as researchers, and also the input from both European and African organisations ([www.paepard.org](http://www.paepard.org); <http://paepard.blogspot.com/>). Together with the International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture in the Netherlands ([www.icra-edu.org](http://www.icra-edu.org)), RUFORUM leads the capacity strengthening component of the project.

As part of this overall activity, RUFORUM organised three writeshops to develop proposals for specific calls for proposals recently announced. In the first two of these writeshops, in Entebbe (March 19-23) and in Cotonou (March 26-30), a total of fifty participants comprising 16 inter-

organisational groups prepared detailed proposals for submission under the African Union Research Call in April, 2012. In the third workshop, held in Entebbe during May 14-18, thirty-seven participants from universities across Africa and Europe worked on a total of 21 proposals for submission to the current Edulink call ([www.acp-edulink.eu](http://www.acp-edulink.eu)).

The workshops were facilitated by Ir. Gerard den Ouden, from the ACP-S&T Management Unit in Brussels, supported by Dr Paul Nampala from RUFORUM. They led participants through the detailed guidelines and requirements of each call, explaining the process of how the proposals are evaluated by the respective financing agencies, and how to prepare a winning proposal. In each workshop, participants worked long hours to refine logical frameworks, activity plans and budgets, reviewing each other's plans in a process of peer review. The resulting proposals should therefore, have a head start in the competitive selection process, and be more ably managed when funded. For more information about the PAEPARD project, contact the RUFORUM Secretariat at ([secretariat@ruforum.org](mailto:secretariat@ruforum.org)).



### COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT IMPRESSA AWARDS 2012

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) announces the 2012 Impact Research and Science in Africa (**IMPRESSA**) Awards competition. The objective of IMPRESSA is to recognize outstanding researchers and scientists who have made significant contribution in the field of agricultural research and science for development in Africa, including human and institutional development.

#### Eligibility

The 2012 IMPRESSA Awards competition will be restricted to agricultural researchers and scientists from the **29 RUFORUM Member Universities**. Participation in the competition is by peer nomination. Both individuals and teams whose work, done in sub-Saharan Africa has contributed to the objectives of IMPRESSA are eligible for nomination.

Deadline for nomination is **30<sup>th</sup> August, 2012**.

For more information, Please visit <http://www.ruforum.org/news/competition-announcement-imprensa-awards-2012>

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2012

#### University of Nairobi-IDRC Research Grants

#### Innovative Application of ICTs in Addressing Water-related Impacts of Climate Change

Objective: This activity is to strengthen the capacity of registered Masters and PhD students in universities in Africa, Asia and Latin America to more effectively engage in research on application of ICTs for water management under changing climatic conditions. Further information regarding the call can be found at: <http://www.ictwcc.or.ke>



## A TESTIMONY FROM A GRADUATE



**RUFORUM Regional Programs impact on the Quality of Graduate.** One of the RUFORUM supported graduates, Dr. Mugerwa Swidiq has been selected to undertake post-doctoral research at the Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel. The institute received many applications but only one candidate was required. In his testimony he said "This demonstrates the high quality of training and supervision obtained during the Dryland Resources Management training at the University of Nairobi." He particularly thanks RUFORUM for developing and funding such a high profile program and applauds the University of Nairobi for executing the implementation of the program with due diligence. Special thanks go to Prof. Adipala Ekwamu and Dr. wellington Ekaya of RUFORUM and Dr. Kinuthia and my dedicated supervisor Dr. Moses Nyangito for the benefit of their guidance". Dr. Mugerwa Swidiq is a Systems ecologist at the National Livestock Resources Research Institute. He can be contacted at [swidiqk@yahoo.com](mailto:swidiqk@yahoo.com). Congratulations Swidiq. You have made us proud!.

## A THANK YOU NOTE

RUFORUM places great emphasis on improving its ability to capture lessons from implementation and providing information for evidence based decision making both for the Secretariat but also in support of building monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity of African universities. RUFORUM partnered with ALIne to facilitate this process. For the last 5 months, Johanna has been working closely with RUFORUM Secretariat in the implementation of M&E. Johanna will be moving to the Swedish Agency of Development Evaluation (SADEV).

In her thank you note, she says "Dear colleagues, It is my last day at ALIne today and I just wanted to get in touch to say thank you. I have really enjoyed working with you all over the last few months and I hope that we will be able to stay in touch. You have been so hospitable and committed and that has really made my work so easy and pleasurable. I have also found Uganda such an exciting and interesting place, I really hope that I have the opportunity to come back. I also want to thank the RUFORUM Core Implementation Team (CIT) and Mrs. Agnes Akwang Obua - Ogwal in particular for the immense commitment to our collaboration. With such dedicated staff, I have no doubt that RUFORUM will be in 'high life mode' very shortly."

Johanna will be taking up a position as Evaluator at the Swedish SADEV. She can be contacted by email: [johanna.lindstrom@sadev.se](mailto:johanna.lindstrom@sadev.se).



Johanna will be replaced by Andre Ling, a Research Officer for ALIne. He has over 9 years of experience working in India and East Africa with a wide range of approaches to M&E including both traditional, participatory and multi-stakeholder approaches and methods, using both quantitative and qualitative data. He has worked on a wide range of programmatic areas, including extensive work on agricultural development and local governance and has conducted research into the complex organisational dynamics underlying processes of learning and change from the community to the organisational level.

Andre will continue with the M&E activities at RUFORUM Secretariat. He can be contacted by email at [a.ling@ids.ac.uk](mailto:a.ling@ids.ac.uk).

## FEATURED PUBLICATIONS



**African universities contributing to agricultural development. The Case of the Bunda College of Agriculture:** Bunda College of Agriculture is one of 29 universities in Eastern, Central, and Southern Africa comprising the RUFORUM. This case study, supported by RUFORUM, is one of a series that recognizes the important role that universities play in contributing to the well-being of small-scale farmers and economic development of countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa. [Read More>>](#)

**Now available: Video toolkit for agricultural projects - Excellent resource for extension:** Face-to-face training between farmers and agricultural practitioners is effective but can be costly. Other approaches, like the training of "expert" farmers, carry the risk of diluting your message. Modern communications technology provides promising options to projects looking to leverage local expertise and scale up their activities. The toolkit will help you use low-cost video to better achieve your development objectives by providing farmers with improved access to agricultural information. Empowered with some basic knowledge, video can be a powerful complementary tool supporting your overall project strategy. [Read more>>](#)

