

# RUFORUM MONTHLY

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

## Makerere Department of Food Science & Technology receives grant of US\$ 2.7m to support incubation activities

The Department of Food Science & Technology, Makerere University has been awarded 4.485 Uganda shillings (US\$ 2.4m) by the Government of Uganda to support its incubation activities in the 2009/2010 financial year. The Department which hosted the President of the Republic of Uganda His Excellence Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009, as part of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations showcased a number of technologies developed by the faculty researchers. Since 2008, the Department has been engaged in supporting commercialization of research outputs, through business and technology incubation. This activity, which was supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, through the Innovations at Makerere Program, has led to commercialization of products such as *bushera* (traditional fermented millet/sorghum gruel), *ntalike* (smoked dry beef), *tofu* (soy cheese), mango sauce and chocolate flavoured peanut paste. The programme addresses need to create job creators and has attracted participation of students and alumni.



Left: His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni at the closing ceremony Right: products from the faculty

At the closing ceremony of the 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebrations for the Department, President Yoweri Museveni, who was the Chief Guest agreed to serve as Patron of the Incubation centre and pledged government support to the activity. Following the President's pledge, the Department was invited to submit a proposal for support to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The Department submitted a proposal requesting financial support of US\$ 2.4m to the Department and establishment of venture

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- *RUFORUM Monthly* is an e-newsletter providing information on activities of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture.
- This *Monthly Brief* is circulated in the last week of every month ■

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**International Conference on Agro-Biotechnology, Biosafety and Seed System in Developing Countries: AGBIOSEED 2010.** Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala Uganda 8-11 March 2010

**RUFORUM strategic Plan Review.** Bellagio, Italy, 12-16 April 2010

**RUFORUM Annual General Meeting Zimbabwe,** 4-6 August 2010

**RUFORUM Biennial Conference.** 13-17 September, 2010

**Ministerial Conference on Higher Education in Africa.** Speke Hotel Munyonyo-Uganda. 15-19 November, 2010

**RUFORUM Deans Meeting,** 17-21 May, 2010

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

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

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## Department of Food Science & Technology receives grant of US\$ 2.4m to support incubation activities

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capital for University graduates and other small scale industrialists. After several consultative meetings with Government officials, Cabinet approved the requested funds for the Department and authorized a total of 5 billion shillings (approximately US\$2.7m). The grant was announced at a meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2009, at State House Entebbe, at which the President informed the Department's staff and students that Government was committed to continue supporting the program beyond the grant approved for the 2009/2010 financial year.

The grant to the Department will be used to equip the pilot plant with a variety of food processing facilities, including lines for processing meat, dairy and grain products. The funds will also help to equip the food

chemistry, food microbiology and nutrition labs with modern analytical equipment and to support research geared towards technology development. The Department has also developed a plan to enhance its support to business start ups, particularly those based on technologies developed by researchers at Makerere University.

These developments at Makerere University have greatly energized students. Since the announcement of the grant, several students in the Department have shown commitment to venture into commercialization of products developed during their training. The Department is committed to playing a catalytic role in this important step towards developing a generation of entrepreneurial graduates.

## SCARDA holds a Regional Program-wide strategies and learning workshop

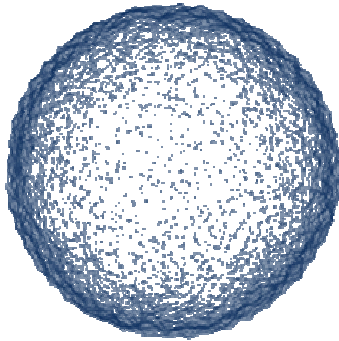
The Regional Universities Forum for capacity building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a lead service provider for Strengthening Capacity of Agriculture Research and Development in Africa (SCARDA) project in particular, Eastern Africa. The SCARDA programme is halfway through the time available for implementation. A mid term review of the project was conducted and important recommendations were drawn. At the moment, SCARDA has made significant progress and important lessons have been learnt so far at national, sub regional and regional levels. Documenting and sharing lessons on the SCARDA approach to capacity strengthening is a key activity in the project. A continental programme-wide strategies and learning workshop was organized in Ghana, Accra at the Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA) offices from 27<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009.

The participants for the workshop were implementing entities of SCARDA, these are; FARA, RUFORUM, ANAFE, ASARECA, CORAF, SADC, NRI (Natural Resource Institute), CRI (Crop Research Institute, Kumasi Ghana) and the three Focal Institutions ( ISAR, ISABU and ARC), among others. The objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Reflect and capture lessons emerging from implementation and develop mechanisms towards improving the implementation of SCARDA.
2. Share experiences from other sub-regions that would enrich the SCARDA implementation.

The major outputs of the workshop included, SCARDA process analysis at regional level, a report on lessons learnt and implication for implementation of SCARDA and formation of working /resource groups for SCARDA on M&E, communication, gender, mentorship for students and focal institutions staff members and change management for the focal institutions within the SCARDA project. RUFORUM was represented by Ms Sylvia Chindime from Training and Quality Assurance Department and Prof Adipala Ekwamu, the Regional Coordinator. In an interview with FARA Communications Officer, Francois Stepman during the workshop, Professor Adipala compared SCARDA project to an action research project. He said there are several ways of dealing with change inside the agricultural research departments all over the continent which he felt needed to be explored.

## Universities have a Niche out of Copenhagen Climate Change Conference (COP15)



### COP15 COPENHAGEN

RUFORUM was represented in at the recently concluded World Conference on Climate (The Fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the fifth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 5), in Copenhagen, Denmark from 7th to 18th November 2009. The conference which was a culmination of of many meetings brought together scientists, world leaders, civil society representatives, private sector investors and other actors. Dr Washington Ochola, RUFORUM Programme Manager – Planning Monitoring and Evaluation – a climate change expert with wide experience and publications in climate change science joined several other world experts during the meeting held at the Bella Centre Copenhagen, Denmark. Support for his participation came from The Common market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) which is partnership with RUFORUM in various capacity development initiatives including climate change adaptation.



**Dr Ochola in circle with Kenyan Prime Minister, H.E. Raila Odinga and members of Kenya's parliamentary Select Committee on Environment at the Conference**

The meeting was aimed at getting world leaders and nations to have a comprehensive climate agreement by addressing the key challenges: targets and actions; financing (of "low-carbon development and adapta-

tion"); and building an effective global carbon market". The meeting witnessed long hours of negotiations and

drafting with hundreds of side-events show-casing wide range of initiatives and exhibits. The international climate change agreement at Copenhagen worked with pre-conference meeting outputs of the Ad Hoc Working Group under the Kyoto protocol (AWG-KP) and the Ad Hoc Working –term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA). Dr Ochola took part in many country level and Africa-wide negotiations, attended a number of side events including those targeting capacity building, technology measures, technology Action Programs, Side Event on Technology Transfer. Dr Ochola also met a number of donor representatives who expressed willingness to work with African universities in addressing climate change.

Some demonstrations and protests occurred during the two-week conference. The "Copenhagen Accord" that emerged after the conference



however, fell short of the expectations of many observers nevertheless the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the US-backed climate deal as an "essential beginning". The Copenhagen Accord recognises the scientific case for keeping temperature rises below 2°C, but does not contain commitments for reduced emissions that would be necessary to achieve that aim. One part of the agreement pledges US\$ 30 billion to the developing world over the next three years, rising to US\$ 100 billion per year by 2020, to help poor countries adapt to climate change. Earlier proposals, that would have aimed to limit temperature rises to 1.5°C and cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 80% by 2050 were dropped. An agreement was also reached that would set up a deal to reduce deforestation in return for cash from developed countries. The agreement made was non-binding but

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## Universities have a Niche out of Copenhagen Climate Change Conference (COP15)

U.S. President Obama said that countries could show the world their achievements. On the capacity building side universities have a key role to play in backing any further actions in international negotiations, adaptation and mitigation measures, policy formulation, technology development and training.



**Meeting of ACCKN members with The Terrestrial Carbon Group (TCG)**

At the end of the meeting special focus was made on climate change and its relationship with agriculture. Under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative

Action of the Convention (AWG – LCA) under Cooperative sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions in agriculture [BAP, 1b(iv)] a text evolved that calls on *“Parties to promote and cooperate in the research, development, including transfer, of technologies, practices and processes that control, reduce or prevent anthropogenic GHG*

emissions that could improve the efficiency and productivity of agriculture systems thereby contributing to food and livelihood security.” This position is further reinforced by paragraph 7 of the Copenhagen Accord which states that “we decide to pursue various approaches, including opportunities to use markets, to enhance the cost-effectiveness of, and to promote mitigation actions. Developing countries, especially those with low emitting economies should be provided incentives to continue to develop on a low emission pathway.”

Mainstreaming climate change in university curriculum and other activities is no longer a luxury and RUFORUM is repositioning itself to lead this process through strategic partnerships, resource mobilization and capacity building. For instance, during the meeting, the steering committee of the COMESA backed African Climate Change Knowledge Networks met on a daily basis to consolidate ideas for expanding the impact of the network. A number of post-Copenhagen activities have been lined up beginning with a meeting held in Nairobi between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15 January 2010 to plan activities of the network.

### THE RUFORUM FIELD ATTACHMENT PROGRAM AWARD (FAPA)

RUFORUM announces the **Field Attachment Programme (FAPA)** which is intended to improve training at post-graduate level specifically through ensuring quality and relevance of the university graduates to the job market. This is expected through improvement in the connections between graduate students and their target job markets i.e. to the relevant firms that offer employment particularly with local government, NGOs, and the private sector (especially agribusiness firms). The Programme makes available Fifteen (15) awards each year to M.Sc. and PhD students participating in RUFORUM programmes. Relevant details are described below. There is an open call, available on the RUFORUM Website ([www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org)), where proposals are submitted throughout the year. The grants are for up to a maximum of US\$2,000 for a maximum period of 3 months to cover subsistence and other basic requirements for MSc. Students being trained under RUFORUM Programmes and attached to RUFORUM Universities. Proposals may be received throughout the year, but will usually be considered only twice a year (normally August/September and February/March).

For more information, please contact: **The Grants Manager RUFORUM Secretariat**, [secretariat@ruforum.org](mailto:secretariat@ruforum.org) with copies to [m.osiru@ruforum.org](mailto:m.osiru@ruforum.org) and [ntwalica@gmail.com](mailto:ntwalica@gmail.com)

## EU Awards grants to RUFORUM to support Science and Technology Capacity Initiatives

The European Union, through its Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Science and technology (S&T) programmes has awarded RUFORUM three 3-year grants to support capacity enhancement initiatives under biodiversity, university outreach and agricultural innovations. The three projects running from November 2009 have brought together many partners in Africa and beyond. The projects, with a total budget of 3.5 Million EURO are as follows:

| Project Title  | Partners   | Total Budget (€) |
|--|--|------------------|
| Building human and institutional capacity for enhancing the conservation and use of neglected and underutilized species of crops in West Africa, and Eastern and Southern Africa     | ANAFE; University of Nairobi; University of Malawi; Institut de Recherché et de Développement sur la Biodiversité des Plantes Cultivées, Aromatiques et Médicinales (IRDCAM), Benin; Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, - Plant Genetic Resources Research Institute, Ghana; Biodiversity International, Rome; International Foundation of Sciences (IFS), Sweden | 1,111,216.02     |
| Building the capacity of African University graduates to foster change through agricultural innovation   | Egerton University (Kenya); Makerere University (Uganda); University of Malawi (Bunda College of Agriculture), Malawi; Royal Tropical Institute - KIT (Netherlands)  | 1,175,352.00     |
| Shifting from Outreach to Engagement: transforming Universities response to current development trends in agricultural research and training in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa | Moi University, Kenya; Makerere University, Uganda; University of Malawi, Malawi; Wageningen University and Research Centre, Netherland  | 1,172,940        |

## Irene Birungi ties the Knot to Mr. Lubega James



**Mr and Mrs Lubega with friends after the church services**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2009, Irene Birungi, introduced her fiancée, Mr. James Lubega, to her family at her father's home in Bushenyi District in Western Uganda. The Ceremony was attended by RUFORUM staff, family, friends and well wishers. The couple tied the knot at Mutundwe Christian Fellowship Church on the 21<sup>st</sup> No-

vember 2009 which was followed by a very colourful wedding reception.

Mrs. Irene Birungi Lubega holds the position of Administrative Assistant at the RUFORUM Secretariat.

RUFORUM wishes Mr. and Mrs. Lubega a great marriage and would like to congratulate the happy couple upon the success of the ceremonies



**Above: Mrs. Irene Birungi Lubega**