

RUFORUM MONTHLY

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

RUFORUM HOLDS ITS 7TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING “Agricultural Tertiary Education in Africa: Re-orienting Capacity Building through University Networking”

As part of its constitutional requirement, RUFORUM held its 7th Annual General Meeting (AGM), 29-30 August 2011 in Lilongwe, Malawi. The AGM is the supreme organ of RUFORUM, defining its policy frameworks and strategic orientation. The 7th AGM was attended by Vice Chancellors and Deans of Agricultural related faculties from the 29 member universities, core members and associate members. Policy makers from the Government of Malawi, Development partners and several other development actors from across Africa attended the AGM. This particular AGM approved the second RUFORUM Business / Operational Plan, that will guide RUFORUM Investments during the next 5 years (2011-2016).

The business Plan will focus on the five key areas below:

1. **Core Area 1:** Demand driven research, Community Action and Institutional Strengthening Grants (underpinned by the Competitive Grants System)
2. **Core Area 2:** Activities to guide and support research and institutional grants
3. **Core Area 3:** Monitoring and Evaluating
4. **Core Area 4:** Harnessing ICT for Improved performance at the Secretariat and Universities
5. **Core Area 5:** Tightening and Enhancing RUFORUM Governance and Management



Above: The RUFORUM Board Members at the Annual General Meeting, 2011 in Lilongwe, Malawi

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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

Higher Education for Development Partner Meeting, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 5 - 6 December 2011

10th African Crop Science Society Conference, Maputo, Mozambique. 10-13 October, 2011

ASARECA General Assembly, Entebbe, Uganda 12-16 December, 2011

Agricultural Science and Technology Innovations (ASTI) Workshop, Accra, Ghana 5-7 December, 2011

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

More information on RUFORUM activities can be accessed on the RUFORUM BLOG at [http:// ruforum.wordpress.com](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; or visit RUFORUM Website at www.ruforum.org.



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A total of US\$30 million will be needed to implement the Plan. The AGM also reviewed achievements and challenges of the past five years. There was consensus that RUFORUM had established itself as a leading platform and voice for integrating African Universities in development process and practice. Remarkable progress had also been made in catalysing demand driven research linked to postgraduate training to address the needs of smallholder farmers. The establishment of National Forums, multi-stakeholder platforms for linking universities to development processes had provided feedback on university research for development process and opportunity for linking with other actors. The pilot joint regional MSc and PhD training programmes were also on target, with over 600 MSc and 85 PhD students trained against the target of 800 MSc and 150 PhD students to be trained by 2014. Virtually all the students who have completed studies are working in their home countries championing development processes. There was however still the challenge of how to gain national government commitment to increase their contribution to RUFORUM budget which currently stands at only 8%. Member

universities committed themselves to engage with their governments to ensure integrations of Higher Education in Agriculture in the country investment plans through the Comprehensive Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) Compact process.

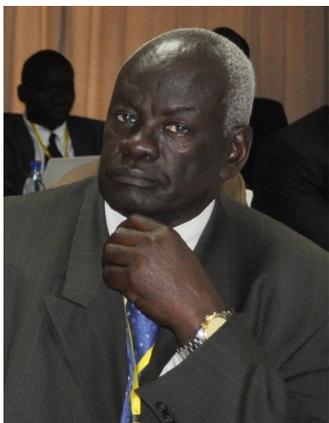
During the AGM, Professor Livingstone Luboobi, the former Vice Chancellor of Makerere University and Professor Zimani Kadzamira David, the former Vice Chancellor of University of Malawi, were recognized for their outstanding contribution to RUFORUM. Prof. Luboobi and Prof. Zimani served as RUFORUM Board Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, during the formative stage of RUFORUM (2004-2009).

The RUFORUM 2011 Malawi AGM elected Professor Levi Nyagura, the current Vice Chancellor of University of Zimbabwe as the RUFORUM Board Chair. Professor Pen-Mogi-Nyeko, the Vice Chancel-

lor of Gulu university in Uganda was elected the Deputy Chair. The two officials will serve for three years. The 2011 AGM was organized by University of Malawi who not only arranged the AGM but also organized a field trip to Bunda College of Agriculture, where staff and students exhibited their research and training programs.



Above: Prof. Levi Nyagura, Vice Chancellor, University of Zimbabwe



Above: Prof. Pen-Mogi-Nyeko, Vice Chancellor, Gulu University



Above: Professor Livingstone Luboobi, the former Vice Chancellor of Makerere University receiving his award



Above: Professor Zimani Kadzamira David, the former Vice Chancellor of University of Malawi, receiving his award

ONE OF OUR STUDENTS' TELLS HER STORY—DOING A PHD IN 3 YEARS



Above: Mary Baaru, a graduate student who shares her experiences

The journey started back in September, 2008 after RUFORUM advertised a 3 year PhD programme, with 1 year intensive course work and 2 year research, a science based programme of its own kind in the University of Nairobi. I am one of those people who thought the programme was an ambitious one despite being one of the lucky persons to be awarded a

scholarship. The stories I had heard about PhD studies in the University of Nairobi had seemed to justify this thinking. All I knew was that finishing PhD studies took at least 4 years if one was lucky, otherwise, it would take as long 10 years. When I got into this programme, I was therefore prepared to remain a student in the University of Nairobi for not less than four years. However, I was in for rude shock as I am one of the proud students who has managed to completed my PhD studies from the prestigious University of Nairobi in 3 year record time.

Let me highlight some of the things I think made this programme successive.

The one year coursework did us good!!! It's during this time that most of us were able to jog, reorganize, and put our minds into a reading mood. This time instilled in me a reading culture that propelled me to the finishing line. It's still during this time that we were able to develop a rapport with lecturers who could latter become supervisors of our work. This meant that one would not spend more time trying to understand the dos and don'ts of the supervisors since this had already happened earlier during course work.

Due to the way PhD studies are administered, more often than not, it's a very lonely journey. Unlike a Masters programme, PhD studies start and end at any time of the year. This means that as a PhD student, you might never know any other person apart from your supervisors. Could be RUFORUM did not have this in mind when the programme started, but this is a very strong cornerstone to the success of this programme. During the time we were together, we were able to build relationships that helped us get where we are today. Through these interactions, we rediscovered our abilities and realized that we had so much wealth of knowledge, which was crucial to the success of all of us. The links developed were sus-

tained all through to the research phase and each one of us was interested in knowing the progress of the other, hence occasionally one would receive or send emails just to know how far the other is. This, kind of kept one on the toes, as you did not want to always say you are stuck at one point forever. Also knowing that the challenges experienced were not unique and that they happened to each of us gave us confidence to continue.

The interest of the supervisors to see me finish in 3 year made the drive to continue and not to fade way. Actually, one of my supervisors kept telling me how many months were left to finish. Although he kept doing this, I was still not convinced until one meeting he called for all his 5 PhD students. The agenda was to report on the progress and when one was to give the first draft of the thesis. Two students gave their report before me and they all indicated they were to give their first draft within the next 2 months. When it came to my turn, I thought and thought. Do I say the next 6 months, which meant I could not finish in 3 years? I also remembered, aaaahaa!!! I had study leave for 4 years and so I needed not worry since I still had a whole year for my studies. However, I said in the next 3 months for the sake of it anyway. When we left the meeting I decided to do the best I could by giving quality time to my work. Within the first one, I had accomplished so much such that when I synthesized everything, I saw it was possible to give the first draft in the next two months and this energized me. It was now time to put everything on hold and really concentrate on my work. I remember for about two months, I was on my laptop day and night and I can with no doubt say that these two months made me be one of the students who has made RUFORUM proud and changed the image of the University of Nairobi.

One may want to doubt and say that 3 years is a short period to do good work but I want to say that it's possible to do excellent work worthy of a Doctorate degree in exactly three years. In fact, one of my papers won a first presenters award in a conference held in Nairobi, Kenya in April 2011. It just shows that it's not the number of years spent to do a PhD but rather the quality of work. In this era when Africa is experiencing a great shortage of PhD holders, this is the way to go in order to shorten the time to build capacity.

The African Universities needs to realign and embrace this new thinking. It is better, It is easier, It is manageable, It is possible. Go for it!

The writer is a Mary Baaru. She can be contacted at bmwamuyu@gmail.com

RUFORUM ALUMNI—EXPERIENCES FROM OUR GRADUATES



My name is Kanobe Charles. I am a 3rd year PhD. student at Iowa State University in the USA, majoring in Genetics. My research is focusing on genetic and metabolic changes occurring during soybean-soybean aphid interaction. This is important because

aphids have been reported to interfere with plant defense systems against herbivores. Previous research in our lab showed that aphid infestation results in differential expression of fatty acid biosynthesis and metabolic related genes. Linolenic acid, one of the five major fatty acids in soybeans is the precursor of jasmonic acid via the oxylipin pathway. The accumulation of jasmonic acid in plants cells damaged by herbivores is essential for induction of effective defense against insects. Thus we hypothesize that aphid feeding results in the reduction of the level of linolenic acid available in the plant cells causing a decrease in amount of jasmonic acid produced in the damaged tissues and a corresponding blockage of jasmonic acid mediated defense during plant-aphid interaction. The aphids hijack the physiology and metabolic machinery of the plant, blocking the production of precursors of defense signaling molecules.

Prior to starting my PhD. studies, I did a Bachelors degree (Agriculture) and Masters Degree (Crop Science) at Makerere University. My MSc. thesis was focused on evaluation of the efficiency of on-farm seed processing methods as means to improve seed health of cowpeas. This was done under the supervision of Professor Adipala Ekwamu (RUFORUM) and Dr. Richard Edema (Makerere University).

The transition to the American education system was not as easy as I thought it would be. The biggest challenge was balancing coursework load and research since you need to attain at least 72 credits prior to graduation. This is a common challenge to graduate students enrolled in biological sciences programs. As such you tend to take the minimum class credits each semester that extends the time you spend doing class work to two or three years. Although I had done some of the courses that were required for genetics majors during my MSc. at Makerere Univer-

sity, I was not able to transfer any credits and hence I had to repeat most of them altogether. However, in the end, I appreciated the content more than I did at the previous level since here all the subject matter was handled more seriously. The professors make it a point to teach the assigned classes throughout the semester other than passing them on to the less experienced graduate students. There is also easy access to study materials such as text books that are up to date as well as the internet service that is almost available anywhere on campus. Emphasis is also put on discussing the most recent literature through reading and discussing journal articles with professors.

Another challenge that I found starting my PhD was having to switch from my majorly plant pathology training to basic genetics and biochemistry. However, our previous training at Masters helped a lot because for all the concepts we were being taught, I had an idea although not in the greatest detail at times. Generally speaking, our training at MSc. and BSc. is quite good enough to make us as competitive as our counterparts from the developed world who have an edge in academic infrastructure and preparation. This is evident in our grades that are either similar or even better than those of other students from superior academic backgrounds.

My last thought goes to all students planning to engage in graduate studies. There are many opportunities for graduate studies here in the United States especially for international students. However, not many Ugandan students have taken the trouble to exploit them. Most of the time we are ill prepared for the graduate entry exams, if we sit for them at all and this makes us less competitive during the admission process. Therefore, if you are interested in graduate education in the United States, invest in preparation for GRE and come take on new challenges in education. Good luck! **He can be contacted at Email: ckanobe@iastate.edu**

NEW DEADLINE DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE FOURTH CALL FOR PROPOSALS - 30 OCTOBER, 2011
RU/CGS/GRG/30/9/11

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IDRC SUPPORTS RUFORUM TO STRATEGIZE ON M&E CAPACITY BUILDING



In June 2010, RUFORUM received a grant from the International Development and Research Centre – IDRC, Canada to develop short and long term strategies for building capacity for M&E at the Secretariat and in member universities. A regional scoping workshop on “*Strengthening Capacity for Monitoring and Evaluation of Agricultural Training and Research in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa*” was held from 20th to 22nd July, 2011 in Kampala, Uganda. The project was necessitated by the prevailing low capacity to track agricultural capacity building and research; gather, manage and disseminate reliable data, information and knowledge for improved regional agricultural

knowledge management, learning systems; and the limited monitoring and evaluation expertise. The workshop was attended by representatives from twelve RUFORUM member universities, National Research Institutions, private consultants and NGOs.

Inadequacies exist in the mechanisms, tools and competencies for gathering, managing and disseminating reliable data, information and knowledge for improved regional agricultural knowledge management, learning systems and M&E expertise. Universities are better poised produce high calibre professionals in both monitoring and evaluation. The universities and other institutions also need to build resident, elaborate and innovative capacity for M&E. Despite this demand, the baseline survey on M&E for agricultural tertiary education in eastern, central and southern Africa by RUFORUM in 2009 established that there exist at varying levels only basic aspects of M&E.

The workshop discussed and designed specific strategies for improving M&E Capacities Structures and Systems of the RUFORUM Secretariat and the Grantees with respect to effectively managing, monitoring and evaluating grants (CGS); RUFORUM funded regional post- graduate programmes and using the results of M&E to build evidence based knowledge for dissemination and advocacy. [With reference to Improving M&E Capacities in the Universities](#), the workshop designed strategies for having M&E established in the universities, and strengthening capacity to do M&E in the universities and the broader agricultural sector. The workshop outputs have been will be synthesized and are being used to design a regional strategy for short, medium and long-term training and other capacity strengthening approaches for RUFORUM member universities on M&E for agricultural research and training.

For more information contact Dr Washington Ochola, Programme Manager – Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation at w.ochola@ruforum.org or Agnes Akwang Obua-Ogwai, M&E Officer at w.akwang@ruforum.org

FEEDBACK ON RUFORUM CAPACITY BUILDING EFFORTS



I am MBONIHANKUYE Cyrille from Burundi. I am working in ISABU in the Horticulture Program. I am a former MSc student at Sokoine University of Agriculture, Department of Crop Science in Horticulture under SCARDA sponsorship. For the moment, I am in my country awaiting graduation in November this year. The training at Sokoine has helped strengthen my professional carrier and prepared me well to undertake research in Burundi. Before the training I was not having sufficient knowledge and skills to conduct research. The fact that the training was in an English speaking country helped me to know this important language and enabled me to interact with people from several African countries.

For my Institute (ISABU), I am participating in many activities such as developing and implementing projects, helping in writing reports specially those which are in English. For my country, I have introduced new varieties of vegetables and fruits which are being evaluated under Burundian conditions. I am also sensitizing young Burundians to find some scholarships to do their degree training in Eastern African countries, so that they can overcome their language problem in English.

Our Institute (ISABU) does not have PhD trained researchers; moreover we have very few MSc level trained scientists. This is a major problem especially for designing and implementing impact R&D, and for competitive projects where PhD holders and experienced scientists are required to run projects. Personally, I wish to get a scholarship for PhD degree training so that I can improve further my capacity for research and therefore be more competitive. Indeed, it will be good to get many more Burundians trained at postgraduate level. Burundi, especially ISABU, needs many scholarships for MSc and PhD degree to conduct good research activities. He can be contacted at **Email: mbonicyrille@yahoo.fr**

PROFILING SOME OF RUFORUM RESEARCH OUTPUTS



Gender: Female
Nationality: Kenyan
Email address:
 wanja_muniyiri@yahoo.co.uk
University: Egerton University
Program: Agronomy
Funding Agency: RUFORUM
Year of Graduation: 2008
MSc Thesis Title:

Phenotypic characterization of selected local maize landraces for drought tolerance based on flowering stress and their resistance to Larger grain borer (*Prostephanus Truncatus*) in Kenya

Key Words: Anthesis-silking interval, drought, leaf rolling, ears/plant, grain yield

MSc Thesis abstract: Maize is staple food in Kenya and is grown in almost all agro-ecological zones. The average maize yield in the highlands is about 3.5 t/ha while that for the arid and semi arid (ASALs) low altitude areas is less than 1.3 t/ha. Arid and semi arid areas constitute about 82% of the total land area and supports about 20% of the country's human population. The demand for more food culminating from the population increase and the migration of people from high potential areas to semi arid lowlands has led to maize growing in marginal areas. Kenya's ASALs are home to the very rural poor who practice subsistence farming as a livelihood. Local landraces of maize are an important livelihood resource in these areas. The objective of the study was to characterize selected Kenyan local maize landraces for drought tolerance and resistance to larger grain borer in storage. The characterization for drought tolerance was carried out using secondary traits that exhibit high heritability for drought tolerance such as grain yield, anthesis-silking interval (ASI), tassel size, ears per plant and leaf rolling. The experiment was laid out in a lattice design (unbalanced) each with sixty-four maize genotypes. A second experiment to evaluate drought tolerance was conducted for landraces that exhibited favorable tolerance characteristics. This experiment was laid out in a split plot (RCBD) design with water levels (water stressed and unstressed, at flowering) as the main plots and germplasm as the sub plots. Irrigation was withheld one week to tasseling and resumed forty days later in water stressed plots. The well-watered plots had continuous irrigation. The field experiments were carried out at KARI-Masongaleni field station in Kibwezi district, which falls under agro-ecological zone VI. Among the characters evaluated, a low ASI (1-6 days) was associated with a high level of drought tolerance and low yield losses under moisture stress. Drought stress resulted in 17% to 81% relative grain yield losses. Germplasm GBK-032419, DT/BT/1470.DT and GBK-034659 exhibited lowest grain yield losses of 28%, 22% and 17% while KTL N 70140-4, KTL N 10162-1 and Makueni Dry Land Composite (control) exhibited high grain yield losses of 81%, 70% and 68%, respectively. However, Katumani inbred lines DT/BT/1917.DT and DG/BT/2443.DT, though exhibiting the shortest ASI of

about 1 day experienced about 50% grain yield loss under moisture stress. In general, an increase in number of ears per plant, 100-seed weight, increased plant height, high shelling %, reduced leaf rolling and low ASI were associated with yield increases under water stress. Germplasm that exhibited favorable drought tolerance characteristics were CML-492, DT/BT/1917.DT, DT/BT/1470.DT, DG/BT/2443.DT, GBK-044593, GBK-032419, GBK-032423, GBK-34659, KTL N 701104 and GBK-032357. The most susceptible germplasm (ASI between 12-17 days) were KTL N 70133-3, KTL N 10168-1, Katumani Composite B, Makueni Dry Land Composite, KTL N 10168-2, GBK-043227, GBK-034711 and GBK-027054. The germplasm that exhibited drought tolerance characteristics were further evaluated for resistance to larger grain borer (LGB) damage in storage. This experiment was conducted at CIMMYT field laboratory-Kiboko. Samples were laid out in complete randomized design and replicated three times. Although no absolute resistance existed, most landraces exhibited higher levels of resistance to LGB than the control variety H614. The germplasm with the highest resistance level was CML-492, while GBK-043731 had the lowest level. Germplasm CML-492, DT/BT/1971.DT, DT/BT/1470.DT, DG/BT/2443.DT, GBK-044593, GBK-032419, GBK-032423, GBK-34659 and GBK-032357 exhibited tolerance to drought and also resistance to LGB relative to control H614. Katumani Composite B, though exhibiting susceptibility to drought, had a high level of resistance to LGB than most local landraces. It was concluded that some Kenyan local landraces exhibit drought tolerance characteristics and also resistance to LGB. According to factor analysis, the phenotypic characteristics evaluated for drought tolerance accounted for 68% of the total variation.

Describe what you are doing/ have done after the MSc study?

On the completion of my M.Sc studies, I resumed my duties at the Ministry of Agriculture where I was redeployed as a secretariat member and field officer at Central Agricultural Board which is under the directorate of Policy and External relations. The board advice the Minister of Agriculture on agricultural issues that need policy attention from the farmers' perspective. Two years after resuming work in 2006 (I completed my M.Sc while on duty); I got the wonderful opportunity to pursue a PhD program in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology at Makerere University, Uganda. I embarked on this 3 years journey in November 2008 which included a 1 year taught course work followed by 2 years research work. Maize being the staple food in the poor sub-Saharan region, and having worked on the crop during my M.Sc study, I sought to join the CIMMYT-Kenya maize improvement program as a research scholar. I was accepted in early 2009 and joined the institution in late 2009. I have since been carrying out research on genetics of resistance to maize stem borers for my PhD Thesis. I am conducting both field trials in Kenya and genotyping studies at the BecA Hub in Nairobi. I am currently analyzing my data and also drafting my 1st paper which I will be submitting for publication by November 2011.

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PROFILING SOME OF RUFORUM RESEARCH OUTPUTS



Name: James Kyalo Mwololo

Gender: Male

Nationality: Kenyan

Email address: mwololo-

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University: University of Nairobi

Program: Agronomy

Funding Agency: RUFORUM

Year of Graduation: 2008

MSc Thesis Title: Evaluation of sweet potato varieties Response to the sweet potato virus disease

Key Words: Sweet potato virus disease, tolerance, multiplication, dissemination

MSc Thesis abstract: Sweetpotato is an important food, feed and cash crop in Eastern Africa but its productivity is greatly reduced by the sweetpotato virus disease (SPVD). Variety based tolerance to SPVD is a cheap and sustainable way of increasing productivity for smallholder farmers who are the predominant producers. The objectives of the study were to (i) identify the best technology for multiplication and maintenance of healthy sweetpotato planting vines, (ii) evaluate and disseminate farmer-preferred sweet potato varieties tolerant to SPVD. A study to evaluate the best technology (spraying, maize barrier, control, net and polyethylene cover) to multiply and maintain healthy planting vines was conducted at University of Nairobi Kabete Field Station farm. Sweet potato varieties were evaluated for tolerance to SPVD in three sites at the coast between May 2006 and February 2007 at Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI)- Mtwapa in Kilifi district and two on-farm sites in Lukore and Mwaluvanga locations, Kwale district. The experimental design in the three experiments was randomised complete block design. Net and polythene covers effectively excluded insect vectors. Spraying kept the population low compared to the maize barrier. A preliminary survey revealed that farmers lacked adequate knowledge on SPVD diagnosis and management. Variety based tolerance was identified among sweet potato varieties that had farmer and market desired traits. Disease incidence was positively correlated to vector population. The yield of the tolerant varieties was high and stable in seasons and sites. Tolerant varieties had

thicker leaf cuticle and longer internodes while hairy varieties tended to be susceptible. Farmers learnt that roguing is a cheap effective way of managing the SPVD disease in both nursery and field. Varieties were disseminated in the region and more than fifty farmers planted them. Dissemination of disease tolerant sweet potato varieties with desirable traits coupled with building farmers capacity to maintain clean vines can sustain sweet potato productivity.

Describe what you are doing/ have done after the MSc study?

After completing my Msc studies I worked briefly as a farm manager in a private farm in Kenya after which I joined the Ministry of Agriculture in Kenya as an agricultural officer. I left the Ministry of Agriculture to undertake my PhD studies after 8 months and I am currently in my final year of PhD studies in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology at Makerere University, Uganda. My PhD research is hosted by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT-Nairobi, Kenya) whereby the focus is on generating genetic information towards adopting Marker Assisted Selection in breeding for storage pest resistance in maize. Along with my PhD research I joined Pwani University College (Constituent college of Kenyatta University) as an assistant Lecturer in May 2010.

What are your current and future interests and how you do you plan to pursue this path?

My current and future interests are to reach the top of the hierarchy in research for development through learning new technical skills and management aspects. My desire is to have a contribution in the science world and human welfare by participating and advancing in the fields of Plant Breeding/Genetics and Biotechnology, Plant Physiology, Environmental science and community development for sustainable agricultural production in the wake of climate change. I will be more gratified if I make a tangible contribution to the poor through agricultural research. This will be enhanced by writing proposals and securing funds for research projects in the latter fields immediately after completing my PhD studies.

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What are your current and future interests and how do you plan to pursue this path?

My current and future interest/prospect is to first finalize my PhD study and graduate. I have commenced drafting papers for publication of my PhD research findings in peer-reviewed journals. I am also currently positioning myself for a job opportunity/assignment in a research oriented institution. I have started and will continue to embark on writing grant winning research proposals which will help carry out research on pertinent areas of crop production constraints that contribute to poverty in Africa. I will endeavor to continue publishing my research findings in peer-reviewed journals for improved visibility and networking. I hope to become a Professor in about 5-10 years. Ultimately, I look forward to rising to the position of a Director General of a Breeding Program in Africa that will be geared towards improving the quality of life for rural smallholders/households and especially with benefits for women. I hope to rise to a position where I can authoritatively and confidently influence agricultural policy in the region for improved crop production. The rural poor needs to access improved seeds that are tolerant and /resistant to the major constraints that afflict crop productivity at free or affordable costs. I hope to improve livelihoods through breeding and availing such improved seeds in Africa and beyond through conducting impact oriented research.

PROFILING SOME OF RUFORUM RESEARCH OUTPUTS



Gender: Male
Nationality: Zimbabwean
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University: Egerton University
Program: Agricultural Information & Communication Management (AICM)
Funding Agency: RUFORUM
Year of Graduation: 2011

MSc Thesis Title: Access and utilization of agro meteorological information by smallholder farmers in Perkerra and Lariwendani irrigation schemes, Kenya

Key Words: Agro-meteorological information, Access, Utilization, Small-scale irrigation farmers

MSc Thesis abstract: Weather and climate variability are the major production risks and uncertainties impacting agricultural systems performance and management. This study investigated the access and factors that influence the utility of agro meteorological information by smallholder irrigation farmers in Lari Wendani and Perkerra irrigation schemes in Kenya. A systematic random sampling procedure was employed to select 255 farmers from a total population of 776 farmers. In Lari Wendani 33 farmers were interviewed and 222 farmers were interviewed in Perkerra irrigation scheme. These interviews were conducted after a pretest was done in Lari Wendani on 15 farmers who were attending a horticultural and marketing course. Structured questionnaires were used to elicit responses from the households. The units of measurements were farmers, irrigation and extension staff. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as mean, percentage, ranking, standard deviation, χ^2 -test, and Spearman Correlation Coefficient. A multiple regression analysis model was used to analyze the influence of several independent variables on access to and utilization of agro meteorological information.

Results indicated that 98% of the farmers were able to access agro meteorological information through radio. More than 60% indicated that they could not access meteorological information from bulletins, mobile, internet, extension, and barazas. Inadequate extension (72%) was cited as a major factor affecting farmers' access to weather forecasts. More than 50% of the respondents made decisions always in the event that they received seasonal forecasts, onset date of the main rains and information on the expected amount of rainfall. The factors affecting farmers' adoption of agro meteorological information were related to the inaccuracy of forecasts; inadequate weather forecasts information for meaningful decisions and the delay in releasing seasonal forecasts giving farmers less time to make preparations. It was concluded that socio-economic factors affect the level of adoption of agro meteorological innovations. The study emphasizes the need for training in extension in relation to dissemination of agro meteorological innovations and the use of feasible demonstrations to enhance the adoption of agro meteorological products.

Describe what you are doing/ have done after the MSc study?

Currently I am working at Africa University as a part-time lecturer in the Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources. I am in the process of developing some teaching material for a course in communication skills in Agriculture & Natural Resources which I intend to integrate with AICM fundamentals.

What are your current and future interests and how do you plan to pursue this path?

I am currently interested in the potential contribution of ICT to the livelihoods of small scale farmers, especially the use of mobile technologies in agricultural and rural development. Through my MSc. in AICM I have realized that information technology can bring together the health, natural and social sciences to help identify and solve problems in the everyday world. I intend to study for an interdisciplinary PhD in informatics or Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D).

Vacancies within the Network

Botswana University of Agriculture:

1. Professor & Associate Professor Rangeland Management & Wildlife Ecology & Management & Animal Nutrition (ASP)
2. Senior Lecturer Food Science (FST) & Lecturer Processing- Advert (AEL) (August 2011)
3. CSP Professor, Associate Professor in Agronomy & Associate Professor, Senior Lecturer in Plant Pathology
4. This advertisement is also available at University of Botswana Website: http://www.ub.bw/staff_vacancies.cfm?pid=226 and on the RUFORUM Website: <http://www.ruforum.org/documents/vacancies-bostwana-university-agriculture>

RUFORUM Secretariat:

Job Opportunities at the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) Secretariat in Kampala, Uganda. [Please click here for more information](#) or visit www.ruforum.org

UNIVERSITY OF KORDOFAN 20 YEARS OF EXISTENCE AND DEVELOPMENT

The University of Kordofan is founded in 1990 at Elobeid, the capital of North Kordofan State, 600 kms south of Khartoum. It was one of the universities of the Higher Education Revolution in Sudan which took place in the last decade of the twentieth century. The university started with the faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (NRES), with the first batch of 185 students. The second and the third faculties of the university were the faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and the Faculty of Education. These had their first students' intake in the academic year 1991/ 92. In 1997, two other faculties were added to the University of Kordofan, they are the Faculty of Science and Humanities (FACS&H) and the Faculty of Engineering and Technical Studies. The (FACS&H) was composed of two sections: the science section and the humanities section, the second was upgraded in 2005 to the Faculty of Arts.



In the year 2002, the Faculty of Commercial Studies was added. In 2007, the eighth faculty; the Faculty of Computer Studies and Statistics was established. The most recent faculty in the University of Kordofan is the Faculty of Community, which was founded in 2008. It aims at training women by providing essential short periods of training in food sciences, health sciences, agriculture and fine arts. Two scientific centers were added to the university: 'The Gum Arabic Research Center' and 'The Center of Peace Studies and Development'.

As mentioned earlier, the University of Kordofan started with only 185 students. Currently in the academic year (2011/12) there are 14546 students (72% of them are females) enrolled in five university campuses consisting of



9 faculties specialized in 85 educational programs. The University of Kordofan awards the following degrees: Technical Diploma, B.Sc., B.A., Higher Diploma, M.Sc. M.A. and PhD.

The faculty of NRES is located in a fragile environment exacerbated by irrational use of natural resources coupled with natural hazards, according to this fact the educational system of the faculty is based in terms of tackling agricultural sciences (crops & livestock, forestry & range sciences) with special emphasis on natural resources and environmental studies. The faculty of NRES aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Teaching and training the students in agricultural options such as (crops science, animal production, agricultural economics and rural development, forestry and range science, plant protection sciences, soil and water sciences, chemistry and food technology, and rural extension and social development).
- Carry out orientated research towards biological sustainable development and rational resources use.
- Conduct research on environment conservation and biodiversity enrichment
- Increasing the community awareness for agricultural production and rational resources use.
- The University of Kordofan keeps a great span of linkages with counterpart institutions (nationally, regionally and internationally). Locally, the faculties of the university conduct some activities in community services such as (medical and health, educational and rural extension campaigns).

RUFORUM PROPOSAL WRITE-SHOPS AT HARAMAYA & MEKELLE UNIVERSITIES

AS part of a strategy to build capacity and competencies of RUFORUM member universities in aspects of project proposal development and networking for resource mobilization to support regional research for development (R4D) activities, RUFORUM in partnership with the hosting member universities conducted 2 separate 2-days write-shops at Haramaya and Mekelle Universities in Ethiopia. The write-shop at Haramaya University was held 26 – 27 September 2011 and coincided with another workshop on Information Literacy conducted by RUFORUM in partnership with ITOCA and Cornell University. Local arrangements for the workshops and training sessions were handled by Dr. Bobe Bedadi the Dean College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. The President of Haramaya University (Prof. Belay Kassa) presided over the joint opening ceremony which coincided with the National Flag Day also officially celebrated by the University.



From Left: Dr. Paul Nampala, Ms. Nodumo Dhlamini, Prof. Belay Kassa and Mr. Gracian Chimwaza

Over 30 participants drawn from various departments of the University including Humanities attended the course. The logical approach to project proposal development was viewed by many as an eye-opener to formulating winning proposals. It was not possible to achieve the set objectives owing to the limited time allocated to the write-shop. Nonetheless, at the end of the write-shop, it was clear that participants gained skills and appreciated the role of team-work in project proposal development and implementation. It was resolved that efforts would be made to finalize draft proposals in preparation for submission to respective target funding agencies.

The President Haramaya University, observed that Ethiopia's higher education sector is expanding and there is need to ensure that quality is preserved especially through generating the required human resource personnel. He mentioned that of the 32 Public Universities in Ethiopia, 18 have Colleges of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences; and as the current chair of Ethiopian Association of Public Universities he is keen to see that more join RUFORUM.

At Mekelle University the write-shop which was held on 29-30 September was organized by Dr. Girmay Tesfay, from the College of Dryland Agriculture and Natural Resources. The



Above: Participants who attended the write-shop at Mekelle University

opening session was presided over by Dr. Abdelkader Kedir, Vice President For Research and Community Services. Thirty participants, mostly young scholars (MSc. Students and graduates), attended the write-shops which in-keeping to participants needs focused more on skills enhancement as opposed to original set objective of drafting project proposals. The Executive Secretary RUFORUM (Prof. Adipala Ek-wamu) joined the team on 30th September and briefed participants on the genesis and role of RUFORUM. Participants appreciated the training and expressed the need for a follow up workshop to further ground their skills in project proposal development. Other aspects including Research Methods, Data Analysis and Monitoring & Evaluation of research undertakings were also identified as key areas for retooling.

Subsequent to the write-shop, the Dean arranged for a field visit to model villages in the Abraha-Atsbha area where Mekelle University has initiated community action research in partnership with government agencies and other development partners including World Food Programme, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and World Vision. Interventions which have resulted into desired impacts after several years of engaging the communities include the following:

1. Regeneration of marginal lands using innovative soil and water conservation practices such community water banks and reservoirs
2. Use of information and Communication technologies to disseminate information and capture relevant data from individual farmers.
3. Water harvesting technologies

These interventions have empowered communities and households which were previously impoverished and are now in position to produce sufficient food and surplus for income generation. Both the crop and livestock production are thriving and the new challenges for intervention are value addition and now marketing.

INFORMATION LITERACY TRAINING FOR HARAMAYA AND MEKELLE UNIVERSITIES

On the 26th to the 27th September 2011 the RUFORUM Secretariat conducted an Information Literacy Training Workshop at Haramaya University, in collaboration with ITOCA (Information & Training Outreach Centre for Africa) and Albert R. Mann Library at Cornell University. The twenty-five participants to this workshop came from both Haramaya and Mekelle Universities. The participants' profiles spanned various academic and administrative functions – Agriculture, Education, Library, ICT Support, Administrative Support and others. This was the first time that RUFORUM was conducting a workshop at the Haramaya University campus. The objectives of the Information Literacy workshop were four-fold:

1. to introduce the basics of Information Literacy;
2. to discuss how a curriculum for Information Literacy can be developed by the universities;
3. to develop skills for assessing Information Literacy; (4) to brainstorm on the best strategies for institutionalizing Information Literacy.

A joint opening ceremony was held for the three capacity building workshops which were being held during the same week (Information Literacy, E-Resources Training of Trainers and Proposal Writing). The President of Haramaya University, Professor Belay Kassa officially opened the three workshops. In his remarks he commended the RUFORUM Secretariat for the efforts in building capacities for informa-



Above: Participants from Mekelle and Haramaya who attended the training that was hosted at Haramaya University

tion literacy and proposal writing. He mentioned that that he was keen to recruit more Ethiopian Public Universities to be part of the RUFORUM Network.

The two Ethiopian Universities affirmed their commitment to institutionalizing Information Literacy in their curricula. This activity was funded under the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Project and is part of a series of other similar trainings that have been carried out in Zambia, Ethiopia and Mozambique.

DEDICATION TO BIG SISTER, THE ONE and ONLY WANGARI MAATHAI



What a loss!! Kenya has lost its ambassador NO 1! Women have lost their most vicious champion! Africa has lost a Voice! The world has lost its CHAMPION! She fought the good fight and won it. People like Wangari (as we fondly call her in Kenya) come only once in a lifetime. The picture on the right embodies who she really was and I can only imagine what was going on through her head as she sat there on this big indigenous tree, with a smile on her face, and looking so much at peace. Her love for trees drove her to fight to save the environment, to fight for the most vulnerable in our society, to fight injustices, to fight for democratize space and this she did taking on strong governments and powerful men. Wangari did it all for us, and I know that her spirit will do even more for humanity as we all strive to live to her legacy and to REMEMBER her in a truly unique way. REST IN PEACE BIG SISTER.

For more details of the story, Please refer to the African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development (AJFAND) Issue 46 Volume 11, Number 5.



Photograph: Micheline Pelletier/Corbis. Source: guardian.co.uk, Monday 26 September 2011 13.44 BST

'NEW' RUFORUM GRANTEES PARTICIPATE IN TWO DAY ORIENTATION WORKSHOP

Multi-disciplinarity, stakeholder involvement and field-based research involving graduate students are the key components of the RUFORUM Graduate Research Grants (GRG). Each year, close to 20 GRG grants of approximately USD60,000 are awarded to universities to enable them undertake university led action research. The grants support universities by enabling them to enhance training (supervision and mentorship) and to feedback lessons from action research experiences back into training curriculum in addition to solving real life problems for small holder farmers.



Above: RUFORUM Grantees at the Orientation Workshop

This year, 24 new grants, each be coordinated by a Principal Investigator and expected to support a minimum of 48 MSc students were awarded by the RUFORUM Technical Committee. Implementation will be initiated in October, 2011. The 24 'new' PIs were invited by the Secretariat to participate in an orientation workshop held 19 and 20 September in Kampala, Uganda. The main purpose of the workshop was to improve awareness of PIs on RUFORUM

operational procedures and expectations to enable them successful implement the projects. Specific focus of the meeting was on M&E tools, use of ICTs to enhance research and training efficiency, financial management and accounting, project management and RUFORUM procedures and operational guidelines. The PIs join a growing network of now over 70 researchers at African universities, supported by multi-disciplinary, multi-stakeholder teams implementing field based research in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA). The objective of the grants is to (a) promote and support strategic change in higher education institutions for the enhancement of learning and teaching, by providing students with opportunities for problem-solving and practical experience and the opportunity to be creative, improve teamwork and be responsive to deadlines and client demands; b) raise the profile and encourage better university recognition of the grassroots demands and needs for research and graduate skills in both their research and curricula; c) produce innovative and useful research that is effectively communicated; d) raise the profile and encourage better university recognition of the demands and needs for research and graduate skills by state, private, NGO and development agencies; e) provide a mechanism through the multi-agency research projects that enables universities to act as a fulcrum in the farmer, research, extension and service provider nexus and f) link the ivory tower to farmers and develop effective mechanisms for dissemination and improving communication between universities, rural communities and the servicing agencies. The projects summaries will be shared on the RUFORUM Website.

INDICATIVE SALARY STRUCTURES FOR AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

A major challenge facing African Universities is how to attract and retain quality academic staff. More often than not the issue has revolved around low salaries, inadequate incentives especially research and terminal benefits. Several universities have as a result lost academic staff to other more paying institution especially overseas institutions. It is estimated that Africa loses on average about 25,000 trained professionals annually to overseas institutions. RUFORUM appeals to African Governments to design more attractive employment terms to help return African professionals in the Continent.

Table 3: Comparative Salary Scales of academic staff among universities in the region

Position	AVERAGE GROSS SALARY PER ANNUM (IN US \$)						
	Makerere University	University Nairobi	Dar es sa-laam	Zimbabwe	Botswana	Namibia	Swaziland
Professor	12,972	27,612	21,228	23,447	47,198	40,026	31,967
Associate Professor	12,428	23,197	19,460	22,774	43,990	34,604	30,033
Senior Lecturer	10,533	18,883	15,492	18,592	40,205	30,260	25,080
Lecturer	8,998	16,959	11,750	17,378	31,279	28,542	22,532
Assistant lecturer	8,840	14,768	9,609	n.a	n.a	22,460	19,362
Teaching Assistant	7,440	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a

Source: Association of Commonwealth Universities, 2011

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NEW PRESIDENT APPOINTED – MEKELLE UNIVERSITY



Prof. Dr. Joachim Herzig is the new President of Mekelle University. He replaced Prof. Mitiku Haile, the former President. Prof. Herzig is German and graduated in Cell Biology in 1972 from University of Bochum. He obtained his PhD in Physiology in 1976 from University of Heidelberg, where he also was conferred Habilitation in 1980. Retaining his Professorship at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Heidelberg, he made a career in the Multinational Pharmaceutical Industry, where his main field of interest was Cardiovascular Pharmacology. After 15 years in the Pharma Industry, he joined the Aga Khan University, Karachi, as Professor and Chairman for Physiology and Pharmacology, followed by a position as Professor and Chairman for Physiological Sciences at University of Stellenbosch. In 2003 he was appointed as President of the University of Applied Sciences in Worms, the oldest city on German soil. From 2009, he worked for the Ministry of Science and Education, Mainz, as In-Charge for University Internationalization, while keeping his Professorship at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Mainz. In April 2011, he was appointed as President of Mekelle University. Prof. Herzig is an expert in Contractile Protein Research, has supervised many students at Postgraduate level and serves on Editorial Boards of International Journals in Molecular Medicine, Physiology and Pharmacology. He has been serving on Scientific Boards for highest ranking research organizations, like the German Research Council and the Max-Planck Society. He has wide experience in modern teaching techniques, like Student Centered Teaching or Problem Based Learning, as well as Institutional Transformation Processes, Quality Assessment and Curricular Reform.

PROFILING VICE CHANCELLOR – UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI



Dr Emmanuel Fabiano has served as Vice Chancellor of the University of Malawi since November 2010. He replaced Prof. Zimani Kadzamira, the former Vice Chancellor. Dr Emmanuel Fabiano is a Malawian from birth and he graduated with a BEd from the University of Malawi in 1977 where he majored in chemistry. He started his work as a staff associate in the same university soon after graduating. He obtained his MSc at the University of Warwick in 1980 and PhD at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1986. His main field of interest is natural products chemistry. He has also a working interest in science and technology education. He has supervised many students at MSc and PhD level. Dr Fabiano served in several senior positions in the University including that of College Principal from 1994 to 1998 and again from 2005 to 2009.

NEW BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED – RUFORUM



Dr. Mary Shawa is an expert on Nutrition, is married and has children. She was born in Malawi and did her PhD at University of London, Kings College. Following her PhD she did research that include studying the impact of nutrition in the management of HIV and severe acute malnutrition in Malawi (longitudinal study from 2004, still ongoing) and feasibility study of Sibusiso Ready to Eat Supplementary Food, on people living with HIV, TB chronically ill (Blood Pressure and Diabetic) and malnourished individuals. Her work experience includes working as a Principal Secretary for Nutrition, HIV and AIDS and Practicing Clinical Nutritionist and dietician from 2004 to date. She also served as WHO Nutrition Adviser in 2006 and worked in the Ministry of Women and Children Development from 1979 to 2004 at various levels from Assistant Community Development Officer to Deputy Director for Gender responsible for Nutrition, HIV and AIDS and Reproductive Health, Safe Motherhood, Economic empowerment, new and renewable sources of energy; Compilation of National and International Reports; mainstreaming Strategic Policy formulation and implementation; Facilitator and Resource Person for workshops and conferences, training, supervision, lobbying and advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, budgeting and resource mobilization; Controlling financial expenditure, general administration and staff supervision. She is currently working as the Principal Secretary, Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, President's Office, Government of Malawi.

NEWS & EVENTS

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NEW BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED – RUFORUM



Kristin Elizabeth Davis is an expert on international extension. She was born in the United States but grew up in Kenya. She has a B.S. in biology and a Ph.D. in international agricultural extension with a minor in farming systems. Following her Ph.D. she worked as a postdoctoral and then research fellow with IFPRI for five years, conducting research and capacity strengthening on agricultural extension and education with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2010, she became the Executive Secretary of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) Secretariat. Kristin leads GFRAS work and conducts research, communicates and advocates for, and strengthens capacity on extension and advisory services throughout the world.

EXECUTIVE DEAN - UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA



Dr. Martin B Schneider, working for the University of Namibia as a Senior Researcher and Projects Coordinator. After serving as Deputy Dean since 2005 he has been appointed as the Executive Dean to head the Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Namibia effective May 2009. He obtained his MSc and PhD from *Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt*, Germany, where he majored in soil science. His research interests are in irrigation farming, soil classification and mapping and the tolerance levels of saline soils for improved horticulture production. His contact details are: Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Namibia and his email: mbschneider@unam.na Staff profiles of the Faculty, list of publications, the curriculum of all academic programmes and the Research Agenda 2011-2015 are available through the webpage at www.unam.na

Enhancing Mechanisms for strengthening University engagement with stakeholders – AAU (MCRI) support to the RUFORUM National Forums



RUFORUM held a half-day review meeting for its National Forums during the RUFORUM Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Lilongwe, Malawi. Supported through the RUFORUM Project from the Association of African Universities, the **MCRI Challenge Programme Project (Project No. MC311)**. Six National Forums from Malawi, Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe presented findings from their activities during the year. The National meetings held in each country were supported either fully or in part by the MCRI Project. The Malawi meeting was attended by Deans of Faculties of Agriculture from all RUFORUM universities and selected stakeholders and focused on strengthening the National platforms for improving the quality of university research and training programmes,

particularly at graduate level. The National Forums are a key organ of the RUFORUM network that provides a critical function in each of the countries in which member universities are situated. Other organs are the General Assembly, the RUFORUM Board and its committees and the Secretariat that implements decisions of the Board and General Assembly. The objectives of the National Forums are to 1) formulate national agricultural training needs and programme in each country; 2) formulate and set the national agricultural research priorities for the universities in the member countries; 3) ensure that financial and other resources are mobilised and effectively deployed for carrying out RUFORUM activities at national level; 4) disseminate the agricultural products produced by the universities in a member country; 5) articulate demands for agricultural training needs and research; and 6) mobilise resources for operations of the national forum. During the meeting, each of the National Forums presented progress in institutional strengthening, including outcomes of meetings held during the year. The National Forums appealed to the Vice-Chancellors to support their on-going operations as part of efforts to strengthening University operations at national level and enhancing student training through linkages with grassroots players.

MEET THE RUFORUM SECRETARIAT STAFF



Prof. Adipala Ekwamu,
Executive Secretary



Dr. Moses Osiru,
Deputy Executive Secretary



Dr. Washington Ochola,
Program Manager-Planning,
Monitoring & Evaluation



Ms. Nodumo Dhlamini,
Program Manager- Informa-
tion & Communication
Technology



Dr. Wellington Ekaya,
Program Manager-
Training & Quality Assur-
ance



Mr. Wilson Ombima,
Finance & Administra-
tion Manager



Mrs. Claire Nwtali,
Program Assistant-
Networking, Advocacy &
Grants



Mrs. Agnes Obua-Ogwal,
Program Officer-Planning,
Monitoring & Evaluation



Miss. Joan Apio Evelyn
Program Assistant- Infor-
mation & Communication
Technology



Mrs. Sylvia Mkandawire,
Program Assistant-
Training & Quality Assur-
ance



**Mrs. Irene Birungi
Lubega,** Administrative
Assistant



Miss. Elizabeth Nambi,
Intern



Mr. Apollo Kwesiga,
Intern



Miss. Esther Ssebuliba,
Intern



**Miss. Mayada Mamoun
Beshir**
Intern



**Mr. Ssalongo Lubega
Jackson**
Driver



Mr. Latigo Francis
Driver



Ms. Sarah Nagitta
Office Attendant



Mr. Baleero Joseph
Security



**Mr. Atanasio
Ssekoyndwa**
Gardener



Food Security Center offers up to 17 research scholarships in 2012

UNIVERSITÄT HOHENHEIM



The Food Security Center (FSC) is a university center of excellence in development collaboration at the University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany. FSC is one of five excellence centers of the program “exceed – Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation”, which is supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) with funds of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany. FSC’s mission is to make effective and innovative scientific contributions in research, teaching, and policy advice to eradicate hunger and achieve food security in collaboration with partner research and education organizations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and national and international development and research organizations. Thematically, FSC’s activities deal with issues of sustainable food availability, food access, food use, and food utilization. More information is available from www.foodsecurity.de.

In 2012, FSC awards up to 17 scholarships for PhD students and postdoctoral researchers for a period of 4 to 6 months. The Center wishes to attract outstanding PhD students and postdoctoral fellows pursuing a career in academia or development collaboration. The scholarships aim at increasing their previously gained scientific knowledge and skills relevant to food security related issues. Furthermore, FSC aims at establishing an active, long-lasting collaboration with the supported researchers and their home institutions through an interactive alumni-network.

FSC offers two categories of scholarships:

1. Sandwich scholarships for PhD students (6 months),
2. Research scholarships for visiting postdoctoral researchers (4 months),

In both categories, FSC scholarships will support researchers from developing countries to conduct their research either at the University of Hohenheim (South – North) or at a national or international research institute in a developing country, for instance one of the centers of the CGIAR (South – South). The research visits have to be conducted in 2012 (i.e., start and end in 2012).

The application deadline for all scholarship categories is September 30, 2011. Selection is carried out on a competitive basis and the decisions (i.e. invitations) will be communicated up to December 19, 2011. Regarding the details of the different scholarships, the application process and the requirements, please consult FSC’s webpage (www.foodsecurity.de – go to “Scholarships”). Please read the information carefully before you apply. For important questions, please write an email to fsc-scholarships@uni-hohenheim.de - and please only to this mail address! Only completed applications using FSC’s application form will be considered.



Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service



Call for Papers: Climate Change and Agriculture in Africa

African Crop Science Journal ISSN: 1021- 9730 (Print); 2072-6589 (Online); <http://www.bioline.org.br/cs>

Supported by the Rockefeller Foundation through the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), the African Crop Science Journal (ACSJ) has dedicated one Special Issue to climate change (CC) research and related works in an effort to promote dissemination of information to various stakeholders globally. This is, therefore, to invite submission of papers with a focus on CC work and effects on Agriculture in SSA. Papers, in English or French, should be submitted to the Journal’s Secretariat at acsjclimatechange@gmail.com with copy to acss@agric.mak.ac.ug

In light of this the ACSJ has dedicated a Special Issue intended to promote dialogue and action on aspects of climate change through dissemination of information to various stakeholders in sub-Saharan Africa and beyond.

Important dates:

Submit manuscripts by 31 December 2011

For more information contact:

African Crop Science Journal Secretariat at Email: acsjclimatechange@gmail.com; acss@agric.mak.ac.ug