

# RUFORUM MONTHLY

## UNIVERSITY OF GEZIRA PARTNERS WITH SUDAN GOVERNMENT IN SUGAR BEET CULTIVATION

Professor Elnour K. Abusabah, the Vice Chancellor of University of Gezira signed on behalf of the University of Gezira a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Gezira State for sugar beet cultivation and processing settlement. According to the agreement the university will spare 10 hectares from its farm to accommodate a pilot plant to process 50 tons per day of beet. The main objective of the plant is to train farmers and technologists in cultivation and processing of sugar beet by taking advantage of the research being conducted by the Sugar Institute of the University of Gezira. Sugar beet is largely a temperate crop with some cultivars found to be adapted to tropical and subtropical climate.



Above: Prof. Elnour K. Abusabah (R) at the signing of the MoU

In 1959 the Sudan government prioritized sugarcane cultivation for sugar production. The use of sugar beet is a supplementary effort to produce sugar from beet where Pakistan, Morocco, Egypt and other countries are adapting the concept. In 1992 Syngenta introduced the concept of tropical sugar beet and later in 1998 an extensive trial work started in all the sugar schemes. The conclusion was that sugar beet could be grown in Sudan successfully to obtain sugar yields similar or better than those produced by sugarcane with the advantage of using 30 % of the water and the land. Being a member of the family of Chenopodiaceous, sugar beet can tolerate high salinity and alkalinity. The Sugar Institute is the first body to be involved in extensive cultivation and processing of tropical sugar beet. Research on aspects of optimization of water requirements, crop improvement, agronomic traits( including weed control) and crop protection is on-going. **Story by Basim Abbas ElTayib, University of Gezira-Sudan**

## PROMOTING EUROPEAN-AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR



Above: Wim Andriess (L) receives gift from Irene Annor Frempong-FARA (R) on behalf of RUFORUM

On behalf of the delegates from Africa, who attended the Tertiary Agricultural Education (TAE) partnership workshop in Wageningen (March, 2012), Prof. Adipala Ekwamu thanked Wim Andriess for his excellent contribution and dedication to promoting European-African Partnership in the Field of Higher Education. Wim was one of the key drivers behind the Kampala Ministerial Conference on Higher Education in Agriculture in Africa (CHEA) held in November 2010 that has led to the creation of Tertiary Education in Agriculture Mechanism for Africa, that is

now fondly called TEAM-Africa, which was the focus of the discussion during the meeting. Wim has been actively engaged in mobilizing European support for this initiative, and the TEAM - Africa program is a testimony to the efforts he has made. RUFORUM wishes him all the best in his endeavors.

For more information about the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), Contact: The **Newsletter Editor**, RUFORUM Secretariat, Plot 151 Garden Hill, Makerere University Main Campus, P.O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda. Fax: +256 414 534153; Tel: +256 414 535939; E-mail: secretariat@ruforum.org; or visit the RUFORUM Website at [www.ruforum.org](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

**World Hunger Day** 28 May, 2012, London, United Kingdom

**International Conference on Science Agriculture and Engineering.** Omoku-Nigeria. September 3-7, 2012

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

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

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

**Southern and Eastern African Association for Farming Systems Research – Extension (SEAFSRE) 11th Regional Conference.** 19-21 November 2012, South Africa

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

## RUFORUM SECRETARIAT WELCOMES NEW STAFF



**Dr. Paul Nampala** is a Ugandan and an Entomologist/Nutritionist with Post-Graduate Level Training in Agricultural Sciences (PhD, Makerere University) & Public Health (MPH, University of Liverpool, UK). Paul worked (2004 – 2011) as Executive Secretary of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences (UNAS). Prior to this Paul worked with the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology as Assistant National Project Coordinator for the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Frameworks under the UNEP/GEF Global Projects on Biotechnology Legislation. Dr. Nampala joins RUFORUM Secretariat as the new Grants Manager.

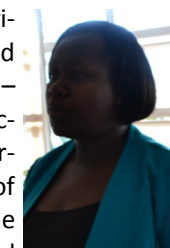


**Miss Nambi Elizabeth** is a Ugandan with 2 years experience working with the RUFORUM Networking, Advocacy and Grants Unit at the Secretariat as an intern. She has been appointed as the Grants Management Assistant. Elizabeth holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (Accounting) and is currently pursuing an Advanced Diploma with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountant (ACCA, UK).

**Mr. Simon Ongom** is a Ugandan with 7 years working experience in the Banking industry. He worked for Barclays Bank (U) Ltd and Bank of Africa before joining RUFORUM. Simon studied Bachelor of Commerce – Accounting from Makerere University. He is an Associate of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU). Currently he is undertaking an MBA with Harriot Watt University, UK. Mr. Ongom joins RUFORUM Secretariat as the Management Accountant.



**Mrs. Evelyn Aguti** is a Ugandan with experience working with a European Union funded project known as Doctors With Africa – CUAMM whose mission was to improve access and quality of reproductive health services for Oyam District (Northern part of Uganda – Lango Sub Region). She got the opportunity to work with Humanitarian Aid Agencies, reaching out to the disadvantaged and suffering people in the community due to civil wars. Mrs. Aguti holds a Bachelor of Business Administration (Accounting Option) from Makerere University. Mrs. Aguti joins RUFORUM Secretariat as the Budget and Expenditure Controller.



## FEATURED PUBLICATIONS FOR THE NETWORK

*Building the Foundation for Research*



**Building the Foundation for Research.** In a region characterised by post-conflict reconstruction, food insecurity and agrarian economies, the need for trained experts in agriculture is massive, and will only increase. RUFORUM, has positioned itself to ensure that universities respond to the needs of the region through the kinds of training and research they provide. Working with universities within the



network, RUFORUM has coordinated and helped to establish regional master's and PhD programmes that harness pockets of strength and expertise existing within the universities, in areas of strategic need. [Read more >>](#)

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (SCARDA)

Training for Leadership and Change

SCARDA shared their first Agricultural Research Cooperation in Sudan

Maryada Mamoon Bechir

December 2011



and upgraded for the benefit of rural communities and Su-

dan in general. However, in spite of Sudan's rich natural resources, the agricultural sector in Sudan has performed poorly in the past decade. Among other reasons, the Sudanese government has comprehensively addressed undergraduate agricultural education issues, but no equivalent attention has been given to the challenging question of post graduate training. [Read more >>](#)

Research in Society Give New Life



**Research in Society Give New Life. From Conflict to Prosperity: Researchers and Small-scale Farmers Benefit from Collaboration.** Sitting in the shade of a tall, spreading mango tree, a group of community leaders and elders are discussing the beneficial properties of Ebelangite, a local traditional herb, with researchers from Makerere University. Lucy Aloka, who is nearly 100 years old, tells the researchers

that she drinks Ebelangite every morning—which is why she remains healthy and strong enough to dig her own fields and harvest her crops. To the elders, Ebelangite is a valued mainstay of life. Yet Aloka and her companions fret that their children and grand children have lost their appreciation of the traditional ways, and are more interested in moving to the cities to find factory jobs. [Read More>>](#)

**Reminder: Call for Abstracts "3<sup>rd</sup> Africa-wide Women and Young Professionals in Science Competitions" Deadline May 14, 2012.** For more information, Please visit [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org)