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. 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, agro-nomic 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

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 Andriessse 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.
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.