



African Network for
Agriculture, Agroforestry
& Natural Resources Education

**SA-ANAFE Newsletter: No. 4, October to
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Introduction

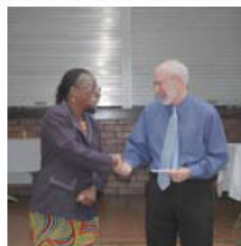
Dear Members,
Welcome to the New Year, 2008! I am happy to be sharing with you the fourth quarter of 2007 Newsletter. In this issue we cover first the profile of the incoming ANAFE Executive Secretary (ES). Second, we highlight the announcement of the symposium that will be held in Zomba Malawi this year from the 28th July to the 1st of August. I am happy to let you know that preparations for this symposium are at an advanced stage and we are welcoming abstract submissions. Attached to this newsletter is the registration form and for those interested in participating, please complete and return to us without much delay. So read on! As usual feedback and institutional highlights are welcome.

ANAFE has a New Executive Secretary

Towards the end of 2007, ANAFE recruited a new Executive Secretary who has since assumed her duties in Nairobi. Her name is Dr. Aissetou Drame Yaye. She takes over from Prof A.B. Temu. Prof Temu will continue working with her for about a year as she gets to settle on this challenging assignment. On behalf of SA-RAFT we wish Dr. A. Yaye all the best in her new position as she steers ANAFE to new heights. Her profile which we reproduce here was carried out in the ICRAF

weekly transformation newsletter of 11th
January 2008.

ANAFE gets new Executive Secretary



**Dennis Garrity welcomes
Aissetou Yaye to
WorldAgroforestry**

Dr Aissetou Dramé Yayé joined the African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education, ANAFE, as the new Executive Secretary in November last year. Her main task involves building on the vast experience and international recognition of the Network in a bid to restructure it, raise funds

and reinforce the cooperation with WorldAgroforestry and other research and training institutions.

Aissetou is a Lecturer at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University Abdou Moumouni of Niamey but is currently on sabbatical. She holds a PhD in Entomology from the University of Ghana, two master degrees (one in Animal Biology from the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar, Senegal, and one in the New Information and Communication technologies applied to Education from the University Louis Pasteur of Strasbourg, France).

She has worked as a Training Expert in Entomology at the AGRHYMET (Agriculture, Hydrology and Meteorology) Centre of the Interstate Committee against Drought in the Sahel (CILSS), before becoming the Director of training at a Forest Development Project (PAGT: Projet d'Appui à la Gestion du Terroir) in Niger. Since 2002, she was the focal point of ANAFE at the Faculty of Agriculture and was elected the Chair of the Sahel Chapter of ANAFE (RAFT Sahel) in 2006. She has also worked with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). Aissetou is a Senegalese by birth and Nigerien (from Niger) by adoption since 1992. She is married to a Nigerien and mother of three boys.

Welcome Aissetou.

**ANAFE International Symposium:
Mainstreaming Climate Change into
Agricultural Education: Tools,
Experiences and challenges**

ANAFE will be holding the International symposium entitled "Mainstreaming Climate Change into Agricultural Education: *Tools, Experiences and Challenges*" from the 28th July to 1st August 2008 at Chancellor College in Zomba, Malawi. In this newsletter, we are happy to share with you an overview on the symposium. Currently abstracts are being accepted until the 28th February.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) confronts tremendous challenges. Human activity in the region has altered ecosystems, largely to meet demands for food, fresh water, timber, fibre and fuel. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment has concluded that about 60 % of the “ecosystem services” are being degraded or used unsustainably. The crucial challenges are conservation of biodiversity, mitigation of climate change and the global shift towards bioenergy. Projected climatic changes for Africa suggest a future of scarce water, collapsing agricultural yields, encroaching desert and damaged coastal infrastructure.

It has long been perceived throughout the world, that Higher Education plays a critical role in preparing and providing the leadership to meet these challenges and to stimulate sustainable development. In SSA, Higher education in agriculture and natural resource management (NRM) in particular is well placed to contribute to this process.

Despite past investments by African governments in Higher Education, the hope that universities would provide solutions to Africa's problems is yet to be realized. There has been an enormous loss through emigration of talented faculty to other continents. It is estimated that 23,000 qualified academic professionals emigrate from Africa each year in search of better working conditions. Many of these are in agriculture and natural resources—areas that are of crucial economic importance for most African countries. In addition to these challenges, it is also accepted that the current curricula, teaching & learning methods are unsuitable for achieving the objectives of agricultural education.

The general objective of the symposium is to establish mechanisms for tackling biodiversity conservation, mitigation of climate change and the global shift towards bio-energy with SSA tertiary agriculture and NRM institutions playing a central role. The specific objectives are to:

1. Understand the climate change challenges for agriculture in SSA
2. Mainstream climate change knowledge into agricultural education and
3. Identify recommendations on effective policies, institutions and capacity

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The major outputs are:

1. Enhanced information sharing and strategies for tackling biodiversity conservation, mitigation of climate change and the global shift to bio-energy
2. Strategies and advice for making agricultural and environmental education and research in Africa competitive
3. Specific advice to African universities and governments on ways and means for recognizing and enhancing the role of agricultural and environmental education in national development.

PARTICIPANTS

Prospective participants must be persons involved in policy making, financing, managing or teaching at tertiary level in agriculture, forestry or NRM. Those involved in agricultural research and industry are also invited.

SYMPOSIUM SUB THEMES

Papers are invited on the following four sub themes:

1. Conservation of biodiversity and sustainable agricultural production

Agro biodiversity in food production is central to human existence. Spatial expansion of agriculture in SSA if uncontrolled can destroy biodiversity habitats, accelerate loss of environmental functions and erode further the agricultural genetic resources essential for food security in the future. Papers are invited on how biodiversity can be managed more adaptively while promoting sustainable increases in agricultural productivity.

2. Coping with climate change and building the capacity to compete globally

If greenhouse gas emissions are not reduced, it is estimated that global temperature will probably rise by between 2 & 3 °C over the next 50 years leading to climate changes that will impact food production, health and the environment around the globe. Papers are invited under this sub-theme to share knowledge on how agricultural productivity can be maintained and/or improved while at the same time mitigating climate change. Papers can also include sharing innovative approaches that can empower the poor through agricultural knowledge.

3. Global shift towards Bio-energy production

Projections indicate that bio-energy produced from biomass could meet up to 25 % of global energy demand by 2050. As a nearly carbon-neutral source of energy, most bio-energy systems can contribute to climate change mitigation by replacing fossil fuels and through the carbon sequestration of bio-energy plantations. As the shift to bio-energy raises concerns for food security, papers are invited that address these concerns as land and other productive resources are taken from food production.

4. Effective agricultural institutions

As the mainstay of agricultural prosperity, Africa's agricultural institutions must be strengthened to cope with local and external needs. This sub-theme is on how the tertiary agricultural institutions in SSA can develop and implement relevant policies and institutional arrangements that maximise on staff development and retention and the production of relevant graduates. Papers are invited to address how we can forestall brain drain, produce relevant graduates and make our institutions real “centres of excellence”

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS, POSTERS AND FULL PAPERS

- Abstracts should be typed in Times New Roman, Font size 12 and should not be more than 300 words. All submissions should be in Microsoft Word.doc
- Posters should not be more than 1 m² in size
- Papers should not be more than 15 pages.
- All papers should have Title; Name of author(s); Institutional affiliation; email address(es); abstract; key subject words (2-5); body of paper and references
- Accepted papers will be published in the Symposium proceedings and only selected papers will be published in a book.

- ✚ A copy of the symposium proceedings and the book will be sent to the authors upon publication

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW PROCESS

- ✚ Submit abstracts via email to anafe07@chanco.unima.mw with copies to jnamangale@chanco.unima.mw, smakungwa@bunda.unima.mw, forestry@bunda.unima.mw, and schakeredza@africa-online.net
- ✚ Final papers must be sent via email attachment to the same addresses
- ✚ **Copyright information:** Submission of a paper to the Symposium indicates the author's permission to publish the paper in written or electronic format for distribution without compensation to the author
- ✚ Confirmation of participation will be done after the abstracts are approved by the organising committee

REGISTRATION AND SYMPOSIUM FEES

The registration form is appended. Complete the form and send it to the organizers either electronically or by post. The registration fees per person will be (i) ANAFE member institutions + Local participants, US \$100 (ii) Non ANAFE member institutions + International participants, US \$200, and (iii) Students free. The registration fee covers ground transport, reception, tea/coffee and snacks, book of abstracts and conference proceedings.

ACCOMMODATION

There are two lodges, one hotel and an Inn of very high standard in Zomba. Bed and Breakfast rates range between US\$25 to US\$ 105. See registration form for more details.

TRAVELLING TO MALAWI

Visitors to Malawi should have a valid passport and visa and evidence of yellow fever vaccination. Flights should be booked to land at Chileka airport, Blantyre. Detailed information about travelling to Malawi can be accessed at <http://www.uyaphi.com>. As travelling requirements can change at any time; visitors are advised to check with their nearest Malawian Embassy or High Commission well in advance of their travelling date.

Former ANAFE Supported Student Excels

Davies Emmanuel Mweta was funded by ANAFE in 2004 to carry out his research work in Soil Nutrient Management and Conservation. He finished his research work in 2005 and graduated in 2006. His research thesis was entitled: "*Phosphorus Availability and Adsorption in Gliricidia sepium-Maize simultaneous intercropping agroforestry system at Makoka, Malawi*". I had the privilege of attending his thesis defense and I was really impressed with his work output. One of the supervisors, Prof J.D.K. Saka has fond

memories of him and as he says "*I have supervised a number of students in my academic career. Davies stands out clearly as one of the best students I have ever supervised. He is organized, hardworking and sticks to the work plan and is conscious of the delivery of the agreed milestones*". Well said indeed.



Davies Mweta has gone ahead and prepared two journal articles from his thesis work which have already been accepted. They are entitled:

- Mweta, D.E., Akinnifesi, F.K., Saka, J.D.K., Makumba, W. and Chikotho, N. 20007. Use of pruning and mineral fertilizer affects soil phosphorus availability and fractionation in gliricidia/maize intercropping system. African Journal of Agricultural Research, Vol 2(10): 521-527.
- Mweta, D.E., Akinnifesi, F.K., Saka, J.D.K., Makumba, W. and Chikotho, N. 20007. Green manure from prunings and mineral fertilizer affect phosphorus adsorption and uptake by maize crop in a gliricidia/maize intercropping. Scientific Research Essay vol 2 (10): 446-453.

Further, Davies Mweta has now enrolled for a PhD programme at the University of Free State in South Africa. All the best Davies in your future.

SA-RAFT

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