



## FARA Secretariat updates

### FARA General Assembly coming near

The biennial General Assembly of FARA which is held during the Africa agriculture Science Week is gaining importance. At the moment (30 April 2007), there are at least 350 participants who registered and there are almost 20 side-events that will be held that are organized by FARA diverse stakeholders. This week-long event is considered one of the most important gathering of the African research community who are joined by the African political leaders as well as Africa's development partners. More information about this important event can be found at [www.faraweek.org](http://www.faraweek.org).

### FARA's new partnership with RUFORUM

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a member-based organisation of 12 universities in East and Southern Africa whose goal is to strengthen graduate student training and research in African Universities. This is done by providing resources, mission and peer support, to generate knowledge, research products and human resources to support agricultural development. A key feature of RUFORUM is that it provides a regional platform for sharing experiences and joint learning among the member universities and with other actors within and outside Africa.

The new partnership between FARA and RUFORUM will strengthen FARA's regional program on strengthening Africa's capacity to build capacity.

### FARA Executive Secretary joins world leaders

Dr. Monty Jones has been voted among the world's most influential people by the US Time Magazine. Dr. Jones developed the New Rice for Africa, NERICA which increases yield by up to 50%. NERICA is seen as one of the reasons why Africa's harvest of rice – a staple food in much of the continent, has been increasing for the past few years. Dr. Jones is one of the just five Africans on this year's list of 100 names.

### Upcoming FARA Secretariat events

- **11-16 June 2007. The 4th FARA's General Assembly and African Agricultural Science Week** will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The detailed programmes and registration information are now posted on [www.faraweek.org](http://www.faraweek.org). Those interested in participating are encouraged to register online as soon as possible.

For more information on the above events, please contact Dr. Monty Jones by email: [mjones@fara-africa.org](mailto:mjones@fara-africa.org).

### Other Events

[International Workshop on Potential of Cassava \(Manihot esculenta Crantz\) Processing in West Africa, 4-7 June, 2007, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire](#)

*Organised by the University of Abobo-Adjamé and the Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques, this event will take stock of existing technologies and recent developments, and make way for innovative development of the cassava processing sector.*

[The Second International Symposium on Knowledge Communication and Peer Reviewing \(KCPR 2007\), 12-15 July, 2007, Orlando, Florida](#)

*March 8th, 2007 is the deadline for paper/abstract submissions and invited session proposals.*

[The Second ANAFE International Symposium: Building Africa's Capacity for Tertiary Agricultural Education, 30 July - 2 August, 2007, Zomba, Malawi](#)

*Aimed at establishing mechanisms for building long-term scientific and institutional capacity in SSA tertiary agriculture and NRM institutions*

[G&D-Rockefeller Fellowships for Enhancing the Careers of East African Women Scientists](#)

*The program is designed to support professional growth in both scientific expertise and people management, thus facilitating the development of female science leaders and strengthening their institutions.*

### **New Face at FARA**

#### **Dady Demby, RAILS Program Officer**

De nationalité congolaise (République du Congo), Mr Dady Demby est titulaire d'une Maîtrise en Sciences de l'Information et de la Communication, Option Economie et management des services d'information, (Université Jean Moulin, Lyon III, en France), d'un Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies (DEA) en Sciences de l'Information et de la Communication (Ecole nationale supérieure des Sciences de l'Information et des Bibliothèques, à Villeurbanne en France), et d'un Diplôme professionnel supérieur en Sciences de l'Information et des Bibliothèques, de la même Ecole. Avant de rejoindre le FARA, il a occupé, pendant neuf ans, le poste de Gestionnaire de l'Information et de la Communication au Conseil ouest et centre africain pour la recherche et le développement agricoles (CORAF/WE CARD). Il a participé à plusieurs séminaires aux niveaux sous-régional, régional et international, sur la gestion et la diffusion de l'information agricole. Il est Vice-Président du Chapitre Afrique de l'Association internationale des spécialistes de l'information agricole (IAALD-Africa). Avec son épouse, Emma Georgette Demby, de nationalité congolaise aussi, ils ont 3 enfants : Khenny 14 ans, Janel, 9 ans et Nathan 5 ans. Riche de son expérience accumulée au niveau sous-régional, au cours de laquelle il a été membre du Groupe de travail du RAILS, Mr. Dady Demby compte contribuer fortement à la consolidation et au développement des initiatives régionales du FARA. Ses hobbies : la pêche, la lecture, la randonnée pédestre, la musique.

### **Sub-regional news**

#### **ASARECA's new strategy**

Key stakeholders of ASARECA joined its Committee of Directors to review its new strategic plan (2006-2015) and operational plan (2006-2010) that will make it more responsive to the CAADP pillar four objectives and FAAP principles. This new strategy is based on the regional analysis undertaken to look at priority investments that could make major contribution to CAADP pillar 4 and COMESA agenda. The new strategy is comprised of 7 programs that are directly covering the existing thematic networks.

#### **RUFORUM General Assembly held**

On 22-27 April 2007 RUFORUM held its regional meeting on *"Building Scientific and Technical Capacity through Graduate training and Agricultural research in African Universities"*. It was a gathering that seeks to tap the knowledge and experience of African institutions and others engaged in human resource development and research to address Africa's food and nutrition security challenges and related issues slowing Africa's development. It brought together students and researchers from African universities involved in RUFORUM and other capacity development initiatives. This conference put tertiary education at the forefront and provided a forum for shared learning and consensus building on the issues affecting graduate training and agricultural research in African universities.

The conference was a success, and among the results achieved are;

1. Strategies identified for improving quality and impact-orientation of universities' research, training and outreach agenda
2. Mechanisms identified for joint design, implementation and monitoring of training, research and development initiatives by universities and for university-private sector partnerships
3. Options and strategies identified for mainstreaming cross cutting issues (eg gender, environment) and Integrated Agricultural Research for Development in research of graduate students and universities at large
4. Options for engaging universities in setting Science Technology and Innovation (ST & I) policies for agriculture and rural development, and for catalysing good governance.
5. Partnerships forged to enhance quality of graduate training and agricultural research to improve the livelihoods of small holder farmers.

### **A voice for the farmer advisory services**

The African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Service (AFAAS), previously called SSANAAS is becoming active in the agriculture community. Its main focus is farmer empowerment and agricultural extension within the context of FAAP in the sub-region, as well as promoting participation of private sector. It operates through country chapters that report to sub-regional AFAAS organizations and has 14 country members mainly in Eastern Africa. AFAAS was set up to address the needs of agricultural advisory services (AAS), i.e. farmer service delivery in Africa. It is helping national chapters to align with FAAP principles and guidelines. Consistent participation of extension professionals in extension programs is still a difficulty. Flexibility is important in extension. Institutional arrangement is the fundamental challenge to effective extension service delivery and that touches on environmental policies. AFAAS is also faced with the issue of weak extension/advisory service capacity within the context of the dynamic systems. Market oriented farming and demand driven research does not directly help the very poor and marginalized people. You can contact AFAAS at [ssanaas@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ssanaas@yahoo.co.uk)

### ASARECA: Vacant Positions - 4 Programme Managers

*Non Staples Priority Crops Program - Program Manager for Livestock and Fisheries - Program Manager for Natural Resource Management and Forestry - Program Manager for Capacity Development and Institutional Strengthening Including Innovation Processes for Technology Uptake and Upscaling*

[CORAF/WECARD: Twentieth CORAF Anniversary and Launching of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme \(WAAPP\) and of the Central Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme \(CAAPP\), 28-31 May 2007, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire](#)

### SADC: Course on Integrated Rural Development and Land Use Planning

To enhance understanding of integrated rural development and land use planning

## **National news**

### Community-driven Approaches Improves Water Access in Rural Ghana

*2,014 communities are now using and managing water and sanitation facilities that they planned and helped build.*

### Meeting Basic Water Needs in Rwanda's Rural Communities

*352,000 people now have access to improved water services. That number is expected to reach 472,000 by end-2007.*

### Government of Cameroon and CIFOR Sign Host Country Agreement to Help Forests and People

*The agreement guarantees the support of the Government of Cameroon for CIFOR's activities in Central Africa*

### [São Tomé and Príncipe Receives Assistance from the World Bank and IMF](#)

*The World Bank and IMF support São Tomé and Príncipe's completion point under the Enhanced HIPC Initiative and approve debt relief under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative*

### [Rebuilding Mozambique's Urban Water Supply Infrastructure](#)

*The IDA supported projects have benefited about 70 percent of the urban population of Mozambique with improved production and a more reliable supply of water*

### [Irrigation Efficiency Gives a Boost to Tanzanian Farmers](#)

*Agricultural yields for more than 5,000 families doubled and household incomes tripled*

### [Southern Sudan: Launch of a Project to Improve Animal and Fish Production](#)

*The Government of Southern Sudan and the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Southern Sudan jointly launched a project to improve animal and fish production in five states*

### [ICT Provides Additional Growth for Ghana](#)

*Ghana's Information Communications Technology (ICT) sector has registered one of the most significant growth rates in Africa*

### [World Bank Support for Mali's Poverty Reduction Strategy](#)

*US\$45 million to strengthen public finance management, stimulate growth, and expand access to basic social services in Mali*

### [Maize Seed Launched to Resist Striga in Kenya](#)

*The outcome of The Rockefeller Foundation's ability to foster an agricultural product from its conceptual beginnings through the eve of its application*

### [Zambia Welcomes First Private Science University](#)

*The university will offer training in agricultural food processing, information and communication engineering.*

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## **African news**

### [Solution found for cassava root-rot devastation in Africa](#)

*Cassava varieties resistant to Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD) have been developed by scientists of IITA*

### [The African Women's Development Fund \(AWDF\) Funding Opportunity](#)

*Funding opportunity towards women's empowerment, in particular to programmes relating to women's human rights, advocacy, empowerment, networking, and other important areas*

### [Call for Participation/Partners for the Conference "From Research to Action: Mitigating the Impacts of HIV/AIDS on Agriculture and Food Security in West Africa", Benin 1-4 October 2007](#)

*Policy makers and front-line practitioners in HIV/AIDS and food security mitigation programs from research, development, donor community and civil society are especially invited to attend.*

### [Training on Molecular Marker Techniques and Fingerprinting](#)

*The training session will focus on both theoretical and practical aspects of molecular markers and fingerprinting, analysing their different uses and applications.*

### [InfoDev and COL Release First Set of Draft Country Reports on ICT Use in Education in Africa](#)

*Country reports from Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda highlight first set of draft documents for comment*

### [Public Engagement Key to Animal Health Research](#)

*Public involvement improves the interaction between international scientists and local and national authorities, making for far more effective disease control measures.*

[Nigerian Minister Calls for ICT for 'Every African'](#)

*ICTs should be made accessible for every African citizen*

[Second Advanced Laboratory Training course](#)

*The course will include lectures and laboratory training aimed at enhancing research skills in molecular biology and biotechnology of the selected scientists.*

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## **World news**

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[IPCC: We have the means to fight climate change](#)

*The world has the technological and financial means to fight climate change, but must act now to make a difference*

[Participatory Web Development: Networking, collaborating and exchanging knowledge in agriculture, rural development and natural resource management](#)

*This is the first conference devoted to exploring the ways in which international development stakeholders can take advantage of the technical and organizational opportunities provided by Web 2.0 methods, approaches and applications.*

[MDGs need better evaluation](#)

*The increase in aid has not materialised on the ground, neither is the quality of data used to assess progress towards the goals adequate.*

[KIT \(Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam\) Launched Its Portal on Rural Innovation Systems](#)

*Entry point for Internet sources on RIS, including newsletters, discussion groups, websites, bibliographic databases, and directories of organizations and projects*

[Call for Nominations: WWSF Prize 2007 for Rural Women](#)

*Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) invites nominations for the 13th annual Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life award*

[New Online Resource: the LearningForSustainability Website](#)

*A new resource for NGOs and other community groups working to support multi-stakeholder learning processes*

[CGIAR to Extend the Reach of Rural Institutions](#)

*A more cohesive approach to research focused on strengthening rural institutions*

[Meeting the Global Water Challenge](#)

*World Bank-backed projects around the world help people gain access to clean water and sanitation*

[Financing Clean Energy: A Framework for Public Private Partnerships to Address Climate Change](#)

*The World Bank advocates moving towards a climate-friendly development path*

[CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food \(CPWF\) Calls for Expressions of Interest](#)

*To lead 'Basin Focal Projects' (BFPs) in Nile, Limpopo, Indus-Ganges, Niger, Yellow and the Andean system of basins*

[DFID Announces £50 Million UK Contribution to New Congo Basin Rainforest Conservation Fund](#)

*The new fund initiative will support proposals made by ten central African countries to protect the Congo Basin rainforest*

[Rockefeller Foundation to Convene Urban Summit in July 2007](#)

*The Urban Summit will convene leaders from the private and public sectors to explore opportunities to foster healthy and sustainable cities.*

FARA's bulletin is published monthly by the FARA Secretariat. It is aimed at improving exchange of information and promoting partnership. Information in this bulletin is received from FARA's diverse stakeholders. FARA welcomes such contributions from all stakeholders in African agricultural research and development, which could be submitted by email to: [info@fara-africa.org](mailto:info@fara-africa.org).

Please check your contact information and update your profile on [www.fara-africa.org](http://www.fara-africa.org)