



WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY
WAGENINGEN UR

UNESCO Chair in Social Learning and Sustainable Development



CTA/RUFORUM/Wageningen UR – Deans Workshop

Improving Food and Nutrition Security Outcomes – What Role for Universities?

PROGRAMME

*Lucungo Hall, Maputo, Mozambique
19-20 July 2014*

Background

Although several countries have developed food and nutrition security (FNS) policies, food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition remain a continental and worldwide challenge. Tertiary Agricultural Education (TAE) Institutes are expected to contribute to socio-economic development, produce the necessary manpower and provide strategic policy insights to address actual and future challenges. But is this taking place at the pace and intensity to bring about the desired change?

In some cases, national universities have contributed to the elaboration of FNS policies but much more is expected. Policymakers and other stakeholders would like to see universities play a greater leadership role and be more engaged in assisting countries and regions in their efforts to address the FNS challenge as well as other social and development challenges. A key issue is whether the university programme; teaching, research and outreach is aligned with the attainment of the FNS goals and if not, why not and can they be improved or should they be improved?

Besides the leadership, engagement and curriculum realignment, another issue is the relevance of the profile of graduates for meeting the needs of the labour market and for increasing the impact of the academic institutions on FNS.

In 2010, the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) launched a collaboration with the Education and Competence Studies Group and the Centre for Sustainable Development & Food Security of Wageningen University and Research Centre (CSD&FS), the African regional university networks (ANAFE, RUFORUM, TEAM Africa), FARA, regional universities in the Caribbean and the Pacific to mainstream TAEs into ARD policy processes with a focus on FNS. The partners collaborated in developing and piloting an open source tool, the Auditing Instrument for Food Security in Higher Education (AIFSHE) in 10 universities in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) universities, to assist TAE's to undertake assessments and provide adequate responses.

The pilot was built 'outside in': involving an institutional and educational policy analysis involving desk studies, focus group debates, along with short online surveys and national consultations. The purpose was to identify what are the FNS policy priorities and the institutional policies and programmes in the priority area of "Increasing food supply and reducing hunger" (CAADP priority area's for the African TAE's), to determine to what extent current TAE already focuses on FNS issues, followed by an

identification of key gaps and a strategy to help bridge the gaps. Mechanisms to make TAE's more responsive to FNS were also targeted.

The university pilots have generated the following main conclusions and recommendations:

- 1- All TAE's recognized food and nutrition security as the most important and challenging issue to be addressed, followed (and connected) with other issues like climate change, poverty, water and biodiversity loss.
- 2- The use of the AIFSHE tool made it possible to depict the present situation of the TAE's in their specific context and to set clear ambitions for a tailored (local) transition to a food secure future with a sustained academic contribution from the higher education system.
- 3- The audits held in 2013 indicated a possibility to organize transnational academic clusters and by doing so, to create a learning community among the TAE's of this pilot.
- 4- All TAE's recognized the added value of the academic and national workshops, which targeted the field *Society & Research* (see Figure 1). Although most efforts are still to be deployed to consolidate the collaboration between TAE's and the business world, many input and insights have been generated.
- 5- The institutional changes, seen as crucial for the long-term, are also recognized as the most time-consuming and challenging, due to heavy bureaucracy. This is also responsible for the discrepancy noticed during the surveys between desired situations and expected feasibility to realize them. However, at department or faculty level, it seems possible to achieve certain objectives like the integration of food and nutrition security in the vision/mission, in operations (in some extent) and in the communication (internal and external) about food and nutrition security.

Figure 1: Transforming Tertiary Education toward the Integration of Food Security
(source: Wals et al., 2013)



Objective:

The African Union Commission (AU) has declared 2014 as the year of Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Security. As a side event of the RUFORUM Biennial Conference this workshop intends to expose African deans to the AIFSHE tool and methodology for increasing university engagement (leadership), quality (content and process-wise) and relevance (with respect to the market as well as with the policy makers) in addressing the FNS challenge. The objective of the workshop is therefore, to garner their feedback on the utility of the tool and identify areas for improvement and the next steps for up-scaling FNS in TAE for influencing policy and practice and improving food and nutrition outcomes in Africa and beyond.

Programme

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| Saturday 19th July | Chair: Judith Ann Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator, Science and Technology Policy, CTA, The Netherlands |
| 9:00 – 9:15 | Registration |
| 9:15 - 9:30 | <i>Welcome Remarks</i> : Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary, RUFORUM, Uganda |
| 9:30 – 10:00 | <i>Keynote Address : Status of Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa</i> – Prof. Luke Mumba, Coordinator ASTII Initiative, NEPAD, South Africa |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Coffee Break |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | <i>Keynote Address : Food and Nutrition Security: Lessons from Africa-EU Science, Technology and Innovation Bi-regional Cooperation</i> , Judith Ann Francis, CTA, The Netherlands |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | <i>Auditing Instrument for Food Security in Higher Education (AIFSHE) Tool</i> – Drs Olivier Bello, Wageningen UR, The Netherlands |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | Discussions |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | <i>Food and Nutrition Security at University of the South Pacific: Lessons from the Pilot Study</i> – Dr Jimaima Veisikiaki Lako, Senior Lecturer Food Science, University of the South Pacific, Fiji |
| 12:30 – 12:50 | Discussions |
| 12:50 – 14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | <i>Food and Nutrition Security at Université Polytechnique de Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso: Lessons from the Pilot Study</i> – Dr Salimata Pousga, Animal Scientist, Université Polytechnique de Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso |
| 14:30 – 14:45 | Discussions |
| 14:45 – 15:15 | <i>Food and Nutrition Security at University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin: Lessons from the Pilot Study</i> – Dr Gbenato Enoch Achigan Dako, Lecturer, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin & Dr Nadia Fanou Fognny, Lecturer, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin |

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| 15:15-15:30 | Discussions |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | Coffee break |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | <i>MSc Programme in Food and Nutrition Security</i> at Gulu University, Uganda – Dr Duncan Ongeng, Senior Lecturer & Dean Faculty of Agriculture & Environment, Gulu University, Uganda |
| 16:30 – 16:45 | Discussions |
| 16:45 – 15:30 | Deans Response / Reflections on Day 1 |

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| Sunday 20th July | Chair: Judith Ann Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator, Science and Technology Policy, CTA, The Netherlands |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | <i>Reflections on Day 1 : Key Messages</i> – Judith Ann Francis, CTA, The Netherlands |
| 9:30 – 10:00 | <i>Working with the AIFSHE Tool</i> – Drs Olivier Bello, Wageningen UR, The Netherlands |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Coffee Break |
| 10:30 – 12:00 | <i>Breakout Session – Working with the AIFSHE Tool</i> – Drs Olivier Bello, Wageningen UR, The Netherlands |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | <i>Taking stock – what have we learned? How can the tool be improved?</i> – Drs Olivier Bello, Wageningen UR, The Netherlands |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch break |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | <i>Break-out sessions – University Response To The Global Food and Nutrition Security Challenge</i> <i>Taking stock– what have we learned and what improvements are needed and what is the way forward?</i> |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | Coffee break |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Working Group Reports & Key Messages |
| 16:30 – 17:00 | <i>Closing Remarks</i> - Professor Adipala, Ekwamu, Executive Secretary RUFORUM - Judith Ann Francis, Senior Programme Coordinator, Science & Technology Policies, CTA, The Netherlands |