

RUFORUM MONTHLY

The Monthly Brief of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture

CONSOLIDATING THE RUFORUM BRAND

On the 29th of April 2011 RUFORUM officially launched the 2011-2016 Business Plan at the Dreamliner Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Business Plan was initially presented to the stakeholders on the 28th April 2011 and subsequently ratified by the RUFORUM Board of Trustees. It has been developed to strengthen RUFORUM's responsiveness to current and emerging capacity development needs as enshrined in the CAADP and to enhance the reach and impact of investments made so far. The Business Plan places emphasis on consolidating lessons and success for balanced growth. A series of consultative meetings culminating in a donor round table meeting which was held on the 21st and 22nd March 2011 at the Imperial College in London, UK contributed to the finalization of the Business Plan.



L to R: Prof. Mitiku Haile (former Mekelle VC); Hon. Rhoda Tumusiime (AU Commissioner); H.E. Mitiku Kassa (State Minister, Agriculture); Prof. Belay Kassa (VC, Haramaya Univ) & Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Sec, RUFORUM)

The launch was graced by a number of high profile delegates, – including His Excellency Mr Mitiku Kassa - the Ethiopian Minister of State for Agriculture, His Excellency Fuad Ibrahim the Ethiopian Minister of State for Higher Education and Honorable Rhoda Tumusiime, the African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture.

In her remarks Hon Tumusiime thanked the African Vice Chancellors for coming together under RUFORUM to address human and institutional agricultural capacity building challenges.

In his opening address H.E. Mitiku Kassa said that he hoped the new Business Plan would pave new avenues in the field of agricultural research and generate a cadre of quality professionals. H.E. Fuad Ibrahim, in his key note address, said that the Ethiopian Ministry of Higher Education “considers RUFORUM as a vital partner to work with, particularly the RUFORUM networking approach to capacity building”.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW BUSINESS PLAN

- Producing a New Cadre of High-Performing, Action-Oriented Graduates with Practical Skills and Knowledge to Advance Agriculture for Africa's Small-Holder Farmers
- Demand Driven Agricultural Research
- Advocacy for Turning Research into Action
- Professional Community Building
- Monitoring and Evaluation for Learning
- ICT Support for Research, Professional Communities, M&E, Dissemination & Advocacy
- Governance & Management for quality, transparency, links with key stakeholders, component interaction, assessment and dissemination of results, partnerships and university member buy-in

- **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

SCIENTIFIC DATA MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR PhD STUDENTS. Kampala, Uganda. 14-18 July 2011

Regional M&E Workshop, Kampala, Uganda 20-22 July 2011

PERSONAL MASTERY TRAINING FOR PhD STUDENTS, Kampala, Uganda. 25-30 July 2011

INFORMATION LITERACY TRAINING WORKSHOP, University of Zambia. 8–12 August 2011

RUFORUM Annual General Meeting (AGM). Lilongwe, Malawi. 29 - 30 August 2011

3rd RUFORUM Biennial Conference, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. 24 –28 September 2012

More information on RUFORUM activities can be accessed on the RUFORUM BLOG at [http:// rufo - rum.wordpress.com](http://ruforum.wordpress.com)

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 RUFORUM Website at www.ruforum.org.



35 MILLION EUROS FOR NYERERE AFRICAN SCHOLARSHIPS

The European Union (EU) has given 35 million Euros to support the Mwalimu Nyerere African Scholarship program over the next four years. The scheme under the African Union (AU) aims at among others, to promote student exchange and stem the African brain drain— Dr. Yohannes Woldetensae, the EU senior expert on the scheme told heads of African universities at a conference in Stellenbosch, South Africa recently. The scholarship named after Julius Kambarage Nyerere, the first post independence president of Tanzania for his strong vision for education and social action, will support 250 postgraduate students to study in another African country annually. The beneficiaries must agree to work in any African country for at least two years after graduation.

AAU Expected to Oversee the Scholarship Scheme



Prof. Olugbemiro Jegede, Secretary General, AAU.

This image is credited to:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/>

Prof. Olugbemiro Jegede, the Secretary General of the Association of African Universities (AAU), which is expected to take over the management of the scheme from a European agency said the scholarships will be accessible from September 2011. At the same conference, Prof.

Ahmadou Lamine Ndiaye, said the establishment of a Pan African University (PAU) was in high gear. Ndiaye, who heads the AU high level panel for the establishment of the university said, while the headquarters will be in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, PAU will have centres of excellence in selected universities across the five regions in Africa. Each region has been allocated a specific theme and Ndiaye said the university of Yaounde in Cameroon, will host the Central African hub that will focus on programmes

in social sciences and good governance.

West African region will handle life and earth sciences and will be hosted by the University of Ibadan, Nigeria while Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology has been selected for East African region which will handle basic sciences. Southern Africa region has been allocated satellite and space technology while North Africa will focus on water and energy.

Calls for Increase in Funding for Higher Education

Participants at the four-day Conference of Rectors, Vice Chancellors and University Presidents (COR-EVIP) urged the African heads of state to urgently ratify the Arusha Convention, which will among others, create a legal framework to harmonize qualifications and quality structures across the continent. The conference criticized African governments for not doing enough to promote higher education and research development. "Africa's economy has been growing by 6% over the past decade. But although education funding has grown by a similar percentage, 60% of the allocation goes to primary education," observed Prof. Russel Botman, the Stellenbosch University Vice Chancellor. "In one of the AU summits, it was agreed that countries should rise their funding for agriculture to at least 10% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and that of science and technology to 1%," said Ndiaye. "But it is only South Africa that has achieved this. It is unfortunate that our politicians make decisions and forget as soon as they leave the meetings. If we want to move forward, then African countries must bring their own money," she added.

The conference on the theme "Strengthening the Space of Higher Education in Africa," was organized by AAU in conjunction with Stellenbosch University. For additional information please visit the African Union Website: www.africa-union.org

This article was written By John Eremu in Stellenbosch, South Africa and published in The New Vision, Kampala, Uganda—Wednesday June 15, 2011

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

MID-CAREER COURSE FOR FACILITATING AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION



RUFORUM, in partnership with the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) of The Netherlands, Egerton University (Kenya), Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANR) formerly Bunda College of Agriculture (Malawi) and Makerere University (Uganda) announces fellowships for mid-career professionals from Kenya, Uganda and Malawi to attend a training course in Agricultural Innovations Facilitation. The course is being mounted in the three universities for mid-career professionals in each country through the financial support from the European Union under the Africa Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Science and Technology (S&T) Programme – grant FED/2009/217070.

The mid-career course is part of the implementation of a collaborative project code named GO4IT – “Graduate Opportunities for Innovation and Transformation”. GO4IT aims to ensure that Agricultural Advisory and Research Services and related development work contributes to poverty reduction through innovative application of new and existing knowledge and practices. The course is set on the premise that the Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS) framework presents a broad, inclusive and more holistic means to strengthening capacity for creation, diffusion and application of knowledge for sustainable development and benefit from value chains. The course will inculcate knowledge, skills and attitude that would enable mid-career professionals to facilitate development of sustainable and profitable value chains and Agricultural Innovation platforms

How To Apply

Applications should be made by the organizations (universities, government ministries, research insti-

tutes, NGOs, development agencies and other organizations) to act as the ‘nominators’ from the fields of agriculture, rural development, water, natural resources management and related sectors. Organizations are requested to identify suitable candidates who will benefit from the course and promote the transfer of knowledge, skills and attitude related to facilitation of agricultural innovation for sustainable development. Full details of the midcareer course and this fellowship can be obtained through Dr Washington Ochola on: w.ochola@ruforum.org

AICM STUDENT BEST MSc GRADUATE



Above: Mr Willard Zendera

At the recent Egerton University graduation that was held on the 27th May 2011, the best MSc student was Mr. Willard Zendera, a graduate of the MSc Agricultural Information & Communication Management (AICM).

He was honored with entry into the Egerton Vice Chancellor's Honors List for maintaining high standards of academic excellence. He graduated with an overall grade of 75%. For all the courses he took, he scored grades B and above.

Mr Zendera is a Zimbabwean National and has resumed employment at Africa University, in Mutare Zimbabwe.

The MSc AICM Degree Programme aims to produce agricultural professionals who are proficient in the use of emerging ICT tools for the enhancement of agricultural information and knowledge dissemination, communication and management. Egerton University was graduating the first intake under this innovative programme. Willard Zendera can be contacted on: willardzendera@yahoo.com

NEGLECTED & UNDERUTILIZED SPECIES OF CROPS (NUS) THE KEY TO FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY

Since 2009, RUFORUM in partnership with seven institutions has been implementing an ACP (S&T) project titled *Building human and institutional capacity for enhancing the conservation and use of Neglected and Underutilized Species of crops (NUS) in Western, Eastern and Southern Africa*. The overall objective of this project is to contribute towards poverty reduction and greater food and nutrition security through enhanced conservation and use of NUS.

On the 14th to the 15th of March 2011 the project partners held a planning cum Project Steering Committee Meeting in Kampala, Uganda. The purpose of the meeting was to review progress in implementing the NUS project since 2009 and plan for the year 2011 activities.

The partners on this project include:

1. Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), Uganda;
2. Bioversity International (BI), Italy
3. International Foundation for Science (IFS), Sweden
4. University of Malawi, Bunda College (UNIMA), Malawi
5. University of Nairobi (UoN), Kenya
6. African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry & Natural Resources Education (ANAFE), Kenya
7. Crop, Aromatic & Medicinal plant biodiversity Research & Development Institute (IRDCAM), Benin



Project Partners (L-R): Per (BI), Ekaya (RUFORUM), Nighisty (IFS), Sylvia (RUFORUM), Kiarie (UoN), Kwapata (UNIMA), Hermann (Crops for the Future), Aboagye (PGRII)

Highlights of the Key Achievements in 2010

- Project inception workshop
- National stakeholder meetings in Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi to verify capacity needs and status of NUS research and marketing
- Regional workshops in Eastern and Southern Africa (Kenya) and West Africa (Benin) to analyze human and institutional needs and capacities for NUS research and marketing
- Two scientific research proposal writing workshops in English and French
- Training course on research design and data management
- Project website designed

Upcoming Training Courses

In 2011, the project will deliver five training courses. Three of these will target West Africa region while two will target Eastern and Southern Africa.

Course	Eligible Region, and where course will be held	When to expect call for applicants	Scheduled Course dates
Proposal writing	Eastern & Southern Africa; Malawi	Late March/ Early April	11-15 July
Research design and data management	West Africa; Ghana	Late March/ Early April	11-15 July
Scientific writing and communication	Eastern & Southern Africa	May	12-16 September
Value chains analysis	West Africa; Ghana	May	5-9 September
Food systems	West Africa; Benin	June	3-7 October

For more information, please visit <http://rufumbiodiversityproject.blogspot.com/>. You can also send an email to: w.ekaya@ruforum.org or secretariat@ruforum.org or s.chindime@ruforum.org

EFFECT OF DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM & FERTIGATION ON GROWTH, YIELD & QUALITY OF BANANA CV. GRAND NAIN (*MUSA AAA*)



Above: Ahmed Babiker Ahmed Khalifa who is sponsored by SCARDA

Ahmed Babiker Ahmed Khalifa, is employed at the Agricultural Research Corporation under the Fruit Research Program of the Horticultural Research Center.

Ahmed recently concluded his MSc Degree in Plant Breeding and Systems at the Sudan Academy of Science University (Wad Medani in Sudan). He was funded under the SCARDA Project.

His research focused on the newly released banana cultivars that have a high yield (Banana cv. Grand Nain) Banana cv. Grand Nain also has potential for export and is less sensitive to cool temperature. There is high demand for this cultivar which will replace the widely grown of banana Dwarf Cavendish.

Presently, Grand Nain is becoming popular cultivar of banana in Sudan, but the yields are low due to lack of proper water management and fertilization. Crop management (crop water use) and other factor are not determined under Sudan condition. This study was conducted to determine certain practices that affect yield and quality for this cultivar (water quantity and efficiency with fertigation is comparison with farmer practice).

Generally the banana in Sudan is irrigated by surface irrigation which is requires more water and had many problems. Drip irrigation is a promising system for economizing

the available irrigation water. It is necessary to manage the available water efficiently.

The objectives of this study were:

1. To determine the optimum quantity of water applied by drip irrigation for banana growth and yield.
2. Testing irrigation productivity efficiency (IPE) between drip and surface irrigation on growth and yield parameters for banana.

METHODS USED

The experiment was established in Horticultural Research Center Farm. Six months old planting material propagated by tissue culture was transplanted in the field on 16th of November, 2009 at spacing of 3×3 meter (1111 mother plants / ha) and every plant received 10 kg organic manure. The daily metrological data will be used to compute reference evapotranspiration (ET_o). Five different quantities of irrigation applied at 2 days interval compared with farmers practice (flooding) every 5-7 days. These were 40%, 60%, 80%, 100% and 120% of crop evapotranspiration (ET_c) under drip irrigation. A drip irrigation system was designed and installed on the area of 2145 m² and two emitters per plant were used, the discharge of one emitter was 8 l/h.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The quantities of water applied to the banana (from 16th- November-09 to 30th - March-11) was 142 m³, 116 m³, 181 m³, 220 m³ and 260 m³ under drip irrigation treat-

ment 40%, 60%, 80%, 100% and 120% of (ET_c) compare to surface irrigation (434 m³).

The study on the hydraulic characteristic of drip irrigation system resulted in:-

- 7.92 l/h for average emitters discharge.
- 90.9% filed emission uniformity.
- 86.8% absolute emission uniformity.
- 91.9% design emission uniformity.



The higher growth parameters were found in 120% and 100% of ET_c under drip irrigation system compared with surface irrigation. The higher bunch weight (kg / mother plant) was found in 120% of ET_c under drip irrigation system.

Soil samples were collected before the planting of main crop from auger pits at 0-30, 30- 60 and 60-90cm soil depths. Physical and chemical properties of soil were estimated. The analysis of irrigation water was also done.

Ahmed can be contacted at Email: ahmedbab7@yahoo.com

SUCCESSFUL FIELD ATTACHMENT PROGRAM AWARD (FAPA) APPLICANTS

The Field Attachment Program Awards (FAPA) are designed to encourage students to follow through with continued dissemination of their research and to enable them to link more closely with the agencies working in the area where their research was carried out. FAPA is designed to link the student closely with a service provider in the area to give them work exposure. This is the first round of the FAPA call and here below is the list of the successful applications.

No.	Name	Institution & Contact Email	Title of Proposal	Country of Internship
1	Jimmy Obala	Makerere University Email: jimmyobala@gmail.com	Selection for resistance to Fusarium root rot and large seed size in early generation of multiple-parent populations of common bean	Uganda
2	Jacob Kaingo	Sokoine University of Agriculture Email: jakekain@yahoo.co.uk	Proposal for field attachment with the Africa soil information services-afsis (Arusha, Tanzania)	Tanzania
3	Kwemoi Daniel Bomet	Makerere University Email: kwemoi2000@yahoo.co.uk	Establishing a Platform for Developing <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> resistant maize for Uganda	Uganda.
4.	Mayada Mamoun Beshir	Makerere University, E-mail: mayadama-moun@yahoo.com	Strengthening Breeding for Resistance to Turicum leaf blight in Sorghum: Mapping of Resistance Quantitative Trait Loci	Kenya & Uganda
5.	Osaliya Richard	Makerere University Email: osaliya@yahoo.com	Promoting corporate and community involvement in natural resource management through dissemination of research findings and participation in field investigations of mine pollution in Kasese, western Uganda	Uganda
6.	Ms. Habonayo Gloriose	Sokoine University of Agriculture Email: habonayoglo@yahoo.fr	Comparative effect of <i>Tithonia diversifolia</i> , farmyard manure and NPK fertilizer on maize grain yield improvement at Moso, southeastern region of Burundi.	Tanzania
7.	Mr. Lema Daniel Ndwasinde	Sokoine University of Agriculture	<i>Response of lowland rice (Oryza sativa L.) varieties to moisture regime at different levels of potassium.</i>	Tanzania
8.	Mr. Mboni-hankuye Cyrille	Sokoine University of Agriculture Email: mbonicyrille@yahoo.fr	Evaluation of the performance of introduced watermelons genotypes under field conditions of Burundi.	Burundi
9.	Mr. Egeru Anthony	Makerere University	Enhancing efficient energy coping mechanisms	Uganda
10.	Yazan Ahmed Mohamed Elhadi	University of Nairobi Email: yazan498@yahoo.com		Kenya/ Sudan

PROFILING THE 2013 CLASS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI TRAINING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF DRYLANDS & IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS

In September 2010 the University of Nairobi admitted the second intake of students into the Doctor of Philosophy Degree Program of Dryland Resource Management. The class is made up of 8 emerging Dryland Resource Researchers that will soon contribute to solving the challenges faced by the continent in relation to the sustainable development of drylands and the improvement of livelihoods.

This PhD Programme is one of the five regional post-graduate PhD programmes being run under the RUFORUM network of universities. By December 2011 the University of Nairobi expects to have graduated at least 10 students on time (within 3 years) from the first intake of 18 that is currently finalizing their research. The university has taken tangible steps to institutionalize this program by putting in place resource mobilization plans and strategies to ensure that the programme is well-resourced in terms of funding for students tuition, students research and staff exchange programmes.

The profiles below represent the four females and four males that make up the new class. These students come from Kenya and Sudan. They have diverse backgrounds that encompass parasitology, environmental science, veterinary science, range management, biology of conservation, botany, planning & management.



Bibianne Wanja Waiganjo is a Kenyan citizen born on 1st January 1977. She has been a Lecturer in the Department of Natural Sciences, Mount Kenya University (formerly Thika Institute of Technology) since 2007. She is currently the Dean in the school of pure and applied sciences. She has also taught as a part time lecturer at Greta University, Kenyatta University and Gusii institute of technology. She holds an MSc. Degree (Applied parasitology, 2006) and a Bachelor of science degree (Botany and Zoology) both from The University of Nairobi. During her Msc she conducted research that sought to assess the efficacy of cow dung as a deliberate aquatic pollutant against *Anopheles gambiae* mosquitoes. She also attended an international training on "laboratory techniques in malaria vector control" sponsored by Gates malaria programme. She is currently a board member of Kenya Red Cross Society Thika Branch. Bibianne can be contacted on: bibiannen2010@yahoo.com



Peris Mweru Kariuki is a Kenyan citizen who holds a Masters in Environmental Science and Bachelors in Environmental Studies obtained on October 2002 and 1996, both from Kenyatta University. For the last eight years, she has worked as a Research Scientist with National museums of Kenya, Centre for Biodiversity Department Kenrick Section. She has been involved in indigenous knowledge documentation, prioritization of indigenous species for conservation, policy development, training and dissemination of information especially on medicinal plants. She has co-authored at least two publications. Her research interests are indigenous knowledge, ethnobotany, medicinal plants, biodiversity informatics and climate change. Peris can be contacted via the following details: P.O. Box 2303 00202 KNH Nairobi Kenya. E-mails: pmweru@yahoo.com or pkariuki@museums.or.ke



Dr. Patrick Mwambi Mwanyumba (BVM, MSc) is a Kenyan veterinarian working with the Ministry of Livestock Development. Patrick graduated with a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Nairobi and an MSc in Livestock Production Systems from the same University in 1986 and 2010 respectively. Patrick has a long and wide field and administrative experience in veterinary services in various stations and capacities serving farmers, pastoralists and the veterinary profession. He is currently stationed at the GOK veterinary department headquarters. His research interests are in analysis of the livestock trade across Kenya's borders, the current locations of major cross-border markets, how they work, their linkages to other segments of the value chain and the trade implications to the country in terms of economic contribution and disease control. Patrick can

be contacted as follows: E-mail mwahouse2005@yahoo.com, mwahouse2005@gmail.com

(Continued on page 8)

PROFILING THE 2013 CLASS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI Continued..

(Continued from page 7)



Koech Oscar Kipchirchir is a Kenyan national born on 25th July, 1985. He holds a masters degree in Range Management, BSc degree in Range Management both from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. He has worked as research assistant in various projects addressing climate change and adaptation. He has also worked as a consultant on various aspects of environment and food security and has also been a graduate assistant at the University of Nairobi during his postgraduate studies. He is a part time lecturer at Mt. Kenya University, main campus in Thika-Kenya. His field of specialization is dry land resource management, livestock nutrition, environment management and conservation. His interest is the invasive species (*Prosopis juliflora*), its implications to pastoral livestock production and climate change adaptation in the drylands. Koech can be contacted via: P.O Box 00625-00625, Nairobi, Kenya. Email: okkoech@yahoo.com



Judith Mbau is a Kenyan national working with the National Museums of Kenya Department of Zoology since 2004. She holds a masters in Biology of Conservation and a BSc in Botany and Zoology both from the University of Nairobi. She is a Research Scientist, specialized in studying the ecology, taxonomy, distributions, abundance and conservation status of mammals especially African mammals. She has wide experience in the ecology and conservation of tropical savannas, forests, wetlands and threatened species. She has undertaken research and consultancies on various aspects of environment and conservation. She is the Departmental coordinator of the National Museums of Kenya Scientific Expo, and represents the institution in various National Task Forces. She coordinates community trainings on integrated natural resource management. She has contributed chapters in the "Mt Kenya East Pilot Project for Natural Resource Management", and the "Maasai Mau Forest Biodiversity Assessment" technical reports among others. Judith's contact details are: jsyombua04@yahoo.com or jmbau@museums.or.ke



Mr. Elhadi, Yazan Ahmed Mohamed is a citizen of Sudan. He works for University of Kordofan, as an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies. Yazan holds a BSc in Agricultural Economics (Honours) and an MS.c in Range Management "Economics Option", which he obtained in 2007 and 2010 from the Universities of Kordofan and Nairobi, respectively. His research interests are in food security, Poverty, Climate Change Modeling, adaptation, mitigation coping strategies, Vulnerability, socio-economic studies and Natural Resource Management. Elhadi's contact details are: P.O Box 611-06, North Kordofan state Elobied Sudan. E-mail: yazan498@yahoo.com or yazan.a.m.elhadi@gmail.com

Staline Kibet is a Research Scientist based at the National Museums of Kenya with interest in Community Ecology, Economic Botany and Indigenous Knowledge. He holds a BSc degree in Range Management from the University of Nairobi and an MSc degree in Botany from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. He has over 10 years research experience working with diverse ecosystems and cultures in Kenya. He has been involved in various multidisciplinary research activities as a Principal investigator / Lead expert and has published his work in international peer reviewed journals, book chapters and technical papers. Mr. Kibet is a member of International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE), Katoomba Group, Kenya Forest Working Group, and Society for Conservation – GIS Kenya chapter. He also has interest in Forest Certification and currently undergoing FSC auditor certification trainee course. Staline can be contacted at skibet1@yahoo.com or skibet@museums.or.ke



Mary Morara is a Kenyan agriculturalist. She has a BSC in agriculture general from Nairobi University, postgraduate diploma in planning and management of development from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa and MBA-marketing from Kenyatta University. She has vast knowledge in agriculture extension having worked with Ministry of Agriculture for more than ten years. Currently undertaking PhD studies in Dryland Resource Management at the University of Nairobi. Her current research pursuits are in Multi storey gardening as a sustainable way of providing vegetables to urban residents. Her other research interests include marketing and land use change. Mary can be contacted on: P.O. Box 72357-00200 Nairobi, Kenya; Email: maturwe@yahoo.com

RUFORUM GRADUATE RESEARCH GRANTS – 4th CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Call ID: [RU/CGS/GRG/30/9/11](#)

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: **30 September 2011**

For selection in: **February 2012**

BACKGROUND

This is to announce the **Fourth Call for Proposals** of the RUFORUM Graduate Research Grants (GRG). The purpose of the Call is to support capacity building at graduate level and to link universities more closely with rural communities and with research, extension and development agencies. Please refer to the Competitive Grants Manual (visit <http://www.ruforum.org/sites/default/files/file/Grants/RUFORUM%20CGS%20Manual.pdf>) for further information and guide on the Graduate Research Grants. The Manual provides guidelines and other details on how to respond to the Call for Proposals.

This is an open call for participatory action research proposals that meet identified demand. The lead applicant must be from a RUFORUM Member University (except where a member university is not eligible). Other Universities not eligible for the award of grants are encouraged to participate by twinning with eligible member institutions.

TIME FRAME for Call ID [RU/CGS/GRG/30/9/11](#)

Deadline for Proposal submission to RUFORUM Secretariat by **30th September, 2011**

Compliance Review and send to External Reviewers by **20th October, 2011**

External Reviewers to return proposals with comments to Secretariat by latest **1st December 2011**

Secretariat to compile proposals for review by Technical Committee by **28th February 2012**

Results from the selection will be communicated to PIs by **Mid March, 2012**.

Proposal Submission

A soft copy of the complete application package must be submitted by email (all supporting documents, including from collaborators must be included in the same email from the PI). Where an applicant submits more than one proposal, each must be sent separately. Applications should be addressed to:

The Grants Manager

RUFORUM Secretariat,

[Call ID: *specify*]

Plot 151 Garden Hill, Makerere University

P.O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda.

Tel.: +256-414-535939; Fax: +256-414-543153

Email: cggs@ruforum.org; with copies to secretariat@ruforum.org

ANNOUNCEMENT**3RD RUFORUM BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, 24 – 28 SEPTEMBER 2012**

We are pleased to inform you that the Third RUFORUM Biennial Conference will be held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in conjunction with the RUFORUM Annual General Meeting. Please note these dates and block them to schedule your attendance to this important event. The 3rd Biennial conference will be hosted by Sokoine University of Agriculture in partnership with RUFORUM

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstracts	– 29th February 2012
Extended Abstracts	– 30th April 2012
Registration	– 30th July 2012

BACKGROUND

The RUFORUM Biennial Conference provides an opportunity for young and seasoned scientists to network and learn lessons towards increasing problem solving on the African continent.

CONFERENCE SUB-THEMES

1. Risk and vulnerability in agriculture
2. Value chains and innovation platforms
3. Innovations in agricultural information, communication & knowledge management
4. Natural resource management
5. Animal and plant breeding and biotechnology
6. Partnerships and networking
7. Strengthening innovation capacity
8. Agricultural Marketing, trade and policy
9. Monitoring and impact assessment
10. Plant and animal health management

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**Conference Coordinator**

Ms Nodumo Dhlamini: n.dhlamini@ruforum.org,
Tel: +256414535939

Team Members

Dr. Wellington Ekaya: w.ekaya@ruforum.org

Mrs. Sylvia Mkandawire: s.chindime@ruforum.org

Mrs. Claire Akun-Ntwali: c.ntwali@ruforum.org

Prof. B. Tiisekwa: btiisekwa@yahoo.co.uk or tiisekwa@suanet.ac.tz

Tel: +255232604649/ +255232603511/ +255754476410

Blog: <http://ruforum.wordpress.com/>