

RUFORUM MONTHLY

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

RUFORUM SECRETARIAT RECEIVES 106 PROPOSALS IN RESPONSE TO THE THIRD RESEARCH CALL FOR PROPOSALS

In response to the RUFORUM's third Call for Proposals for Graduate Research Grants (GRG) released in August 2010, we are pleased to announce that 106 research proposals were received by the Secretariat. The Third Call for Proposals (CfP) follows earlier Calls issued in June, 2009 (1st Call for Proposals of which 16 out of 33 compliant proposals were funded) and November, 2009 (2nd Call for Proposals, of which 26 out of 84 compliant proposals funded were awarded), respectively. Managed through a Competitive Grants System, member universities PhD holders - in agricultural related sciences are invited to apply for research grants amounting to a maximum of US\$60,000. Each research application must clearly show how a university anchored collaborative research will lead to the training of at least two M.Sc. students and the delivery of a community oriented research product (addition to the body of knowledge). Using small grants, the GRG aims to strengthen the quality and impact of university research by enhancing collaboration and graduate studies research supervision and relevance of university research.

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AAU SUPPORTS E-CONTENT DEVELOPMENT FOR AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

The Association of African Universities (AAU) under the MRCI315 project has supported the development of e-learning materials. Five African Universities attended the final e-content writing retreat. These were Bunda College of Agriculture, Malawi; Egerton University, Kenya; Haramaya University, Ethiopia; Mekelle University, Ethiopia and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya. The retreat was held from 7-16, January, 2011 in Addis Abba, Ethiopia.

The objectives of the retreat were four-fold;

1. To complete e-content writing by members of staff from Egerton University and Bunda College of Agriculture for 5 PhD Aquaculture and Fisheries Science courses and 7 MSc Agricultural Information and Communication Management courses.
2. To review the progress of implementation of the MSc AICM programme at Haramaya University
3. To engage the other RUFORUM member universities in the RUFORUM Network e-content initiatives
4. To plan for the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) retooling retreat for February, 2011.

Through this project, RUFORUM and AAU have achieved the following:

- E-content for twelve (12) courses has been developed and is currently being peer reviewed by subject matter experts.
- A platform for lesson sharing on e-content was established and experiences/lessons learnt are available for wider lesson sharing.
- The capacity for developing e-learning resources has been built for at least 20 lecturers.

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.

- ***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

RUFORUM Business Plan Review Meeting, 21-22 April, 2011, London, United Kingdom.

RUFORUM Board Meeting and Business Plan Launch, 28-29 April, 2011, Addis Ababa

Re-tooling Training Workshop for Research Methods was held, 7-11 February, 2011 Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Nairobi, Kenya.

More information on RUFORUM activities can be accessed on the **RUFORUM BLOG** at <http://ruforum.wordpress.com>



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The GRG cycle runs for approximately 7 months and major activities include issuance of a research call (which is revised each year by the Technical Committee), administrative check and pre-screening by the RUFORUM Secretariat based Grants Unit, evaluation by at least three, but usually four external reviewers, and final award by the RUFORUM Technical Committee. In the third Call, 93 of the 106 proposals received were sent out for external review. The Technical Committee will meet in April, 2011 to award recommended proposals.

The Secretariat was happy to note the increase in RUFORUM member university participation from 13 universities in the last round to 17 universities in the current round. Although non-member universities continue to submit applications, RUFORUM is unable to consider these. The trend in the number of female researchers submitting proposals remains between 20 – 24 % (see table below), for two consecutive rounds of submissions (November Call 20.5%).

It is worth noting that in this round of submission a higher proportion of proposals passed the administrative check (in the last round many proposals were rejected due to minor compliance issues, including requests for funds beyond available budgets under the GRG).

An interim analysis of the submitted proposals shows that most of the proposals included partners outside the university system, especially NGOs, NARIs and CGIARs. A few had partners from Europe. Similar to the previous Call, there were a few proposals that involved joint partnerships between two RUFORUM member universities. Such proposals usually harness the strength of one university to support capacity building in niche areas for the second university. Weaknesses included poor articulation of conceptual frameworks, monitoring and evaluation plans and exit strategies. A number of proposals did not adequately indicate the 'science' element of the proposal casting doubt on the ability of the research articulated to adequately train the M.Sc. students. Further analysis will be done after the external evaluation.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY UNIVERSITIES TO THE RUFORUM CGS: CALL ID: RU/CGS/GRG/15/10/10

No	University	No of Timely Proposals	No of late proposals	Gender of PI	
				Female	Male
1	Makerere University	14	-	2	12
2	University of Nairobi	14	2	6	9
3	University of Botswana	4	-	-	4
4	University of Zimbabwe	8	-	1	7
5	University of Malawi	8	-	-	8
6	Kenyatta University	17	-	5	12
7	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology	6	-	1	5
8	Moi University	5	-	3	2
9	Sokoine University of Agriculture	6	1	2	5
10	Egerton University	8	-	1	7
11	University of Swaziland	1	-	1	
12	Eduardo Mondlane University	1	-	-	1
13	Mekelle University	1	-	-	1
14	Kyambogo University	1	-	-	1
15	Africa University	1	-	-	1
16	Catholic University of Bukavu	1	-	-	1
17	National University of Lesotho	1	1	-	2
Non member universities/organizations					
18	Bondo University	1	-	-	1
19	Busitema University	1	-	1	-
20	University of Cape Town	1	-	-	1
21	*Economic Social Research Foundation (ESRF)	-	3	-	-
SUB-TOTALS		99	7	23	80
TOTALS		106			
		*PERCENTAGE		22%	77.6%

Notes

1. *Economic Social Research Foundation (ESRF) submitted three (3) proposals as an institution therefore they cannot be categorized as male or female.
2. * The percentage is computed out of a total of 103 because of the 3 ESRF proposals, which were sent by an institution.

RESEARCH METHODS PROGRAMME IN AGRICULTURE COMMENCES

A total of 34 students drawn from ten Eastern, Central and Southern African countries reported at JKUAT on Monday, February 7, 2011 to start a two year unique academic programme in Master of Science in Research Methods intended mainly to provide comprehensively endowed professionals for impact oriented research to



Above: Students and JKUAT Staff at the official opening of the Masters programme

accelerate the continent's agricultural development. The programme, the second to be funded by the Regional Universities for Capacity Building in Agriculture is unique in its approach to research in the sense that it draws from a mix of disciplines such as statistics, agriculture, natural sciences and life sciences to strengthen the study of research.

During the official opening, Prof. Romanus Odhiambo,



Above: The DVC (AA) addresses the students and facilitators

Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs, underlined the importance of increased research in the field of agriculture. He said that Agriculture was a key pillar in the economies of the continent. He emphasized that this situation required scholars in the agricultural disciplines to engage in quality research. By drawing resources from across the region, the DVC told the participants, the post graduate programme that was a product of wide consultations among stakeholders under RUFORUM provided an instrument for enhancing regional collaboration.

The forum was also addressed by the dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof Ngamau Kamau; director, Alumni and International Students' Liaison Office (ALISO), Dr Justus Onguso; and the chairman, Department of Horticulture, Dr Njue Muigai.

AGRICULTURE- THE CURRENT BACKBONE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PATH TOWARDS MDG 1

Source: *The Independent* ([Allafrica.com](http://allafrica.com))
Rwanda- 27 December 2010

Analysis

Over the past decade Rwanda has become the symbol of progress in Africa. It has received praise for numerous initiatives to deal with corruption and efforts to modernise its economy. For example, in the World Bank Doing Business 2010, Rwanda is the fastest reforming country in the world, with Rwanda ranking number 11 in the world for starting a business, it now takes an entrepreneur two procedures and three days to start a business - more efficient than the average economy in Europe, Asia and the Middle East. However, while much of attention has been on ridding the country of corruption and therefore engendering foreign investment interest, one of the most compelling stories has been that of the process of agricultural transformation.

Agriculture is an unmovable cornerstone of Rwandan society. Eighty percent of the people depend on the land for their livelihoods. Farmers depend on a unique mixture of

geographical landscapes, topography and microclimates. This presents substantial challenges. The land scarcity and the fact that Rwanda has one of the highest population densities in Africa, culminate in farming being conducted by smallholders who own, on average, 0.5 hectares of farmland.

Furthermore, as the name The Land of One Thousand Hills suggests, soil erosion is an impending problem with some cultivation occurring on slopes of up to 55%. These factors, combined with the fact that the country is landlocked, with the nearest ports, Mombasa and Dar-Es-Salaam, being over 700 miles away, places constraints on Rwanda's development and would seem insurmountable for an ordinary person.

Luckily for Rwanda, his President Paul Kagame is no ordinary person. He has built a leadership to not only rid Rwanda of its conflict-ridden history but also to rid it of the shame of hunger and to develop it into a middle in-

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AGRICULTURE- THE CURRENT BACKBONE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PATH TOWARDS MDG 1

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come economy by the mid of the century irrespective of the severity of the constraints in place. The country under Paul Kagame's leadership has put in place a vision to transform the country. This plan is enshrined in Vision 2020 and the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy which guides Rwanda's development. The agriculture sector is at the core of this vision and will play a big role in its success.

Last 5 Years

With a high population density and a lack of cultivatable un-occupied land, farmer productivity increases are paramount. With this in mind, the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources designed the Crop Intensification Program largely driven by the use of input technologies such as improved seeds and fertilizers, elements that were key factors of success in Asia at the pick of the Green Revolution. However, the Rwandan situation is unique. The use of improved inputs by the farmer could only be translated into profit by mitigating land fragmentation, thus the introduction of the land consolidation policy.

Through land consolidation, farmers grow specific crops in a synchronized fashion that improves aggregate productivity while ensuring environmental sustainability. Government organises seeds and fertilizers access, delivering extension services and mobilizing financial support to groups of farmers as opposed to individual scattered farmers. This has greatly reduced the cost and ensures that there is no farmer left behind irrespective of land size. In the past 3 years, the consolidated use of land area under maize, wheat and beans alone increased from 28,788 hectares to 254,000 hectares in 2010. The results have been substantial and are the main catalyst behind the current levels of high growth in the sector - now at 7.7% growth in 2009/2010.

The use of improved seeds, measured as percentage of agricultural households utilizing inputs, rose from 3% to 55%, respectively. By encouraging farmers to use improved seeds, Crop Intensification Programme has substantially increased the local demand and the capacity for seed production. Additionally, the national average fertilizer use has increased from 4 kg, per hectare in 2006 to 24 kg/ha in 2010. The result of combined input access and increased extension service under land consolidation has had the country's total production of maize, wheat and cassava triple, while beans production has doubled.

Importantly, these productivity increases have resulted in import substitution and has allowed Rwanda to move to being a food secure country. This self-sustainability elucidates why Rwanda was not as adversely affected by the

food crisis of 2008 than neighbouring countries. Furthermore, the availability of food surplus have allowed Rwanda to look at new export opportunities in these crops, especially for the private sector who before have largely been absent.

Parallel to the Crop Intensification program and equally as important in dealing with poverty, and definitely more powerful in dealing with malnutrition, is the One Cow per Poor Family Program- locally know as the Girinka Program. This program like many other initiatives in Rwanda has deep roots in the Rwanda culture: where malnutrition in kids is a shame to family and society and where sharing a cow (passing on an offspring to other families) builds very strong society bonds. The Girinka Program, started by the President in 2006 has secured a productive asset in the hands of poor farmers and mitigated child malnutrition with milk drinking. The program now targets about 350,000 poor families across the country of whom 92,000 have already received a cow. This program has locally been scored as most successful of all economic uplifting programs at the household level.

The externalities are enormous; besides dealing with malnutrition, farmers have income from sell of extra milk and off springs from the cow, they access manure for their land a factor that has seen crop and livestock very neatly integrated in Rwanda. The most powerful externality however, is at the society level; a farmer who receives a cow passes on the first female offspring to another needy farmer. This has built a strong sense of community bonding that Rwanda needs very badly. Recently, the IFAD President was visiting farmers in Rwanda and one beneficiary of a cow from an IFAD supported project proudly showed him his bank book. The President asked him there was anything that IFAD could do to improve his life even more and the farmer said 'Yes, give a cow to my neighbours who are still waiting their turn'.

Strengthening food security gains and dealing with the challenges of Rwanda's terrain

Rwanda is now focusing on projects to strengthen these productivity gains and to deal with the constraints presented by its topography and climate. The government has embarked on two ambitious programs: We are looking to irrigate previously under-utilised marshland areas. Over the last 5 years, 15,000 hectares have been irrigated to allow farmers to optimize rice cultivation - producing two crops a year. The target is to have 40,000 hectares under rice cultivation by 2020.

We have also initiated a project to increase area available for farming given the very challenging terrain of Rwanda.

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AGRICULTURE- THE CURRENT BACKBONE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PATH TOWARDS MDG 1

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The project named Land Husbandry, Water Harvesting and Hillside Irrigation Project combines all these elements into one of the most ambitious projects the agriculture sector has ever taken on. When complete the project will bring 35,000 hectares of previous barren land into agriculture and will irrigate over 12,000 hectares on hillsides. The project has already been initiated in two districts and one year later, farmers are set to receive a bumper harvest having previously given up on farming on this land. This project is now in 17 districts but it will be extended across the country until every land is protected against soil loss.

While agricultural export production represents a small part of aggregate production, Rwanda has exploited the high quality characteristics of its coffee and tea sector to increase incomes for small holder farmers in these sectors. Space limitations do not allow me to go into the details of Rwanda's emerging cash crop potential in coffee, tea and horticulture.

Part of Vision 2020's conceptualization was to change the policy environment to engender a pro-reform ideology in government and society. In the agriculture sector, the government has led on key regional and global initiatives. For example, Rwandan agriculture prioritization has meant that it leads the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) in terms of policy commitments to utilizing agriculture growth to eradicate poverty malnutrition. With the goal of allocating 10% of the national budget to agriculture, Rwanda has moved from allocation 3.5% in 2007 to 7% in 2010 excluding infrastructure.

Furthermore, Rwanda hold herself to very high standards and leads on pushing improved policy dialogue, review and accountability mechanisms within the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) framework. This could not have been better demonstrated than last year's post CAADP investment Plan conference held in Rwanda to mobilise resources for the agriculture sector. Being the first ever conference of its kind, it set the stage for peer review processes in agriculture, investment plan development and is now used as a benchmark for GAFSP financing of the CAADP.

Additionally, in relation to foreign aid, Rwanda, and the agriculture sector, have been at the forefront of debates in how to deliver aid. Rwanda's coordination with its development partners is lauded internationally, with the Working Party for Aid Effectiveness (OECD) and other donors sighting Rwanda as a model for improving aid deliv-

ery through its ability to operationalize budget support and coordinate with donors. For example the agriculture sector has for the last three years exceed the CAADP stipulated growth of 6% even though it has not yet reached the 10% investment requirement. These multi-sectoral efforts have been a major catalyst to alter the trajectory of the country.

Yet key challenges remain for Rwanda. The Millennium Development Goal for 2015 of halving poverty headcount and extreme poverty is round the corner. Rwanda is coming from a deep poverty trap of a baseline of 41.3% (the proportion of those in extreme poverty) in 2000. To meet the MDG target for 2015 of only one-fifth of society being under extreme poverty needs extra ordinary efforts that are enshrined in the hopes and promise of the recently concluded elections in Rwanda - economic development and prosperity.

To meet the challenge, the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources is prioritizing initiatives that facilitate the growth of those in rural areas most in need. The Crop Intensification Programme has further prioritized increase in productivity by developing an input voucher system to ensure that there is no farmer left behind and to improve the farmer's chance of success. Post harvest handling and storage strategies will be firmly committed to reduce losses from the current 35% to 15% and to enhance quality and marketability of surplus for farmers. Furthermore, the One Cow Programme is set to expand to reach those most in need over the next three years. But more importantly, LWH with support from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) will be able to reach hundreds of farmers that had given up on the hope of food security or any form of income.

Rwanda is a country that represents great hope for its people. It basically qualifies the old saying "where there is a will, there is a way". Rwanda's ability to transform itself from a conflict torn fragile state to a country that boasts of peace and security of all its citizens, demonstrated food security, facilitate a growing exports markets, lead regionally in aid management and on governance issues is laudable. The reforms and efforts in the agriculture sector are a major part of this transformation. Many of the reforms are yet to bear fruit, however, given the progress so far, the emphasis and initiatives put in place; agriculture will be the driver towards meeting MDG 1. And if there was any country that is up for the challenge, it would be Rwanda.

Agnes Kalibata is Rwanda's Minister of Agriculture.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS FOR RUFORUM SCHOLARSHIPS IN RESEARCH METHODS AT JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

The following 33 students have been awarded RUFORUM scholarships to pursue the MSc Research Methods Programme at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, in Nairobi, Kenya. A total of 77 applications were received. The training commenced on 7 February, 2011. This is the second intake, the first intake consisted of 29 students who are currently doing field research in Burundi; Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

Name	Country	Gender
Mossa Mohammed Me-	Ethiopia	Male
Otiende Verrah Akinyi	Kenya	Female
Ekhuya Noella Andenyi	Kenya	Female
Khaemba Emma Nelima	Kenya	Female
Okello Gabriel Otieno	Kenya	Male
Macharia Martin Stephen	Kenya	Male
Kinundu Wilfred Nzyoki	Kenya	Male
Ohulo Linda Amondi	Kenya	Female
Kamau Samuel Murachia	Kenya	Male
Momanyi Henry Mokua	Kenya	Male
Gikonyo Kevin Kanyuira	Kenya	Male
Mugo James Njeru	Kenya	Male
Nthuku Ester Nthambi	Kenya	Female
Mgalamadzi Elton Eric	Malawi	Male
Likongwe Patrick Jeremy	Malawi	Male
Mkanthama Joseph	Malawi	Male
Vale Ivy Mwaiwawo	Malawi	Female
Mukhala Collins Tamonde	Malawi	Male
Niyibituronsa Marguerite	Rwanda	Female
Saidi Mzamiru	Tanzania	Male
Juma William	Tanzania	Male
Mbwambo Omary Ijumaa	Tanzania	Male
Nalunkuuma Justine	Uganda	Female

Name	Country	Gender
Alinda Fred	Uganda	Male
Ojoatre Kaaka Tom	Uganda	Male
Epel Anthony Raymond	Uganda	Male
Mawa Leone Iga	Uganda	Male
Bwogi Godfrey Vianney Masembe	Uganda	Male
Sikumba Ndwardwa	Zambia	Male
Kalinda Chester Mhosi	Zambia	Male
Ndlovu Elton	Zimbabwe	Male
Ismail Mohamed Ismail Maryoud	Sudan	Male
Ibrahim Ahmed Ibrahim Abdelfadeel	Sudan	Male

RUFORUM, IDRC & AGRA SPONSOR THE PHD SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME AT SOKOINE UNIVERSITY

Seven students have been awarded RUFORUM-IDRC scholarships to pursue PhD training in Soil and Water Management at Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania. This is in addition to 10 others funded by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). The training started in October, 2010.

RUFORUM - IDRC funded students

Name	Country	Gender
Beneberu Shimelis Feleke	Ethiopia	Male
Rachel Eshetu	Ethiopia	Female
Msolini Barnabas	Tanzania	Male
Dorwin Singa	Malawi	Male
Frank Mwenechanya	Malawi	Male
Anne Nyambura Karuma	Kenyan	Female
Tolera Abera Goshu	Ethiopian	Female

AGRA funded students

Name	Country	Gender
SAKO, Assefa Menna	Ethiopian	M
Kebeney, Syphyline Jebitok	Kenyan	F
Phiri, Austin Tethani	Malawian	M
NKESHIMANA, Godeberthe	Rwandese	F
SIRIKARE, Sylvere N.	Rwandese	M
Higini, Kalista Peter	Tanzanian	F
Tiluhongelwa, Thomas D. B.	Tanzanian	M
John Mthandi	Malawian	M
OMOLLO, Jacob Omondi	Kenyan	M
Mourice, Sixbert Kajumula	Kenyan	M

TRAINING OF TRAINERS FOR SCIENTIFIC DATA MANAGEMENT HELD FOR LECTURERS OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICAL METHODS

Lack of reliable agricultural data has been a serious drawback to development both in research and agricultural-related services. While agricultural research scientists in sub-Saharan Africa have a key role to play in rural development efforts through the conduct of relevant research and the publication of research results for the benefit of the community, competencies in research and statistical methods additional skills for collecting, managing, analyzing and presenting data. This is however hampered by constraints in delivery methods in training at universities. The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) with financial support from the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA) organized a Training of Trainers workshop for university lecturers and scientists in the Eastern, Central and Southern African countries (ECSA) region. The workshop held in Entebbe between 15th and 27th August 2010 was attended by 30 lecturers from universities in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, D.R. Congo, Burundi and Malawi.



Above: Participants who attended training of trainers workshop

The aim of the workshop to develop delivery methods of a course geared towards an improved efficient flow of agricultural information that enhance research and production systems, to achieve efficiently planned experiments and surveys; appropriate data collection; analysis of data and effective reporting of results. Specifically the workshop introduced the lecturers to effective, efficient and relevant approaches to the delivery of SDM modules and topics; produced teaching guides for each module that will be subsequently used in delivering the SDM courses to other research scientists

and students; and integrated the use of free access software, R and GenStat in the teaching of the course. The participants also practiced qualitative data analysis and reviewed a new PhD course in Biometrics and the ongoing regional MSC in Research Methods course hosted by Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in Kenya. Six modules were designed including: Data collection and integrity check; Advanced experimental design; Mixed models and analysis; Generalized Linear and Categorical Modeling (GLM); Managing qualitative data; and Introduction to R for Data analysis. The participants reviewed each module name; course content and topics, enriched the course topics, brainstormed about the objectives and learning outcomes of each module as well as designing the mode of delivery and assessment

The participants were also exposed to using new software such as R and Genstat statistical analysis and NVivo for qualitative data analysis. The workshop made specific recommendations for improving the teaching of statistical methods in the region including tapping on the experience of the participants to build sustainable capacity and need to organize special training course in qualitative data management and support in-country SDM training. The workshop was facilitated by Prof Sagary Nokoe from the University of Development Studies in Ghana, Dr Peter Njuho (South Africa) and Dr Washington Ochola of RUFORUM. The feedback from participants shows the level of appreciation and willingness of the participants to be engaged in future as trainers.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to thank RUFORUM and CTA for making it possible for us to meet, share idea and interact as we did. Despite the rigor and hard work we experienced under the able and excellent guidance of our facilitators, it was a pleasant two weeks. The sauna and swimming pool sessions were indeed awesome". – A participant noted in her mail of appreciation after the workshop.



Story by Dr Susan Balaba Tumwebaze, participant and Lecturer, Faculty of Forestry & Nature Conservation, Makerere University

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY TRAINS ADDITIONAL 20 M.SC PLANT BREEDERS

Makerere University has admitted a second cohort of 20 Msc students under its regional training programme in Plant Breeding and Seed Systems. The students come from 7 countries (see table below). This follows the successful training of the first cohort of 21 students within the stipulated period of 30 months (see also November 2011 issue about the first cohort). The first cohort were funded by Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the FARA-ASARECA programme on Strengthening Capacity for Agricultural Research for Development in Africa (SCARDA). The first cohort was largely drawn from Burundi, DR Congo and Southern Sudan, as part of on-going efforts by RUFORUM, Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) efforts to build R&D capacity for countries emerging from of conflict.

The Makerere University programme targets training MSc-level Plant Breeders, as a rapid response to build a pool of scientists needed to develop high yielding and environment resilient crop varieties. The students undertake field internship with the Uganda National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) and CGIAR Plant Breeding Programmes. They also spend time with private seed companies such as Victoria Seeds. With support from RUFORUM, a similar programme is being run by the University of Zambia, targeting the Southern Africa region.

LIST OF ADMITTED STUDENTS TO MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PLANT BREEDING & SEED SYSTEM 2011/2013 AT MAKERERE				
No.	Name	Nationality	Gender	Funding Institution
1	Okot Francis	Uganda	Male	RUFORUM
2	Opio Robert	Ugandan	Male	RUFORUM
3	Khakhi Nolipher	Malawian	Female	RUFORUM
4	Nyambak Anne	Kenyan	Female	RUFORUM
5	Gebrelibanos	Ethiopian	Male	RUFORUM
6	Embaye Lijalem Gebrewahid	Ethiopian	Male	RUFORUM
7	Onzimita Alfred	Ugandan	Male	AGRA
8	Amongi Winny-	Ugandan	Female	AGRA
9	Iragaba Paula	Ugandan	Female	AGRA
10	Kesiime Vasiter	Ugandan	Female	AGRA
11	Kayondo Siraj	Uganda	Male	AGRA
12	Dramadri Isaac	Ugandan	Male	AGRA
13	Castiano Bi-naissa Uassaleia L	Mozambican	Male	AGRA
14	Mukamuhirwa	Rwandese	Female	AGRA
15	Munganyinka Esperance	Rwandese	Female	AGRA
16	Nizeyimana	Rwandese	Male	AGRA
17	Lussewa Rashid Killoh	Tanzanian	Male	Government of Tanzanian
18	Charles Lirri	Uganda	Male	RUFORUM
19	Waniale Allan	Uganda	Male	RUFORUM
20	Charles Aru	Uganda	Male	RUFORUM