



*Global Agri Business Incubation
Network's*

e-Newsletter

Issue 10

Key Promoters of the GABI e-Newsletter



Coffee value chain agribusiness incubator launched in Uganda

Coffee smallholder farmers in Uganda can now look forward to better entrepreneurship and agribusiness opportunities and become stronger players in the coffee value chain with the launch of the Consortium for Enhancing University Responsiveness to Agribusiness Development (CURAD). CURAD also aims to work towards becoming the leading generator of young agribusiness entrepreneurs to create jobs and wealth in East Africa.

CURAD is one of the six agribusiness incubators being established under the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa's initiative on Universities, Business and Research in Agricultural Innovation (FARA-UniBRAIN) project with mentoring support from ICRISAT-ABI of the institute's Agribusiness and Innovation Platform (AIP).

"FARA is committed to help the African farming community through initiatives like CURAD. We will work towards promoting agro-entrepreneurs in Uganda and elevate the position of Ugandan coffee in the international market," said Dr Yemi Akinbamijo, Executive Director, FARA and chief guest during the launch.

In his keynote address, Dr Kiran K Sharma, CEO, ICRISAT-AIP, highlighted ABI's efforts in mentoring 22 agribusiness incubators in India and in establishing five Food Processing Business Incubation Centers in Africa under the India-Africa Forum Summit-II. He also spoke of extending support to all Agribusiness Innovation Incubator Consortia (AIIC) established under FARA-UniBRAIN and in exploring opportunities to scale-up this unique initiative across different African nations and work towards their sustainability.

“The Danish Government contributes about US\$ 2 billion every year for various development activities across the globe and it will continue to support initiatives like UniBRAIN in the African continent,” said Mr Henrik Vistisen, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark.

“The AIIC established under the UniBRAIN initiative is committed to carry out extensive entrepreneurship activities in Africa and contribute immensely to the overall development of different nations,” said Mr Alex Ariho, UniBRAIN facility coordinator.

Others who spoke during the launch were: Mr Joseph Nkandu, Executive Director, National Union of Coffee Agribusinesses and Farm Enterprises (NUCAFE); and Dr Samuel Kyamanywa, Principal Investigator of CURAD. Hon Gerald Ssendaula, CURAD Board Chairperson; Prof Bernard Bashasha, Principal, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University; Ms Irene Frempong, Director, FARA; and many other dignitaries were present during the program.

Officially launched on 9 May, CURAD is primarily promoted by the Makerere University, NUCAFE, the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), the University of Copenhagen, and NIRAS International.



Partners from FARA-UniBRAIN and ICRISAT at the launch of CURAD agribusiness incubator in Uganda.



Incubatees of CURAD display their products during the launch of the agribusiness incubator

News Round-up

Inauguration of the CURAD Agribusiness Incubator covered by press



The story on CURAD inauguration and its services to entrepreneurs received a detailed coverage in the "Daily Monitor" a major newspaper in Uganda on May 07, 2014

FARA - UniBRAIN's steering committee meet held at Uganda

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa organised UniBRAINs Steering committee meet on May 8, 2014 at the Agricultural Research Station of the Makerere University, wherein the committee members reviewed the progress of the six incubators on technical and financial fronts. Mr Alex Ariho, UniBRAIN Facility coordinator, presented the progress along with the scale-up strategy of UniBRAIN, which includes setting up of new business incubators on UniBRAIN model and six Seed Business Incubators (SBIs) to promote local seed entrepreneurs.

During this activity, the UniBRAIN committee also visited Afri Banana Products (ABP) Limited on May 7, 2014. Team ABP also organized an exhibit of the products and the smooth conduct of the review.

Mr S. Aravazhi presented on the experiences of ICRISAT in successfully running the Network of Indian Agribusiness Incubators (NIABI) and the way forward for the African Agribusiness Incubation Network (AAIN) leading to the formation of Global Agri Business Incubation (GABI) network.

African Union CAADP and FARA UniBRAIN Programme move a step ahead in Strengthening African Agriculture Transformation through Agribusiness Incubation

Dr. Boaz Keizire, African Union CAADP coordinator, called upon African governments and development partners to support agribusiness incubation programme initiated by FARA UniBRAIN as model for enhancing and delivering on development of 5 key commodity value chains per country agreed by African governments in the next 10 years. He made the remarks during a one week workshop organized by FARA UniBRAIN in Accra, Ghana, aimed at developing a program for African Agribusiness incubation (AAIP) that would build on best practices and lessons of UniBRAIN to establish incubation activities in 11 African countries. In his remarks, Dr. Keizire emphasized the role of private sector in agribusiness development and Agriculture transformation; he thanked FARA for the efforts of bringing private sector into research and development agenda through UniBRAIN program that directly connects with CAADP implementation at national level.

FARA UniBRAIN is an African Union Commission initiative that was started in 2010 to support and promote agribusiness technologies commercialization, agribusiness education and up scaling of best practices and lessons of agribusiness incubation in Africa. The UniBRAIN model engages private sector, research organizations and Universities in commodity value chain development in Africa through incubation and is implementation by consortium of partners such as PanAAC, ASARECA, ANAFE, CORAF, CCARDESA and ICRISAT.

Dr. Irene Annor-Frempong, Director of SP2 at FARA, thanked FARA partners and UniBRAIN in particular for the achievements registered to date and urged all to continue in their commitment, support and cooperation in delivering UniBRAIN value proposition. She pledged continued support and partnership by FARA through Science agenda and other FARA initiatives to see African Agribusiness Incubation Programme (AAIP) succeed for the benefit of African farmers.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Alex Ariho, UniBRAIN Facility coordinator, appreciated FARA UniBRAIN Partners and incubators for the achievements registered. He further highlighted on opportunities and challenges for agribusiness incubation in Africa and called for continued support by African Union through CAADP and other development partners in addressing the challenges through the proposed African Agribusiness Incubation Program (AAIP). He noted that the formation of African Agribusiness incubator Network (AAIN) was timely and an opportunity for African governments and other actors in delivering agribusiness value chain development agenda in Africa



African Union CAADP Coordinator Dr Boaz Keizire (Middle) with FARA staff



FARA staff and UniBRAIN partners during write shop meeting at FARA secretariat

News & Opportunities

Call for Proposals: Africa Exclusive

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation - Program for Emerging Agricultural Research Leaders in Africa (PEARL)

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation seeks proposals for agricultural research with the potential to increase the sustainable productivity of smallholder farmers in developing countries. Sustainable productivity includes tackling the underlying social and economic determinants of productivity, such as gender equity, environmental issues, and healthy, diverse diets. The 2014 PEARL call is restricted to proposals relevant to staple crops grown in Africa.

Deadline: 07 September 2014 - [Click for more details >>](#)

Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) -- Scaling Up Crop Production in Mozambique

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) is implementing Scaling Seeds and Technologies Partnership (SSTP) with a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (the donor). AGRA envisions partnering with other qualified organizations through a grant-making process to implement SSTP.

Deadline: 08 July 2014 - [Click for more details >>](#)

Awards & Fellowships

Call for Proposals

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Post-Graduate Studies with Relevance to Developing Countries

Subject areas include energy, environmental management, water resources, and others. DAAD offers scholarships for qualified applicants from developing countries enrolled at German universities for development-related studies, normally ranging from 12-36 months. Several offerings are available in agricultural and forest sciences, environmental sciences, and other subject areas. Application deadlines vary across the German universities and from program to program.

Deadline: 31 July 2014 - [Click for more details >>](#)

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) -- Fellowships 2015

AWARD is a program of two-year fellowships to strengthen the research and leadership skills of African women in agricultural sciences. The program is intended for women in the agricultural disciplines and related life sciences broadly defined. Eligibility extends to women agricultural scientists who are citizens of Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. There is no age restriction.

Deadline: 08 August 2014 - [Click for more details >>](#)

Events

International Conference on Advances in Food Sciences (ICAFS 2014) October 8-9, 2014, Jinju, South Korea

The primary goal of the conference is to promote research and developmental activities in Advances in Food Sciences. Another goal is to promote scientific information interchange between researchers, developers, engineers, students, and practitioners working in South Korea and abroad. The conference will be held every year to make it an ideal platform for people to share views and experiences in Advances in Food Sciences and related area. Topics of interest for submission include, but are not limited to Food Biotechnology, Food engineering, Food microstructure development and characterization, Food properties including thermal, chemical and mechanical properties, Antioxidants and photochemical, Lipids, Macronutrients, Micronutrients, Minerals and trace elements, Protein, amino acids and nitrogenous compounds, Proximate composition, Diet studies, Growth and development, Infant feeding, Nutrition education, Nutrition policy, Reproduction and lactation, Socioeconomic status, and Sports nutrition.

Reach Us

Global Agri Business Incubation Network's e-newsletter

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