



e-Newsletter

Global Agri Business Incubation Network's
Monthly Newsletter

July 2013

FARA appoints a new Facility Coordinator for the UniBRAIN Initiative

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) has appointed Mr. Alex Ariho as the new UniBRAIN Facility Coordinator. He will replace Mr. Ralph Von Kaufmann. FARA and UniBRAIN Community is grateful to Mr. Ralph Von Kaufmann for his dedication and commitment to the UniBRAIN initiative during his term as the UniBRAIN Facility Coordinator.

Mr Alex Ariho brings to this position a wealth of experiences, high-level skills, knowledge competences, and hands-on management experiences. Mr. Alex Ariho has worked for non-profit and for profit businesses and has a record of success in getting initiatives off the ground and flourishing. Most recently, he served for 5 years as Chief Executive Officer of Excel Hort Consult Ltd, Uganda, a private sector Business and Development Company focusing on agribusiness trade and investment value chain development. Prior to that, he spent 6 years as head of a very entrepreneurial and sustainable agriculture non-profit organization that provided information systems, training, agribusiness education and technology transfer to SMEs and the business communities as well as information centres in a wide range of settings.

Mr. Alex Ariho holds a Master's degree in Development Management, Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Post-Graduate Diploma in Business studies, Post-Graduate Diploma in Public Administration, Post-Graduate Diploma in Project Planning and Management.

He will be reporting on 1st of August 2013.

Key Promoters of the
GABI e-Newsletter



Welcome Aboard



Mr Alex Ariho, the new
UniBRAIN Facility Coordinator

Reforming Curricula in Higher Education in Africa: Realities, Challenges and Opportunities



Reforming agricultural education curriculum in tandem with technological advancement and development demands remains one of the key challenges facing African universities. Bureaucratic bottlenecks and inadequate resources have conspired to slow down the pace of curriculum reform in the midst of rapid technological advances especially in the field of agriculture.

The cumulative effect of the dislocation between agricultural education curriculum in African universities and practical realities could have a negative impact on development in the continent.

Hence, the African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education (ANAFE) has led a side event on Curriculum reforms during the FARA Science week held from 15 – 20 July 2013 in Accra, Ghana. The main objective of the session was to identify bottlenecks to curricula reform and agree on key steps to undertake to reform TAE curricula in sub-Saharan Africa. The session was chaired by ANAFE's Board Chair, Prof. John D. Saka.

The main outcome from the side event and one of the recommendations from the Science week is that ANAFE should spearhead agricultural curriculum reforms in Africa. During the side event, a three year (2014 - 2016) action plan was conceptualized to improve the process of reviewing and implementing agricultural Education curricula in the continent. The action plan focuses on four main pillars:

1. Publish the proceedings of this event as a paper for the benefit of all stakeholders
2. Establish a working group on curriculum reforms – tasked with mapping a strategy for improving the processes of curriculum review and delivery in African universities; should be spearheaded by ANAFE.
3. Develop innovative curricula frameworks and enhance linkage with quality assurance bodies (IUCEA, CAMES) for input and accreditation of the output
4. ANAFE and other tertiary Agricultural networks and organizations like RUFORUM to jointly spearhead resource mobilization to facilitate reflection meetings and training for university leaders and lecturers.

Deliberations during the side event were centered on three panel discussions. The first panel discussion, 'Process of Curriculum Review and Reforms in TAE institutions' was facilitated by Prof David Munthali, Chair of the Southern Africa RAFT of ANAFE. It featured Prof Olusegun Yerokun, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Mulungushi University, Zambia; Prof Kamau Ngamau, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya; Dr John OFOSU, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ghana and Prof. Yacouba Manjeli, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, University of Dschang, Cameroon.

The second panel discussion 'Curriculum review and reform: Reality of the delivery' was facilitated by Dr Aissetou Yaye, ANAFE's Executive Secretary. It featured Dr Kasolo Wilson, Principal, Nyabyeya Forestry College, Uganda; Prof Serigne Amadou Ndiaye, Dean Faculty of Sciences and techniques, University Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal; Prof Elenimo Khonga, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Botswana College of Agriculture, Botswana; Alex Ariho, CEO ExcelHort, Uganda and Ms Hilda Kegode Sayo, MSc Student at Eldoret University, Kenya.

The third panel discussion 'Innovative and special Curricula' was facilitated by Dr Marie Louise Avana Tchentcheu, Coordinator of Regional Centre for Specialized Studies in Forestry (CRESA -Foret), Yaoundé, Cameroon. The panel featured Dr Dennis Garrity, Former DG, ICRAF: Incorporating Evergreen Agriculture in TAE curricula; Dr Maturin Zida, Regional Coordinator, Western Africa Center for International Forestry CIFOR: Reforming Curricula for Green Economy and Green Jobs; Professor John David Kabasa Principal, College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources & Biosecurity(COVAB), Makerere University: the AFRISA initiative of Makerere University, Uganda; Dr Keith Moore, Associate Director, Virginia Tech, USA: The innovate programme; Prof. Mohamed Abdel-Al, AFAAS: The concept of New Extensionist.

The final panel discussion was 'How to initiate, develop and implement relevant curriculum Reforms' was facilitated by Prof August Temu, Deputy Director General for partnership and Impacts of ICRAF, Kenya. It featured Prof Agnes Mwang'ombe, Principal, University of Nairobi, Kenya; Dr Judith Lungu, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Mulungushi University of Zambia; Prof Lena Andersson, Pro Vice Chancellor, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU); Dr Omo Oohiokpehai, Special Adviser to the Minister of Agriculture, Nigeria and Prof Ali Douma, Cabinet Director to the Minister of secondary, Higher and Scientific research of Niger.

Overall discussion and way forward followed the last panel and was facilitated by the ANAFE Board Chair, Prof John Saka and the NEPAD NPCA representative in West Africa, Prof Diran Makinde. It is during this overall discussion that the 4 year action plan was developed.



From left to right: Prof David Munthali, Chair of the Southern Africa RAFT of ANAFE; Dr John OFOSU, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ghana; Prof Kamau Ngamau, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya; Prof Olusegun Yerokun, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Mulungushi University, Zambia and Prof Yacouba Manjeli, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, University of Dschang, Cameroon during the side event on Curriculum Reforms.

ICAR-NAIP BPDs nurture agribusiness through innovative agro-technologies and business incubation

The National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP), of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has set up Business Planning & Development (BPD) Units in its research institutes and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) across the country. The BPDs are primarily agri-business incubation centers which serve start-up entrepreneurs in agri-business, agri-business industry, small and medium enterprises, rural entrepreneurs, farmer producer organizations, agro-tech innovators, etc. These BPDs promote agribusiness ventures through a vast pool of commercializable agro-technologies from R&D institutes, provide access to infrastructure & facilities, provide capacity building and mentoring, facilitate funding, etc.

The BPDs cover the entire spectrum in agribusiness, covering agriculture, fisheries, horticulture, veterinary, agri-engineering, food processing and are located across the country. NAIP has entrusted the Agri-Business Incubation program of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) with the responsibility of handholding and mentoring the BPDs to build synergy and help commercialize innovative agro-technologies through agribusiness development. Together, these incubators have formed the Network of Indian Agri-Business Incubators (NIABI).

In a short span of four years, starting with 10 BPDs in 2010, NIABI has incubated more than 1200 agribusiness ventures, commercialized 107 technologies, trained around 2200 entrepreneurs and created direct employment for more than 9000 people, thereby benefitting 131,600 farmers through products and services of the clients. This network has grown from 10 to 22 business and planning units with the addition of 12 more new BPDs this year, making NIABI the world's largest BPD network of agribusiness incubators.

The NAIBI Network at your service	
Existing BPDs	Newly added BPDs
IARI, New Delhi	IIVR, Varanasi
CCSHAU, Hisar	NDRI, Karnal
AAU, Anand	CIPHET, Ludhiana
JNKVV, Jabalpur	IISR, Calicut
CIFT, Cochin	IIHR, Bengaluru
TNAU, Coimbatore	CIFA, Bhubaneswar
NIRJAFT, Kolkata	CPCRI, Kasargod
BAU, Ranchi	CIAE, Bhopal
IVRI, Izatnagar	CIBA, Chennai
CIRCOT, Mumbai	NAARM, Hyderabad
	CRRI, Cuttack
	CIPHET, Ludhiana



Agri-Tech Investors Meet boosts business opportunities through business incubation

The National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in collaboration with the Agri-Business Incubation (ABI) program of ICRISAT successfully conducted the Agri-Tech Investors Meet at New Delhi during 18-19 July, 2013. The Meet had the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) as Industry Partner and ISB-Munjal Institute for Global Manufacturing as Knowledge Partner.

The two-day Meet was a unique technology commercialization platform that showcased more than 70 ready-to-commercialize agro-technologies from different sectors of agriculture along with promotion of the agribusiness incubation services. The event was attended by more than 400 participants representing industry, agri-scientists, entrepreneurs, investors and incubator professionals.

The first of its kind event in the Indian agriculture research system, the Meet saw 58 agro-technologies commercialized and exchange of 80 MoUs in the presence of Dr K Kasturirangan, Dr Dar, Dr Ayyappan and other top officials of ICAR. The value of the technology transfer was Rs. 3.40 crore. The event had more than 40 presentations on agro-technologies, an agri-tech expo and 98 B2B (Business-to-Business) meetings amongst involving scientists, industrialists and agri-business entrepreneurs for which 43 Letter of Interest (LOIs) were signed for technology commercialization.

In his special address, Director General William Dar said, "By helping nurture innovations and entrepreneurship in agriculture through our ABI program, ICRISAT is fulfilling its mission to help eliminate poverty and improve livelihoods of smallholder farmers in the drylands. I am extremely happy that ICAR is enhancing this initiative and network further."

Dr K Kasturirangan, Member (Science), Planning Commission of India who was Chief Guest during the closing session, urged scientists to do market-oriented research to enhance public-private-partnerships for a prosperous future for Indian agriculture. Dr Kiran K Sharma, CEO of ICRISAT's Agribusiness and Innovation Platform, lauded ICAR's role in bringing different stakeholders together, while Mr SM Karuppanchetty, COO of the ABI program presented the work and progress of India's agribusiness incubators.

The other highlight of the Meet were the Agri-Tech Investors awards, which were presented in four categories: The Best Performing NAIP-BPD of ICAR for Technology Commercialization was won by the Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai (Rs 1.3 crore); Best Performing BPD for Technology Commercialization in State Agricultural University went to Anand Agricultural University, Anand (Rs 12 lakhs); the Indian Veterinary Research Institute at Izatnagar won the award for the BPD with Maximum Number of NAIP Technologies Commercialized (16) while the BPD unit of Indian Agricultural Research Institute at New Delhi won the award for commercializing technology of highest value (Rs 60 lakhs). Dr Vigneswaran of CIRCOT, Mumbai was acknowledged as the winner of the Maximum License per Technology award (5 licenses worth Rs 16.85 lakh each).

Agri-Tech Investors Meet: Image Gallery



Dignitaries participate in the Open-session with the investors, scientists, SMEs and other participants, during the second day of the meet



The dignitaries release a **Compendium of NAIP Technologies**, showcasing technologies with a potential for wide scale commercialization, prepared by ABI-ICRISAT.



An MoU exchange on co-business incubation between ICRISAT, represented by Dr William Dar, DG, ICRISAT and CAA-Nepal, represented by Dr Ashok Kumar Murarka



The dignitaries look at the products / exhibits and the sector-wise walkthroughs in the exhibition inaugurated at the Agri-Tech Investors Meet

UniBRAIN Incubators managers/board members trained on Agribusiness Marketing Planning and Incubator Client Essentials

The Pan African Agribusiness & Agro-Industry Consortium Agribusiness and Agro Industry (PanAAC), a key partner of the UniBRAIN initiative, organized a joint strategy meeting and training that was held on the 29th – 31st of May 2013. PanAAC hosted incubator managers/board members in Nairobi. The meeting gave the UniBRAIN incubators an opportunity to jointly discuss incubator issues and plan out a way forward, it also served as a training session to further develop business skills for the incubators. The joint meeting featured special sessions and presentations on: Managing a Successful agribusiness and Best Practice for Mentorship, Marketing Planning and Marketing Management and Execution, Client Selection-Due Process, Due Diligence and Agreements and Essential Client Services and Client Graduation.



Cross-section of participants at UniBRAIN Incubator Managers' Workshop on 29th-31st May, 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya.



UniBRAIN workshop to link research to UniBRAIN Agribusiness Incubators



The Universities, Businesses and Research in Agricultural Innovation (UniBRAIN) an initiative of FARA was conceived in 2010 with an overall objective of enabling universities, business and agricultural research institutions to commercialize agricultural technologies and produce graduates with entrepreneurial and business skills through agribusiness incubator partnerships in Africa. In order to create jobs and generate incomes, six Agribusiness Innovation Incubator Consortia were identified as potential innovation incubators through a competitive process. The sub-regional organisations (SROs) namely ASARECA, CORAF and CCARDESA are key partners of the UniBRAIN initiative with the major role to link research to the UniBRAIN incubators. Three of the six incubators are in the ASARECA sub-region: the UniBRAIN-ABP working on the banana value chain, UniBRAIN- CURAD working on coffee value chain, UniBRAIN-SV CDC working on sorghum value chain. In line with its major inputs in the UniBRAIN incubation programme, ASARECA is organising a workshop to share the findings of a recently completed study on inventorization of incubatable technologies in banana, coffee and sorghum value chains, and further to sensitize research on how to work with the three incubators.

The workshop will take place in Entebbe (Uganda) from 13th to 14th August 2013.

The UniBRAIN Agribusiness Incubator Model at FARA Science Week



The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, FARA, hosted its **6th Africa Agriculture Science Week and FARA General Assembly** at Accra International Conference Centre, Accra, Ghana during 15 – 20 July 2013. This gathering has been internationally recognized as the African forum attracting key decision makers in governments within and outside Africa such as Heads of State and Government, Ministers, Policy makers, key players in the private sector, leaders of civil society and farmers' organisations and agricultural research and development.

One of the 51 side events which have been set aside during the Science Week before the main plenary, was featured the UniBRAIN initiative where UniBRAIN facility and the 6 UniBRAIN incubators presented their businesses by the means of elevator pitch, a business technique for capturing an audience's interest by delivering just enough crucial information in articulate and charismatic ways to potential business partners.

ICRISAT at the 6th Africa Agriculture Science Week: Showcasing agricultural science and innovation for food security

The sixth Africa Agriculture Science Week (AASW) and General Assembly of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) concluded on 20 July in Accra, Ghana, with ICRISAT reiterating its continued commitment to Africa's smallholder farmers through its research-for-development initiatives.

"I am proud to see the progress that the FARA has made since its creation and its contribution in enhancing the scientific agricultural research agenda in Africa. I also believe that CGIAR centers like ICRISAT have the capacity to support the establishment of this science agenda toward attaining food security within the continent," said Dr Adama Traore, member of the ICRISAT Governing Board. He also underlined how the attendance by the highest body of the African Union and New Partnerships for African Development (NEPAD) has demonstrated the commitment of policy and decision makers to the Forum.

In his statement to the general assembly titled "African agricultural development: opportunities and challenges," International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) President Dr Kanayo Nwanze acknowledged the impact of ICRISAT's science and innovation, citing in particular the fertilizer microdosing technique in increasing yields using low cost and existing technologies.

ICRISAT took active part in the proceedings and side events at AASW organized under four sub-themes. A side event under the sub-theme on innovations to enhance productivity and resilience was dedicated to a consultative dialogue on smart agriculture to mitigate climate change. This was chaired by Dr Farid Waliyar, ICRISAT Regional Director for West and Central Africa. During the side event on Nigeriens Feed Nigeriens (Presidential initiative 3N) organized by Conseil Ouest Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricole/West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/ WECARD), ICRISAT's interventions in Niger were highlighted through a presentation by the Director of the Niger Agricultural Research Institute.

Climate smart villages in Africa: Opportunities for farmers and communities, a side event organized by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), had Robert Zougmore as the main speaker and Abdoulaye from CCAFS based at the ICRISAT Samanko station in Mali also contributing. On the closing day, certificates were presented to young trainees in social media and on gender mainstreaming in agricultural research for development. "Let's talk money", a film developed by ICRISAT and its partners (Agro Insight and partners) was awarded the third prize in the Film Festival Award category. The award was presented to Mr Bougouna Sogoba, Director of the Malian NGO Association Malienne d'Éveil au Développement Durable (AMEDD).



Mr B Sogoba, Director, NGO AMEDD (right) receiving the prize for the farmer-to-farmer video "Let's Talk Money" from outgoing FARA Director Dr Monty Jones.



WCA Regional Information Officer Ms Diamo (far left) with members of the Young Professionals for Agricultural Development and the FARA-AASW Social media reporters' group organized by CGIAR.

News & Opportunities

Call for Concept Proposals: United Nations University (UNU) – Grants for capacity building in agricultural research 2013

UNU-ISP will support capacity building projects proposed and implemented by leading scientists who are engaged in research related to sustainable agriculture in developing countries, under the responsibility of a host institution. The program mainly consists of capacity building through on-the-job training for young researchers in developing countries..

Deadline: 10 August 2013

[Click for more details >>](#)

Call for Letter of Interest (LOI): USAID – Development Innovation Ventures (DIV)

Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) invites applications for the quarterly competition for bold development ideas in any sector and any country in which USAID operates. DIV innovations can include both new applications of technology as well as novel business models, production processes, and products or services that are expected to lead to transformative improvements to development outcomes. Those interested in applying to the DIV competition must first submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) for review. DIV is particularly interested in solutions that benefit individuals in extreme poverty.

Deadline: 15 August 2013

[Click here to read more >>](#)

Call for Applications: Agricultural Innovation in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa - 3ie Agricultural Innovation Thematic Window

The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) is seeking applications for proposal preparation grants under its Agricultural Innovation Thematic Window. This window will increase the stock of rigorous evidence on what works in agricultural innovation in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

The Agricultural Innovation Thematic Window will fund up to 16 new impact evaluations of interventions in the areas of knowledge transfer, contractual arrangements, adoption, and soil health. The grants will be awarded in two phases. 3ie strongly encourages substantive involvement of developing country researchers. 3ie will facilitate matchmaking during the preparation phase to help ensure this level of representation on the team. 3ie expects the study to be located in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Deadline: 16 August 2013

[Click here to read more >>](#)

Call for Applications: African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD)

AWARD is a career-development program that equips top women agricultural scientists across sub-Saharan Africa to accelerate agricultural gains by strengthening their research and leadership skills through tailored fellowships. AWARD Fellows benefit from two-year fellowships that focus on fostering mentoring partnerships, building science skills, and developing leadership capacity. Fellows stay in their institutions, continue their research, and travel to AWARD training courses held in various locations in Africa. Women agricultural scientists who are citizens of Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, or Zambia, who have completed a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree, particularly in the disciplines listed below, are eligible to apply. There are no age restrictions.

Deadline: 9 August 2013

[Click for more details >>](#)

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