



e-Newsletter

Global Agri Business Incubation
Network's Monthly Newsletter

June 2013

ICRISAT Director General William Dar receives MS Swaminathan Leadership in Agriculture award

M.S. Swaminathan Award for leadership in Agriculture for 2013 was presented to Dr William Dar by K. Kasturi Rangan, Member (Science) Planning Commission, Govt. of India in New Delhi on 24th June, 2013 for his work that created great impacts on lives of resource poor farmers and actively promoting PPP in agriculture. The UniBRAIN community congratulates Dr. William Dar, Director General of ICRISAT, on receiving the MS Swaminathan award.

We are grateful beneficiaries of his forward thinking Inclusive Market-Oriented Development (IMOD) approach which has catalysed and facilitated the building of bridges between agricultural research and agribusiness. He has not only encouraged and supported ABI-ICRISAT's leadership in pioneering public-private partnerships in support of agribusiness incubation in India but has made the experience they have gained and the lessons they have learnt available for African agribusiness incubation in an exemplary and generous partnership.



Dr Dar receiving the award from Dr K Kasturirangan (right). Also seen is Dr RS Paroda (left)

Key Promoters of the GABI e-Newsletter



UniBRAIN-ABP spotlighted at a high level African conference on the strategic importance of intellectual properties policies to foster innovation

The *World Intellectual Property Organization* (WIPO) organized a high level conference on the strategic importance of intellectual properties (IP) policies to foster innovation, value creation and competitiveness in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) during 12-13 March, 2013. The Symposium was host to 20 African ministers of sciences and technologies and was opened by H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Afri Banana Products Ltd. (ABP), a UniBRAIN agribusiness incubator based in Uganda which is focused on promoting entrepreneurship along the banana value chain, was invited to share the story of ABP's establishment and in particular its progress with commercialising a patent. Dr. George Byarugaba-Bazirake, the Secretary of the ABP Ltd.'s board and Chairman of the management team made a presentation on 'partnerships with private sector, experiences from ABP'.

ABP is private company limited by guarantee which is owned by a consortium of university, research and private agribusiness institutions. It is focused on creating wealth and employment by adding value to a wide range of banana products. The consortium is supported by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) with Danida funding for the Universities, Business and Research in Agricultural Innovation (UniBRAIN) initiative.

ABP Ltd is exploiting a patent awarded to Dr. Bazirake in 2009 under the Ugandan Patents Statute to produce vacuum packed matooke (cooking bananas) for export to the United States under a certificate issued by the US Food and Drug Administration. The ABP agribusiness incubator creates jobs and wealth by enabling Matooke producers, who adhere to its strict quality standards, to enter the US market under the ABP label.



Participants of the high level African conference on the strategic importance of IP policies to foster innovation, value creation and competitiveness, pose with H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania (Seated fourth in first row).

ICRISAT facilitates setting up of incubator in Cameroon

As part of a project of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Govt. of India, a feasibility study was conducted by ABI-ICRISAT for establishing a Food Processing Business Incubation Centre (FPBIC) in Cameroon during April 28 - May 5, 2013.

During the study, SM Karuppanchetty, COO, Agri Business Incubation Program, AIP-ICRISAT and S Aravazhi, COO, Innovation and Partnership Program, AIP-ICRISAT, visited two sites identified by the Cameroon Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Crafts (CCIMC) along with other experts from the chamber. The study also involved a three-day market survey and field assessment in Douala and Limbae to inform the preparation of a business plan. The feasibility study report identified two potential sites for establishing the FPBIC by the Centre d'Incubation Pilote (CIP) of CCIMC, one near the Douala Port and the second at Boadibo. This incubator will be dedicated to establishing businesses for processing Tapioca based products on site and to incubating rural entrepreneurs in primary processing.

An Adhoc Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting was held on May 3, 2013 at CCIMC for the participants, including Mr Halidou Bello, Secretary; Mr Yves Tefack, the Chief of the centre, technical experts of CCIMA & CIP and Mr. J. Ravi Kumar, Honorary Honourable Consul, Indian Consulate of Cameroon, to receive a presentation of the draft business plan. The committee accepted the plan which, after incorporating the committee's recommendations has to be approved by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI). The FPBIC in Cameroon is due to be operational by the end of 2013.



I Yondo Ejenguele, Joachim Ondo Atangana, SM Karuppanchetty, Mr. J. Ravi Kumar, Honorary Honourable Consul, Indian Consulate of Cameroon, Halidou Bello and Amine Saleh Chegador at the Chamber of Commerce, Cameroon.



Mr SM Karuppanchetty (center) and Mr S Aravazhi (extreme right) during their field study in Cameroon

CURAD renovating its center of excellence in agribusiness incubation

With the broad vision of boosting thousands of agribusinesses in Africa, not just Uganda, the UniBRAIN Consortium for enhancing University Responsiveness to Agribusiness Development Ltd (CURAD) is currently renovating an old building at Makerere University Agricultural Research Institute Kabanyalo (MUARIK) into a state-of-the-art agribusiness centre. This facility will provide management offices and work spaces for over 20 incubatees.

UniBRAIN-CURAD agribusiness incubator will support entrepreneurs (start-ups and SMEs) to establish businesses that will, on the one hand capture more of the value added in coffee processing locally, and on the other promote the coffee drinking culture to increase the market for coffee producers in East and Central Africa. It will do this by providing agribusinesses incubation services to support incubatees in nurturing their agribusiness ideas into fully fledged businesses. “CURAD is going to be Uganda’s Silicon Valley in the agribusiness sector”, said Joseph Nkandu, the Ag. Incubator Manager. So far 51 prospective incubatees have applied to be considered for entry into a pre incubation and incubation programme. CURAD is about to start a screening them to form a shortlist of 20 with the most innovative, commercially viable and scale-able agribusiness ideas to enter the pre incubation scheme.

Out with the old

and

in with the new



In centre is Mr. Joseph Nkandu, Ag. Incubator Manager CURAD with the contractorbusiness Incubator Manager, Mr. Joseph Nkandu (centre to the left) and Accounts Administrator, Mrs. Mararet Nanvonio (Centre foreground)



Artistic impression of CURAD's state-of-the-art

ICRISAT facilitates NAIP Veterinary and Dairy Technology Commercialization Meeting 2013

A meeting on the forthcoming technology commercialisation was organized on 7 May, 2013 at the National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) headquarters in Pusa, New Delhi. It was chaired by Dr Sudhir Kochhar, National Coordinator, Component-4, NAIP.

The agenda included technology validation, valuation and bench marking for the Indian Agri-Business Conclave that is scheduled to be held in July 2013 in New Delhi.

The participating dignitaries included Dr PS Pandey, National Coordinator, Component-1, NAIP; Dr Puneet Sharma, Principal Investigator, IVRI; external experts Dr. Jagadeesh Sunkad, Consultant; Dr. Sukmeet Singh, Associate Director, Munjal Global Manufacturing Institute, Indian School of Business, Mohali; SM Karuppanchetty, Jonathan Philroy & Suryamani Tripathi from ICRISAT.

The screening of NAIP technologies by the expert members was based on specifications provided by the BPD Units. The meeting also discussed the identification of potential buyers and marketing strategies for the screened technologies.

There were also B2B meetings at which five scientists presented six technologies to six companies. These meetings were guided and facilitated by expert consultants Mr. Jagadeesh & Dr. Rahul Srivastava. The program concluded with the signing of five Letters of Intent (LOIs) for three technologies potentially generating US\$ 130,000 of business.

The event concluded with closing remarks by Dr Sudhir Kochhar and SM Karuppanchetty.



Participants at the 2013 NAIP Veterinary and Dairy Technology Commercialization meeting

AIP, ICRISAT completes feasibility studies and business plans for establishment of 5 FTLs in Africa

With recently concluded visits to Nigeria and The Gambia, AIP ICRISAT has completed the feasibility studies and business plans for all 5 food testing laboratories (FTLs) that are being established by the Government of India under the India Africa Forum Summit II (IAFS II). Dr Saikat Datta Mazumdar and Mr. Aravazhi Selvaraj visited Nigeria from 14 - 18 April 2013. During the visit extensive discussions were held with the Deputy High Commissioner of India to Nigeria Shri Suresh K Makhijani, the Director General of National Agency for Food and Drug Administration Control (NAFDAC) of Nigeria Dr Paul B Orhii, and other important stakeholders involved in establishment of the FTL. The delegation also visited the FTL site at Kaduna to discuss the design and layout of the laboratory. They also met representatives and stakeholders from various food industries in Nigeria.

In the Gambian phase of the visit from 19 - 24 April 2013 the delegation met with officials from the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE) to discuss the mode and modalities of finalizing the building site for the FTL and the design of the laboratory at the FTL site. They also interacted with different stakeholders of the proposed FTL to gather data and information for use in the feasibility study and business plan. His Excellency Shri Ram Mohan, Honorary Consul General of India to The Gambia, was later briefed on the objectives and activities of the Indian delegation.

Based on the feasibility studies and business plans the NutriPlus Knowledge Program of AIP ICRISAT, the implementing agency for the project, will now initiate the process of establishing the FTLs in the 5 African countries-The Republic of Congo, The Gambia, Nigeria, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.



Visit to the La Casera beverages factory in Lagos



Honorary Consul General of India to The Gambia, His Excellency Shri Ram Mohan (2nd from right) visits the FTL building site with along with ICRISAT team.

News & Opportunities

Food & Business Global Challenges Programme (GCP)

The Food and Business Global Challenges Programme provides grants, to research that generates insights into the functioning of the global food system. Proposals should be submitted by consortia of research organisations and various public and private organisations from both the Netherlands and at least one Low and Middle-Income Country (LMIC).

It focuses on the urgent and growing need for adequate knowledge and solutions for regional and local problems related to food security. Food and Business Research consists of two funding instruments: the Global Challenges Programme and the Applied Research Fund. Both are part of the Food & Business Knowledge Agenda of the Ministry of the Dutch Foreign Affairs.

Closing date for submitting preliminary applications: 9 July 2013

[Click for more details >>](#)

Mask-Africa: Food Security & Nutrition Program

Mask-Africa Food Security & Nutrition Program 15-16 July 2013 is a series of events to discuss ways to accelerate sustainable investment and production in African agriculture to improve food & nutrition security. The event will be organised by Mask-Africa, in association with the South Africa Ministry of Economic Development, The World Bank and the Women in Agribusiness in Sub-Sahara Africa Alliance.

Government officials, farmer associations, agencies, NGO's, universities, foundations, financial institutions, donors, business associations and representatives from the farming community have come together to form new initiatives. International companies are committed to investing in African agriculture to strengthen food security on the continent. The two day event will take place in Cape Town, South Africa on the 15-16 July 2013.

[Click for more details >>](#)

EC-Integrated Programme to achieve Sustainable Food Security II - Support to the smallholder livestock and agriculture sectors, Zimbabwe

Call for Concept Notes:

The specific objectives of this call for concept notes are to develop and implement improved livestock systems, increase productivity, market integration and income sustainability, and also to develop and implement diversified and appropriate value chains for smallholder farmers. The work should aim to strengthen value chains, and build extension services and applied research. Eligibility is open to non-profit organizations in EU member states and ACP countries (including Zimbabwe), and to international organizations. This call for proposals is divided into the following two lots:

- Lot 1: Support to the smallholder livestock sector;
- Lot 2: Support to the smallholder agriculture sector

Budget: EURO 15,000,000

Deadline: 06 June 2013

[Click for more details >>](#)

News & Opportunities – Africa Exclusive

Call for Letters of Inquiry: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Improving nutrition outcomes through agricultural interventions

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is seeking proposals to build a consortium in Africa to optimize nutrition outcomes from investments in agriculture, working with or delivering through existing platforms developed by governments, community organizations, private sector or development programs.

Preferably, the lead organization should have its headquarters in Africa. The consortium needs to work in Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Nigeria. The call is open to concepts that cover a minimum of four of these countries. The duration of this grant should be at least five years.

Deadline: 07 June 2013

[Click for more details >>](#)

Call for Pre-proposals: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation - Program for emerging agricultural research leaders

The call invites applications for projects led by MSc and PhD scientists at national agricultural research institutions and universities in sub-Saharan Africa, working in collaboration with other researchers internationally (either within Africa or beyond the continent). The applicant needs to be an African scientist residing in sub-Saharan Africa or planning to relocate to sub-Saharan Africa to implement the proposed project. The project should be led by a scientist based in sub-Saharan Africa at a national agricultural research institution or university. The project should involve a partnership of at least one international research collaborator and must have potential applicability to one or more of the following crop and livestock species: maize, wheat, rice, millet, sorghum, cassava, sweet potatoes, yams, beans, cowpeas, chickpeas, groundnuts, banana, chickens, small ruminants (e.g. goats), and cattle. The project duration can be four years or less.

Deadline(Early decision): 01 July 2013

Deadline : 30 September 2013

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

Reach Us

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