African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry & Natural Resources Education

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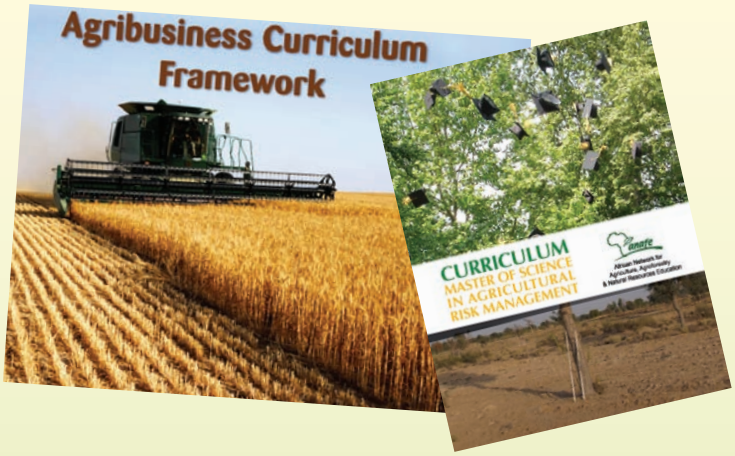
ANAFE launches curricula on agribusiness and risk management

The agribusiness curriculum encompasses the entire spectrum of post-secondary education from certificate to PhD levels

ANAFE has launched a comprehensive curricula framework in agribusiness and risk management. The curricula, unveiled during the fourth ANAFE Symposium held in Cameroun on August 25-29, 2014, is set to significantly transform agribusiness and risk management training in Africa.



Sample covers of the agribusiness and risk management curricula published by ANAFE.

Agribusiness Curriculum

The agribusiness curriculum encompasses the entire spectrum of post-secondary education from certificate to PhD levels. It is a product of intensive and extensive consultation with a broad array of stakeholders including the private sector, regional and national bodies, curriculum specialists, educationists, policy-makers, lecturers and students.

It aims to address shortcomings in agribusiness training, especially the mismatch between the skill set of graduates and market demands. Hence, deliberate effort was made to actively engage representatives from the private sector to ensure the training meets their needs. It also draws heavily from modern theoretical frameworks and cutting-edge practices in this field. Another unique feature of the curriculum is its strong orientation towards entrepreneurship with graduates expected to be ready to start their own businesses instead of waiting to be employed as has always been the case.

Risk Management Curriculum

The risk management curriculum serves as a guide for universities wishing to establish the Master of Science in Agricultural Risk Management degree programme. ANAFE considers this as an important starting point because it will establish the cadre of experts who will later strengthen training in this area, at lower levels of education. ANAFE is confident that universities will take up the challenge, and establish graduate studies in Agricultural Risk Management.

A recent survey on risk management education revealed that there is very little teaching on agricultural risk management. Worse, it was established that current educators do not have the necessary skills in this area, and that relevant learning resources are required. ANAFE was tasked to resolve this situation by providing guidance on curricula, capacity building for educators and the development of learning resources.

Piloting the agribusiness curricula

Already, ANAFE has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with several universities that are keen to implement the agribusiness curricula. They are Rongo University College, Taita-Taveta University College, Strathmore University (all from Kenya) and Mulungushi University (Zambia). Several universities from Southern, Central and West Africa have also expressed interest in implementing the agribusiness curriculum, which is expected to transform agribusiness education in the continent. Rongo University College is already implementing the BSc component while Strathmore Business School is at an advanced stage to start offering Masters in Agribusiness Management (MAM) while Taita-Taveta University College will offer the courses at Certificate, Diploma and Undergraduate levels. Mulungushi University will pilot the Masters curriculum.

The uptake of the curricula and the positive reaction received after sharing them is clear indication of the existing demand for agribusiness courses. ANAFE is expected to guide the implementation of the curricula to ensure it realizes the desired objectives.

IN THIS ISSUE.....

ANAFE launches curricula on agribusiness and risk management 1
ANAFE partners commit to agribusiness and risk management education 2
ANAFE Members elect New Board Chair and Vice 3
Governance Training for institutional leaders held in Arusha 4
SASACID external evaluation reveal significant program gains 5
ANAFE participates in AFF project workshop 5
ANAFE Part of CTA's new evaluation initiative 6
Internship seminar for agribusines students at Kenyatta University 6
University of Abomey-Calavi receives International Star for Quality Prize 8
ICRAF-hosted institutions discuss working modalities 8

Project Updates

ANAFE partners commit to agribusiness and risk management education

At the core of this declaration is the need to strengthen research, training and innovation dimensions of agribusiness and risk management by creating effective synergies among different actors



Participants of the ANAFE Symposium on agribusiness and risk management held in Yaounde Cameroun. August 25-29, 2014.

ANAFE and its partners have committed to promote agribusiness and risk management education in Africa. The commitment - in form of a declaration - was a product of intense deliberations at the fourth ANAFE Symposium held in Yaounde, Cameroun, August 25-29, 2014.

The Symposium, under the banner "*Agribusiness Development and Managing Risk and Uncertainty in African Agriculture",* attracted 138 participants from 20 countries representing 44 institutions drawn from universities, colleges, the private sector, research organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Government agencies.

At the core of this declaration is the need to strengthen research, training and innovation dimensions of agribusiness and risk management by creating effective synergies among different actors, especially institutions of higher learning, research organizations, policy makers, farmer organizations and the private sector.

Colleges and universities

In this declaration *Colleges and Universities teaching agriculture, forestry and natural Resources Management will be required to t*ransform teaching and learning content and processes towards generating new enterprises that respond to current demands. They are also required to facilitate the retraining of educators to adapt to current trends and encourage the development of locally relevant learning resources and establish strong links with private sector, farmers and other stakeholders to enable better and effective practicum for students.

Governments and policy-makers

Governments and policy-makers will Institute policies and actions that should transform the image of agriculture from that of poverty and deprivation to the fitting image of driver of social and economic development; allocate more resources for education and research in agriculture and secure increased human and institutional capacity at the vocational and technical training levels; and step up support for farmers and farmer organizations to function effectively and efficiently.

Private sector

The private sector is required to work closely with universities and colleges offering courses on agriculture and natural resources education and research institutions to strengthen enterprise development, through practicum, internship, thesis research and also assist youth in the development and operationalization of profitable enterprises along the whole value chain.

Development Organizations and Partners

Development organizations and partners are required to collaborate with ANAFE in building capacity and sharing agricultural and natural resources knowledge and lessons of experience and also invest in technical cooperation in programmes that reach the colleges, universities youth, women and a wide rag of stakeholders.

Farmers and Farmer organizations

Farmers and farmer organizations will be required to articulate the local needs for capacity building and research priorities; Self-organize and federate to make informed choices in the adoption of innovations and especially to capture the full benefits of agribusiness; share wisely local knowledge primarily for the betterment of local livelihoods and the environment; and promote farmer-to-farmer learning.

Researchers

The role of researchers is to support the development and testing of viable models for business in agricultural and natural resources with focus on enterprises development at different scales; undertake user-focused research and popularize/ influence the transformation of relevant research findings into profitable enterprises.

ANAFE is vested with the responsibility of coordinating the implementation of these commitments to ensure agribusiness and risk management education contribute to development in Africa.

ANAFE Members elect New Board Chair and Vice

The General Assembly also proposed a raft of recommendations aimed at strengthening and repositioning the network with a view to addressing emerging challenges in Tertiary Agricultural Education (TAE)



Outgoing ANAFE Board Chair Prof. John Saka and Vice Chair, Dr. Marie-Louise Avana congratulate the new Board Chair and Vice Chair, Prof. Saliou Ndiaye and Prof. Christine Onyango after their election during the ANAFE General Assembly held in Yaounde Cameroun.

Prof. Saliou Ndiaye from the University of Thies (Senegal) and Chair of the Sahel Regional Agricultural Forum for Training (Sahel-RAFT) is the new ANAFE Board Chair; He will be deputized by Prof. Christine Onyango, the Deputy Principal, Taita -Taveta University College (Kenya).

The two were elected during the General Assembly of ANAFE members held on 29th, August 2014. They replace Prof. John Saka, Vice Chancellor, University of Malawi and Dr. Marie-Louise Avana Tientcheu from the University of Dschang (Cameroun) respectively. The two leaders have served the Network with distinction for the last four years.

Prof. Ndiaye is an agronomist (entomology) with technical expertise in experimental ecology and life sciences. He is the head of the Department of plant production (agriculture – forestry) at the University of ENSA, where he has lectured since 1985. He has vast experience on crop production and development issues gained from extensive collaboration with various research organizations, NGOs and the private sector. He has been with ANAFE since the year 2000.

Prof. Ndiaye has contributed to the training of more than four hundred agronomists, who are currently serving in different capacities both in public and private sectors in Senegal and other countries. He has also supervised hundreds of students in aforementioned subject fields.

Prof. Christine Onyango holds a Ph.D. in Food Science and Postharvest Technology from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology; Postgraduate Diploma in Integrated Agricultural Research for Development with special focus on Capacity Building and Strengthening Rural populations in Innovation and development, from Wageningen, the Netherlands; Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Food Technology and Management from Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel; a Master's degree in Food Science and Technology and a Bachelor's degree in Food Technology and Nutrition from the University of Nairobi.

The General Assembly also proposed a raft of recommendations aimed at strengthening and repositioning the network with a view to addressing emerging challenges in Tertiary Agricultural Education (TAE). Among the strategic decisions taken by the General assembly is to increase the membership fee from $ 500 per year to $1200 for the same period.

The next General Assembly of ANAFE members will be held in the SAHEL region in 2018.

Project Updates

Governance Training for institutional leaders held in Arusha

The workshop focused on key managerial and leadership challenges facing in institutions of higher learning and the emerging best practices to overcome them



Participants of the Institutional Governance workshop held at the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Arusha, Tanzania on October 1-3, 2014.

Good governance of Tertiary Agricultural Education (TAE) institutions is essential in promoting academic excellence, agricultural research and outreach in Africa.

Hence, ANAFE, in partnership with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) held a governance and leadership training workshop at the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Arusha, Tanzania on October 1-3, 2014.

The training workshop aimed at building the managerial and governance capacity of institutional leaders from African Universities and colleges in line with ANAFE's strategic objective of ensuring that TAE institutions have credible, transformative leadership that drives positive change consistent with changing times.

During the training, Vice Chancellors/ Rectors, Deputy Vice Chancellors, Principals and Deans from different universities and colleges across Africa were taken through tried-and-tested governance and managerial principles applied in different settings.

Participants were also given the opportunity to interrogate these principles against day-to-day managerial challenges facing their respective institutions in form of group discussions and plenary sessions.

The workshop focused on key managerial and leadership challenges facing institutions of higher learning and the emerging best practices to overcome them. These challenges include poor communication, sustainability, conflicting stakeholder interests, discordance and dissonance between stated roles and functions, rigid administrative structures and staffing. The best practices discussed include enhancing the knowledge of texts and regulations by all staff members, transparency and consultation during decision making and inclusive management.

ANAFE Executive Secretary, Dr Aissetou Yaye and the Deputy Executive Secretary, Dr. Sebastian Chakeredza presented results of self-assessments by ANAFE member institutions implementing the SASACID programe on their capacity for teaching, research, outreach and governance. Findings revealed weakness on key areas of governance and leadership in these institutions.

The SLU pro Vice Chancellor, Lena Andersson-Eklund presented a paper on innovative doctoral education for global food security which aims to internationalize doctoral education by building the capacity of partner African universities at this level.

Participants were drawn from Makerere University and Nyabyeya Forestry College based in Uganda; Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology(JKUAT), Kenyatta University, Taita-Taveta University College, Strathmore University and Rongo University College based in Kenya; University Nangua Abrogua and Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny of Cote D'Ivoire; Sokoine University, Nelson Mandela Institute of Science and Technology and Forestry Training Institute, Olmotonyi of Tanzania; Zimbabwe College of Forestry; Mulungushi University (Zambia) and University of Dschang (Cameroon).

Other organizations represented included Miti Mingi (Kenya) Capacity development resources and Alem Consult, who facilitated the workshop.

SASACID external evaluation reveal significant program gains

Findings indicate the programe has laid a strong foundation for training and research in agribusiness and agricultural risk management education in Africa

An independent external evaluation of ANAFE's programme on Strengthening Africa's Strategic Agricultural Capacity for Impact on Development (SASACID) has revealed significant gains in transforming agricultural, agroforestry and natural resources education in Africa.

The evaluation also unearthed important lessons that will inform the formulation and implementation of similar programs in future. It was conducted between September-November, 2014 by Retouch Africa Consultancy firm, supported by Charles Mbuthia, an independent consultant,

Findings indicate the programe has laid a strong foundation for training and research in agribusiness and agricultural risk management education in Africa by developing hands-on and practical curricula; producing contexualized learning materials; building the capacity of lecturers to deliver on these courses through training on pedagogy; supporting students to conduct post-graduate research; and, creating effective linkages between education institutions, research organizations and the private sector. Specifically, the evaluation highlights the following key achievements.

The key achievements of the SASACID to date include:

- Supported the 16 (PIs) to conduct self-evaluations whose feedback led to the development strategic plans. These plans are guiding institutional reforms and governance.



Beneficiaries of the SASACID scholarship at the University of Felix Houphouet Boigny in Abidjan Cote D'Ivoire pose during the interviews with the evaluation consultant

- Two curricula frameworks for diploma, degree, Masters and PhDs levels have been published and shared widely electronically and in printed version.
- Two books agribusiness and risk management have been produced and area awaiting publishing
- Conducted pedagogical training for lecturers to improve their teaching and learning process.
- Awarded scholarships to enable over 100 young researchers to conduct research in agro-business and risk Management at diploma, degree, masters and PhDs levels
- Profiled and mapped agro-business enterprises, and strategically linked private sector with the PI for knowledge transfer and developed a strategy for linking Universities with Private sector
- Four (4) institutions (Mulungushi University of Zambia, Taita Taveta University College, Rongo University College and Strathmore University of Kenya) have signed an MoU with ANAFE to pilot the curricula developed.

The external evaluation report also reveals key lessons, emerging from program planning and implementation that need to be taken into account while implementing similar projects in future. First, and most important, the SASACID institutions are at different levels of development, resources and expertise. Therefore, having all the PIs implementing the same projects and activities did not give the greatest value for money. Instead the grantees should have been allocated the projects and activities according to the institutions' needs after thorough vetting of their concepts/ proposals.

Delivery of results are not necessarily following the perception that established institutions with robust system will equally deliver high impact results. In the case of SASACID where implementing institutions received little funds, some of the established institutions show less interest while the upcoming and low level institutions performed exceedingly well.

It also emerged that for a programme like SASACID to succeed, involving institutional leaders at a high level is important; also, a three year duration was found to be too short to complete all the planned activities.

ANAFE participates in AFF project workshop

African Forest Forum held a Climate Change Project Development Workshop in Kisumu (Kenya) in which ANAFE was represented by the Deputy Executive Secretary, Dr. Sebastian Chakeredza.

The workshop, held on August 13-16, 2014, set out to evaluate their previous phase on SDC support and identify gaps in implementation; describe relevant outcomes and impact desired to address the prioritized gaps; identify the outputs required in order to attain the intended outcomes and impacts as well as select a set of activities for each of the outputs and design the necessary indicators, baselines, targets as well as associated risks.

At the end of the workshop, participants designed relevant outcomes and impacts to be addressed during the second phase of the project building from successes and opportunities of the first phase. They also developed measurable outputs and activities and corrsponding results tracking framework on policy advocacy, capacity building and skills development and learning; information generation and knowledge management. In addition, they identified processes and approaches to be used in achieving the desired outcomes and impact of the project during the second phase of implementation.

At the end of the workshop, a small group of largely AFF was put together to finalize the programme.

Regional News

ANAFE Part of CTA's new evaluation initiative

CTA and its partner organizations also held a successful meeting with representatives of Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) who expressed interest in partnering with CTA to promote application of the model

ANAFE is one of the 12 organizations currently piloting a new evaluation model: Capacity-Centered Impact Pathway Analysis (CcIPA). It has been developed by the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA).

The CcIPA model is an innovative approach to impact assessment that deviates significantly from conventional methodologies in several aspects, including promoting self-assessment and the participation of in-country and external evaluation specialists. It is a synthesis model based on the premise that the performance and impact of organizations or networks depend to a large extent on the state of their core capabilities.

In 2012, CTA's Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation (LME) Unit initiated a joint impact assessment of the support provided to the partners using this model. The first round of the joint impact assessment produced a number of very interesting results that have benefitted the participating institutions, with the CcIPA model itself likely to be of interest to the wider development community.

CTA convened a meeting in Rome, Italy on October 21-25, 2014 for partner organizations to share their experiences on the model and how it can be improved further. There was consensus that CcIPA provides a unique evaluation model to assess the performance of an organization as opposed to other evaluation approaches which mainly focus on the beneficiaries of a project.



Participants of the workshop on revisiting evaluation practice for stronger organizational and network learning organized by Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation(CTA) in Rome, Italy.

CTA and its partner organizations also held a successful meeting with representatives of Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) who expressed interest in partnering with CTA to promote application of the model.

Moving forward, CTA will facilitate the formation of a community of practice (CoP) through which its partner organizations can share views and experiences on the utilization of the CcIPA model. FAO and CTA also agreed to explore ways in which the two organizations and its partners can work together in strengthening evaluation practices for development.

Internship seminar for agribusines students at Kenyatta University

ANAFE has already developed a comprehensive guide which is expected to streamline and enhance internship/attachment procedures for its member institutions



Participants of the internship seminar for agribusiness students held at Kenyattta University, Nairobi, Kenya.

Agribusiness students require an adequate dose of practical skills and a proper work ethic to become successful professionals or/and entrepreneurs. This can only be achieved if students are exposed to the working environment as part of their training.

Thus, internships and attachments have become a vital component of agribusiness training as they enhance practical and entrepreneurial skills while giving students a practical feel of the world outside training institutions.

Cognizant of this, Kenyatta University convened a seminar for third year students going for internships. The seminar was facilitated by Ms. Lucy Ngare (Kenyatta University), Ms. Nima Shah (East African Seed Company) and James Aucha (ANAFE). The main objective of the seminar was to expose agribusiness students to an array of opportunities and challenges that they would face in the field.

During the seminar, it was agreed that:

- Students should develop a write up during internship and send to the Coordinator Ms. Lucy Ngare. The best articles would be published in a newsletter by East African Seeds;
- A follow-up talk will be convened involving a new group of students and the current group, who will share their internship experiences;
- ANAFE will liaise with the University administration and the private sector to identify internship slots.

ANAFE has already developed a comprehensive guide which is expected to streamline and enhance internship/attachment procedures for its member institutions.

Prof. Achike appointed as Director of Climate Change Programme

Prof. Anthonia Ifeyinwa Achike, ANAFE SASACID Focal Person for the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, has been appointed as the Director of African Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (ACCAI) at the University. ACCAI is supported by the Open Society Foundation (OSF) of USA in seven Universities in Africa, including University of Ghana, University of Dar es Salam Tanzania, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, Makelle University, Ethiopia, University of Nairobi (Kenya) and University of Witwatersrand, South Africa.

Prof. Achike holds a PhD degree in Agricultural Economics, specializing in Agricultural Finance and Project Analysis. She received additional training on quantitative & qualitative techniques; environment, gender, poverty and policy analyses organized by different institutions. For example she has received training at the CODESRIA Gender Institute, Dakar – Senegal; and the Social Science Academy of Nigeria Gender Institute. She has also been trained on time series econometrics and Game theory by the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), as well as on poverty mapping by the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) research network in Manila Philippines. She has participated as a consultant and trainer in many academic research programmes, at both national and international levels, including conducting baseline studies for many national and international organizations.



Prof. Achike is also the team leader of Nigeria's Community Based Poverty Monitoring System (CBMS-Nigeria), the coordinator/focal point of the African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education (ANAFE) in University of Nigeria and also the coordinator of the climate change project under the African Women in Science and Technology (AWFST), a programme of the African Technology Policy Studies (ATPS). Prof (Mrs.) Achike has many publications to her credit comprising journal articles, conference proceeding and technical reports. She is also a member of many international and national professional bodies and an Associate Fellow of the African Institute for Applied Economics.

Upon her appointment she said " May I assure you of my loyalty and commitment to ANAFE and especially my resolution to use the opportunity of this appointment to support and boost ANAFE activities especially in terms of creating further visibility and networks. Thank you so much for the good work you are doing in Africa. We are following your footsteps to the Glory of God".

Dr. Ali Eissa promoted to Professor



Prof. Ali Eissa

Dr. Ali Musa Abakar Eissa of the University of Kordofan, Sudan, has been promoted to Associate Professor. Dr Eissa, who holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics, heads the Departments of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development; He also coordinates the University's African Affairs. Dr. Eissa has published widely and contributed significantly to the development of agricultural education and research in Africa. He is the Focal Person for ANAFE's programme on Strengthening Africa Strategic Agricultural Capacity for Impact on Development (SASACID). He has excellent technical expertise and skills in economic analysis with research focus on poverty reduction, food security, gender, climate change and value chain analysis.

Prof. Hortense Atta Diallo Promoted to full Professor

Prof. Hortense Atta Diallo has been promoted to full Professor. Currently, she is the Cabinet Advisor to the President at the University of Nangui Abrogoua (UNA) in Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire. She is also a committee member of ANAFE's Africa Humid Tropics Regional Agricultural Forum for Training (AHT-RAFT). Prof. Diallo studied Plant Pathology/Virology at the University of Arkansas, USA, where she obtained her Master's degree and PhD. In a post doctorate fellowship at Rothamsted Research in the United Kingdom. Her research focused on virus and phytoplasma diseases affecting crops of economic interest in Côte d'Ivoire. Prof. Atta Diallo has been the primary investigator and a team member on a number research grants, including ones with FIRCA (Inter-professional Fund for Agricultural Research and Advisory Services) studying plant disease in banana, yam, cassava and papaya. Prof. Diallo has taught courses on plant pathology and field and laboratory based diagnosis of plant diseases.



Prof. Hortense Atta Diallo

Regional News

University of Abomey-Calavi receives International Star for Quality Prize

The University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC), Benin, has been awarded the International Star for Quality prize. The University was feted on September 22, 2014 in Geneva. The prize is awarded by the Business Initiative Directions (BID).

The award was received on behalf of the University by His Excellency, Mr. Eloi Laourou, Deputy Permanent Representative of Benin in Switzerland together with the Rector, Prof. Brice Augustin Sinsin and his Vice, Prof. Souaibou Farougou, who is also in charge of University's external affairs.

This reflects the continuous and steady progress made by the University of Abomey-Calavi in the areas of quality and innovation, despite limited resources.

The winner is competitively selected based on a set of criteria including academic excellence, innovation, technology, leadership, management and quality.

The university has also won the World Quality Commitment Award in New York and Paris in 2012 and 2013; Best regional University and Manager of the Year in Science and Education) in 2013; Innovation Award "The Bizz in 2014"; European Award for Best Practices 2014; Research Prize awarded by CORAF in June 2014 in Niamey; The New Era Award for Technology, Innovation and Quality, June 2014 in Rome.



His Excellency, Mr. Eloi Laourou, Deputy Permanent Representative of Benin in Switzerland, the Rector, Prof. Brice Augustin Sinsin and his Vice Prof. Souaibou Farougou receive the prize on behalf of the University.

Africa was represented by Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Niger, Ethiopia, South Africa, Mozambique, Swaziland, Gabon, and the Ivory Coast. The University of Abomey Calavi was the only representative of Benin.

ICRAF-hosted institutions discuss working modalities

ICRAF-hosted institutions have agreed to work closely together in areas of mutual interest and tap into existing collaborative opportunities. This will not only enhance synergies but also reduce duplication of effort.

The consensus was reached during a meeting held on October 22-23, 2014 at the ICRAF Boardroom.

ANAFE, which is one of the twelve hosted institutions, was represented by the Executive Secretary, Dr Aissetou Yaye, The Deputy Executive Secretary, Dr Sebastian Chakeredza and Program Officer, James Aucha.

The meeting was convened by the Assistant Director General of the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in charge of capacity building and partnerships, Dr. Margaret Kroma, who is also ANAFE Board member. It came in the backdrop of recent reforms in the CGIAR which have ushered in a new institutional platform for research and development (CGIAR Research Programs), fundamentally changing the way centers work through their research mandates.

At the same time, the reforms have also created unique opportunities for broader collaborations with other research and development institutions as well as with delivery and upscaling actors in ways that have not been conceived before.



Participants of the ICRAF-hosted institutions workshop.

These potential collaborations could translate into mutually beneficial outcomes if genuine spaces are created to explore and crystallize opportunities together.

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