African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry & Natural Resources Education

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All set for ANAFE's international symposium in Cameroun

The symposium planned for August 25 – 27, 2014 will precede ANAFE's 29th Board meeting and the General Assembly and is expected to showcase cutting edge academic discourse and emerging technological paradigms in agribusiness, risk management and forestry education

ANAFE, its partners and stakeholders are gearing up for one of the greatest events in agribusiness and agricultural risks management: The ANAFE international symposium.

Under the banner *"Agribusiness Development and Managing Risk and Uncertainty in African Agriculture and Natural Resources Management: The Role of Tertiary Agricultural Education (TAE)"* the symposium will bring together over 150 researchers, scientists, students, policy makers, private sector players and persons involved in financing, managing or teaching agriculture, forestry or natural resources management at tertiary level from Africa and Europe.

The event will showcase cutting edge academic discourse and emerging technological paradigms in agribusiness and risk management within the African context. Already, the ANAFE Secretariat has received more than 100 abstracts for oral presentations and posters to be presented or displayed at the symposium.

Specifically, the symposium aims to:

- Discuss the elements of risk and uncertainty in agriculture and the roles of TAE;
- Strategize on mechanisms and policies for coping with risk and uncertainty in agricultural production;
- Discuss policy and institutional issues for building appropriate capacity for the implementation of agricultural practices which minimize the impact of climate change risks;
- Discuss curriculum reforms and the need to strengthen agribusiness education in Africa;
- Reinforce the concept of profitable agriculture through agribusiness and to interest youth and women to advance in agricultural sciences;
- Rethink forestry education and its links with businesses.



A cross-section of participants follow proceedings during the International Agribusiness Fair organized by ANAFE in October, 2013. ANAFE Vice Board Chair, Dr. Marie-Louise Avana-Tientcheu (centre) is chairing the local organizing committee for the Symposium.

The selected papers and posters have been distilled into three main themes: analysis of agribusiness and risk management; analysis of ecosystem sustainability and climate change; and policy, institutions and curriculum reforms. The first theme will address issues on curriculum content, teaching/ research capacity and experiences, learning resources and emerging issues in TAE. The second theme will specifically focus on deforestation and land degradation, optimizing and sustaining ecosystem functionality, climate change risks, REDD+ program and forestry while the last theme is expected to thrash out issues on the role of and investments in TAE, agriculture and poverty reduction strategies and also issues on gender, youth networking and knowledge sharing in TAE.

The symposium is organized by the African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education (ANAFE); the University of Dschang (Cameroon); the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA).

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Project Updates

Curriculum on agricultural risk management now ready for use

"It is a paradox that despite the huge risks endured by farmers and all other stakeholders in the agricultural value chains very little has been done to empower them with the knowledge and tools to reduce their vulnerability and raise their capacity to mitigate and cope with risk" Dr Aissetou Yaye, ANAFE Executive Secretary



Participants of the agricultural risk management curriculum development workshop held at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies, Nairobi, Kenya.

African universities and colleges can now offer postgraduate courses on Agricultural Risk Management (MSc-ARM) and thereby help develop the much needed expertise in this field.

This follows the finalization of a new curriculum for Master of Science studies in ARM developed by ANAFE. The curriculum is based on extensive and intensive consultations between ANAFE and various colleges and universities teaching agriculture and natural resources education which show real need for postgraduate training in this field.

The consultations took the form of workshops, visits and surveys of agricultural risk management content and capacity at several colleges and universities and which indicate that despite the importance of risk management in agriculture and natural resources, there is not a single institution with a comprehensive program to teach this subject. Thus, the capacity to offer courses on agricultural risk management is practically non-existent. Many lecturers currently involved deal with economic analyses and have not been trained on risk management.

Findings also show that current teaching in the area is scant and only covered as part of other subjects and not separately examined while learning resources on ARM are inadequate and often lacking in local relevance. Although some universities have disaster and risk management courses, they are taught outside agriculture and natural resources. This provides an opportunity for collaboration with departments dealing in general disaster management courses. It is instructive to note that many colleges and universities in Africa realize the shortfall and are eager to secure support and capacity to teach this subject.

The curriculum is particularly tuned for students learning in Africa, although it may be used elsewhere in the world. The overall goal is to produce specialists on agricultural risk management. In doing so, ANAFE has designed the curriculum with outcome orientation to ensure both academic achievement as well as development relevance.

The course has been specifically designed to produce graduates who can understand the nature, extent, principles and concepts of agricultural risk management and its impact on society, assess agricultural risks along the value chains, advise on short and long term/strategic planning of agricultural risk management, implement agricultural risk management plans and projects; advise and develop policies on agricultural risk management; undertake research and design mitigation and adaptation technologies on agricultural risks; monitor and evaluate agricultural risk management programs and projects; write reports and communicate effectively on issues relating to ARM; and build capacity on agricultural risk management.

Since 2012, ANAFE has been supporting initiatives to unravel the complex issues surrounding risk management in agriculture and natural resources management. At various workshops and other forums, stakeholders of ANAFE (educators, farmers, students and agribusiness entrepreneurs) have expressed the need to develop adequate capacity on risk management. A recent survey on risk management education revealed that there is very little teaching of agricultural risk management. Worse, it was established that current educators do not have skills in this area and that relevant learning resources are needed. ANAFE was tasked to resolve this situation by providing guidance on curricula, capacity building for educators and the development of learning resources.

ANAFE's agribusiness internship guide: Bridging the theory-practice divide in agribusiness education

The purpose of the guide is to enhance training of graduates with a view to imparting practical skills and relevant knowledge in agri-preneurship through an innovative and inclusive attachment and internship experiences to catalyze agricultural production in Africa



A group photo of participants who took part in developing the agribusiness internship guide at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies, Nairobi, Kenya.

A harmonious marriage between theory and practice is the hallmark of a good education program. Any dislocation or imbalance between the two can be detrimental to socio-economic development.

Cognizance of the above realities, especially within the African context, ANAFE has come up with a unique attachment and internship guide to support implementation of its newly developed agribusiness curriculum. The guide is meant to strengthen application of agribusiness principles for students taking this course in Tertiary Agricultural Education (TAE) institutions in Africa.

ANAFE's experiences drawn from an internship program with 3 universities - University of Eldoret (Kenya), University of Ghana and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) - show that internships have a significant role in enhancing entrepreneurial and practical skills of students. The guide draws from the experience of the Universities, Business and Research in Agricultural Innovation (UniBRAIN) consortia and their work on internships with partner universities.

The purpose of the guide is to enhance training of graduates with a view to imparting practical skills and relevant knowledge in agri-preneurship through an innovative and inclusive attachment and internship experiences to catalyze agricultural production in Africa.

The guide proposes that students be attached to agricultural-based organizations for a minimum of 8 weeks each at the end of second and third years of study, both in private and public sectors. Internship programs will cater for students who have already completed their degree programs and would like to gain more experience in their fields of study. It should last for a minimum period of 6 months and maximum of 12 months.

The guide defines the content of attachment, roles of the different stakeholders (students, ANAFE, universities, agribusiness incubators, and private/public sector players), supervision, mentoring and evaluation criteria. The guide will be used to complement the agribusiness curriculum.

The internship guide is a product of broad consultation among ANAFE partners and stakeholders including 5 universities: Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Eldoret University Kenya, Taita-Taveta University College Kenya, Rongo University College Kenya, Kyambogo University Uganda, University of Zambia and Makerere University Uganda. Incubators which form part of UniBRAIN also gave valuable input.

Project Updates

A new platform for agribusiness training unveiled in Cote d'Ivoire

The platform is meant to bridge the gap between skills set of university graduates and labour demands of the private sector



Participants who took part in the launching of an agribusiness training platform in Cote D'Ivoire where seven private sector organizations sealed a deal with the University of Félix Houphouët-Boigny to support educational programs in this field.

Agribusiness training in Cote D'Ivoire got a major boost after seven private sector organizations in the country signed an agreement with the University of Félix Houphouët-Boigny to support educational programs in this field.

The agreement establishes a new platform where the university will engage private organizations in the design and implementation of four masters programs in agribusiness to be offered at the University.

The university will offer four new masters programs in agribusiness, two each in animal and crop production. They are: Masters in Sustainable Management and Marketing of Forest Resources; Masters in Sustainable Management and Marketing of Agricultural Crops; Masters in Management and Breeding in Animal Production; and Masters in Marketing and Production of fishery products.

The initiative, which is part of ANAFE's program on Strengthening Africa Strategic Agricultural Capacity for Impact on Development (SASACID) is meant to bridge the gap between skills set of university graduates on one hand, and labour demands of the private sector on the other, a disconnect which is partly to blame for the high levels of unemployment among agricultural graduates in Africa. The platform was launched at the University Félix Houphouët-Boigny on May 27, 2014.

The Minister for Higher Education and Scientific Research in Cote D'Ivoire, Mr. Konan Gnamien, was delighted by the initiative saying it fitted well with the current education reforms which has seen the country adopt the License-Masters-Doctorat (LMD) education system. The LMD, whose implementation started in 2012, allows students to transfer credits and establish degree equivalency between different universities or national higher education systems.

"But the LMD system is viable only if the private sector is effectively involved in its implementation. This is why the presence of representatives of leading agricultural organizations in this meeting delights me" said the Minister.

He lauded ANAFE for supporting the initiative adding that the network has been instrumental in supporting Tertiary Agricultural Education (TAE) in Africa.

The President of Félix Houphouët-Boigny University, Prof. Bakayoko-ly Ramata, praised the bold step taken by the private sector players to join this initiative while the Dean of the Faculty of Biosciences Prof. Paul Essetchi Kouamalen, who is also the chair for ANAFE's Africa Humid Tropics Regional Forum For Agricultural Training (AHT-RAFT), said the platform will help strengthen agribusiness education in the country.

Speaking on behalf of the private sector, the President of Ivorian Association of Agricultural Sciences (AISA), Dr Da Costa Kouassi Sebastino, said they were ready to support the initiative with a view to helping improve agribusiness training in the country to spur economic development.

Private sector players who have joined this platform include: Rice Centre for Africa (AFRICA RICE); National Centre for Agricultural Research (CNRA); Oceanological Research Centre (CRO); Ivorian Association of Agricultural Sciences (AISA) ; Ivorian Society of Tropical Technology (I2t); Organization for Fishery Products; Business Organization for Processing of Fishery Products In Cote D'Ivoire (REFTPH); National Federation of Cooperative Food production in Côte d'Ivoire (FENACOVICI); and Regional Seed Association of Côte d'Ivoire (ARLASEMCI).

SASACID Pilot institutions strategize to complete program activities

As the program enters its final phase, representatives of the 16 Pilot Institutions met in Nairobi, Kenya, on April 22 – 23, 2014, to share progress and strategize on how to complete the remaining activities



Representatives of Pilot Institutions implementing ANAFE's program on Strengthening Africa's Strategic Agricultural Capacity for Impact on Development (SASACID) during a review meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya.

Pilot Institutions (PIs) implementing ANAFE's program on Strengthening Africa's Strategic Agricultural Capacity for Impact on Development (SASACID) have agreed to complete all activities by December 2014.

As the program enters its final phase, representatives of the 16 PIs met in Nairobi, Kenya on April 22 – 23, 2014 to share progress and strategize on how to complete the remaining activities. During the meeting, all implementing institutions reported significant progress based on the strategic objectives as outlined in the program logframe and the Results Based Management (RBM) framework.

Some of the key project milestones include revision of agricultural and agribusiness related curriculum in the various institutions, disbursement of grants to students undertaking research on relevant agricultural topics, institutional self-assessments and tracer studies. Lecturers from the institutions have also been supported to participate in various trainings including pedagogy and outreach.

All PIs represented at the meeting expressed optimism that all the remaining activities would be completed by the end of the year.

The SASACID program focuses on:

- Curricula reforms within Tertiary Agricultural Education (TAE) Institutions in Africa;
- Development of contextualized educational materials and effective delivery of the same;
- Enhancing institutional management and leadership among ANAFE member institutions;
- Policy and institutional changes in staff incentives by ANAFE member institutions and;
- Application of ANAFE network outputs by member institutions, partners and key stakeholders.

The program is implemented in 14 sub-Saharan African countries by 16 TAE institutions referred to as Pilot Institutions (PIs). They are: For the Sahel region: Senegal (*University of Thies, University of Gaston Berger*), Burkina Faso (*University of Bobo Dioulasso*) and Niger (*Abdou Moumouni University*); Africa-Humid Tropics, Benin (*Abomey Calavi University*), Ivory Coast (Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny), Nigeria (*University of Nigeria, Nsukka*) and Cameroon (*University of Dschang*); East and Central Africa, Sudan (*Kordofan University*), Uganda (*Nyabyeya Forestry College*) and Kenya (*Kenyatta University and University of Nairobi*) and Southern Africa, Botswana (*Botswana College of Agriculture*), South Africa (*University of Pretoria*), Zambia (*Mulungushi University*) and Zimbabwe (*Zimbabwe College of Forestry*).

ANAFE part of a partnership forum on sustainable development

Key issues raised at the forum resonated perfectly with ANAFE's mandate of improving agricultural education for sustainable development in Africa



A cross-section of participants during the partnership forum on sustainable development organized by the Embassy of Sweden (Kenya) in conjunction with the Kenya Private Sector Alliance, the East Africa Business Council, Business Sweden and Kenya's Ministry of Industrialization and Enterprise Development.(Pic. Courtesy of Swedish Embassy).

Over 100 delegates drawn from government agencies, business enterprises, Non-Governmental Organizations and the civil society converged in Nairobi to discuss key development challenges facing the African continent and propose relevant and practical solutions.

The highly interactive forum was organized by the Embassy of Sweden (Kenya) in conjunction with the Kenya Private Sector Alliance, the East Africa Business Council, Business Sweden and the Ministry of Industrialization and Enterprise Development. It was held in Nairobi on June 3, 2014 as part of celebrations to mark 50 years of friendship and cooperation between Kenya and Sweden.

And one of the key issues emerging from the Forum's discussion was that Africa's agricultural systems are not creating enough decent jobs necessary for socio-economic transformation largely because the continent is still stuck with subsistence agriculture while a majority of jobs created by commercial agricultural ventures mainly target low income earners.

The aforementioned theme dominated discussions of Session 3 at the Forum titled '*Creating decent jobs'* where ANAFE was represented by the Communications Officer, Alfred Ochola. It was moderated by Stefano Prato, of the Society for International Development (SID) and focused on the role of business in creating jobs and its' contribution to socio-economic transformation of regional economies.

It was proposed that African governments need to foster policies that promote technical education, marketing of agricultural products and increased sustainability of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

There were two other thematic sessions held parallel to this: the first session focused on business opportunities and women entrepreneurship moderated by Asa Torkelsson of UN Women while the second session, which focused on innovations for sustainable development, was moderated by Mike Field of Kenya Markets Trust.

Prior to the break-out sessions, there was an informative panel discussion which addressed key socio-economic issues facing Africa ranging from good governance, socio-economic and development policies and the role of gender, technology and the youth in the development paradigm. The panel comprised of Dr. Wilson Songa, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Industrialization and Enterprise Development (Kenya); H.E John Borgstam, Ambassador of Sweden to Kenya; Andrew Luzze, Executive Director of the East Africa Business Council; and Kelly Boucher, Regional Director, Tetra Pak Eastern Africa. It was moderated by Pete Ondeng.

ANAFE intern receives Global Swede Award

Former ANAFE intern, Marta Zdravkovic from the Swedish Agricultural University (SLU), has been honored with the Global Swede Award for 2014. Marta, who studied Rural Development and Natural Resource Management (SLU), was feted at a ceremony led by the Swedish Minister for Trade, Ewa Björling.

She was among 21 foreign students - studying at Swedish higher education institutions - who received the award for outstanding performance in areas related to innovation and entrepreneurship.

Global Swede is a joint initiative between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Swedish Institute aimed at encouraging foreign students to become involved in the Global Swede Alumni Network and - in the longer term - act as ambassadors for Sweden. As a masters student at SLU, Marta (from Serbia) excelled in academics and creative arts.

During her internship at ANAFE in Nairobi, Marta stood out for her creativity, leadership and enterprise in academic endeavors. She was the co-founder of the World Agroforestry Centre Network of Young Professionals. Her MSc thesis addresses university-private sector collaboration in Africa, and her commitment will continue in the form of a joint SLU-Botswana University project.

On behalf of the ANAFE family, we congratulate her for this great achievement and wish her the best in her career.



Marta Zdravkovic received the Global Swede award from the Swedish Minister For Trade Ewa Björling. Photo: Karin Nylund.

ECA-RAFT chair promoted to full Professor

The Chair of ANAFE's East and Central Africa (ECA) Regional Agricultural Forum for Training (RAFT), Prof. James Kung'u is now a full Professor.



Prof. James Kung'u

Prof. Kung'u, based at Kenyatta University (Kenya), holds an MSc and PhD in Forestry from the University of the Philippines, Los Baňos and has vast experience in capacity building, research and community outreach. For the last 26 years he has been involved in capacity building at technical, undergraduate, post graduate and community levels. He has conducted extensive research and development work with universities, government ministries, Non-Government Organizations(NGOs) and national and International research organizations. He has also been an external examiner for many universities in Africa i.e. Copper Belt University, (Zambia), Bunda College of Agriculture (Malawi), South Eastern Kenya University, Moi University (Kenya), University of Eldoret (Kenya), Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture, Science and Technology (Kenya) and University of Kabianga, (Kenya).

Prof. Kungu worked for nine years with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Forestry department, where he was involved in rural re-forestation program and training of foresters at Kenya Forestry College before joining Kenyatta University in 1996. He has supported many colleges and universities to review their curriculum including Baraka Agricultural College, Nyabyeya Forestry College and Mekele University, Ethiopia.

Prof Ströh appointed as Vice Principal, University of Pretoria

Prof Anton Ströh, ANAFE Southern Africa RAFT Committee member, has been appointed as Vice-Principal, Institutional Planning, University of Pretoria (UP). Prof Ströh will focus on all aspects of institutional planning that will inform the overall institutional strategy. He will be responsible for institutional research, environmental scanning, forecasting, business intelligence and quality assurance as well as resource allocation.



Prof Anton Ströh

Prof Ströh, who holds a PhD in Mathematics, joined UP as a lecturer in the Department of Mathematics in 1988 and progressed through the academic ranks up to his appointment as Dean of the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences in 2004. Prof Ströh was a B2 rated scientist from 2008 to 2012 and has been a regular recipient of UP's Exceptional Academic Achiever Awards.

In his capacity as Dean, he was involved in collaborative agreements on projects with international institutions which involved significant funding from the EU, the Gates Foundation, the African Economics Research Consortium (AERC), CIDA, the African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education (ANAFE) and the Southern African Biochemistry and Informatics for Natural Products (SABINA) among many others.

Prof Ströh served two and a half terms as Dean of the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences where he was responsible for strategic leadership and orderly functioning of all academic and support departments within this very large and diverse Faculty.

We take this opportunity to congratulate Prof Anton Ströh for his opponent and wish him well in his new position.

ANAFE Diary

Launch of ANAFE's agribusiness curriculum

ANAFE will launch its newly published agribusiness curriculum in July 2014 in Nairobi. The curriculum promises to revolutionize agribusiness education and training in Africa. It encompasses the entire Tertiary Agricultural Education (TAE) spectrum with different modules for certificate, diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate levels including PhD. Already, ANAFE has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rongo University College, (Kenya) and Strathmore University (Kenya) to pilot the BSc and MSc agribusiness curriculum respectively while Taita-Taveta University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and Mulungushi University (Zambia) have also agreed to pilot the curriculum. Other institutions in West, Central and Southern Africa have also expressed interest in piloting the BSc, MSc and PhD curriculum.

Launch of books on agribusiness and risk management

ANAFE will launch two books on risk management and agribusiness during its upcoming international symposium to be held in Yaounde on 25-29, August, 2014. The books are meant to address the yawning gap of learning materials in these critical fields. The two books are specifically tailor-made to address critical academic and practical issues on agribusiness and management of agricultural risks within Tertiary Agricultural (TAE) institutions in Africa. The books have been designed to match the continent's unique educational needs, especially within the realms of agricultural risk management and Agribusiness. The authors are drawn from different African universities and research institutions.

ANAFE partners meeting to be held in Nairobi

ANAFE will hold its first partners meeting in Nairobi on September 29, 2014, to discuss effective partnerships on the implementation of ANAFE 2015-2020 Strategic plan for Tertiary Agricultural Education (TAE) in Africa. Under the banner '*Supporting Tertiary Agricultural Education for Impact in Africa'*, the meeting will bring together development partners, ANAFE member and partner organizations, TAE institutions, regional/sub-regional agricultural-based organizations, government agencies and Non-Governmental organizations. For more information visit the ANAFE website: www.anafe-africa.org or contact the ANAFE Secretariat on anafe.sec@cgiar.org or a.ochola@cgiar.org.

Workshop on good governance to be held in October 2014

ANAFE and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) will hold a joint training workshop on "*Strengthening Management and Governance Capacity of Tertiary Agricultural Education (TAE) institutional leaders*". The training workshop, to be held early October, 2014, is a follow up of the institutional self assessment conducted in 16 ANAFE member institutions, and will bring together Deputy Vice Chancellors, Principals and Deans from the SASACID pilot institutions and other universities and colleges drawn from across Africa. The workshop will be facilitated by leading trainers on good governance and institutional management from Africa and Sweden. Participants will also visit model TAE institutions with strong governance and institutional structures to get tips on institutional management.

ANAFE is keen on ensuring good governance and sound institutional management among TAE institutions in Africa not only to drive positive change consistent with changing times but also facilitate inclusion of leadership content in TAE programs.

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