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ANAFE's agribusiness curriculum trending in Rongo University

Prof. Agostino Onkware, the Deputy Principal (Academic Affairs) lauded the collaboration between ANAFE and the institution, especially with regard to initiation and implementation of the programme in the University

ANAFE's agribusiness curriculum is fast becoming the main attraction in Rongo University College (RUC), Kenya. BSc in Agribusiness is currently the second most popular programme in the Faculty of Agriculture at the University.

The curriculum was developed with financial support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency(Sida) and Danish International Development Agency(Danida).



Students pursuing BSc (Agribusiness) in Rongo University College join lecturers and ANAFE staff for a group photo at the institution. ANAFE Deputy Executive Secretary, Dr Sebastian Chakeredza and programme Officer visited the institution to review implementation of the curriculum.

Launched last year, the Agribusiness programme in Rongo University College has already attracted 51 students; the pioneer class, now in its second year, has enrolled 21 students (11 males and 10 females). The current first year class has 31 students (22 males and 9 females). This is a clear indication of its popularity among the students, some of whom are crossing over from other departments.

Prof. Agostino Onkware, the Deputy Principal (Academic Affairs) lauded the collaboration between ANAFE and the institution, especially with regard to initiation and implementation of the programme in the University.

"There is poor value for most agricultural practices, something the programme must aim to address" he said during a visit by the ANAFE team to review progress of implementing the curriculum. ANAFE was represented by the Deputy Executive Secretary, Dr. Sebastian Chakeredza and Programme Officer, James Aucha.

Private sector players, who include the Kenya Industrial Research Development Institute (KIRDI), Sony Sugar, Technoserve, Jewlet Fish (fingerlings production and feed making) were involved in the design of the curriculum and are also offering field attachment opportunities to the students. The University is also working closely with the local County Government to offer short courses for agribusiness practitioners within its environs. The institution is also in the process of establishing an incubator to enable the students horn their practical skills on specific aspects of agribusiness.

Apart from Rongo University College, other institutions are also at various stages of rolling out the curriculum. Strathmore University (Kenya) has also adopted the curriculum and transformed it into a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) programme in Agribusiness with the first batch of students expected to join mid this year. Taita-Taveta University has already admitted the first cohort of students for Certificate and Diploma. Mulungushi University is at an advanced stage to launch its MSc in Agribusiness.

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.

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Project Updates

SASACID programme registers significant gains

So far, 127 students from different Pilot Institutions (PIs) have benefited from grants to undertake research at different degree levels

ANAFE's programme on Strengthening Africa's Strategic Agricultural Capacity for Impact on Development (SASACID) continue to register significant gains in transforming agricultural, agroforestry and natural resources education in Africa.

Pilot Institutions (PIs) implementing the programme are unanimous that the programme has impacted positively on the way they deliver their education programmes. Current data lend credence to this assertion as all institutions have disbursed research grants to deserving students pursuing courses in agriculture, agroforestry and natural resources while 11 out of 16 institutions have either completed or finalizing institutional self-assesments.

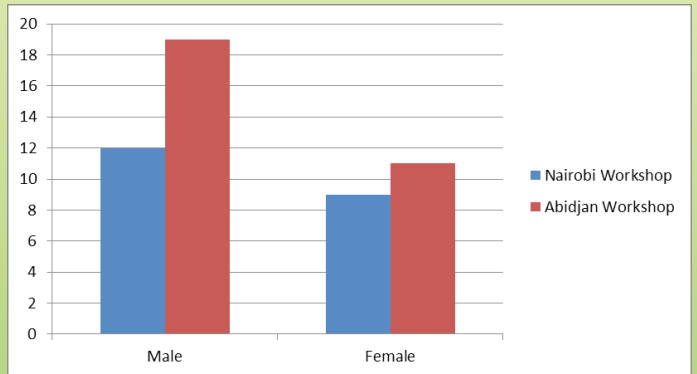
So far, 127 students from different PIs have benefited from research grants to undertake research at different degree levels. Out of this, 9 were supported at diploma level while 43 and 75 students have been supported to undertake research at Bachelors and Masters levels respectively.

The institutions have also – in different degrees - documented best practices on institutional management, sensitised partners, profiled and signed MoUs with agribusiness companies for internships, carried out tracer studies and set up university private sector platforms to support education programmes. However, documenting of best practices is lagging behind with 46% of the institutions not having achieved this output.

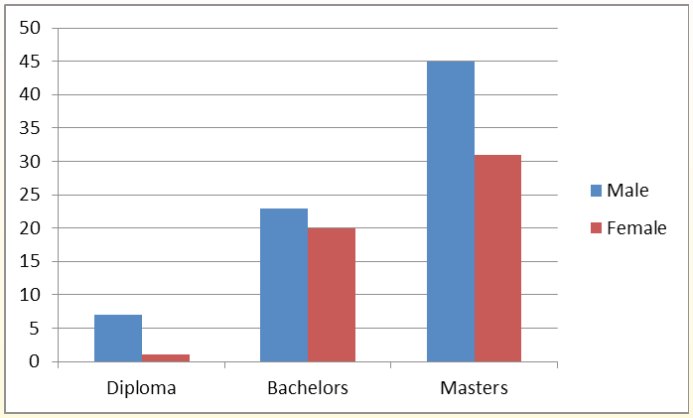
Notably, outcomes from the programme has re-positioned and given ANAFE a new impetus to contribute even more effectively in the transformation of tertiary agricultural education in Africa.

The institutions have also made significant strides in working with the private sector mainly through student internships with 49 students having benefited; they were posted to various private sector firms to gain practical skills related to their areas of study.

In a bid to strengthen teaching of agriculture, agroforestry and natural resources, the SASACID program also includes



Number and gender of lecturers trained on pedagogy in Nairobi and Abidjan.



Research grant allocation per degree disaggregated by gender

pedagogy training for lecturers and tutors with a view to integrating effective teaching methodologies within the context of emerging techno-social and economic dynamics, both at the global and local levels. In this light, two workshops were held in Nairobi and Abidjan; the first training for lecturers and tutors from Anglophone institutions comprised 26 lecturers and tutors from 12 institutions of higher learning in 10 African countries. The second workshop held in Abidjan attracted 31 lecturers from 8 Francophone countries.

The SASACID programme has supported development of two curricula on agribusiness and risk management; the former serves as a guide for universities wishing to establish the Master of Science in Agricultural Risk Management degree programme while the latter is a guide for colleges and universities wishing to establish a certificate/diploma or degree programs in agribusiness.

Notably, outcomes from the programme has re-positioned and given ANAFE a new impetus to contribute even more effectively in the transformation of tertiary agricultural education in Africa: acting as a continental forestry and natural resources management knowledge hub; catalyzing agribusiness development and value addition to African agricultural products that takes into consideration global food safety standards in a quest to make African agriculture and natural resources management more competitive; and supporting the tertiary agricultural institutions to develop and implement demand driven curriculum that responds adequately to the immense specialized skill needs of the agricultural industry in Africa.

And now the focus shifts on upscaling positive gains made in the course of implementing the programme.

SIDA grants SASACID programme one-year extension with additional funds

Following the extension, the sixteen (16) Pilot Institutions implementing the programme have committed to finalize their remaining activities and achieve the expected results



Representatives of SASACID Pilot Institutions during the meeting held from 11th to 14th November, 2014, at the Hilton Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has granted the SASACID programme a one year extension with additional funds to achieve the desired results. The programme is now expected to come to an end in December, 2015.

> *The extension was agreed after it became clear some key results could not be achieved by the time* ***the SASACID programme officially*** *came to an end in 31 Dec., 2014.*

The extension was agreed after it became clear some key results linked to key objectives could not be achieved by the time the SASACID programme officially came to an end in 31 December, 2014. The remaining activities include scaling up the outcomes and publishing key results from the various studies and students' research.

Following the extension, sixteen (16) Pilot Institutions implementing the programme have committed to finalize their remaining activities and achieve the expected results. The ANAFE Secretariat plans to strongly involve the Regional Fora For Agricultural Training (RAFTs) in monitoring, advising and reporting on outputs and outcomes.

During the meeting held in Nairobi from 11th to 14th November, 2014, all the Pilot Institutions refined their work plans and budget to accommodate the joint and regional strategy for achieving the results agreed upon. The meeting focused on the following agenda items:

- Compiling the outputs and outcomes from the SASACID Pilot Institutions (PIs) and from the regions;
- Reviewing progress, challenges and lessons learnt in implementing activities;
- Updating and discussion on budget disbursement, fund use and accounting and;
- Developing Individual PI and regional action plans and budget for January to May, 2015.

Based on the PIs' plans and budgets, and on the remaining and additional SASACID budget, the Secretariat has developed an overall work plan and budget which will allow for securing and documenting the SASACID's results, and for assessing the agribusiness environment. The SASACID programme is composed of six objectives:

1. Refocusing agricultural learning objectives and improving curricula;
2. Establishing the capacity of agricultural scientists to develop relevant learning resources;
3. Building capacity for innovation systems approach
4. Strengthening capacity for agribusiness education and training;
5. Managing risk and uncertainty in agriculture, including agrochemicals, biosafety and climate change;
6. Strengthening methods for teaching and learning and enhancing agricultural information and knowledge management.

Project Updates

ANAFE set to revise its Strategic Plan

The exercise is expected to inject new ideas, identify potential opportunities and create new synergies necessary for effective and efficient delivery of agricultural, agroforestry and natural resources management education in Africa



Agribusiness has emerged as a key component of agriculture and natural resource management and which ANAFE is keen to exploit.

ANAFE is revising its current strategic plan to align it with emerging paradigms in agriculture, agroforestry and natural resources education globally. The revision is mainly driven by the emergence of agribusiness as a key component of agriculture and natural resource management in Africa.

The exercise is expected to inject new ideas, identify potential opportunities and create new synergies necessary for effective and efficient delivery of agricultural, agroforestry and natural resources management education in Africa. Mid-way through the current strategy (2013-2017), it was deemed necessary to conduct an external review in light of emerging global trends and realities; and thereby ensure its continued relevance to ANAFE's focus areas. An external consultant has already been engaged to critically examine the strategy with regard to its relevance, focus areas and corresponding gaps. As a consequence of the revision, ANAFE will commission a study to explore the agribusiness environment, and whose findings will form the basis of the structural changes to be undertaken.

The ANAFE Board is expected to hold a meeting in 2015 to discuss and validate recommendations emanating from the review of the strategic plan and the study on the agribusiness environment.

The ANAFE Board is expected to hold a meeting in 2015 to discuss and validate recommendations emanating from the review of the strategic plan. ANAFE's mandate focuses on mainstreaming integrated education programmes in agriculture, agroforestry, forestry, environment and natural resources management within African colleges and universities. Specifically, ANAFE aims to:

- Strengthen the content and delivery of tertiary education in agroforestry, agriculture and natural resource sciences;
- Establish and nurture linkages among education, research and extension institutions to maintain the relevance of education programmes;
- Build a culture of sharing information and expertise among educational and training institutions in Africa and promote links with global partners.

Inclusion of agribusiness is expected to add a new and interesting dimension to the strategy.

ANAFE and FARA to enhance collaboration in agribusiness training and practice

The two organizations reaffirmed their commitments to work together during FARA's 15th anniversary which coincided with its re-branding to strengthen visibility, impact and effectiveness



ANAFE Executive Secretary, Dr. Aissetou Yaye (left) in discussion with FARA Executive Director, Dr Yemi Akinbamijo (centre) and UniBRAIN Facilitator Coordinator, Alex Ariho during ANAFE Symposium held on 25-29, August, 2014 in Cameroon.

ANAFE and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) are set to strengthen their mutually strategic relationship to advance agribusiness education, training, research and practice in Africa. The two organizations reaffirmed their commitments to work together during FARA's 15th anniversary celebrations held on 24-28, November, 2015 in South Africa.

ANAFE was represented by the Executive Secretary, Dr Aissetou Yaye; Deputy Executive Secretary, Dr Sebastian Chakeredza and Programme Officer, James Aucha.

ANAFE and FARA have formed a formidable partnership in agricultural education especially in relation to review and development of agribusiness curricula

During the event, the ANAFE delegation took the opportunity to review progress with regard to its partnership with FARA and explore other avenues for working together. The FARA celebrations provided a good opportunity for ANAFE to meet different stakeholders especially during the exhibitions.

ANAFE and FARA have formed a formidable partnership in agricultural education especially in relation to reviewing and developing agribusiness curricula.

The new enterprise-focused agribusiness curriculum, produced jointly by ANAFE, FARA and other partners operating under the UniBRAIN umbrella, was the centre of attention especially from higher education institutions who expressed interest in initiating or revising their agribusiness programs. The commitment by the African Development Bank to elevate agribusiness as a stand-alone pillar in their 2015-2019 Strategy makes the curriculum a strategic link for universities and colleges to align their agribusiness development with the African Union as elucidated by the African Development Bank Plan.

ANAFE has already signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with four universities to implement the curricula at different levels. They are Rongo University College (BSc level), Taita-Taveta University College (Certificate, Diploma and BSc levels) and Strathmore Business School (Master's level), all from Kenya; and Mulungushi University (Masters and PhD levels) in Zambia. ANAFE and other institutions are in the process of finalizing MoUs for implementing the curriculum.

During the celebrations, UniBRAIN hosted two side events: the African Agribusiness Incubation Programme (AAIP) sensitization workshop and the inaugural Annual Conference of the Africa Agribusiness Incubator Network (AAIN). Both events focused on up-scaling and out-scaling the success from UniBRAIN for a wider impact in Africa.

Regional News

University-private sector forum launched

The forum is expected to advance and lobby for support in agribusiness education, training and financing. It comes at an opportune time after the publication of a strategy document that aims to enhance effective engagement between universities and private sector in Africa



A cross - section of Participants of the Business to Business meeting held from 17th to1 8th November, 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The impetus for strengthening the linkage between universities and the private sector in Africa has taken a new dimension with the launching of a university private sector forum. The forum, which brings together multiple universities and private sector firms, will operate under the umbrella of the Universities, Business and Research in Agricultural Innovation (UniBRAIN) jointly implemented by ANAFE and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). It will focus on four key areas:

1. Product branding and packaging;
2. Business Financing;
3. Tweaking the business model for better business performance;
4. Expansion and soft-landing for new enterprises.

The forum is expected to advance and lobby for support in agribusiness education, training and financing. It comes at an opportune time after the publication of a strategy document that aims to enhance effective engagement between universities and private sector in Africa.

A key component of the forum is to convene Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings where private sector partners offer professional advice to young entrepreneurs on specific aspects of business development. One such meeting was organized on 17- 18, November, 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya. The inaugural meeting set out to profile graduates undertaking own enterprises in the six UniBRAIN incubators; link graduate entrepreneurs with targeted private sector firms involved in business along the lines of the entrepreneurs and establish a university-private sector forum for the six UniBRAIN incubators.

A key component of the forum is to convene Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings where private sector partners offer professional advice to young entrepreneurs

Apart from the aforementioned focus areas, it also emerged that training on elevator pitches, effective communication, business plan development and business model articulation needed to be considered as important facets for supporting young graduate entrepreneurs. Following deliberations at the meeting, a technical working group comprising ANAFE, university internship and alumni coordinating offices, incubator managers and incubatees was established. The working group was mandated to discuss modalities for expanding the forum beyond the members that were in the B2B meeting.

The forum will focus on the following key actions:

a) Create linkages with alumni offices at universities, even those who did not participate in the meeting;

b) Facilitate mentorship programmes for incubatees and students;

c) Have more targeted seminars for interns;

d) Formalize the forum with statutes and regulations;

e) Work on specific benefit packages for the incubatees and universities and develop a registration and subscription fee for the members within the forum;

e) Develop biannual reviews and update members on the progress.

ANAFE at CTA Top 20 Innovations

These innovations are having impact on farming communities, especially small-scale farmers, fisher-folk, agro-processors and traders

ANAFE joined the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA) in recognizing Top 20 innovations benefiting smallholder farmers in Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific.

The event was held under the auspices of '*Unleashing Science, Technology and Innovation for Food and Nutrition Security With special focus on Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific*' workshop held on 15-17, November, 2014 in Netherlands. It featured 20 innovations on finance and management, pest and disease management, equipment, production and ICT/Extension. ANAFE was represented by the Executive Secretary, Dr Aissetou Yaye.

The workshop was motivated by the need to unleash the innovation potential of ACP scientists, engineers, farmers and other agri-entrepreneurs and make visible the knowledge that remain out of reach of stakeholders.

The top 20 innovations were selected from 251 applications focusing on innovations having an impact on farming communities, especially small-scale farmers, fisher-folk, agro-processors and traders but which are most likely taking place under the radar of governments, the private sector and other stakeholders.

The forum was anchored on four thematic areas:

- Governance of science, technology and innovation (STI);
- Leveraging higher education (HE), research and development (R&D) and innovation;
- Private and public sector investments and partnerships in R&D, HE and innovation;
- Innovation systems, entrepreneurship and commercialization.

During the meeting, the Executive Secretary, met with representatives of different organization including Centre for Phototherapy and Research (CEPHYR), Mauritius; Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute; St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago; Kenya Federation of Agricultural Producers (KENFAP); University of Jyvaskyla, Finland; University of Eastern Finland. She held separate discussions with Mr. Norman Gibson on how to link ANAFE with the Caribbean Agricultural Research Institute (CARDI).

Prof. Florence Fonteh promoted to Head of Department



Prof. Florence Fonteh is the new Head of Department (Animal Production) at the Faculty of Agriculture and Agricultural Sciences, University of Dschang, Cameroon. Prof Fonteh will retain his position as the Co-ordinator of Master's program in norms and quality control of agro-pastoral and forestry products at the Faculty. She is also Coordinator of the Distance Education Centre at the University.

Prof. Fonteh holds a Ph.D., Food Science from the University of Reading, England, M.Sc. (Food Science) from Kansas State University. Manhattan, Kansas. U.S.A and an undergraduate degree in Animal Production from the National Advanced School of Agriculture (ENSA), Yaoundé, Cameroon. She is a prolific writer with more than 30 scientific papers published in international journals and co-author 6 books within her areas of specialization.

Prof. Fonteh has been very active in promoting ANAFE's activities, most recent of which was the governance training workshop held in Arusha Tanzania in October, 2014.

Dr. Lucy Ngare graduates with a doctorate degree



Dr Lucy Wangare Ngare has graduated with a doctorate degree in Agribusiness Management from Kenyatta University, Kenya. She is a lecturer in the Department of Agribusiness Management and Trade at the same University. She holds a B.Sc in Agricultural Economics from Egerton University, and an M.Sc in Agricultural Economics from the University of Nairobi. Dr. Ngare has over 7 years' experience in teaching at University level. Her main academic areas of interest include analysis of agricultural and food markets, agricultural policy analysis and technology adoption.

Dr Ngare has been conspicuous in ANAFE's activities specifically in development of contextualized learning materials in Agribusiness and supporting internship programmes under Universities, Business and Research in Agricultural Innovation (UniBRAIN) programme.

Training course for young scientists on research proposal writing held in Zimbabwe

The training was organized under the umbrella of Neglected and Underutilized Crop Species (NUS) Project

Young scientist across Africa benefited from a one week training course on designing and writing research proposals. The training was held at the Africa University, Mutare, Zimbabwe on 27-31, October, 2014 under the umbrella of Neglected and Underutilized Crop Species (NUS) Project. ANAFE was represented by the Deputy Executive Secretary, Dr. Sebastian Chakeredza.

The training, facilitated by Per Rudebjer of Bioversity International and Richard Hall of IFS, focused on three main areas:

- Develop capacity in research proposal writing;
- Develop proposals on upgrading value chains of neglected and underutilized crop species;
- Link up with IFS for possible support on funding the proposal.

Participants had already produced their draft proposals which were individually reviewed in plenary. The participants worked conscientiously to achieve the following outputs:

- Upgrade their proposals using the techniques covered in the training programme.



Participants of the training workshop on proposal writing held in Zimbabwe on 27-31 October, 2014.

- Finalize the proposals for possible submission to IFS and other donors;
- Create a network of young scientists working on similar areas;
- Build confidence in proposal writing.

Biodiversity Conservation Programme activities on course

ANAFE has begun implementing activities under the Bioversity Conservation Programme. The programme, which is implemented in partnership with the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), is an Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) initiative supported by the European Union. It aims to improve the socio-economic well-being of the people within the IGAD region through a better regional integration, with effective biodiversity management as the focus. ANAFE is tasked with implementing two key activities: Build capacity on Biodiversity conservation and enhance cooperation between research and training institutions.

Under capacity building, ANAFE is expected to review existing capacities in order to identify additional capacity needs in biodiversity conservation at national and local levels; develop a strategy for capacity building and prepare a training plan for the same; and, support a training session for local communities and district administrators.

In enhancing cooperation with research institutions, ANAFE is expected to:

- Lead consultations and needs assessment with focal points and research training institutions on desired trans-boundary collaboration;
- Facilitate attachment of students, lecturers and researchers to universities and research institutions;
- Coordinate exchange programmes between Kenya and Somalia on Natural Resource Management (NRM) (link up with NMK on taxonomic studies or other relevant institutions on NRM;
- Participate in workshops (cross border capacity building, consultation on cross-border collaboration);
- Facilitate integration of the training institutions involved in the ANAFE East and Central Africa Regional Agricultural Forum for Training (ECA-RAFT).

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