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African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry & Natural Resources Education

Agricultural Education News

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Reforms in tertiary agricultural education in Africa bearing fruits

After four years of sustained efforts to improve the capacity of tertiary agricultural, agroforestry and natural resources education in Africa, ANAFE's flagship programme on Strengthening Africa's Strategic Agricultural Capacity for Impact on Development (SASACID) is bearing fruits

The SASACID programme, supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has spawned a critical mass of tertiary institutions in Africa with adequate capacity to deliver agricultural and natural resources education programmes that meet the demands of the African development landscape.

Implemented by 16 tertiary education institutions from across Africa, the programme has radically changed the structure, content and delivery of agricultural and natural resources education programmes within these institutions. Pilot Institutions (PIs) implementing the programme are unanimous that the programme has impacted positively on the way they deliver their education programmes.



ANAFE's Regional Agricultural Fora for Training (RAFT) chairs, vice chairs and Secretariat staff who met in Nairobi in April 2015 to discuss how the regions could be actively involved in securing the results of SASACID.

ANAFE will build on these achievements to further strengthen the delivery of agricultural and natural resources training programmes with a view to ensuring that agriculture, agroforestry and natural resources education contributes effectively to Africa's development. ANAFE believes that this is the best way of contributing to 'sustaining the momentum' of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) for the next 10 years.

Key outputs of the SASACID Programme

- 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 Master's level respectively.
- Risk management and agribusiness curricula developed and accepted by the Pilot Institutions among which 20% are implementing the curricula while 60% reported using them to review their existing curricula.
- Over 60 institutional leaders trained on institutional self assessment and governance.
- A guide on best practices in institutional governance published.
- Strategy for linking Tertiary Agricultural Education (TAE) with private sector published and widely shared.
- At least 47% of the Pilot Institutions (PIs) have established platforms linking them to farmer organizations, women entrepreneurs and other private sector groups.
- Over 40 % of the PIs have signed Memorandum of understanding with private sector companies.
- Young lecturers from over 75% of the PIs have been trained in innovative teaching methods and are applying the skills in their teaching.
- Over 45 African agricultural lecturers trained in collaborative development of contextualized learning materials.

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Partnership key to success of the SASACID programme

SASACID programme would not have been successful without the support of partners who contributed financially, intellectually and materially



A cross-section of authors of the contextualized learning materials on agribusiness and risk management during a workshop held in Nairobi in 2014.

SASACID owes its success to a broad array of partners whose contribution has been invaluable. The sixteen ANAFE member institutions that piloted implementation of the programme include: Abomey Calavi University (Benin); Botswana College of Agriculture (Botswan); Polytechnic University of Bobo Dioulasso (Burkina Faso); University of Dschang (Cameroon); Felix Houphouet Boigny University (Cote d'Ivoire); Kenyatta University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Masinde Muliro University of Agriculture and Technology and the University of Nairobi (all from Kenya); Abdou Moumouni University (Niger); University of Nigeria, Nsukka (Nigeria); Gaston Berger University and ENSA-University of Thies (Senegal); University of Pretoria (South Africa); University of Kordofan (Sudan), Nyabyeya Forestry College (Uganda); Mulungushi University (Zambia); Zimbabwe College of Forestry.

The ANAFE members that fully supported the programme include: University of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso); Nangui Abrogua University and Peleforo Gon Coulibaly (Cote d'Ivoire); University of Ghana; Rongo University College, Taita Teveta University College, Jomo Kenyatta University (Kenya); Institute Polytechnique Rural de Formation et de Recherche Appliquée (IPR/IFRA (Mali); University of Mauritius (Mauritius); Makerere University (Uganda).

The SASACID programme also benefited immensely from the support of several partners including: the Swedish University of Agriculture (SLU), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD), Pan African Agribusiness and Agro Industry Consortium, the African Forest Forum (AFF), the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, Food and Agricultural organization(FAO), Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation(CTA).

Universities Business and Research in Agribusiness Innovation (UniBRAIN) consortium members were also instrumental in the success of SASACID. The Sorghum Value Chain Development Consortium (SVCDC) in Kenya, Consortium for Enhancing University Responsiveness to Agribusiness Development (CURAD) in Uganda, Afri-Banana Products Limited also in Uganda Creating Competitive Livestock Bias Entrepreneurs in Agribusiness (CCLEAr) in Ghana, West African Agribusiness Resource Incubator (WAARI) in Mali and the Agri-Business Incubation Trust (AgBIT) in Zambia. And finally we have the professional development organizations that supported SASACID implementation; they are AISA, Retouch Africa International (RAI), Associates for International Management Services (AIMS) and Montpellier SupAgro (France).

Project Updates

ANAFE to spearhead a new training paradigm in agroforestry and forestry

Leveraging on the results obtained from SASACID, ANAFE is putting in place a new tertiary education-training programme to harness the economic potential of forestry and agroforestry sciences in Africa



A group of Agricultural institutional leaders from Africa who toured the Olmotonyi Forestry College in Arusha Tanzania during a governance training workshop held at the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Arusha, Tanzania on October 1-3, 2014.

The new training approach will ensure that higher education and research in agroforestry and forestry in Sub-Saharan Africa actively contributes to business enterprise developments such that education institutions and graduates will deliver effective support to agribusiness entrepreneurs particularly farmers and women. In addition, business research will inform and support training, entrepreneurs and other private sector groups working in the area of agroforestry and forestry.

This new training approach is premised on the fact that Forestry and agroforestry contribute significantly to food and nutritional security, poverty alleviation, environmental conservation, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

ANAFE believes that strengthening the business components of higher education and research in these areas will ignite agricultural transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Through the programmes of Strengthening Africa's Strategic Agricultural Capacity for Impact on Development (SASACID) and Linking Universities with Business and Research in Agricultural Innovation (UniBRAIN), ANAFE has already laid a firm foundation for transforming training in forestry, agroforestry and related sciences for better economic outcomes and environmental sustainability.

HAAGRIM's Mobility for Cohort 2 launched

The HAAGRIM Program - Harmonization and Improvement of master and doctoral programmes in agribusiness through mobility between West Africa, Eastern Centre, for a sustainable socio-economic development) is calling for application from qualified candidates for its second cohort. This is a mobility scholarship programme for Masters and PhD students, lecturers and administrative staff of universities and colleges in Africa. Successful candidates are taken through a comprehensive training program in the areas of agriculture, agro-industry and marketing agricultural products. They also benefit from internships in companies and research exchange visits between the consortium partners.

For more information, visit the HAAGRIM website: http://www.haagrim.org/.

Lecturers laud ANAFE's new Agribusiness curriculum

ANAFE's new Agribusiness curricula have received glorious reception from lecturers in African universities and colleges. The lecturers and instructors are happy with the curricula frameworks saying they provide the missing link between the agribusiness theories taught in class and the world of work



Dr. Daniel Sila, Lecturer/Chairman of the Department of Agricultural Resource Economics, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya.

"Based on ANAFE's Agribusiness curriculum, we have developed two new programmes in the department of Agricultural Resource Economics here at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology., Kenya. The first is the MSc in Agribusiness Management which borrows over 90% of the ANAFE curriculum; secondly we have the MSc in Applied Economics and Rural Development. Soon, we shall be piloting the two postgraduate programmes within our Department."



Kimani Muturi, the Managing Director of Afri-Banana Products (ABP) in Uganda, and who is also a lecturer at Kyambogo University (Uganda)

"When I look at the curriculum developed by ANAFE, I see rich ideas and it must be adopted by our universities. The students are in their laboratories, in their workshops and studios but they have no idea of what is required in the world of work. This disconnect produces a big rift between universities and the private sector. But with the implementation of ANAFE's curriculum, we expect that a strong link between the universities and the private sector will be established."



Prof. Olusegun Yerokun, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mulungushi University, Zambia.

"At Mulungushi University, we have been working closely with ANAFE to improve our agribusiness programmes especially with regard to curriculum development and we believe this will enhance the entrepreneurial ability of our graduates and their relevance in the job market."



Prof. Samuel Kyamanywa, Makerere University, Uganda.

"ANAFE has been very instrumental in helping us with curriculum review; they have shared with us what they have done elsewhere in Africa and we are now trying to see how we can incorporate it into our university curriculum. We have taken ANAFE's curriculum as the prototype. Therefore ANAFE has been very instrumental in curriculum review."



Himoonga Bernard Moonga" Lecturer, Food Science and Nutrition, University of Zambia.

"The school of Agriculture offers five programmes but not all have agribusiness courses in them. But we have benefited from funding from UniBRAIN to develop agribusiness modules, which we would use to train all students taking courses within the school. By offering these modules will improve the business skills of our graduates.

From the above experiences, it is clear that apart from imparting theoretical skills in the classroom, universities and colleges can help enhance productivity of the private sector while at the same time enhancing the technical skills of the graduates.

The lecturers and instructors are happy with the curricula frameworks saying they provide the missing link between the agribusiness theories taught in class and the world of work.

Project Updates

UniBRAIN is the model for job creation in Africa: Voices from supported graduates, interns and incubatees

Agricultural Solutions for Africa is a company started by six Makerere university students in 2014. With support from Consortium for Enhancing University Responsiveness to Agribusiness Development, Uganda (CURAD), one of UniBRAIN's consortium members, the students have since developed a successful liquor brand produced from coffee



James kyewalabyes, Makerere University Graduate, CURAD Incubatee

Before we graduated from Makerere University, we saw a call from CURAD asking for business proposals on coffee value chain. We applied and we were taken up and supported by CURAD to develop a product - Legend Dark Coffee Liquor. They gave us 1.2 million Uganda shillings (USD 500). We developed the product and tested it; we realized that people had positive response to it. We were then supported by CURAD to exhibit the product in Uganda's Annual Agricultural Show and the response to our product was overwhelming. I have learned so many things in business that I never learned in school. Some things you learn in school cannot work in the practical business world. Universities and colleges should change the curriculum to have more practical's, especially in the business world.



Breach Niwagira, Makerere University Graduate, CURAD Incubatee

Our product has had an overwhelming market; it has gone as far as South Africa, Cameroun and Nairobi. As you know, Uganda is ranked second in Africa with regard to alcohol consumption and our product has done very well here. Every month, we sell about 700 units for the 750ml bottle; 17,000 units for the 200ml bottle and 18,000 units for the 100ml bottle. Our product is unique in that it's the first coffee liquor in Uganda; and it's natural without any additional flavors. Our product has had a very good reception all over Africa.



Otai Marcel Tegu, Makerere University Graduate, CURAD Incubatee

Having experienced difficulties in getting internship, my colleagues and I decided that employment will be the last option. However, it is CURAD that gave us the kick-start to venture into coffee liquor. After they accepted our proposal, we approached the department of food Science at Makerere University for advice on how to make the product. However, their advice did not work so we had to do it our way. And it worked perfectly. CURAD has supported us financially and also technically. They have also mentored us and gave us moral support when things were hard especially at the beginning.



Ms Sethlina Naa Dodua Aryee, Animal Science Graduate, Kwameh Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana

Because of the high number of students, universities are not able to impart adequate practical skills. For this reason, students are not well equipped to venture into business. I studied BSc in Agriculture (Animal Science Major). After graduation, I was looking for a job so that I could get money to save enough capital to start pig farming business. I then came to Creating Competitive Livestock-Bias Entrepreneurs in Agribusiness (CCLEAR) to enquire if they could support me achieve my dream. First they took me as an intern; they helped me develop a business plan. After they were satisfied with the plan they gave me USD 10,000 to operationalize the plan. I have started pulling up a structure for the pigs; they'll monitor and evaluate the structure after which I'll move into the next stage where I'll buy the animals and go into production. I'll then be able to help other graduates who do not have jobs like me.



Papius Tumusingize, Uganda

I wanted to start hot pepper production but I did not have capital; then I heard about CURAD - one of UniBRAIN's consortium partners - during an agricultural exhibition in Makerere University. CURAD liked my idea and gave me full support from finance, advice and technical support. And now, I'm still a student but I make approximately USD 500 per month by selling hot pepper from the farm provided by the university. I have also trained four students on how they can make money from farming. They have also ventured into other enterprises like cassava, cabbage and soya beans production. With increased rates of unemployment in Uganda, now I'm not thinking of going to look for a job; I'm actually thinking of starting a processing company for hot pepper so that I can employ more people. My life has changed because now I live independently; I'm no longer a dependent to my parents, I can pay my rent and pay part of my tuition. I no longer beg. And now people respect me.



Joy Ochieng, JKUAT PhD Student (Food Science and Nutrition)

I have been sponsored by Sorghum Value Chain development consortium to help study different sorghum varieties and their suitability in the production of Bread in Kenya. So far, I have collected samples of sorghum in different parts of the country. If we are successful, it means there will be more demand for sorghum and farmers will be able to plant more of it. This will eventually make sorghum a commercial venture. And this is important because it is drought tolerant and grows in places where other cereals cannot. Thus it is important to have such crops. We are working with Sorghum Value Chain Development Consortium (SVDC) to make sorghum just as important as other cereals like maize and wheat.

ANAFE to collaborate with FARA on e-Capacities platform for tertiary agricultural education in Africa

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) has launched a human capacity database for African tertiary education in agriculture and natural resources



A cross section of participants who attended the e-capacities workshop in Ghana.

A recent World Bank report titled 'Cultivating Knowledge to grow agriculture' lamented the decline in the quality of African tertiary education in agriculture and natural resources.

The report highlighted the dire consequences for African social and economic development of not acting urgently to improve the delivery of tertiary agriculture and natural resources education.

In response to the findings of the report, FARA has initiated a new platform to facilitate the production of updated analysis at any time for use in directing future investments in strengthening Africa's capacity to build capacity to areas in most urgent need which together will maximise the returns to the total investment by government, development partners and foundations.

ANAFE, which is one of the largest networks of agricultural and natural resources education institutions in Africa, is expected to play a major role in mobilizing its member institutions to take full advantage of this platform.

Dubbed e-capacities, the platform will present the totality of initiatives aimed at strengthening Africa's capacity to build capacity in tertiary agricultural and natural resources education, revealing duplications and gaps and articulating the opportunities for high-impact investments as a tool for guiding investment in building the human capacity required to achieve Africa's vision for Agriculture. Its core objectives include; Collation demand information and supply information; articulating demand and supply, and linking on-going and pipeline activities.

The platform presents the totality of initiatives aimed at strengthening Africa's capacity to build capacity in tertiary agricultural and natural resources education, revealing duplications and gaps and articulating the opportunities for high-impact investments as a tool for guiding investment in building the human capacity required to achieve Africa's Vision for Agriculture.

This initiative is expected to address concerns on the quality of African tertiary education in agriculture and natural resources. A training workshop was held in Accra Ghana on 12-13 May, 2015, to equip relevant stakeholders agricultural with the requisite skills and competencies to effectively interact with the platform.

Focal person from relevant institutions from across Africa will be identified to update the platform with relevant information relating to the human capacity in agriculture and natural resources education in Africa.

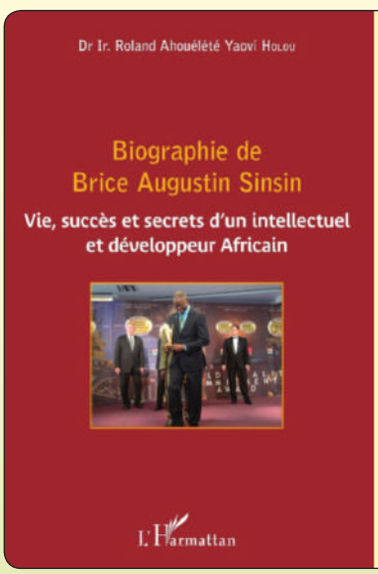
Regional News

ANAFE to participate in CCARDESA's Youth in Agriculture Summit

ANAFE's strategy recognizes the important role played by the youth in promoting knowledge and utilization of agriculture, agroforestry and natural resources in Africa. For this reason, ANAFE will join hands with CCARDESA in making the Youth in Agriculture Summit a success. It will be held on 3-6 August 2015 in Durban, South Africa. The overall goal of the summit is to create a platform where the youth will be challenged to be more actively involved in the agricultural value chain. The specific objectives of the summit are to:

- Provide a networking platform to share experiences on youth involvement in agriculture in the region and beyond;
- Challenge the SADC youth to explore opportunities to engage in agribusinesses interventions along the various commodity value chains;
- Develop a strategy to address challenges which hinder the participation of the youth in agriculture in various countries in SADC region;
- Identify niche areas for youth involvement in agriculture;
- Facilitate establishment of innovative partnerships between youths and private sector organizations to enable development of viable business ventures;
- Challenge agricultural training institutions in the region to review training models and develop innovative skills training programmes and provisions that meet the needs of the youths in modern economies of the region;
- Explore opportunities offered by ICTs to address agricultural challenges and improve youth participating in agriculture.

The summit is being organized by the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA).



A biography Prof. Brice Sinsin Augustin published

A biography depicting the life and professional trajectory of Prof. Brice Sinsin Augustin, the Rector of Abomey Calavi University, Benin, has been published.

In the 300 pages of this authorized biography published by Editions L'Harmattan in France, Dr. Roland Holou reveals the secrets of Prof. Sinsin in academics, research, development and other professional endeavors.

Prof. Sinsin is one of the most accomplished research scientists and education administrators in Africa.

This book explains the secrets and passion behind the success and accomplishments of Prof. Sinsin that many seek to emulate without wanting to pay the price. It also proposes strategies to reform democracy and African constitutions to suit the needs of the African people, pull lessons from traditional leadership systems in Africa, create African nation-states, catalyze political reforms in Africa and the training African diplomats.

Dr. Mbaye promoted to the position of Head of Department



Dr. Mame Samba Mbaye, the ANAFE representative at the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar, Senegal, has been promoted to the position of Head of the Plant Biology Department, Faculty of Science and Technology,.

Dr Mbaye has a PhD in Natural Sciences, agronomy option specializing in Botany, Biodiversity and weed science. Apart from his position as Head of Department, he is ANAFE's point person at the Department of Plant Biology and represents the University at the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) of the National Park of the Magdalen Islands (FNIM). In addition, he coordinates the Consultation Framework of the National System of Agricultural Research and Agri-Foods and the Taxonomy, Biodiversity, Ethnobotany and Conservation of Natural Resources (Tabec-RN) professional group in Senegal.

Regional training on communicating effectively with users of knowledge

ANAFE in partnership with the Finish supported FoodAfrica programme implemented by various CGIAR Center including ICRAF, plans to conduct a training workshop for educators and researchers on "Effective communication with users of knowledge" from 13th to 16th October 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The training workshop is geared towards sustaining impact from interventions in agriculture. Educators and researchers need to be equipped with effective skills to effectively communicate with users of knowledge. There is a great wealth of indigenous knowledge that would be studied more closely and appreciated if there is effective communication between educators, researchers and users of knowledge. Institutions have initiated experiential learning programmes as a positive move, but communication with the communities and target beneficiaries of knowledge is vital for the success of these programmes.

Workshop Objectives

The objectives of the training are to:

1. Share experiences and lessons on best practices in communicating research outputs;
2. Equip educators and researchers with skills for effective communication with users of knowledge;
3. Provide participants with a manual on effective communication with users of knowledge.

The applicants must:

- Be university lecturers, scientists or college tutors involved with community linked programmes;
- Have a good record of scientific publications in the areas of agriculture, agroforestry, forestry, environment or any other similar area;
- Have experience in communicating research outputs to end users for impact.

Applicants are invited to send an application letter illustrating their suitability, together with detailed curriculum vitae on or before Friday 28th August, 2015.

All correspondence should be addressed to the ANAFE Secretariat: anafe.sec@cgiar.org, copied to the ANAFE Communications Officer, Mr. Alfred Ochola at a.ochola@cgiar.org.

Successful candidates will be notified by 11th September 2015.



Prof. Saliou Ndiaye
ANAFE Board Chair

ANAFE's 30th Board meeting to be held in Zambia

ANAFE will hold its 30th Board meeting in Zambia on 6-9, July 2015. The meeting will be steered by the new Chair, Prof. Saliou Ndiaye of Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Agriculture (ENSA), Université de Thiès, Sénégal, supported by the new Vice Chair, Prof. Christine Onyango of Taita Taveta University College, Kenya.

The two were elected during the ANAFE General Assembly held in August 2014 in Yaounde Cameroun to replace Prof. John D.K. Saka, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Malawi and Dr. Marie Louise Avana Tientcheu of the University of Dshang, the former Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

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