



RUFORUM 4TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE - 2014

Africa's Dry waters: Taking the University to the community in post-graduate training in fisheries and aquaculture



Concept Note for preconference event 4 During the 4th RUFORUM Biennial Conference

Background

Several countries in sub-Saharan Africa share a majority of food security challenges. The fisheries and aquaculture sector is one of several and it has trans-boundary implications. With a general decline in capture fisheries in the sub-Saharan region, the governments in this region have encouraged investments into the aquaculture sector as an alternative. However, this aquaculture sector needs technologically skilled human resource to guide this sector. Despite this common challenge, the Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) and private partners/players in this region lack a vibrant regional Fit-for-Purpose training program that holistically contributes to a lasting solution. There is therefore need to strengthen links between teaching, modern technologies, learning, research and the demands of the fisheries and aquaculture sector for improved food security through increased fish production and sustainable resource management. Despite several institutions offering aquaculture training, the aquaculture production has not increased at an appreciable threshold. This clearly indicates that there is a gap that needs to be filled so that the demands of the fish production chain are met by the opportunities provided by the research and training institutions in Africa. There is need for reflection and fact finding in order to identify where "we went wrong" so that corrective measures are put in place. This will go a long way to improve fisheries and aquaculture training in Africa. This reflection is in line with the global objective of the EDULINK II Program, which is supporting the **"Concerted Fit-for-purpose PhD training in aquaculture and fisheries to improve food security and livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa"** project (EuropeAid/AFS/2 013 1320-303). The results of this event will inform on the direction to be followed among African Universities and other stakeholders involved in fisheries and aquaculture.

It is in light of the above that this preconference is included in the Biennial Conference programme to create opportunity for a facilitated interaction among fisheries and aquaculture actors in Africa and beyond. The discussions will involve graduate students, university lecturers, fisheries and aquaculture actors, policy specialist and curriculum analysts. In order to achieve the above the sessions will be highly interactive, with group discussions followed by a plenary to which each group will report the results of its discussions.

Aims and Objectives of the Sessions

The Session is in line with the RUFORUM Theory of Change and is intended to contribute to aspects highlighted in the Impact Statement and in particular that of **"producing skilled and proactive graduates"** able to generate and communicate....**"demand driven research outputs"** as is urgently needed in fisheries and aquaculture.

The session will identify the gaps/challenges in aquaculture and match them to the training/research needs at Higher institutions of learning so that the two can speak to each other at the same frequency.

The activities in line with the above will involve the following

1. identifying Gaps / needs
2. Identifying Priorities / constraints
3. identifying Actions / instruments concerning fisheries and aquaculture
4. multidisciplinary linkages
5. niches for cooperation
6. strategies for cooperation
7. policy matters in relation to the challenges
8. Preparing of a presentation of side event-results

Outputs

The side event will generate the following outputs:

1. Contents for a fit-for-purpose curriculum in Fisheries and aquaculture
2. A comprehensive/synthesis report detailing session proceedings and recommendations for future related undertakings by RUFORUM and Its member Universities, in relation to aquaculture research and training.
3. Enhancement and quality assurance in aquaculture sciences
4. Results-oriented aquaculture research
5. Course-level mapping for improved teaching and delivery

Approach and Methodology

The Sessions feature a series of presentations by experts and focus group discussions/Learning cafés. The side event will be moderated by technical/expert facilitators (Dr. Daniel Sikawa, Dr. Cliff Jones, Dr. Phillip Raburu and Dr. Charles Masembe). At the end of the side event a synthesis report will be produced.

Venue and Participants

The side event will be convened at the main venue of the RUFORUM 4th Biennial Conference being held in Maputo, Mozambique at the VIP Grand Maputo Hotel. This side event will take place **in Limpompo Hall, on 19th July 2014** from 10.30 AM to 5.00 PM.

Side Event Organizers and Contact

This event is organised by Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resource (Malawi), Makerere University (Uganda) and RUFORUM Secretariat

Tel: +256 772 468 919

Contact: **Dr. Daniel Sikawa, Dr P. Nampala and Dr. Charles Masembe**

E-mail: danielsikawa@gmail.com ; cmasembe@gmail.com

Programme

Preconference even 4: Saturday 19th July 2014, Limpompo Hall	
MAIN THEME	

Time	Sub Theme	Responsible
10.30 -10.45	Welcoming remarks	Dr. Paul Nampala
10.45 -11.00	The fisheries landscape	Dr. Charles Masembe
	Discussions	
11.00 – 11:30	The aquaculture landscape	Dr. Phillip Raburu
11:30 – 12:00	The university graduate training curriculum	Dr. Cliff Jones
12:00 – 1:00	Identifying the matches and mismatches	Dr. Daniel Sikawa
1:00 – 2:00 LUNCH		
2:00 – 2:20	Guidelines for group discussions	Dr. Charles Masembe
2:20 – 2:40	Group work	Group
2:40 – 3:15	Group work	Group
3:15 – 3:45	Group work	
3:45 – 4:00 HEALTH BREAK		
4:00 – 4:30	Plenary and discussion	Dr. Daniel Sikawa
4:30 – 5:00	Evaluation and Closing	Dr. Daniel Sikawa

