

RUFORUM 4TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE - 2014



Building linkages between education and practical knowledge resources



Concept Note for session 8.5 and 9.5 During the 4th RUFORUM Biennial Conference

Background

From its inception over 100 years ago, CABI, a not-for profit research, publishing and international development organisation, has been closely linked with academic institutions worldwide. Adding to this is a legacy of partnership and capacity building work in Africa from CABI's two regional offices on the continent. The organization has formed dynamic collaborations to meet its core mission of supporting countries and communities to overcome challenges in agriculture and the environment. Key to this is the engagement of future generations in Africa to address contemporary and emerging agricultural and environmental challenges. With the start last year of a relationship between CABI and the RUFORUM consortium, academic linkages continue to grow. The CABI-led Plantwise programme is involving an increasing number of academic institutions in exploring new opportunities. These opportunities include incorporating training of agricultural extension staff in modules needed to operate plant clinics and the Plantwise knowledge bank as technical resources, as well as strengthening national plant health systems. In these systems, extension, research, regulation and policy are strongly inter-linked to provide advice needed by farmers to enable realization of food security and sustainable support to livelihoods dependent on agriculture. Plant clinics, the knowledge bank and the CAB Abstracts and Compendia are resources for which privileged access has been/can be granted to RUFORUM member universities. Today, CABI and RUFORUM are delivering innovative knowledge resources to young researchers and extensionists, some of which may go on to run the growing networks of plant clinics and management of national data systems being established under Plantwise.

Aims and Objectives of the side Event

The session is design to enable Plantwise representatives, CABI-RUFORUM liaisons, and university partners working with Plantwise discuss their experiences and offer insights to those involved in agricultural studies.

Outputs

The session will generate a deeper understanding of the seven challenges for Higher Education on the African continent.

Approach and Methodology

A panel which brings together Plantwise representatives, CABI-RUFORUM liaisons, and university partners working with Plantwise will discuss their experiences and offer insights to those involved in agricultural studies. The panel event will explore how universities in East Africa, including RUFORUM member institutions, can utilize Plantwise resources

today to meet shared goals. It will also encourage a dialogue for new ideas for collaboration between organizations like CABI and its Plantwise programme, on the one hand, and academic institutions on emerging opportunities on the other for youth in agricultural education.

Venue and Participants

The session will be convened at the main venue of the RUFORUM 4th Biennial Conference, Maputo at the VIP Grand Maputo Hotel. This side event will take place in SAVE Hall, on Tuesday, 22nd July 2014, from 10.30 AM to 13.00 PM.

Side Event Organizers and Contact

This session will be jointly led by Plantwise representatives, CABI-RUFORUM liaisons, and university partners working with Plantwise.

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Programme

SESSION 8.5: Tues 22 July 2014 Hall: SAVE		
MAIN THEME	Building linkages between education and practical knowledge resources	
Time	Sub Theme	Responsible Party
10.30 -10.40	Welcoming remarks and introductions	Lourena Arone
Session I: Gap between knowledge availability and knowledge access and use (Moderator: Representative EMU)		
10.40 -10.50	How do universities help produce and disseminate safe and practical advice to farmers in a sustainable way?	Hebert Talwana
10.50 -11.00	What are the needs of today's agricultural students and faculties?	Hebert Talwana
11.00- 11.10	What are examples of universities utilizing CABI and Plantwise resources to address these challenges?	Mildred Ochwo-Ssemakula
11.10 – 11.20	How are the networks of plant clinics- established with support of Plantwise and the global knowledge bank- offering both new research and training opportunities for higher education?	Washington Otieno
11.20-11.50	Discussion	David Onyango
Session II: New innovations are available to students and staff (Moderator: Herbert Talwana)		
11.50 -12.00	What new innovations are available to students and staff?	David Onyango
12.00 - 12.10	Discussion	Willis Ochilo
Session III : Today's obstacles and how interventions coming from Plantwise with the work of partner universities are offering new training and resources to meet these challenges (Moderator: Washington Otieno/ Mildred Ochwo-Ssemakula)		
12.10 - 12.40	Panel discussion	TBC
12.40 - 12.55	Plenary discussion	TBC
12.55- 13.00	Closing remarks	Dean/Representative (TBC)
13.00- 14.00	Lunch	