



GCHERA

7th conference Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research for Agriculture
Beauvais - France

Challenges & Innovative Processes for Challenges & Innovative Processes for Capacity Strengthening in Agriculture for Development (CIPCAD 2)

GCHERA 7 Pre-Conference Programme

June 26 & 27, 2011

CIPCAD 2 will be an important milestone in the movement leading to:

- Reshaping the future of capacities in agriculture, agricultural development and agricultural research in Southern countries;
- Making sure research and education in agriculture meets the needs of the jobs market and of the public policies promoted, especially for smallholder producers in developing countries;
- Changing how agricultural research, extension is done and training is organised;
- Making agricultural research, extension and support to agricultural innovations more accountable to those it serves.

Agriculture is Africa's greatest industry with important potential for expansion, diversification, and generating incomes and employment.

For several decades, the capacity of African agricultural universities and colleges has shown poor capacity to address the needs of the social and economic stakeholders, starting by small farmers but also including commercial and business sectors. Inadequate funding, facilities not even being adequately maintained, increased student enrolment, poor connection with the professional sector, lack of research participation, unattractive employment conditions and under recruitment have earmarked education systems in agriculture. The lack of adequate succession planning has contributed to a missing generation of African scientists i.e. an aging cadre of senior staff is rapidly approaching retirement without proper arrangements for replenishment.

Yet the rising cost of food and increasing unemployment are placing the greatest stress on the social and political fault lines.

The relevance of Higher Education systems towards broad development goals such as the ones of the Millennium, or, more recently, those brought forward by the African Union's Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) have been intensively discussed at various meetings organised by several African Organisations—RUFORUM, ANAFE, FARA.

At global level, on April 2010 the CIPCAD 1 and GCARD 2010 launched a declaration to address the challenges raised by the needs of the world for capacities in agriculture for development: the *Capacities' Montpellier Action Plan* (CAPMAP 2010-2020). On November 2011, the Conference for Higher Education in Agriculture, held in Kampala issued a Ministerial Communiqué calling for strengthening higher education in agriculture, so that African Universities and other education institutions can contribute more effectively to the CAADP processes.

Both conferences aimed to consolidate recent developments by strengthening high level partnerships and policy support for re-engineering African higher education in agriculture and science.

What has been done since then to transform such ambitious objectives into concrete actions? Which reforms of the system are now on track? How can Universities and the other stakeholders offering capacity building better contribute to addressing the challenges raised? How to generalise the momentum to countries and institutions that have little participated up to now?

Using the opportunity of the 7th Conference of the Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research for Agriculture (GCHERA), which will be held on June 27 to 29, 2011 in Beauvais, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and the European Forum for Agricultural Research for Development (EFARD) are pleased to organise a *preconference workshop* to review the last progresses made and the challenges still pending. One of the most important initiatives that will be presented is the *Tertiary Education for Agriculture Mechanism* (TEAM-Africa), but other specific contributions, either thematically oriented (like UNIBRAIN) or focused on specific areas or subregions, such as the *Engagement of West and Central African Tertiary Agricultural Africa Agriculture Development Programme in the CAADP Processes* will also be reviewed.

By bringing together all those who are actively involved in agricultural development to share their views, the CIPCAD2 aims to inspire development of new capacity building systems in agriculture around the world, driven by tangible results for poor farmers.

Draft Programme

Sunday 26 June - 8.30 - 17.00 :

Challenges for African Capacity Building in Agriculture and Organisational Response

At present there are important deficiencies in African agricultural capacities which, if not addressed will prevent the achievement of the African Vision of 6% per annum growth in agricultural production, which is far higher than the continent has ever achieved and yet is the minimum for meeting the needs of the expanding populations while making real inroads into relieving extreme poverty and hunger.

In these circumstances there is urgent need to reorient and reinvigorate African agricultural universities and other higher education institutions so that they will produce graduates who are not only at the cutting edge of their specialisations but who are also problem solvers, job creators and entrepreneurs who are capable of taking full advantage of the vast opportunities that Africa's greatest and most diverse industry offers.

This session will address the building of the capacity pyramid in the following contexts:

1. Assessing the demands for capacity strengthening of the majority rural producers at the bottom of the pyramid and of the decreasing numbers but no less vital artisans, technicians, diplomats, graduates and postgraduates.
2. Determining what the new kind of skills needed to produce actors across the board who are fit for purpose in 21st century agricultural industry
3. Identifying the building blocks of successful approaches and best practices in capacity strengthening from technical and vocational to tertiary education

The session will also assemble representatives of the stakeholders in African tertiary agricultural education to forge a common perception of the proposed, role and modus operandi of the emerging Tertiary Education for Agriculture Mechanism (TEAM-Africa) in leading the reorientation and reinvigoration of tertiary agricultural education in Africa

The objectives are to form a common understanding of:

1. How to determine the demand in scope, quality and quantity for trainees and graduates, and how to prioritise actions,
2. The factors that must be taken into account in planning to respond to the diverse demand,
3. The successes, best practices and novel approaches that can be used in reconstructing and expanding the capacity pyramid
4. The costs and benefits and where the financial resources will come from.
5. Who is demanding what from the TEAM Africa,
6. How the mechanism will respond to that demand, and what outcomes are sought and how its success will be defined.

The available building blocks



AM:

Welcome and introductions – EFARD representative - FARA Executive Director / Director for Capacity Strengthening

Overview and progress review of CAADP process - AU-NPCA

1. What is the human capacity pyramid built of?
 - a. Panel
 - i. Led by NEPAD-PCA, AGRA and FARA
 - b. Discussion

2. How to assess the demand for human capacity
 - a. Panel:
 - i. FARA Director Capacity Strengthening
 - ii. AUC HRST
 - iii. CAADP
 - b. Discussion

Break

3. What are the available building blocks?
 - a. Panel:
 - i. AUC- *Pan African University*
 - ii. UniBRAIN – *Linking universities, business and research*
 - iii. FARA NSF2 – *Rural learning platforms*
 - iv. ILO – *Technical and vocational training*
 - v. FAO – *Farmer field schools*
 - vi. University of the Free State – *Barefoot Universities*
 - vii. APLU: *Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs)* (by
 - viii. EU Commission: *The Edulink Intra-ACP Mobility Scheme: a mechanism for strengthening regional poles*
 - ix. PAEPARD : *Setting multistakeholders partnerships : the brokerage function*
 - x. Other building blocks (see Figure attached)
 - b. Discussion

4. Parallel sessions
 - 4A. The new skills needed
 - i. New enterprise skills, eg Unibrain
 - ii. New disciplines- eg food processing, value addition, accessing markets
 - iii. New value and reward systems in universities (going beyond papers)
 - iv. Integrating research, education and extension

- 4B. How to assess the resource requirements
 - b. Panel:
 - i. Improving teaching and conditions of employment– AAU
 - ii. Investments in upgrading and expanding facilities –TBC
 - iii. Investment in changing curricular and introducing advanced training approaches, aids and contextualised course- TBC
 - iv. Introducing teaching in experiential learning, soft and personal mastery skills - ICRA
 - v. technical and vocational training –ILO
 - c. Discussion

LUNCH

PM:

- 5. Report on the parallel sessions
- 6. The Engagement of West and Central African Tertiary Agricultural Africa Agriculture Development Programme in the CAADP Processes. Presentation by CTA and ANAFE.
- 7. The Tertiary Education for Agriculture Mechanism (TEAM-Africa) - Presentation by RUFORUM / ANAFE
 - a. How will TEAM-Africa define its priorities and how will it engage in CAADP processes to ensure the continuing relevance of its priorities and approaches to addressing them?
 - b. How will TEAM-Africa select the institutions that will be the pilots on reforming African tertiary agricultural education?
 - c. How will TEAM-Africa define what aspects of tertiary African agricultural education are in most urgent need of reorientation and reinvigoration?
 - d. Overall discussion
- 8. The way forward and conclusions
 - a. FARA Director Capacity Strengthening
 - b. EFARD representative

Closure at 17.00

(N.B. Evening programme : Agrinatura GA Part 1)

Monday 27 June

9.00 – 13.00:

Preparation of a conference of Rectors and Presidents of francophone universities to strengthen their involvement into CAADP process (ANAFE/CTA/FARA/AGRINATURA/NEPAD secretariat)

1. The LMD Reforms in French speaking African Universities: Challenges, perspectives and opportunities: Prof Saliou Ndiaye, Rector, University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar (UCAD) or Prof A. Ndoye, the Director for Reforms of UCAD
2. Engagement of the CRUFAOCI network in University reforms in French speaking African Universities: Prof Jacques Nanema, University of Ouagadougou
3. Reforms at University of Dschang: Rector or Vice Rector of Dschang
4. Reforms in English speaking Universities: Case of one of the Universities
5. CAADP and need for engaging French speaking west, Central and Indian Ocean Africa: Someone from NEPAD
6. Preparing the Conference of Rectors of French speaking African Universities in November 2011: A. Yaye and Judith Francis

In parallel with other side events to the GCHERA:

8.30 - 12.00: AGRINATURA General Assembly, Part 2 (organised by Agrinatura)

14.30- 16.30: ICA General Assembly (organised by ICA)

17.00 :

Opening of the GCHERA Conference with keynotes followed by the GCHERA Conference reception