

ADECEA – Establishing and Piloting Postgraduate Programmes for Supporting Agricultural Development in Post Conflict Countries of Central and Eastern Africa



Project meeting in Madagascar.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

October 2013 – March 2017

CONSORTIUM

- Makerere University, Uganda
- Université Catholique de Bukavu, D.R. Congo
- Université du Burundi, Burundi
- Université d'Antananarivo, Madagascar
- RUFORUM, Uganda
- AGRENIUM, France
- Montpellier SupAgro, Institut national d'études supérieures agronomiques de Montpellier, France
- University of Ghent, Belgium

PROJECT CONTACT

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PROJECT WEBSITE

<http://postconflict-adecea.net/>

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The project strengthened the partnership between institutions, facilitated staff networking and established demand driven postgraduate training in three post conflict countries of eastern and central Africa (D.R. Congo, Burundi and Madagascar). It piloted two of the four developed academic programmes and also supported capacity building of academic staff. The new postgraduate programmes were aligned to the 3-2-3 License Master Doctoral system.

BACKGROUND

Food insecurity and poor health are among the drivers of emergence of conflict and one of the best ways of reducing this risk is to invest in socio-economic areas and increase access to food and nutrition as part of an overall peace building strategy. In this regard strengthening academic and administration capacities of higher education institutions becomes key to revitalising the agricultural sector and economic development.

Currently, universities in the three countries are running the Licence (5 years undergraduate training) Master (3 years) Doctorate (4-6 years) systems which need to align to the new LMD system of 3-2-3 years to meet international standards and facilitate integration at regional (eastern and southern Africa) and international levels. Capacity will be built via the development of demand-driven postgraduate programmes to address agriculture and food security issues.

Due to a lack of qualified professionals to spearhead agricultural development in the three countries, resources have been mobilised to train staff to run the developed programmes and support research. Human resources in the RUFORUM network have been identified to support teaching at the Catholic University of Bukavu, D.R. Congo.

METHODOLOGY

Engagement of university management and relevant government officials fostered by the MSc programmes developed under the programme. Partnerships facilitated resource mobilisation for the established MSc programmes, while participation of staff from the target universities in other countries ensured learning and contributed to improved undertaking of subsequent similar activities in the other countries. Pegging of project regional events on other RUFORUM conferences enabled exploitation of synergies and enhanced efficiency of the project. Scoping studies, interviews, training and advocacy were applied to collect data. Training, regional sharing events and publications were used to disseminate project information.

North-South and South-South staff exchanges

Exchange visits supported scoping studies and curriculum development, provided a learning experience for staff, and catalysed resource mobilisation to support the MSC programmes.



Project meeting in Uganda.

ADECEA PROJECT



RESULTS

→ Outputs

Capacity building

- Developing and piloting MSc programmes.
- Developing course modules and resource materials.
- Short skills enhancement for students and staff (academic and administrative).
- Alignment of programmes in Burundi, DRC and Madagascar to the LMD system.
- Training of MSc students (2 female, 26 male).

Contributions to policy briefs

- African Higher Education Week: Transforming Tertiary Agricultural Education. A Platform for the Way Forward, Maputo-Mozambique 19-25 July 2014.
- A Consultative Meeting with Key Stakeholders on AUC MoU with RUFORUM and Draft Implementation Plan & Strategy for STISA-2024 Pillar One – “Eradicating Hunger and Achieving Food Security in Africa” in Windhoek: , Windhoek, Namibia, 26-28 August 2015.
- Principals and Dean call, Khartoum, Sudan, 8-10 June 2015.

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- Ministerial Communiqué on Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa, Cape Town, South Africa, 20-21 October 2016.
- African Higher Education week communique: Linking Agricultural Universities with Civil Society, the Private Sector, Governments and other Stakeholders in support of Agricultural Development in Africa, Cape Town, South Africa, 21 October 2016.

↑ Outcomes

- Rectors, Deputy Rectors and Deans are able to effectively deal with change and resolving conflict.
- Staff with improved skills are able to support the new MSc programmes.
- Alignment to LMD has enhanced the mobility of students within the region.

🎯 Impacts

Usage

- There has been an increase in the number of MSc and PhD students attending the participating universities.
- For the first time, students from the participating countries are attending courses within the RUFORUM network.
- A 20% increase in PhD students is anticipated in the region in 5 years.

Policy implications

- Co-operation agreements have been signed between the targeted universities and other institutions in Africa and Europe.
- The aligned programmes are ready for Africa-wide harmonisation and standardisation.

Sustainability

- Programme-running costs are covered by tuition fees and the number of guest lecturers reduced over time.
- Through partnerships financial resources are leveraged for research and support of student training.
- The establishment of National Forums in Burundi and D.R. Congo will bring together stakeholders involved in the agricultural sector, and thus provide platforms for ensuring development of demand-driven MSc programmes, and collect stakeholder views to inform the development of programmes.



Project meeting in DR Congo.



Project stakeholder meetings in Burundi.

TESTIMONIAL



Jean Rasoarahona,
Former Dean, School of
Agricultural Sciences,
University of Antananarivo,
Madagascar

“The Master will enhance the skills available within Madagascar. The University and the School of Agricultural Sciences will benefit from a greater visibility on the national and regional level. For my own part as Dean, this project has helped me enhance regional cooperation.”

ACP-EU Co-Operation Programmes in the fields of Higher Education and Science, Technology and Research

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Financed by the European Union