



Agroforestry Education News

Volume 13.1 July 2007

From the Executive Secretary

This issue of our newsletter is particularly dedicated to transition. After 14 years of commitment to integration of agricultural education, fruits of our work are being manifested in real changes on the ground.

At the political front we notice greater attention being paid by international bodies like the World Bank, African Union and NEPAD to endorse fundamental reforms in the content, quality and support for tertiary agricultural education. Such political endorsements are necessary for the release of resources to fund the changes. A few countries have picked up interest, but we are still far from securing the full financial commitments necessary to leverage change. We have to keep the pressure on our leaders until we achieve tangible results.

Many colleges and universities are also in transition. After giving lectures at 11 universities around the continent, I have come to realise that many academics (especially the younger ones!) are yearning for change. With a large majority of old professors (65% of academic staff

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Curriculumania

Since 2003 when ANAFE held a symposium on agricultural education, there have been several studies which point out the challenges of curricular content, quality of teaching and learning and the overall management of tertiary agricultural education. The ANAFE manifesto' captured in the monograph "Improving the quality and relevance of agricultural education in Africa – a stitch in time" produced in 2004 is an outstanding vision document. It has been reproduced due to high demand—more hard copies are now available. A recent World Bank study reconfirms all facts stated in the monograph.

More and more universities and colleges are embarking on agricultural curriculum reviews. However, the key challenges lie not in just change of content, but on overhauling of the whole tertiary education system to make it responsive to development needs. There is a need to review the purpose of tertiary agricultural education, and then re-design its delivery to meet the stated purpose. Policy makers, industry, farmer organizations and many other stakeholders have major roles to play in this effort.

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New Anafe Poster

Have you seen the new ANAFE poster?

Download your copy from
www.anafeafrika.org or ask for a hard
copy for your notice boards!
Contact r.mulinge@cgiar.org



From the Executive Secretary

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likely to retire in the next ten years) this is certainly the time for universities to launch more visionary programmes that address our contribution to knowledge, industrial development and overall economic well being of our countries. These are the principles enshrined in the BASIC¹ initiative driven by FARA² and ANAFE, and it is very pleasing to note that some universities have started implementing them.

Within ANAFE, the leadership is also in transition. This year, we were glad to receive a new RAFT –Sahel Chair, Dr Aissétou Yayé. She comes in with lots of experience and also lifts the number to female RAFT Chairs to 50%! Further, a new Executive Secretary will take over from me in the very near future, after The Board selection due in July. This is as things should be in leadership – passing on the responsibility soon enough to enable continuity and sustainability. We have great times but greater times are still to come in ANAFE. I hope that you will find the articles included in the issue particularly exciting.

August Temu

1 BASIC – Building Africa's Scientific and Institutional Capacity in Agriculture and natural resources

2 FARA – Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa



Curriculumania

◀ *Continued from page 1*

The BASIC initiative by FARA and ANAFE is precisely aimed at this type of reform. An update on BASIC can be found in a separate item in this newsletter.

Recent curricular reviews include:

- In Kenya, the College of Agriculture in the University of Nairobi is working on a Master of Science programme in **Agricultural Information and Communication Management**. The new programme is a response to the perceived demand for agricultural knowledge to reach the appropriate clients, especially farming communities and industry. The programme in part of a regional initiative launched by the RAIN¹ network of ASERECA². They will also launch a new postgraduate diploma in the same area.
- Stellenbosch University in South Africa: The Department of Forestry and Wood Science has overhauled its programme to incorporate the changing in perspectives on forestry and to respond more effectively to stakeholder needs. Notably, the new curriculum includes

1 RAIN – Regional Agricultural Information Network

2 ASARECA – Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa

Educators are in dire need of contextualized learning materials

strong emphases on social and community forestry and the whole area of integrated natural resources management.

- In Niger, the Faculty of Agronomy at Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey has developed a new masters programme in Agroforestry. The new programme to be launched this year is intended to bring together agriculture and natural resource sciences.
- In Uganda, Makerere University has started a review of its curriculum in forestry and nature conservation. Says John Kaboggoza ...' the current forestry curriculum has outlived its purpose. There are so many changes in the stakeholders and in education delivery tools and methods. We have to re-think our approaches to remain competitive'.

NB: Many colleges and universities are adopting the new curriculum on HIV/AIDS for agricultural students. Download your copy from www.anafeafrica.org. Recently, we also uploaded to the site the new book on "Improving Approaches to Effective Teaching and Learning". We upload, you download. You are welcome. ■

Appointment of new Executive Secretary

ANAFE is in the process of recruiting an Executive Secretary. The position was advertised early in the year and many applications have been received. The Board will meet at the end of July to interview and select a candidate to take the mantle from August Temu. Under the agreed arrangement, the new Executive Secretary will be mentored for one year, particularly on resource mobilization and networking tools. S/he takes over soon after the Board decision. ■

RAFT–Sahel elects a new leader

The Sahel chapter of ANAFE elected Dr. Ms. Aissétou Yayé as the new RAFT Chair. She replaces Dr. Gabriel Sidiki Dembélé after he completed two very successful terms (4 years). ANAFE continues to apply democratic processes to ensure that all its members have the opportunity to play leadership roles. The Board of ANAFE thanks Dr. Dembélé for his sterling services. His dynamism has contributed enormously to the growth of agricultural education in the region. The Board welcomes Dr. Yayé and is convinced that she will take us through the next mile.

NB: The election of Dr. Yayé raises to three the total number of women on the seven-member Board of ANAFE. The other women are Prof. Chantal-Kabore Zoungrana of Burkina Faso and Dr. Marie-Tientcheu Avana of Cameroon. ■



Dr. Ms. Aissétou Yayé



Dr. Gabriel Sidiki Dembélé



Tribute to Professor Ostin Augustine Chivinge

Professor Ostin Augustine Chivinge, an agricultural plant and pest management expert recognised by many as one of the world's top experts on weed science died on Tuesday 25th February 2007 from injuries sustained in a car accident which occurred along the Harare-Bulawayo road in Zimbabwe. He was 53. At the time of his death, he was a professor in the Department of Crop Science at the University of Zimbabwe. Prof Chivinge served as Pro-Vice Chancellor at the university from 2003 until July 2006 when his term expired. He held several academic, research and administrative positions in the Zimbabwe and in numerous other regional and international organisations. He made immense contribution to the development and understanding of weed science - one of the most intricate areas of agriculture.

He was the Chair of ANAFE's chapter in Southern Africa - Regional Agricultural Forum for Training (RAFT – SA) for 4 years (1998-2002) during which time we experienced a surge of interest and active participation in ANAFE activities. With his departure we have lost a dedicated scholar and strong believer in changing the lot of the poor. Above all, we have lost a dear friend with lots of humour and humility. He was laid to rest at a village in the Mashambanhaka area of Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe District on February 22. He is survived by his wife Caroline and three children.

At its 21st meeting, The Board of ANAFE will be considering ways of honouring his contributions. On behalf of all members of ANAFE, we pray for his soul to rest in eternal peace. ■

With better education we can reduce the workload of women



Managing trees on farms must be part of agriculture and forestry education

Basic is moving on

One of the most interesting things about the BASIC initiative is that the principles it espouses are widely accepted, and even before it is launched as a programme, many colleges and universities are already implementing some aspects of it. Recent development have breathed life into BASIC and are noteworthy. Twenty-seven NASULGC⁸ universities in collaboration with ADEC⁹ convened a meeting in May 2007 to discuss way and means of implementing BASIC. The meeting was attended by FARA, ANAFE and CO L¹⁰. BASIC was discussed intensively and it was agreed that three concept notes be developed which are in line with NASULGC interest and capacity to contribute. These included Agricultural Risks and Climate Change, Improvement of Curricula and Agricultural Education management. Projects in the three areas are being developed by ANAFE and FARA, in consultation with stakeholder universities.

At the 4th FARA General Assembly held in Sandton South Africa 9 – 16 June 2007, members strongly endorsed BASIC and urged the FARA Secretariat to expedite resource mobilization for the initiative. FARA is planning to allocate resources from its SCARDA¹¹ programme to implement some components of BASIC; as an interim measure. ■

8 NASULGC – National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, USA

9 ADEC - American Distance Education Consortium

10 COL – Commonwealth of Learning

11 SCARDA – Strengthening Agricultural Research for Development in Africa

First global forestry education workshop

The first Global Forestry Education Workshop will be held on 25 – 27 September 2007, at The World Agroforestry Centre in Nairobi Kenya. This is a prime event sponsored by IPFE³, FINNIDA, Government of Kenya, ANAFE, AFORNET and FAO. Among the participants are representatives from UNFF⁴ ITTO⁵, UNEP⁶, many universities around the world, IUFRO⁷, forest managers, research institutions and networks. The final list of participants will be released in July. Make sure your interest is taken care of – visit www.anafeafrica.org for details. The summary programme is as in the table below.

Tuesday 25th Sept 07

Presentations on what has happened in the world to influence the forestry profession. This will include international forestry processes, climate change, environment, biodiversity, participatory forest management, UN conventions and protocols etc

Wed 26th Sept 07

Presentations on forestry education challenges and coping mechanisms used. This will include a synthesis on forestry education advisory, then case studies from teaching institutions

Thu 27th Sept 07

Discussion of lessons learnt and the way forward.

Registration of ANAFE as an international network

ANAFE has filed its application to the Government of the Republic of Kenya to be registered as a non-profit, non-political international network. The process is near completion, and hopefully the registration certificate will be issued before the end of the year. This will open new vistas for ANAFE, especially in the areas of resource mobilization and decision making. It will also position ANAFE well with respect to the powers of the Board there is a possibility to form an Executive Committee to more closely monitor and guide the Executive Secretary. ■

3 IPFE – International Partnership for Forestry Education

4 UNFF – United Nations Forum on Forestry

5 ITTO – International Timber Trade Organization

6 UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme

7 IUFRO – International Union of Forest Research Organizations

ANAFE-RUFORUM Partnership

ANAFE and RUFORUM (Regional University Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture) are forging links which will enable the two networks to work together and complement in their capacity building efforts within Africa. The MOU is due to be signed within the next three months, after endorsements by the respective boards.

Saving Kakamega Forest in Kenya

Kakamega Forest Reserve is the only surviving rainforest in Kenya. Situated 51 km east of Lake Victoria, the 240 km² forest is the eastern-most fragment of the Guinea-Congolian rainforest. It once stretched through Uganda and Central Africa to the West Coast of Africa. This relic is a jewel under siege from the burgeoning population of Kakamega district. The local farming communities depend on many products from the forest for their livelihoods. Firewood, honey, fodder and medicinal plants are but few examples of such products. Two



plants commonly harvested from the forest are *Mondia whytei*, whose roots are used as anti-depressants/anti-oxidant; and *Occimum Kilimandscharicum*, whose leaves can produce a valued skin ointment.

The International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in collaboration with Kenya Forest Research Institute and The University of Nairobi has managed to extract, package and market extracts from these plants in Kenya, at experimental level. To scale up their work, ICIPE has coupled with ICRAF and ANAFE to build the capacity of two community groups to domesticate and cultivate the two plants, and to extract, package and market the active ingredients. The challenge is how to pass on this knowledge to the local communities so that they can benefit from it.

ANAFE is leading the capacity building component for the

youth of Kakamega Environment Programme (KEEP and the Muliru Farmers Conservation Group (MFCG). The two groups are undergoing courses and practical activities in: self organization as business entities, business planning and management, legal and policy issues, consensus building, negotiations and Agroforestry with *Mondia* and *Occimum*. ICIPE is training the groups on product harvesting, processing, packaging and marketing. A Ford Foundation grant is enabling the local communities to domesticate these useful plants and thereby reducing or completely halting harvesting from Kakamega forest. We strongly believe that economic empowerment is a major way of achieving conservation objectives. In the picture, Prof. Inonda Mwanje of Kenyatta University (ANAFE member) is working with the two community groups on consensus building and self organizing. ■

Know more about ANAFE

ANAFE Vision

An effective agricultural education in Africa, with measurable impact on livelihoods and environmental conservation

ANAFE Mission

To improve the quality, relevance and delivery of agricultural education in Africa

Strategic Objectives

The overarching objective of ANAFE is to improve in a sustainable manner the contribution of agricultural education to social and economic development Africa.

For more information visit: <http://www.anafeafrika.org>



The desert is full of untapped wealth 1

By Dr Keadire Mogotsi

There was a school drama in Tanzania where pupils engaged in a debate concerning the virtues of planting trees. A proponent argued strongly of the benefits of tree products, environmental conservation aesthetics and the like. The opponent was not impressed. She pointed out that desertification was the best thing adding that most oil wealth comes from deserts!

Dr. Keadire Mogotsi of Botswana College of Agriculture says the Kalahari desert offers more than diamonds. In the series of pictures shown here, she demonstrates how the college is tapping the plant wealth from the desert, for the benefit of rural and peri-urban poor.



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1. INRM PLOT 120307 075: Keba inspecting a bird nest in a 16 months seedling of *Adansonia digitata*
2. INRM PLOT 120307 055: 52 fruits of *Cucumis metuliferus* from one vine
3. INRM Plot 1 081: The tall shrub is *Artemisia affra* and the short one is *Lippia javanica*
4. INRM PLOT 120307 070: Seedling of groundnuts (*Arachis hypogaea*) planted in a pothole (Field Crop Production course)
5. INRM PLOT 120307 069: AF class, a student labeling a 16 months seedling of *Sclerocarya birrea* during MPTs identification lab



A network is born in South Asia South Asia Agroforestry Network

ANAFE was invited to share its long experiences in networking during the launching of South Asia Agroforestry Network in Kandy, Sri Lanka on 28-30th June 2007.

Dr. James Kung'u of Kenyatta University represented ANAFE during the launch. He read the congratulatory message from The Executive Secretary of ANAFE and shared African experiences with the participants who included Vice chancellors, Deans, Lecturers, researchers and development officers representing Universities, Research organizations, Government agencies and NGOs from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Dr Kung'u also chaired the session on establishment of the SAAN

framework. With able guidance of Dr. V.P. Singh, ICRAF coordinator for South Asia, members agreed on their network mission, vision, membership and operational guidelines. The vision of the network will be: **To empower individuals, communities and organizations for sustainable management of natural resources and the environment for improved livelihood through Agroforestry interventions.**

Members of SAAN include development institutions, universities and colleges, extension agencies, research

institutions, NGOs and CBOs in South Asia. The regional representative of the World agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) south Asia office shall act as the coordinator/executive secretary of the network.

Country representatives were elected for countries present and they form the Board. Country representatives from Afghanistan, Bhutan and Maldives were also suggested. The new network is interested to work with ANAFE especially in the areas of research, curriculum review and exchange of lecturers. ANAFE can benefit a lot from Agroforestry innovations in which South Asia seems to be quite ahead, such as energy plantations. The network will meet in October to draw its work program and to elect a chairman. ■



Ms. Marie Louise Tientcheu Avana

has completed her PhD studies at the University of Yaounde in Cameroon under ANAFE support. Her thesis was on “Domestication de *Prunus Africana* (Hook. f) Kalkam (Rosaceae): Etude de la germination et du Bouturage”. We all congratulate her for this achievement.

Dr. Moses Adedire

of Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta in Nigeria has been promoted to Associate Professor. He is the key person in integrated agricultural education at the university. ANAFE congratulates him for the achievement.

Meet Rita Mulinge...

Many of you have been receiving and sending communication to me over the last 10 years. It is a great pleasure for me to be working with you and I hope to see many of you, especially in forthcoming meetings.

You can contact me on r.mulinge@cgiar.org



ANAFE Board Meeting

The 21st ANAFE Board Meeting will be held from 30th July to 1st August 2007 in Nairobi. The agenda includes:

- Registration of ANAFE as an international NGO
- A new strategy for ANAFE
- Recruitment of a new Executive Secretary

- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with RUFORUM

Outcomes of the meeting will be communicated to members and also reported in the next issue of this newsletter.

30th July -1st August 07	ANAFE Board Meeting in Nairobi
25 – 27 September 07	First Global Workshop on Forestry Education World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Nairobi, Kenya
06 – 10 August 07	SEANAFE Board, Indonesia
24 – 26 October 07	SEANAFE Agricultural Education Conference
July 2008 –	Agricultural Education symposium, University of Malawi

**A date
with
ANAFE**

**Contact
Us!**

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