BASIC
Building Africa’s Scientific and Institutional Capacity in Agriculture and Natural Resources Education

PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF
AFRICAN NETWORKS AND ASSOCIATIONS THAT BUILD AGRICULTURAL CAPACITY AT UNIVERSITIES
ICRAF House, 23 - 25 November 2005, Nairobi, Kenya

Compiled by August Temu and Ralph von Kaufmann
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SUMMARY

From 23-25 November 2005, FARA convened a meeting of key agricultural networks involved in capacity building in Africa. This was done as part of the process of developing the FARA-led programme for Building Africa's Scientific and Institutional Capacity (BASIC). The goal was to achieve harmony and complementarity among the different capacity building initiatives, projects and networks. The meeting was hosted by ANAFE at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Nairobi.

BASIC is aimed at strengthening Africa's ability to build capacity with special emphasis on undergraduate programmes in agriculture and natural resources. It is responding to major weaknesses in agricultural education programmes that affect the quality and relevance of agricultural graduates and impede the development of Africa's predominant industry. BASIC will restore the capacity of African universities in the delivery of high quality and relevant agricultural education that prepares competent graduates for rural development and endogenous scientific and technological innovations.

BASIC is a medium-term programme to which various components that address priority needs will be progressively attached. African universities will set the priorities and agenda and as far as possible assist one another. Additional resources for developing teaching and training approaches, methods and tools may be drawn (as needed) from non-African partners in conjunction with ICRA, NATURA and NASULGC among others. Up-to-date and locally relevant course materials will be developed in collaboration with the Training Community of Practice of CGIAR centres and National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs).

The BASIC initiative is reaching out to the many already existing networks and scientific associations involved in building capacity in agriculture and natural resources management in Africa. The purpose is to ensure that current experiences are taken into account and used in further development of the BASIC programme, and that the collaborative advantages of the various networks and associations are fully exploited, especially to fill gaps, minimize conflicts, and eliminate unproductive competition and duplications of effort.

The main achievements of the meeting are:

1. The thematic and geographic coverage of each network was mapped and made known to peer networks.
2. The objectives, funding mechanisms, modus operandi and strategies of the various networks were shared and opportunities for synergy were identified.
3. Recommendations and action plans were formulated to enable the complementary networks to contribute to and benefit from BASIC.
4. This was the first ever meeting of networks involved in capacity building in agriculture and natural resources in Africa. The participants confirmed that further meetings would result in significant collaborative benefits. They agreed to hold similar conferences annually to enhance sharing of information and experiences, especially on agenda and strategies, and to build upon the achievements of this meeting.

The BASIC Interim Implementation Committee (BIIC) attended the meeting and gained a great deal of information and encouragement for advancing BASIC in the wider context of the mandates and products of existing networks and projects. BIIC members informed participants about BASIC and provided guidance on future collaboration with the networks and projects.
Dr Dennis Garrity opened the meeting by welcoming all participants. He explained that although there had been a number of significant successes in African agriculture, Africa remains in a food crisis, and agricultural education is also in a serious predicament. Declining per capita food production is a symptom of the problem. However, he expressed optimism that the crisis can be overcome if governments and other authorities wake up to the situation and take appropriate action. He stressed that amongst the necessary actions there must be strengthening of universities so that they can lead agricultural transformation.

He said that the BASIC programme is a robust response to the situation and that ICRAF is at the forefront in supporting the initiative. ICRAF is among the very few CGIAR centres that place universities at the centre of their work. Uniquely, ICRAF established an education programme and networks (ANAFE and SEANAFE) to facilitate transformation of its scientific products into learning resources and ICRAF is proud of the results. ANAFE is well positioned to address new issues in science and technology in response to universities’ demands, and to leverage the multiplier effects needed to relate learning to development, and thereby lift Africa out of the food crisis. We need to create pragmatic approaches for an agricultural revolution. This inter alia requires:

- government support, drive and investment and enabling policies;
- establishment of working markets at different scales;
- strong support for the smallholder sector;
- powerful scientific and technological innovations.

Dr Garrity advised the meeting to focus on what works well, indicating that there are rich experiences being assembled on this. He praised the BASIC programme as one that allows Africa to develop its own solutions, starting with the most crucial element, which is quality and relevant education.

He expressed the hope that the strides made by FARA and ANAFE in developing the BASIC programme will soon bear fruit. He wished participants success in their deliberations, and concluded by saying: “It can be done and it will be done”.
Opening statement by Dr Monty Jones, Executive Secretary of FARA

I welcome all participants and I would like to thank you all for investing your time in this meeting. FARA has convened this meeting because promoting partnerships is one of its three primary functions and, in view of the importance that FARA attaches to building Africa’s capacity, FARA is keen on forging partnerships that will create critical mass and extend the range of available expertise in strengthening tertiary education.

The purpose of this meeting is to work out how the different networks, which are active in strengthening African tertiary agricultural education, can interact with BASIC so that we can build on their strengths and comparative advantages. I would like to start the discussion on this by stating some of the beliefs and concerns that are driving the development of BASIC:

1. We believe in the fundamental role of universities as sources of knowledge on which societies prosper; but we are concerned that African universities have been sidelined in the development process to become just factories for producing job seekers.

2. We believe that agriculture and related industries must be the engine of Africa’s development; but we are concerned that agriculture is being neglected in African universities and that the particular needs of the highly diverse African agricultural systems are not being addressed because there is insufficient endogenous scientific and institutional capacity. We are further concerned that the impressive increase in the number of African graduates has not overcome the crisis in the shortage of human capacity because the content and quality of training are not adequately contextualized in real needs.

3. We believe that undergraduate training in agriculture forms a very important base for strengthening science and technology; but we are concerned that it has been neglected to the detriment of the quality of postgraduate education that affects the capacities of executives in all branches of agriculture, including policy making, teaching, training, research, extension, production and marketing, and so on.

4. We believe that Africa must develop and drive its own capacity building programmes; but we are concerned that many of the current programmes are very much supply driven and often are conceived and/or driven from outside Africa.

5. We believe that there is no alternative to high quality agricultural education; but we are concerned that in recent years the attention on increasing the numbers of graduates has not been matched by the policies and resources needed to sustain the highest standards of education.

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1 Read on his behalf by Ralph von Kaufmann
6. We believe that in a rapidly changing world universities must keep ahead of the changes to ensure that they are always relevant and at the forefront of the change; but we are concerned that African universities are reacting to, rather than leading the changes, especially in regard to producing graduates with the hard and soft system skills that they need to lead agricultural innovation in modern multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional and multi-stakeholder approaches.

7. We believe that there is much to be gained from ensuring that all efforts and investments in capacity building should be as complementary and value adding as possible; but we are concerned that many programmes, projects and networks are established to meet particular needs without sufficient consideration of the big picture thereby creating duplications and leaving critical gaps in African tertiary education.

BASIC has been developed in the context of FARA's regional mandate for working with the sub-regional organizations (SROs) to support national agricultural research systems.

FARA's programmes are designed to support the achievement of the goals and objectives of NEPAD's Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). This is consistent with the agreement signed by FARA with NEPAD making FARA the technical arm for the implementation of CAADP Pillar IV, which encompasses agricultural research and technology development and dissemination. CAADP Pillar IV has four themes:

   Theme 1 Integrated natural resource management
   Theme 2 Adaptive management of appropriate germplasm
   Theme 3 Development of sustainable market chains
   Theme 4 Policies for sustainable agriculture

These themes are supplemented by capacity building as a cross-cutting activity for which BASIC is FARA's flagship programme.

Achieving the goals and objectives of CAADP Pillar IV requires purposeful direction and careful husbandry of the available human, infrastructural and financial resources. It will also require significant new and additional funding that will only be made available when investors have confidence in the capacity of Africa's agricultural innovation systems to deliver and achieve the necessary levels of impact in improving livelihoods.

CAADP Pillar IV will be implemented under the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP).
FAAP’s specific objectives are:

1. to strengthen capacities of African agricultural innovation and increase investment by African governments in technology development and dissemination;

2. to foster and support reforms in African research and extension institutions, and in markets and the agricultural policy environment;

3. to link national, sub-regional and regional programs and networks with strong international partnerships to achieve efficiency and effectiveness in technology generation, dissemination and adoption.

FAAP will achieve these objectives by guiding and assisting African agricultural innovation and promoting harmonization of internal and external actions and actors. BASIC will be supported by FAAP because human capacity is the most vital factor in the success of CAADP.

On 3rd November 2005 in Kigali, the Commission of the African Union and FARA entered into an agreement that will further strengthen their interactions and collaboration. As most of you are aware, the Commission hosted the first BASIC programme development workshop in Addis Ababa in September 2004 and the Commission reaffirmed its endorsement of BASIC at the FARA General Assembly that was held in Entebbe in June 2005.

I would like to stress that BASIC is only one concept for meeting the demands for strengthening tertiary education and satisfying that demand requires commitment and collaboration from all sources. Every organization represented at this meeting is a FARA stakeholder and as such should use this and every possible occasion to determine how to contribute to achieving the goals and objectives of AU-NEPAD, FARA, the SROs for African agricultural development.

I would like to stress that I regard 2006 as the initiation year for BASIC and that gives us a greater urgency in moving BASIC forward.

You are aware from the background documents that the overarching objective of this meeting is to secure synergy and complementarity among networks and associations involved in capacity building in agriculture and natural resources in Africa.
The specific objectives are:

1. To map out the thematic and geographic coverage of the networks.
2. To understand the objectives, funding mechanisms, modus operandi and strategies of the various networks.
3. To develop effective mechanisms and recommendations for enabling the complementary networks to contribute to and benefit from BASIC.
4. To develop an action plan for implementing the recommendations and identifying the specific roles of the complementary capacity building networks, programmes and projects in BASIC.

In short, we want to know your functions and how they can complement and add value to BASIC so that the whole will be greater than the sum of the parts in respect of ensuring that African universities build the human capacity required for Africa's agricultural development. I hope that you will share information and opinions openly and generously so that everyone will know what the different networks and initiatives have to offer and how they can add value and strengthen each other, and BASIC.

I would like to express FARA’s appreciation of the special effort that Judith Francis has made, not just to attend this meeting, but also for her success in raising the priority given to tertiary education by CTA. We value this because we know that the CTA has a very important role in raising awareness and up-scaling ideas and concepts in ACP circles.

I thank Dennis Garrity for his encouraging address and for all the support that ICRAF has given to ANAFE. I would also like to recognize his personal support for BASIC within the CGIAR.

I would like to recognize the presence of Professor John Kaboggoza, Chair of ANAFE and Prof. August Temu Executive Secretary of ANAFE and to thank them and all members of ANAFE for having established a track record of collaboration in strengthening tertiary education which has the potential for rapid and cost-effective up-scaling.

I would also like to recognize the presence of Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, the regional coordinator of RU-FORUM which, as you will be told later, is a wholly complementary programme to BASIC.

Finally I wish to commend the members of the BASIC Interim Implementing Committee, or the BIIC, who have been instrumental in advancing BASIC to the point where it is now almost a household name in universities across Africa.

I wish you every success and look forward to working with you.
The BASIC initiative was presented in full, followed by a thorough discussion and debate on its concepts and modalities. There was a broad-ranging discussion in which the following key points were stressed:

- **The demand for strengthening tertiary agricultural education.**
  This had been repeatedly confirmed through the consultation and the programme development workshop. It had been recently reconfirmed at presentations on BASIC made by Prof. Temu at 10 universities in Eastern and Southern Africa. It was also emphatically confirmed by the 75 Vice-Chancellors and Rectors who had confirmed in writing that they wanted their universities involved.

- **How that demand can be expressed and prioritized.**
  The six first priorities had been selected by the 60 participants in the programme development workshop. Future priorities would be selected by the university members of the ANAFE Regional Agricultural Forums for Training (RAFTs) meeting jointly. They would also determine the university from amongst their membership that would serve as the nodal university in carrying out whatever is required to a particular priority need.

- **The roles of the three categories of partners: African universities, non-African universities, and agricultural research institutions.**
  The African universities would determine the priorities and then, through NATURA, ICRA and NASULGC, invite non-African universities to help in pedagogical development and seek help in accessing the latest research findings and methodologies in the particular subject for revised course content and training materials.

- **The roles of ANAFE Regional Agricultural Forums for Training (RAFTs).**
  The RAFTs will be responsible for identifying sub-regional priorities and selecting the university amongst their membership that would serve as the node for each priority component. ANAFE would be responsible for determining where there can be collaboration and sharing between the sub-regions and ensuring that the lessons learned by the different RAFTs – positive and negative – are shared between them.

The RAFTs will also have the duty of ensuring that the products developed at the nodal universities will be disseminated to, and internalized at, all other interested universities in their membership. This peer pressure that will be placed on the nodal universities to deliver to their collegiate RAFT members is a key element of BASIC's assurance of product delivery.

- **The role of NATURA and ICRA.**
  NATURA will be responsible for ensuring that its membership is aware of the opportunities presented by BASIC and for developing a process
for selecting partners for the nodal African universities depending on interest, expertise, and experience in the particular topic. ICRA would collaborate with NATURA but with a particular commitment to developing African capacity in the hard and soft system skills required for graduates to function effectively in innovation systems.

- **The role of the Training Community of Practice (TCP) of CGIAR centres and National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs).** The CGIAR TCP, including associate NARIs, would identify the best sources of research-based material for inclusion in training materials and the selected centres would work with the African and non-African university in collating and validating the material. In some occasions it may be necessary to conduct joint research to develop contextualized current information, data or methodologies.

- **The role of FARA.** FARA will provide overall coordination and be the primary agent for resource mobilization and reporting to the donors. FARA will host the BASIC Coordination Office which amongst other things will service the BASIC Steering Committee. FARA stakeholders will receive a report on BASIC and an opportunity to determine and revise the major strategic issues at each of the biennial FARA General Assemblies.

Comments and suggestions concerning BASIC's modalities included:

- BASIC has been designed to ensure that the funding for the development and dissemination of components will not create donor-dependencies that will disrupt future university budgeting and operations.
- BASIC's products will be shared amongst all universities through the RAFTs for the benefit of whole cohorts of graduates.
- There will have to be special efforts, through appropriate channels, to gain the commitment of governments to BASIC's objectives and organization.
- The ANAFE Board will contribute to BASIC through its governance of ANAFE and by providing oversight to the functions of the RAFTs.
- A process is required for implementation by FARA for selecting the BASIC Implementing Committee members that is transparent and which will ensure that no network dominates it.
- BASIC's organizational structure must be kept as simple as possible and terms of reference must be developed for each organizational unit.
- Although the purpose of BASIC is to strengthen the capacity of the universities it is important that it is recognized that they already have
many strengths and a good awareness of what is needed to build on that. This provides an effective platform for BASIC.

- Each university must determine how it wishes to interact with the RAFTs and this must be reviewed in the light of ANAFE’s changed mandate that now extends further than agroforestry to include agriculture, natural resources and environment education. It is important that the ANAFE university contact person ensures that all interested departments are properly informed about BASIC’s progress and the opportunities that it presents for their universities as a whole. This would be helped by setting out the responsibilities of the universities in BASIC. It was noted that the expressions of interest that were being received from the Vice-Chancellors and Rectors were submitted with the understanding that participation comes with responsibilities. The BIIC will have to discuss how to move this forward.

- There are National Agroforestry Teams (NAFTs) in 21 countries. They have been formed as the countries wish and as a result are very different. Some do not include universities so they do not feature in BASIC’s operational design.

- The transmission of BASIC products amongst the universities is a crucial element of BASIC which will involve changing mindsets as well as exchanging materials. BIIC needs to consider this and the way in which the different actors will communicate with each other. Since this will vary depending on the nature of the different components it must be incorporated in the design of each component.

- The BASIC organogram needs to be revised so as to avoid creating the impression that it is a top-down organization. An additional diagram is needed to illustrate the functioning of the component management teams.

- FARA and the SROs will have roles in intervening with governments and linking with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and NEPAD. The political support of the Commission of the African Union and NEPAD has to be articulated to present the political underpinning for BASIC. The organogram requires a box for the African Union and NEPAD.

- Where the capacity building networks are involved there will have to be mechanisms for ensuring that BASIC products are disseminated to both members and non-members.

- The research centres need to be made aware that the uptake and dissemination of their intermediate products has the potential to increase their impact manifold.

- The concept of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) has not yet been sufficiently embedded. The universities still tend to be neglected and it is not sufficiently appreciated that the universities are generating new agricultural knowledge.
• BASIC's key function is to improve the quality of tertiary agricultural education thus this calls for more attention to quality assurance. It was noted that some of the components would require attention to strengthening the knowledge and skills of the university staff themselves such as in the soft system skills that they will be expected to impart to their students.

4 Network presentations

Representatives of each of the networks participating in the meeting had the opportunity to present the main features of their networks. They focused on the thematic and geographic coverage of the network, its objectives, funding mechanisms, modus operandi and strategies. The principal affiliations, geographic focus, key activities and the opportunities they perceived for collaboration with BASIC are presented in Table 1. More information can be found in the attached CD containing presentations by all networks represented at the workshop.
5 Conclusions: opportunities for synergy and streamlining BASIC-network interaction

Each network has been established to meet a particular need for capacity strengthening and has governing mechanisms for assessing past performance and future directions. The networks also have individual responsibility for resource mobilization and reporting to their donors.

BASIC has as a fundamental principle a commitment to wherever possible utilizing existing institutions and adding value to their functions. A corollary to this is a commitment to minimizing transaction costs and start-up times by leveraging investment already made by existing institutions.

Once the RAFTs have identified a component for development they will determine if there is any network already committed to that topic. Where there is such a network it will be invited to join the component management team to help identify the most appropriate collaborators and to contribute to the design, development, validation and dissemination of the component products. The network will be part of the peer mechanism responsible for assuring good design, quality products and delivery to RAFT members.

The meeting recommended that since RUFORUM is complementary and value adding to BASIC the two programmes should commit themselves to advocating for each other and collaborating where possible in resource mobilization.
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<tr>
<th>Name of network, acronym, (affiliation) and year established</th>
<th>Geographic focus and objective</th>
<th>Key activities</th>
<th>Opportunities for collaboration with and inputs into BASIC</th>
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| 1. African Crop Science Society **ACSS**
(Makerere University, Uganda) 1992 | Members are individual scientists. All countries in Africa. Scientists from other continents welcome. To promote crop science research education and publishing. | • Organizing scientific symposia
• Publishing – Africa Crop Science Journal (Quarterly)
• Development and management of databases | • Incorporating local research findings into educational programmes
• Providing forums for policy and institutional change advocacy
• Expanding the reach of BASIC (through the databases) |

2. The African Network for Soil Biology and Fertility **AfNet**
(TSBF-CIAT) 1988 | Members are individuals, currently 350 from 22 countries in Africa. To strengthen and sustain stakeholder capacity to generate, share and apply soil fertility and biology management knowledge and skills to contribute to the welfare of farming communities. | • Curriculum Support in soil biology and fertility
• Integrating training with practical field experiments
• Tooling African students and researchers in soil science | • Improvement of soils curricula
• Providing and reinforcing contextualized learning resources (soils management)
• Field learning facilities that empower educators with soil knowledge |
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<tr>
<td>3. African Forest Research Network AFORNET (African Academy of Sciences – AAS) 1999</td>
<td>Members are individuals. Four research nodes covering sub-Saharan Africa (Over 25 countries). To strengthen capacity for high quality and relevant forest research.</td>
<td>• Trans-national thematic research grants for senior scientists • Thesis research support for young scientists • Training courses for forest researchers • Networking and linkages</td>
<td>• Strengthening the natural resources areas among participating universities • Linking agricultural universities with forest research products • Supporting the development of forestry learning resources (trees on farm)</td>
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<td>4. African Institute for Capacity Development <strong>AICAD</strong> (Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology –JKUAT) 2000</td>
<td>East Africa (12 universities) with possibility to expand beyond Africa. Facilitating Africans to solve the problems by: utilizing existing knowledge and technology, creating and utilizing new appropriate technologies, building bridges among institutions, creating technology for local communities, developing and utilizing capacity of local expertise and exchanging and sharing information, experiences and practices.</td>
<td>• Identify, generate, translate and transfer appropriate knowledge and technologies  • Support for applied research  • Training and extension information sharing with universities, other institutions and local communities</td>
<td>• Participating in the promotion of endogenous science and technologies  • Building bridges among different stakeholders in agriculture and natural resources  • Applied research support for students and faculty working with local communities, especially in the dissemination and uptake of information  • Facilitating links of universities with local communities  • Training support</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education ANAFE (ICRAF) 1993</td>
<td>Africa, with emphasis on sub-Saharan Africa. To improve in a sustainable manner the contribution of agricultural education to social and economic development of the African people.</td>
<td>• To monitor and evaluate Africa’s agricultural capacity and to develop and implement responsive strategies • To link and guide the transformation of agricultural education policies, programmes and teaching and learning methods/tools towards integrative approaches • To strengthen the capacity of institutions of learning in land use sciences to collaborate • To promote synergy among experts in all branches of land use and facilitate better reach to stakeholders</td>
<td>• Providing regional and sub-regional platforms for organizing implementation of the BASIC programme through ANAFE’s Regional Agricultural Forums for Training (RAFTs) • Applying ANAFE’s experience in the development of integrated educational programmes (agriculture and natural resources) • Advising on the development of contextualized learning resources • Driving advocacy and policy change at regional and national scales • Strengthening attitudinal changes among faculty</td>
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| 6. African Regional Postgraduate Programme in Insect Sciences ARPPIS (International Institute of Insect Physiology and Ecology – ICIPE) 1982 | Pan African, active at 30 universities. Building human resource capacity in insect science that is well trained, highly motivated, able to respond to the arthropod-related development needs of its pan-African constituency, and competitive within the global research and development marketplace. | • MSc and PhD fellowships for leadership in scientific research and policy formulation  
• Non-degree training, targeting practitioners in national agricultural and health research and extension systems.  
• Professional development schemes, for postdoctoral fellows, research associates and visiting scientists to develop and share expertise.  
• Interactive on-site training, for farmers and extensionists as collaborative research projects carried out with national partners | • Understanding production risks and uncertainty - Curriculum content development  
• Sharing experiences in the management of quality in graduate programmes  
• Enriching teaching and learning resources with products from local research on pests and diseases |
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<td>7.  Conference on Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems</td>
<td>Central African countries (Burundi, Rwanda, Cameroon, Republic of South Africa, Gabon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo and Sao Tomé and Principe). To encourage actors involved in forest management in Central African countries to conserve the forest ecosystems and ensure that resources are used sustainably and equitably.</td>
<td>Encouraging and supporting: • Political dialogue on resources ecosystem use and poverty alleviation, forest partnership and management, communication, partnership, Forest Inventories • Support for research and innovation • Training - improvement and use of indigenous knowledge. • Networking • Publishing of policies, experiences, key forestry documents</td>
<td>• Providing a natural resources perspective to education in agriculture • Reinforcing the role of local communities in defining curricular content • Improving the inclusion of indigenous knowledge in learning systems</td>
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| 8. Collaborative Masters in Agricultural and Applied Economics CMAAE (Agricultural Economics Education Network – AAEEN) 2002 | Eastern and Southern Africa: Servicing in 16 universities in 12 countries (with 5 focal universities in 4 countries in (Kenya, Uganda, S. Africa and Zimbabwe) | With focus on agricultural policy and trade; agriculture and rural development; environment and natural resource management; agribusiness management  
The network:  
• reviews curricula, learning materials and accreditation  
• guides and supports curriculum implementation  
• monitors and evaluates performance  
• supports graduate fellowships and faculty recruitment/training | • Relating learning in agriculture to socio-economic development and business  
• Analysis of the effectiveness of agricultural education programmes- knowledge economy indices etc  
• Expanding the positive experiences in Eastern and Southern Africa to other sub-regions of Africa  
• To apply the lessons learnt to improve undergraduate programmes in agri-economics and business |
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| 9. East African Plant Genetic Resources Training Consortium EAPGRTC (IPGRI – Makerere University) 2000 | Eight universities: in Kenya (6), Uganda (1) and Ethiopia (1). Membership expandable. To strengthen the capacities of Eastern African countries to meet their own training needs for research, development and extension for sustainable conservation and use of agro-biodiversity | • Training needs assessments for genetic resources management  
• Support for consultative meetings on training in genetic resources  
• Thesis research support | • Contributing to curricular and input into the agro-biodiversity education and training component  
• Facilitating discussions and learning in agro-biodiversity education  
• Widening the institutional collaborating base in Eastern Africa (universities and other relevant national institutions) and tapping of available comparative strengths in education, training and research on agro-biodiversity |
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- Agricultural biotechnology (molecular markers, breeding and plant transformations)  
- Industrial and environmental biotechnology (enzymes for industrial applications and waste treatment)  
- Biosafety research (ecological impact assessment of transgenic crops in East Africa)  
**Capacity building:** training courses, workshops, meetings in Biosafety  
**Biotechnology policy:** intellectual property management issues, technology dissemination, product development partnerships, property rights, etc. | - Supporting BASIC component *Biotechnology and Biosafety* in terms of development of curriculum and locally contextualized learning materials  
- Strengthening graduate and faculty research capacity, which will in turn reinforce biotechnology and biosafety content and quality in undergraduate programmes  
- Providing experience on how to link *learning with earning* |
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</table>
| 11. Global Open Food and Agriculture University GO-FAU (IFPRI) 2004 | Currently in 10 universities (9 countries in Africa), expandable to all countries where CGIAR system is active. To build on CGIAR’s hidden strength in postgraduate education capacities by using ICTs to Global and Open education in Agriculture at PG level, create global synergies, build capacities in the developing countries. | Initial focus on agricultural economics, agribusiness and agri-ecology:  
- Needs assessment using the current development & demand indicators  
- Developing CGIAR knowledge-base - Case studies research  
- Strengthening the faculties of partner universities – multiplier effect  
- Configuration and delivery of learning materials | • Providing experiences in distance education in agriculture and natural resources, especially making distance learning meaningful to development of local farmers  
• Sharing experiences in the management of learning resources for delivery through modern ICT |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of network, acronym, (affiliation) and year established</th>
<th>Geographic focus and objective</th>
<th>Key activities</th>
<th>Opportunities for collaboration with and inputs into BASIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12. Network of Forest and Environmental Training Institutions RIFFEAC (IUCN) 2000</td>
<td>Involved 14 institutions in Central Africa. Improving the quality of training in forestry and environmental training institutions. Facilitating sub-regional collaboration.</td>
<td>• The exchange of experiences and lessons learned among these schools • The promotion of fundraising • The promotion of research • Involving stakeholders in the sustainable management of forests • Promoting the idea of sustainable forest management in training programmes • Harmonizing school curricula and activities • Promoting faculty and student exchanges between the institutions, Governance issues (power devolution, decentralization, deconcentration, issues of representation, conflict management, etc.)</td>
<td>• Possible BASIC/FARA support to achieve political commitment to the Network (through NEPAD, for example) • Providing opportunities for network members to gain experience in linking natural resources to agriculture • Collaborative research transcending forest and agriculture margins • Providing a natural resources perspective to education in agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of network, acronym, (affiliation) and year established</td>
<td>Geographic focus and objective</td>
<td>Key activities</td>
<td>Opportunities for collaboration with and inputs into BASIC</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture RU-FORUM</td>
<td>At 8 Universities in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe; expanding. To strengthen and promote the role of faculties of agriculture and related sciences in grantee countries by providing resources, mission and peer support contributing to improved livelihood of smallholder farmers. • To strengthen competence and competitiveness of the regional universities • Promote role and visibility of universities in research and development • Link universities to grass root development issues &amp; other knowledge centres</td>
<td>• Competitive grants to graduate students in agriculture • Innovative approaches that link research to development, advance knowledge and integrate universities in Innovation Systems • Raising content and quality of existing graduate programmes • Bettering the use of existing regional resources • Partnership and networking</td>
<td>• Strategic partnership with BASIC to enhance quality of undergraduate and graduate science and technology training • Developing locally contextualized learning materials • Strengthening the capacity of educators • Sharing of databases on inventory of existing capacity • Sharing experiences in faculty training approaches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of network, acronym, (affiliation) and year established</td>
<td>Geographic focus and objective</td>
<td>Key activities</td>
<td>Opportunities for collaboration with and inputs into BASIC</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. Sub-Saharan African Forest Genetic Resources Network SAFORGEN (International Plant Genetics Research Institute - IPGRI)</td>
<td>Membership: 3 sub-regional chapters- EAPGREN, SADC-PGRC and GRENEWECA. (Current members: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda, Togo – expandable) To develop and strengthen national capacities (human and institutional facilities) for more effective conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for food security and sustainable agricultural development.</td>
<td>• MSc fellowships  • In-country training courses  • Networking  • Equipment support  • Exchange visits and internships  • Publishing  • Curriculum development and improvement  • Conservation strategies</td>
<td>• Sharing experiences on agricultural biodiversity and PGR conservation and use  • Providing universities with updated information on issues and needs for human expertise to meet development challenges.  • Contributing to the BASIC components on ‘Managing Risk and Uncertainty in Agriculture’; ‘Biotechnology and Biosafety’; and in the future ‘Strengthening capacity in agribusiness’ (particularly agrobiodiversity use, markets and chains)  • Contributing to existing learning modules and related reference materials in PGR policy, molecular approaches for diversity analysis, complementary conservation approaches, etc.  • Providing opportunities for faculty internships and thesis research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of network, acronym, (affiliation) and year established</td>
<td>Geographic focus and objective</td>
<td>Key activities</td>
<td>Opportunities for collaboration with and inputs into BASIC</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 15. African Network for Science and Technology Institutions ANSTI (UNESCO) | All Africa  
To provide a platform for sharing ideas on the strategies for advanced biosciences training and research to enhance the development of appropriate research and training priorities in areas of biotechnology, genomics and bioinformatics. | • To facilitate and strengthen the national capabilities of science and technology training Institutions  
• To promote the development and application of science and technology for development of Africa  
• Graduate research support | • Sharing experiences with BASIC  
• Developing educational programmes in science and technology that are responsive to agro-industry and marketing  
• Contributing to the biotechnology and biosafety component of BASIC |
To provide a sharply focused, high-quality research and outreach programme that supports food and agricultural innovation in developing countries by enhancing their capacity to improve the livelihoods of the poor and marginalized people and constituencies. | Facilitating and supporting  
• Institutional change in agricultural innovation systems  
• Organization and management for strengthening agricultural research  
• Agricultural science and technology policy  
• Learning and capacity strengthening | • Working with BASIC to reinforce undergraduate programmes  
• Linking research with education and training capacity |
# List of participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>In attendance</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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### Invited, absent with apologies or sent alternate representation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name &amp; Title</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Prof. Mateete Bekunda</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Dr Soumana Sako</td>
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<td>7.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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    Email: jogola@cgiar.org
    Or visit our website at www.tsbf.org
**List of Acronyms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAAE</td>
<td>American Association of Agricultural Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAEEN</td>
<td>Agricultural Economics Education Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAS</td>
<td>African Academy of Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACP</td>
<td>African, Caribbean and Pacific countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACSS</td>
<td>African Crop Science Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>AfNet</td>
<td>The African Network for Soil Biology and Fertility</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFORGEN</td>
<td>African Forest Genetic Resources Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFORNET</td>
<td>African Forest Research Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AICAD</td>
<td>African Institute for Capacity Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANAFE</td>
<td>African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSTI</td>
<td>African Network for Science and Technology Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARPPIS</td>
<td>African Regional Postgraduate Programme in Insect Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU-NEPAD</td>
<td>African Union - the New Partnership for Africa's Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASIC</td>
<td>Building Africa’s Scientific and Institutional Capacity</td>
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<td>BIIC</td>
<td>BASIC Interim Implementation Committee</td>
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<td>BIO-EARN</td>
<td>East African Regional Programme and Research Network for Biotechnology, Biosafety and Biotechnology Policy Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAADP</td>
<td>Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme from NEPAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEFDHAC</td>
<td>Conference on Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems</td>
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<tr>
<td>CGIAR</td>
<td>Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIAT</td>
<td>International Center for Tropical Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMAAE</td>
<td>Collaborative Masters in Agricultural and Applied Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTA</td>
<td>Technical Centre for Agricultural &amp; Rural Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAPGREN</td>
<td>Eastern Africa Plant Genetic Resources Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>EAPGRTC</td>
<td>East African Plant Genetic Resources Training Consortium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FARA</td>
<td>Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAAP</td>
<td>Framework for African Agricultural Productivity</td>
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<tr>
<td>GO-FAU</td>
<td>Global Open Food and Agriculture University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRENEWCA</td>
<td>Genetic resources network for west and central Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICIPE</td>
<td>International Institute of Insect Physiology and Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICRA</td>
<td>International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICRAF</td>
<td>World Agroforestry Centre, International Centre for Research in Agroforestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFPRI</td>
<td>International Food Policy Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPGRI</td>
<td>International Plant Genetic Resources Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISNAR</td>
<td>International Service for National Agricultural Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUCN</td>
<td>The World Conservation Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>JKTU</td>
<td>Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAFT</td>
<td>National Agroforestry Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NARS</td>
<td>National Agricultural Research Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>NARI</td>
<td>National Agricultural Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASULGC</td>
<td>National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>---------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATURA</td>
<td>Network of European Agricultural [Tropically and sub-tropically oriented] Universities and scientific complexes Related with Agricultural development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEPAD</td>
<td>The New Partnership for Africa’s Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGR</td>
<td>plant genetic resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAFT</td>
<td>Regional Agricultural Forums for Training of ANAFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REC</td>
<td>Regional economic community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIFFEAC</td>
<td>Network of Forest and Environmental Training Institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>RU-FORUM</td>
<td>Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>SADC-PGRC</td>
<td>South Africa Development Community Plant Genetics Resources Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAFORGEN</td>
<td>Sub-Saharan African Forest Genetic Resources Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEANAFE</td>
<td>Southeast Asian Network for Agroforestry Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRO</td>
<td>Sub-regional organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSBF-CIAT</td>
<td>Tropical Soil Biology and Fertility (TSBF) Institute of CIAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>Training community of practice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annexes

Presentations

The African Network for Soil Biology and Fertility (AfNet)
African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD)
African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry & Natural Resources Education (ANAFE)
The African Regional Postgraduate Programme in Insect Science (ARPPIS)
East African Regional Programme and Research Network for Biotechnology, Biosafety and Biotechnology Policy Development (BIO-EARN)
Collaborative Masters in Agricultural and Applied Economics Program (CMAAE)
East African Plant Genetic Resources Training Consortium (EAPGRTC)
Global Open Food and Agriculture University (GO-FAU)
Network of Forest and Environmental Training Institutions (RIFFEAC)
Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RU-FORUM)
Sub-Saharan African Forest Genetic Resources Network (SAFORGEN)

Word files

The African Network for Soil Biology and Fertility (AfNet)
BIO-EARN Summary