

Treavel report: RUFORUM-NATURA Roundtable meeting in Kampala 21-26 May 2008

There were 41 participants from most countries in southern, eastern and central Africa, representing 16 African universities. Apart from the RUFORUM Secretariat and representatives from the NATURA Secretariat, 4 European universities were represented. I represented the DDRN. See attached list of participants.

Issues for discussion were revolving around capacity building through enhanced collaboration among universities in eastern, southern and central Africa and possible collaboration with European universities. I had the opportunity to present the SLUSE model of collaboration and invited to a possible future collaboration with RUFORUM universities using a (adjusted) SLUSE model for capacity building in adaptation strategies to climate change/variability in agriculture and natural resources management. Much interest was expressed in such possible future collaboration of which the modalities have to be further explored.

Issues raised for enhancing regional cooperation:

- Standardization and quality assurance
- Involvement of relevant stakeholders
- Partnership and sustainability
- Resource mobilization
- Communication of cross-cutting programmes
- Human resource capacity
- Infrastructure and facilities
- Foresight planning

Working groups:

- ❖ Concepts for partnership and implementation of QA
- ❖ Aris (Agricultural research in innovation systems) implementation and proposals for EDULINK application
- ❖ Natural Resource Management and adaptation to CC

Existing programmes:

Anafe (African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry & Natural Resources Education) Programme is supporting universities for educational programmes for undergraduates in agricultural development.

Managing risk, reducing vulnerability and enhancing agricultural productivity under a Changing Climate. A project supported by IDRC-CCAA (climate change adaptation in Africa).

Prof. Adipla informed that RUFORUM-NATURA will hold the next workshop during last week of October in Lusaka, where a number of presidents of African universities will be present. He asked specifically if we (DDRN) can convince any of the Danish rectors to participate in that meeting together with representatives from DDRN. They plan to have climate change issues as a side event at the workshop. DDRN and I will be informed further.

Mogens Buch-Hansen
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