Capacity Building-cum-Training Program conducted for Managers and Staff of UniBRAIN AIIC’s

A capacity building-cum-training program was held during 18-23 March 2013 at Kampala, Uganda. Twenty Five participants from the AIICs and partner organizations attended the program, which focused on agribusiness value chain and key components of promoting agribusiness ventures. Trainers from ICRISAT, info Dev other incubators and leading organizations took the sessions. During the training, the participants also visited Makerere University incubator and Mara launchpad at Kampala, Uganda.

Participants of “Capacity Building-cum-Training Program for Managers & Staff of UniBRAIN AIIC”
ICRISAT signs MOU’s at CII-EXIM Bank conclave on India-Africa Project Partnerships

The need for India and Africa to pursue bilateral ties was reaffirmed at the 9th Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Partnership Project held on 17-19 March in New Delhi, India. At the said event, two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed between ICRISAT and the Cameroon Chamber of Commerce, Mines and Crafts (CCIMA), Republic of Cameroon and the Ministry of Commerce and Supplies, Republic of Congo, aimed to advance efforts for the establishment of Food Testing Laboratories in the two African countries.

The agreements seal the bilateral initiatives among the parties in establishing the Food Testing Laboratories towards helping small and marginal farmers and local entrepreneurs promote their business prospects by entering markets with products that meet national and international standards. ICRISAT’s Agribusiness and Innovation Platform (AIP) is conducting the feasibility study, and will facilitate handholding and mentoring as well as provide support and guidance in implementing the business plan for the establishment of Food Processing Business Incubation Centres and Food Testing Laboratories in five African countries, to include Cameroon and Congo. ICRISAT is the implementing agency for this initiative under the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS II) of the Government of India’s (GoI) Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

The country-to-country agreements were signed between India-Republic of Congo and India- Cameroon, who were represented by Ms Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, GoI; Mrs Claudine Munari, Minister of Commerce and Supplies, Republic of Congo; and Mr Christophe Eken, CCIMA, Cameroon. The initiative of FPBIC-MoFPI in Cameroon is implemented by ABI ICRISAT in partnership with FARA (Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa) under UniBRAIN. The MoU between ICRISAT and the host institutes of Congo and Cameroon were signed by Dr Kiran Sharma, CEO, AIP-ICRISAT on behalf of Director General William Dar.

Dr Kiran Sharma, CEO AIP – ICRISAT and Her Excellency, Mrs Claudine Munari, Minister of Commerce and Supplies, Republic of Congo during the exchange of the MOU’s at the CII EXIM conclave

Dr Kiran Sharma, CEO AIP – ICRISAT and Mr. Christophe Eken, CCIMA, during the exchange of the MOU’s at the CII EXIM conclave
AIP - ICRISAT participates in the NAIP annual review workshop 2013

The annual review workshop of National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP), was held during 22-23 March, 2013 at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad. The review was held for the projects in component-1 (ICAR as the Catalyzing Agent for Management of Change in the Indian NARS) of NAIP.

The event was chaired by Dr S.L Goswami, Director - NAARM and the Chief Guest for the programme was Dr Padma Raju, Vice Chancellor - ANGRAU, Hyderabad. Among the dignitaries present were, Dr D Rama Rao - National Director - NAIP, Dr PS Pandey - National Co-ordinator, Component-1 of NAIP, Dr S Mauria, ADG (IP & TM) - ICAR and Dr P Murali, Senior Director & Global Head - VIRTUSA, Hyderabad.

During the first technical session of the programme, Mr SM Karupanchetty, COO, ABI-ICRISAT presented on the project “Handholding and Mentoring of the BPD Units of NARS”. He presented on work undertaken for the BPD’s like, capacity building activities to orient key BPD officials, sensitization workshop for managers in terms of approach, business methods etc. He also spoke on the objectives and objective-wise achievements attained by ABI-ICRISAT.

During his presentation, he elaborated on key points like separate bank /operating account for BPD revenues and grant of transaction liberty to Consortium Principal Investigators (CPI’s), proper asset utilization by the BPD’s, performance based incentives to BPD’s, capacity building programme for PI’s and Business Managers among others.

The efforts of ICRISAT were well appreciated by Chairman and the members of the review committee and congratulated ICRISAT for their sincere efforts in aiding the commercialization of technologies which increased from 54 to 97. The session ended with Dr S Mauria briefing about the said activities and the ways of overcoming the challenges faced by BPD units.
Business Plan Competition: Discovering & growing entrepreneurs...

A cross-section of judges at the Business Plan Competition held in Nairobi on 21st February 2013.

Henry Oloo Oketch, the Chief Executive Officer of the Sorghum Value Chain Development Consortium, a UniBRAIN incubator of Kenya, was part of the judges participating in the winners’ selection process for the 2012 Business Plan Competition held in Nairobi on the 21st February 2013. The competition is an initiative of Enablis East Africa and has been sponsored by the International Labour Organization’s Youth Entrepreneurship Facility, Safaricom Foundation, Inoorero University and Chase Bank. The competition aimed at creating an opportunity for anyone with a business idea or existing business and who finds it difficult to secure conventional commercial funding, to be considered for access or startup capital. Six winners were announced from 100 finalists shortlisted. For more details, check www.businesslaunchpad.co.ke

‘Growing Africa: Unlocking the Potential of Agribusiness’

‘Growing Africa: Unlocking the Potential of Agribusiness’, is the title of a recent report from the World Bank released on 6th March 2013. If Africa’s earnings from its farmers and theirs crops would be matched with more electricity and irrigation, smart business and trade policies and a dynamic private agribusiness sector that works side by side with governments to link farmers with consumers in an increasingly urbanised Africa, agriculture and agribusiness together could command a US$ 1 trillion presence in Africa’s regional economy by 2013, said the World Bank report.

ANAFE’s Announcement

Validation Workshop on Agribusiness Tracer Study
Kabwe, Zambia, 9 – 10 April 2013
infoDev’s 5th Global Forum on Innovation & Technology Entrepreneurship..

In partnership with South Africa’s Department of Science and Technology, infoDev has begun accepting registrations for its 5th Global Forum on Innovation and Technology Entrepreneurship in East London, South Africa on May 28-30, 2013. The Forum's sessions will tackle inclusive innovation, women’s entrepreneurship, mobile solutions, and more.

Every two years, the Global Forum gives entrepreneurs, investors, development practitioners, regulators, international aid representatives, and innovation enthusiasts a chance to exchange insights and learn from the most innovative businesses in developing countries.

In addition, the Global Forum will offer a great opportunity for entrepreneurs to network and meet a wide range of donors, partners, mentors and investors.

To view the program for the 5th Global Forum, click here.

Contact Details

Event Information:
info@globalforum2013.co.za

Registration Enquiries:
registration@globalforum2013.co.za

Excellence Awards

FAPCCI Excellence Awards 2011-12 – An Invitation for Nominations

The Federation of Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FAPCCI), an apex body representing the interests of Industry, Trade & Commerce in the State of Andhra Pradesh since 1917, would be completing 100 years in another 4 years.

FAPCCI has instituted Excellence Awards to recognize corporates, institutions, entrepreneurs and individuals for their outstanding contributions /achievements in important areas and to promote corporate and individual initiatives in economic, social and educational areas. The entries received are thoroughly scrutinized by an independent Jury comprising of eminent persons and experts who make the final selection for the Awards. Traditionally the Awards are presented by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Each Award is focused on a different theme and consists of a Trophy / Plaque and a Citation.

Click here for more info
Call for Concept Notes

Collaborative research on climate change adaptation in Africa and Asia

International Development Research Centre (IDRC) invites submissions of joint concept notes for the establishment of research consortia under the Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia (CARIAA). The call is open to research teams from academic institutions, private sector organizations with a research mandate, NGOs, civil society organizations, and research-based organizations. CGIAR centre’s may apply as third parties, contracted by a member. CARIAA’s goal is to develop robust evidence in order to spell out how to increase the resilience of vulnerable populations in climate change hot spots in Africa and Asia. CARIAA will focus on: Semi-arid regions of Africa and part of South and Central Asia where a large number of people depend on climate-sensitive livelihoods such as agriculture and pastoralism; Deltas of South Asia and Africa supporting large populations whose livelihoods (e.g. agriculture and fishing) and place of residence (e.g. urban floodplains, low-lying rural areas) are particularly vulnerable to climate change; and Glacier and snowpack dependent river basins significantly affected by climate change, as for example in the highly populated Himalayan floodplains where water quantity and quality is likely to be significantly affected by climate change

Average Budget: CAD 15 Million
Deadline: 04 April 2013

SEARCA Seed Fund for Research and Training (SFRT)

In the Southeast Asian region research and knowledge dissemination initiatives are hindered by lack of funds, which in turn act as a barrier to translating promising research and training into scientific outputs that could be applied to promote development. To address this concern, and in line with the Center’s thrust of promoting, undertaking and coordinating research programs relevant to the agriculture and rural development needs of the region, the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) will dedicate funds to be known as the SEARCA Seed Fund for Research and Training (SFRT). Any proposed project within the Center’s priority thrust of Natural Resource Management and Agricultural Competitiveness is eligible.

Average Budget: USD 15,000
Deadline: 01 August 2013
Call for Applications

Australia Endeavour Awards – 2014

The Endeavour Awards provide opportunities for citizens of the Asia-Pacific region, Middle East, Europe, and the Americas to undertake study, research, and professional development in Australia. The program also supports outgoing Australians. The categories of awards vary by purpose, funding levels, duration (short and long-term), and country eligibility.

Deadline: 30 June 2013

Click here for more info

Donor Intelligence

NOK 47 million allocated for South Africa – Norway cooperation

The Research Council of Norway will be the Norwegian partner in a new program aiming to advance research cooperation with South Africa. The program shall focus on research cooperation within three main areas: Environment, Climate change, and Clean energy. A call for proposals will be prepared this spring, with a call deadline in the autumn of 2013. Research groups may, however, start contacting partners and preparing their cooperation now, based on the stipulations in the agreement.

Click here for more info

Grants

Multi-partner Call on Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research

This Multi-partner Request for Applications, joint between the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the USDA, the Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE-JPI), New Zealands Ministry for Primary Industries and Agriculture, and Agri-Food Canada, aims to bring together excellent research consortia to enhance international collaboration in the face of the global issue of climate change mitigation

Click here for more info
Reach Us

Global Agri Business Incubation Network’s e-newsletter

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