

STAFF PARTICIPATES IN THE SEVENTH AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION WEEK AND RUFORUM TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2021

DATE: December 06-10, 2021.

VENUE: Cotonou, Benin

Dr. Oliver Vivian Wasonga of Department of Land Resource Management & Agricultural Technology (LARMAT) represented the University of Nairobi at the **“Climate Smart Agriculture Awareness Creation, Need Assessment and Development of Training Module”** workshop during the Seventh African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference 2021 held in Cotonou, Benin between December 09 and 13, 2021. The workshop followed the meeting with the Deans of the RUFORUM network member Universities that took place from December 06-10, 2021.



Group photo of participants of the CSA from Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Uganda, Benin, Ghana, Zambia, Burundi and Malawi workshop at Azalei Hotel, Cotonou



Dr. Oliver Vivian Wasonga with Participants from Egerton and Makerere Universities at the 7th African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference 2021

Over decades, the per capita crop production in Africa has been declining due the rapid population growth and several anthropogenic factors including increased land degradation, pests and diseases and poor land management. The growing impact of climate change on African agriculture and food systems in the last two decades has created a major threat to food production and food security on the continent. Climate change threatens to derail progress made so far in fighting food insecurity and poverty. Temperature and the frequency of extreme events have increased over the years. Both drought and flooding have become more frequent and severe. This is likely to aggravate the magnitude and extent of land degradation and become a barrier to the economic development of the continent. The consequences of these trends are accelerated depletion of biodiversity, erosion of ecosystem services, and therefore the sustainability of agricultural production.

The adoption of multiple Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) technologies, innovations and management practices (TIMPS) can help in building sustainable agricultural production systems, particularly in the smallholder farming system, improving farm productivity while adapting and building resilience of communities, landscapes and contribute to the reduction of carbon emission. Although CSA has been widely embraced by most of the African countries as a guiding framework in policies for adaptation and mitigation action for the agricultural sector, its level of adoption as remained very low across the continent.

The objective of the workshop was to bring together leading academic scientists and researchers from across the continent with the aim of contributing to increased awareness of CSA and Climate Information Service tools used across the continent. Specifically the workshop was used to :i) determine

the needs for CSA and CIS; b) identify the course modules and develop their contents; and iii) develop a work plan for capacity enhancement in CSA and CIS in targeted countries across Africa.

The Workshop was supported under the Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) project, funded by the World Bank, through RUFORUM. The Project Development Objective is to strengthen the capacity of targeted CCAFS (CGIAR Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security) partners and stakeholders, and to enhance access to climate information services and validated climate-smart agriculture technologies in International Development Association (IDA)-eligible countries in Africa. AICCRA is a continental wide project targeting Zambia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, and Senegal as pilot countries before the activities are rolled out to other countries in Africa. The key deliverables of the project are to:

1. Identify the capacity and knowledge gaps through various needs assessment approaches;
2. Raise awareness on CSA among various stakeholders through different tools such as policy briefs, white papers, info briefs;
3. Identify training needs and develop requisite course modules for various stakeholders;
4. Pilot training on CSA for various stakeholders in target countries.