Ubic
Uganda Biosciences Information Center

A hub for information and knowledge sharing on agricultural research in Uganda



Photo credit: UBIC

MISSION

To foster public understanding of agricultural research for informed decision-making

VISION

Better agricultural outcomes



Solomon Kaboyo (R)- a maize breeder explains varieties of drought tolerant maize to Agriculture Minister- Hon. Bucyanayandi and NARO Deputy DG for Technology and Innovation Support- Dr. Imelda Kashaija

Photo credit: NARO

Who we are

Uganda Biosciences Information Center (UBIC) is an information hub that develops, produces, and disseminates information on modern biosciences, innovations and advances in agricultural research in Uganda to facilitate informed decision-making on use of these new technologies.

Established in 2013, our mandate comes from the National Agricultural Re search Organisation (NARO) - the overall coordinating body of agricultural research in Uganda.

UBIC is hosted at the National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI)- a NARO institute at Namulonge in Wakiso district.



An agricultural scientist displays a cassava leaf affected by Cassava Brown Streak Disease (R) and one from an improved variety resistant to the disease (L)

Photo credit: UBIC

Why we exist

UBIC exists to bridge the information and communication gap between the Ugandan public and agricultural scientists. Agricultural scientists have developed a spectrum of new technologies and processes to address perennial and problematic challenges and needs in agriculture, including: pests and diseases, climate change effects, and product quality.

UBIC uses effective communication and information dissemination strategies to ensure that Ugandans and end-users are aware of and can adequately use the agricultural innovations that can mitigate some of these challenges.

www.ugandabic.org



Photo credit: UBIC

A farmer in Lwengo district points out a leaf affected by Banana Bacterial Wilt Disease. NARO has developed biotech varieties resistant to the disease

How we work

UBIC's activities include:

- **Annual Essay Writing Contests**

These aim to engage youth in formal education system in the discussion of relevant technologies for agricultural improvement in Uganda.

- **Exhibitions and demonstration tours**

Various local, regional and international stakeholders are exposed to the research activities at NARO, and seeing-is-believing tours to farms to showcase agricultural innovations

- **Publications and information materials**

Production and dissemination of information materials necessary to create awareness about advances in agricultural innovations and technologies such as hybrids and biotechnology crops

- **Awareness seminars and meetings**

Conduct sensitization & training meetings and field tours for targeted stake-holders' groups to promote dialogues and communication for increased under-standing and decision-making on new agricultural technologies

- **Schools Outreach Program**

Engage school teachers and learners so as to interest students in agricultural-related sciences and courses. We hope to share with teachers and learners the advances in agricultural research tools and technologies

- **Media engagements and speaking opportunities**

Interact with media through meetings, engagements in NARO activities, and media programs on agricultural innovations



Parliament Speaker Hon. Rebecca Kadaga (R) visits UBIC's stall during the Parliament Science & Technology Week, 2014. Left is UBIC's Research Analyst- Gilbert Gumisiriza

Photo credit: UBIC

Who we work with

UBIC's work is supported by the NEXTGEN Cassava Breeding Project- an initiative of Cornell University. UBIC works with:

- Academic institutions
- All NARO institutions
- East African Agricultural Productivity Project (EAAPP)
- International Service for the acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Uganda
- Ministry of Education and Sports, Uganda
- Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda
- Open Forum for Agricultural Biotechnology (OFAB)
- Program For Biosafety Systems (PBS)
- Science Foundation for Livelihoods and Development (SCIFODE)
- Uganda Biotechnology and Biosafety Consortium (UBBC)
- Uganda National Council for Science and Technology

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Cattle feed on Bracharia Mulato grass (inset)- an improved forage variety from NARO

Photo credit: NARO

Contact us:

The Coordinator
Uganda Biosciences Information Center (UBIC)
National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI)
Namulonge, Gayaza-Zirobwe Road
P.O. Box 7084, Kampala, Uganda
Phone: +256 414 320325

Email: ubic.nacrri@gmail.com

www.ugandabic.org

facebook.com/ugandabiosciencesinformaitoncenter

@UgandaBIC

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