Conference format

A key-note address by an internationally recognised authority will open the conference; indicating principal concepts and issues for integrated agricultural research for development, achievements and constraints, and a consideration of principal issues involved in integrating an agricultural development focus into national and international agricultural research systems.

All papers accepted for the conference will be published in volume 1 of the proceedings. This publication will not preclude publication of the same material in expanded form elsewhere.

Papers should be no more than 12-pages or 6000 words in length.

A scientific committee will select papers for the conference, review and comment on first drafts, and review and edit final versions.

The scientific committee will select up to three papers per theme to be presented at the conference as case studies, illustrating particularly important concepts or issues pertaining to the theme. Case study authors will be asked to make 15 minute presentations on their papers.

The committee will also select contributions suitable for presentation as posters, with the lead author in attendance.

Final versions of the papers will be sent to synthesisers, who will review the papers' contribution to the theme, and present summaries of cross-cutting issues arising from the papers. These will include a short review of other key research carried out elsewhere and a synthesis of key issues and concepts pertaining to the theme: strengths & gaps in the submitted papers; and suggestions for best practise guidelines.

There will be plenary discussions on the synthesis and case studies for each theme, followed by break-out group discussions.

There will be no individual presentations on the other submitted papers. Authors, however, are particularly invited to contribute to the discussions.

Accepted papers and posters will be pre-published on the NARO and Makerere University web-sites, to invite comments from colleagues elsewhere.

A team of professional rapporteurs will oversee, guide and record discussions; and provide a formatted, final draft version of the conference proceedings within one week of the conference.

Timetable

- Titles, authors and abstracts (up to 300 words) should be submitted to NARO by March 31, 2004. Proposed papers accepted for publication will be announced by the committee by April 10, 2004.
- Draft papers should then be submitted to NARO by May 29, 2004
- NARO's scientific committee will provide feedback on the drafts, and final versions should be received by NARO by July 30, 2004.
- The organising committee will have the papers formatted and published on web-sites by Aug 12, and printed, with the syntheses, by Aug 27.
- Formatted proceedings of the conference will be prepared by Sep 11.
- 1st draft syntheses and best practise guidelines will be prepared by Sep 25.
- The final versions will be prepared by October 9, and published (electronically & in print) by the end of October 2004.

For more information contact the NARO Organising Committee:

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION UGANDA

Integrated Agricultural Research for Development – Achievements, Lessons Learnt and Best Practice.

Kampala, Sept 1-4, 2004

CONFERENCE GUIDE

Feb 12, 2004

Focus of the conference

The conference will stress the contributions of agricultural research to development, and will be structured according to the five thematic challenges to agricultural research listed below, using a *synthesis* approach. The purpose of the conference is:

"To reflect on achievements and lessons learnt in agricultural research for development; and to identify key learning points for future research in Uganda and elsewhere"

Outputs of the conference will be:

- Published papers on research from Uganda and elsewhere contributing to the development themes currently challenging agricultural research;
- A synthesis of achievements and lessons learnt;
- Best practise guidelines for integrated agricultural research for development

NARO invites papers describing research contributing to one or more of the thematic outputs. Papers describing relevant empirical research recently carried out or ongoing will be welcome, as well as papers on related issues and concepts. Contributions from agricultural advisory service providers and others who have participated in agricultural research and have important points to make on agricultural research that are relevant to the thematic outputs, will also be welcome.

Research Themes & Outputs

The five themes based on challenges facing agricultural research are:

Theme 1: Understanding people, their livelihood systems, demands and impact of innovations

Goal: To generate and ensure utilisation of accurate information and knowledge on the people and their livelihoods in designing research interventions.

Outputs:

- Biophysical, natural resource and socio-economic (demand and market-driven) opportunities and challenges within peoples' agricultural systems identified and understood at various levels;
- Interactions between systems components understood;
- Peoples' constraints, opportunities and demands identified and prioritized;
- Contribution of innovations to poverty reduction determined.

Theme 2: Enhancing innovation process and partnership

Goal: To enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and ownership of research through multi-stakeholder participation.

Outputs

- Methods and approaches for management and delivery of technical information services developed;
- Methods and approaches for enhancing institutional linkages and establishing strategic partnerships developed;
- Methods and approaches for biophysical and socio-economic research developed.

Theme 3: Enhancing integrated management of natural resources

Goal: To increase benefits from integrated management and utilisation of natural resources (water, soil, air, fauna and flora) and of products derived there from.

Outputs:

- Strategies for harnessing and commercialising natural resource-based products developed and disseminated.
- Strategies for mitigating adverse environmental effects developed and disseminated.

Theme 4: Technological options that respond to demands and market opportunities

Goal: To provide appropriate technologies, knowledge, information and methods that enhance productivity, increase value and the competitiveness of agricultural systems and the products in both national and international markets.

Outputs

- Technological options that increase productivity of crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry resources developed and promoted.
- Technological options that optimise quality, broaden utilization base and enhance marketability of agricultural products developed and promoted.
- Appropriate farm power, tools and equipment that optimise production and processing developed and promoted.

Theme 5: Enabling policies and linking producers to markets

Goal: To generate and disseminate information that will contribute to the formulation of appropriate policies and enable researchers and producers to respond to market opportunities.

Outputs

- Recommendations for formulation of policies that enhance competitiveness provided;
- Information and mechanisms for research priority setting based on market opportunities generated and promoted;
- Information and mechanisms that lead to improved response to market opportunities by farmers generated and promoted.