



RUFORUM Celebrating 10 years as a Network and
22 years supporting Agricultural Higher Education

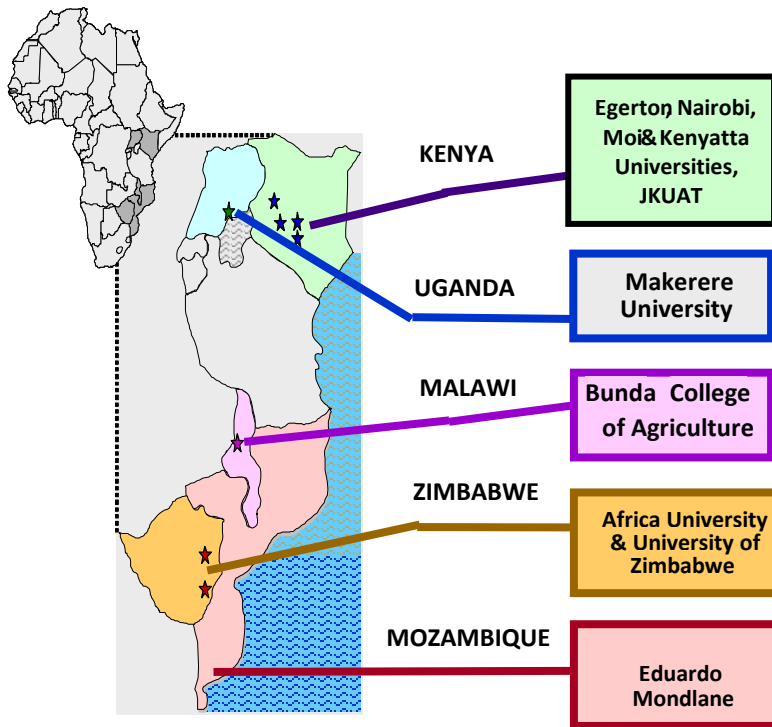


Fostering Human Capital Development to support Plant Breeding, Biotechnology and Seed Systems

Prof Adipala Ekwamu

Chronology of RUFORUM

1992 - 2006



Present



Expansion has been in scope, countries and within countries

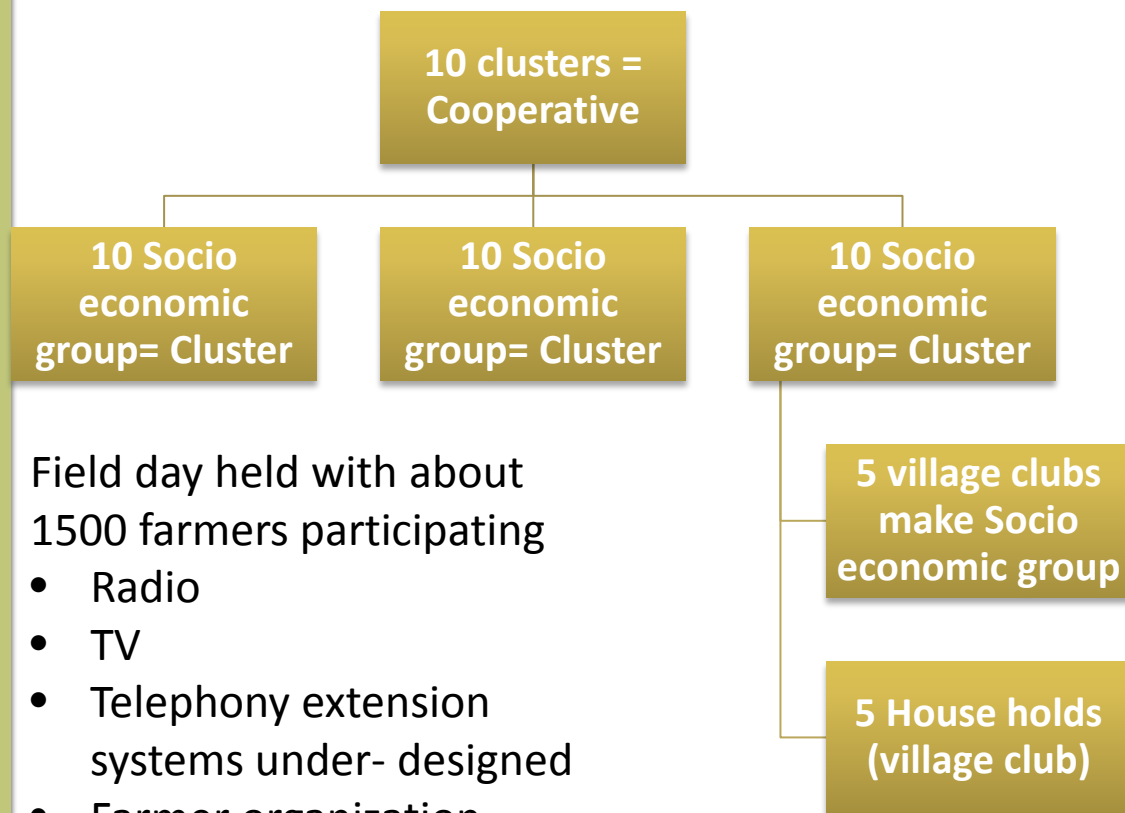
Assumptions

- Development is more likely to occur where there is an active, well informed mass of locally based professionals to conduct problem solving research
- Results of such research are more likely to be applied when based on strengthening a demand driven research agenda
- Partnerships key for quality scale and scope,

RUFORUM Approach

- Addressing immediate HR needs-MSc. training
 - ❑ Support MSc. training through existing academic MSc. programmes
 - ❑ Regional approach focusing on MSc. in Plant Breeding and Seed Systems
- Capacity building for R&D and capacity building –PhD
 - PhD training in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology
- Skill enhancement e.g. linking to Beca and other knowledge centers
- Attachment to industry (CGIAR, NARS, Seed companies)

Strategic partnership with farmers for Participatory variety selection and strengthen value chains



Field day held with about 1500 farmers participating

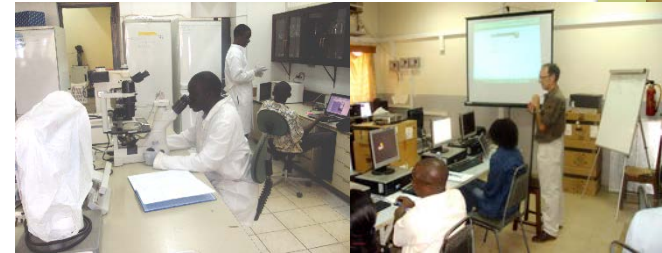
- Radio
- TV
- Telephony extension systems under- designed
- Farmer organization support



Impact of networking: Makerere Univ. awarded EA center of excellence in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology training

Network of excellence

1. The programmes focus on identified regional constraints identified by sub-regional agencies and NARES
2. The programmes have been developed by regional consortia who own and implement them
3. They integrate technical and management discipline.
 1. They include elements of credit transfer to strengthen regionality, you benefit from other courses taken within the region
 2. Involves different partners including BeCA and Bioinnovate



Can we do better?



- Expand platforms that integrate universities, research agencies, development NGOs, extension agencies and private sector
- Spread islands of success to landscapes
- Partnerships and Networking to share experience and scaling