



Europe & East Africa-EDULINK



FUNDING

This action is financed by the European Union and implemented by the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States Secretariat. The programme supports cooperative projects between Higher Education Institutions in the ACP Group of States, the EU Member States and other eligible countries.

The European union, in partnership with the ACP Secretariat, oversees the management of the action. The action is managed and implemented by European and East African Universities, and an external audit firm.



ENERGY_AGRO-FOOD SYNERGIES IN AFRICA:

NEW EDUCATIONAL MODELS FOR UNIVERSITIES

ISSUE I

MAY 27, 2014

Energy_Agro-Food

It is generally agreed that Energy represents the main contribution to a country's sustainable development and plays a vital role to improve the quality of life for its citizens. The agro-food value chain can play a pivotal role in the sustainable energy production and consumption: agro-food systems can provide renewable energy resources and the promotion of

“energy-smart” food production processes can reduce the supply chain's dependence on fossil fuels.

Countries which are implementing the synergy between Energy and Agro-Food have been showing fast and sustainable development as compared with those who did not.

The objective of the action is to enhance the national higher education offer thanks to the introduction of specific teaching modules in the fields of bioenergy and agro-food consistent with the needs of the regional and local labour market. The aim is to improve academic staff's competences and expertise.



Kick off Meeting (KoM)

The KoM was the first meeting held in Bologna, Italy, between January 14-16, 2014. It was organized by the University of Bologna, that is the Project Coordinator, and the project Partners have attended it.

It was an occasion for all the members of the project Consortium to introduce themselves, discuss on the organization and schedule of the project, its objectives and work packages in order

to effectively achieve the project aims. In parallel, a thorough discussion on the project visibility strategy was conducted. Further-

more, participants presented their Institutions, outlined their responsibility and future activities to be carried out for the project.



Partners of the Consortium

Consortium

University of Bologna (Italy)
Addis Ababa Institute of Technology, AAU (Ethiopia)
University of Nairobi (Kenya)
Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania)
University of Mekelle (Ethiopia)
University D'Auvergne (France)
University of Pavia (Italy)

Associate Partners

CEFA (Italy NGO)
COOPI (Italy NGO)
CEFA Registered Trustees (Tanzania)
CARMATEC (Tanzania NGO)
PELUM (Kenya NGO)
CCRDA (Ethiopia)
REST (Ethiopia)

Co-ordinating Institute

University of Bologna-Alma Mater Studiorum
Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences.
Viale Fanin 50, 40127, Bologna, Italy

Main Focus

While improving the academic staff's competences and expertise, the ENERGY_AGRO-FOOD project aims to address:

- the agro-food supply chain as an opportunity to provide renewable energy sources and to improve energy access;
- the renewable energies as the strategic element to boost efficiency and competitiveness in the agro-food value chain;
- the need of specific competences on energy policy design, energy market analysis and governance, energy system design, agro-energy chain logistics, innovative cropping system and energy supply chain.

Main Action of the Project

- Increased university awareness & capacity of interpreting local and regional needs in the agriculture-energy sectors.
- Reinforced universities' capacity to design programs, teach and produce innovative knowledge of the local teaching staff.
- Develop new teaching modules and materials jointly designed and incorporated in university programs at Master, PhD and lifelong learning level.
- Implement and test new teaching modules at local and regional level with integration of internship experiences.

Local Conference Meetings

Four local conferences had been organized by the East African Partner Universities with the bilateral support of the associated European Partner Universities as follows: UniBO-UAA & UME, UPV-UON, SUA-UDA. These meetings were set in order to share the results of the local context analysis and to gather further feedbacks and expectations from the external stakeholders. The conferences constituted an opportunity to collect ideas on possible cooperation between the University and the la-

bour market (NGO, enterprises, local and national authorities) and the possibility to organise internships programmes. Collected data will be used to produce a report on the needs of the labour market in the Agro-Energy sector in the African Partner countries.



Webpage: <http://www.edulink-energyagrofood.eu/>

News

On June 19-21, 2014, all the project Partner Universities will meet in Nairobi to attend the Regional Conference and the First Midterm Project Meeting. The meeting will be organized by University of Nairobi.

The Regional Conference aims to discuss the educational goals to be achieved by the project and to develop the contents of the innovative teaching modules. The learning outcomes, modalities of integration and a common frame for the new teaching modules will be defined in the light of the professional needs identified during the field visits. A state of the art of internships programmes will also be presented.

Furthermore, the project Partners will evaluate progresses and preliminary results of implemented activities as part of the First Midterm Project Meeting.

In parallel, the periods of training and research of the African Partners in Europe will be planned.