

# FACT SHEET

## PhD Agricultural and Rural Innovation

### Rationale

Innovation systems thinking being a new discipline requires developing capacity at all levels of organisations involved in agricultural and rural development. The strategic starting point is the level that can influence and cause a multiplier effect to build capacity of organisations and systems. The PhD level training therefore is a strategy to build capacity for capacity building in organisations and systems to apply innovation systems approaches to agricultural and rural development. This calibre of human resource is required in Higher Education institutions that train professional development agents; policy development institutions that formulate guidelines for development practice; and as managers of agricultural and rural development organisations who plan/design and manage development interventions. A critical mass of professionals at this level can greatly influence capacity enhancement of organisations and systems for agricultural and rural development

### Graduate Profile

After successful completion of the ARI program, the graduates should have the appropriate mindsets; exhibit ethical and professional values in their undertaking and should be able to:

- Facilitate learning in tertiary education institutions as well as in non-academic institutions to develop capacities for engagement in ARD.
- Facilitate and build networks and partnerships that foster communication, learning, inter-personal relations, multi-stakeholder engagement, and empowerment of different interest groups.
- Inculcate creativity and entrepreneurship among various actors in ARD and exhibit those characteristics themselves.

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### Specific Objectives

- Producing top-level skilled professionals with interdisciplinary orientation to facilitate the development of institutions and structures for sustainable utilization of knowledge and technologies in agricultural and rural development in an integrated way.
- Catalyzing value chain efficiency through innovations generated by knowledge, science and technology to improve the socio-economic wellbeing of rural communities.
- Grooming agricultural and rural development champions in SSA with interdisciplinary orientation, organizational and leadership skills, cross-cutting professional skills and the requisite mindsets to influence utilization of knowledge and technology driven innovations for ARD.

### Host Institution

Makerere University - Uganda,  
Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania Egerton University, Kenya



(Continued from page 1)

Core Courses		CU
ARI 9101	Participatory Methods and Action Research for Innovation in Livelihoods and Agricultural Systems	4
ARI 9102	Innovations for Agricultural and Rural Development	4
ARI 9103	Quantitative Research and Statistical Applications	4
ARI 9104	Qualitative Research	4
Electives		
ARI 9105	Agricultural and Rural Development in Africa	4
AGE 7103	Programme Development and Evaluation	3
AGE 7104	Administration and Management of Agricultural Organizations	3
Year I: Semester II		
Core courses		
ARI 9201	Knowledge Management and Communication	4
ARI 9202	Organizational and Institutional Development for Rural Transformation	4
ARI 9203	Application of Innovation Systems in Agricultural and Rural Development	4
Electives		
ARI 9204	Agricultural Services Delivery and Social Entrepreneurship	4
AGE 7208	Extension Evaluation	3
SEMINAR SERIES		
ARI 9205	Personal Mastery and Soft Skills (PMSS)	3
ARI 9206	Scientific Writing and Publishing	3
ARI 9207	Research Mentorship	3

- Provide visionary leadership, quality advisory services as managers or private consultants and support institutional change processes.
- Advocate, lobby, mobilize and manage resources (human, financial, physical, etc) for different institutions and communities.
- Influence policy development based on credible evidence and support implementation of those policies to benefit the targeted groups.
- Facilitate development and management of agricultural and rural value chains to benefit all the actors.
- Conduct impact oriented research that meets scientific quality and influences development change at the same time.
- Facilitate integration of scientific and indigenous knowledge and enhance its sharing and application to accelerate ARD.
- Design and manage participatory processes for effective project and programme implementation

(Continued on page 3)

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focused on social and economic benefits of the targeted groups.

### **Program duration**

It is a Three-year PhD programme that consists of one year coursework and a research phase that leads to a dissertation.

### **Curriculum structure and content**

The coursework is conducted in the first two semesters of study.

#### **Year 2 to 3:**

Research and Dissertation (Submission and Defence)

### **Mode of delivery**

The Program is implemented at three universities namely; Makerere University, Egerton University and Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) using one Curriculum. The three universities have twinned with two European Universities namely Wageningen University in the Netherlands and Montpellier SupAgro in France to jointly implement the programme based on the rationale of sharing essential capacities for a quality PhD programme to build human resource capacity for agricultural and rural innovation systems.

### **This programme comprises of:**

- 1) Course work – Students are required to take all the core courses plus at least two elective courses. All seminar series are compulsory and will take place every year throughout the programme duration.
- 2) The research in this programme is primarily development-oriented; seeking to solve problems through research while fulfilling the academic research quality requirement. Wherever possible, it is desirable that students conduct research linked to ongoing initiatives aimed at poverty reduction, food security and improved rural livelihoods. The research is conducted in public and private (including NGOs) agricultural and rural development organizations. This way, the research is anchored within the development process. A student is required to write a thesis out of the research, which will be defended orally.

### **Method (s) of assessment**

#### **Coursework**

The Assessment of Students Course work is based on all courses taught in any one semester and it is done at the end of each semester. At the end of the course/ module, each lecturer administers a questionnaire for evaluation.

#### **Thesis**

The research project is examined through a written thesis and oral presentation. Student's thesis is examined by two internal (within the university) examiners and one external examiner followed by oral presentation/examination at the Faculty the student is registered. The candidates who fail their re-

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search thesis work are allowed two re-submissions and then discontinued after a fail in the second re-submission.

### Implementation progress and achievements

The Agricultural and Rural Innovations was launched in 2012 at Makerere University, 2013 at Egerton University and 2014 at Sokoine University of Agriculture. Subsequent cohorts of students at Makerere University reported in 2013, 2014 and 2015

### Student numbers

The Table below gives a summary of student's statistics undertaking the programme at the three universities.

**Table 1: Student numbers in the Agriculture Rural Innovation (2012-2015)**

Year of Intake	Student Numbers (% females in brackets)	Status of Students	Countries of origin of the students
Cohort 1 (2012)	22(36%)	The students are at the final stage of thesis writing	Uganda, Malawi, Rwanda
Cohort 2 ( 2013)	24 (50%)	The students are carrying out research	Uganda
Cohort 3 ( 2014)	14 (36%)	The students completed coursework and have started working on their research	Uganda and Tanzania
Cohort 4 ( 2015)	16 (33%)	The students have just reported for studies	Ethiopia, Rwanda Uganda, Congo

### Positive Outcomes

- 1) The Programme has enhanced Inter-University collaboration in the field of higher education in Eastern Africa, and with European universities, especially SupAGRO (France), Wageningen University and Research Centre (Netherlands) and University of Copenhagen (Denmark). As a result students from these institutions now converge for a common course in one of the universities.
- 2) The Inter-University partnership enabled joint development of course modules which are available online as open resources
- 3) At Makerere University, the ARI PhD programme has catalyzed development of a Masters course in Rural Innovations.
- 4) The ARI PhD programme has attracted funding from ACP-EU EDULINK programme to support joint training of ARI and Agris Mundus PhD students in Europe.