



## 2<sup>nd</sup> RUFORUM TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### CABI Tools and Digital Resources: Facilitating Research and Academia in Africa

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024 **Time:** 14:00-16:30 CAT

**Venue:** Mercure Hotel, Gamsberg Room, Windhoek, Namibia

**Registration Link:** [Click here](#)

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### BACKGROUND

CABI is an international, intergovernmental, not-for-profit organization that improves people's lives worldwide by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment. CABI's approach involves putting information, skills and tools into people's hands and the areas of focus include crop health, development communication and extension, digital development, invasive species, publishing, and value chains and trade. Under crop health, CABI develops and shares science-based knowledge that helps smallholder farmers to adopt more sustainable agricultural practices, increase their incomes and improve their livelihoods. Our unique expertise and global presence around the world allows us to communicate the agricultural knowledge that smallholders need to make lasting change and improve their livelihoods. In CABI, we also appreciate the growing threat of invasive alien species and their effect on agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa cannot be overemphasised. To address this challenge, we develop practical ways to tackle the biggest threats, produce knowledge tools and resources that provide information on how to prevent, detect, and control outbreaks. We bring all the science-based agricultural knowledge to the millions of smallholder farmers through the creation and application of digital technologies. We appreciate that digital tools, data and access to evidence are important enablers allowing farmers, researchers and policy makers to make better decisions. In addition, all this science-based information can be repackaged in various and as an academic publisher in the life sciences; CABI helps people discover validated, evidence-based information to help them overcome the world's biggest challenges. This is possible through various products such as books and ebooks, online resources, tools and apps, education and training, open access services, and CABI journals. CABI also recognises that trade is central to sustaining economies. In this regard, CABI works to create sustainable value chains and break down barriers to trade by helping farmers improve the quality and safety of what they grow, process and sell.

CABI is seeking collaboration with the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), a network of 170 universities in 40 African countries, to increase access to CABI global programmes such as PlantwisePlus, invasive species management, CABI Compendia and access to digital tools and platforms. This will contribute to RUFORUM's Pillar I and Pillar II *on Digital learning and sharing technologies for agriculture and Data science development for agriculture respectively*. In order to strengthen collaboration with academia, a side event has been organised during the RUFORUM Triennial Conference in Namibia to increase awareness and access to CABI's digital resources.

Co-organisers





## OBJECTIVES OF THE SIDE EVENT

The overall objective of the side event is to increase access and utilization of CABI digital learning and publishing resources. Specifically, the side event will:

1. To increase awareness amongst academia (university researchers and graduates) of CABI digital resources.
2. To demonstrate the CABI Academy and how academia can utilise it within the university teaching, learning and research activities
3. To illustrate data governance procedures that are beneficial to academia.

## APPROACH

The side event will consist will consist of presentations, practical demonstrations of CABI resources and Q&A sessions.

## EXPECTED OUTCOME(S)

1. Increased awareness of CABI digital resources and how they can be utilized.

## MEETING VENUE

The meeting will be held on, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at the Mercure Hotel Gamsberg Room, Windhoek, Namibia.

## PROGRAMME

**Session Rapporteurs:** CABI & RUFORUM

**Session Chair:** Dr. Precious Gawanani, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Time	Agenda item	Responsible
14:00-14:10	Arrival and registration	CABI & RUFORUM
14:10-14:20	Opening Remarks from RUFORUM	Dr. Francis Otto, Director of ICT, Mountains of the Moon, Uganda
14:20-14:30	Remarks from CABI	Dr Morris Akiri, Senior Regional Director, CABI Africa Regional Center, Nairobi
14:30-15:00	<b>Lead Presentation:</b> CABI in Africa:	Dr. Joseph Mulema, Senior Scientist, Research, CABI Africa Regional Center
15:00-15:20	Discussion	Chair
15:20-15:50	Breaking down barriers to quality education to ensure students gain practical and relevant skills applicable to real-world agricultural challenges	Mr. Kevin Muraguli, CABI
15:50-16:00	Discussion	
16:00-16:20	Accelerating Responsible and Effective Data Governance and Management for Transforming Africa's Agriculture	Mr. Henry Mibei, CABI
16:20-16:25	Discussion	Chair
16:25-16:30	Closing and Health Break	Dr. Francis Otto, Director of ICT, Mountains of the Moon, Uganda