



Trip Report: RUFORUM 5th Biennial Conference. Cape Town South Africa

Dates: 17-21 October 2016.

Authors: Larry Vaughan, InnovATE Director, Virginia Tech, OIRED
Sandra Russo, InnovATE Team Lead, Office of Global Research Engagement Director, UFIC,
University of Florida

Purpose: The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is an organization comprising 66 African universities from 26 countries. The theme of the conference was ***'Linking Agricultural Universities with Civil Society, the Private Sector, Governments and other Stakeholders in support of Agricultural Development in Africa'***. InnovATE presented a session covering two opportunities for university outreach: 1) university cooperation in positive youth development programs, and 2) community-focused experiential learning.

Description of Activities: Positive youth development programs modeled on 4-H exist in fifteen African countries. InnovATE invited five professionals implementing the 4-H model of positive youth development to discuss its varied implementation models in Africa. The success of involving universities in a positive youth development program through USAID/Senegal's Education and Research in Agriculture (ERA) project was the reference point explore the potential for university collaboration in 4-H programs in Liberia, Ghana, and Tanzania.

Five African universities contributed to the session: the University of Thies (Senegal), the University of Liberia, the University of Cape Coast (Ghana), the University for Development Studies (Ghana), and Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania). The ERA model involved two Senegalese universities and local Peace Corps volunteers supporting the core community guidance to youth-led clubs. Three agriculturally oriented pilot youth clubs were formed in 2015 in three villages. In little over a year, there was an expansion to fifteen clubs in eleven villages spanning Senegal from north to south.

Universities are closely tied to 4-H in the United States because 4-H is implemented through the university-run agricultural extension services of each state. The fifteen 4-H programs in 15 Africa have different origins. Only the ERA Senegal model has involved universities from inception. In fact, there seems to be no university involvement in 4-H in any other African 4-H program. Therefore, the potential for university involvement in positive youth development programs was appropriate exploring at the RUFORUM conference. InnovATE's session fit into RUFORUM's theme of *Strengthening University Engagement for Community Transformation*. The relevancy of InnovATE's session was highlighted by one of the morning plenary speakers, Ms. Norah Asio Ebukalin, Executive Director, Popular Knowledge

Women's Initiative (P'KWI), who spoke of the inspiration she got from the 4-H model and how it eventually led to her successful group of women's enterprises in Uganda.

In addition to presentations on positive youth development programs, Sokoine University of Agriculture and the University for Development Studies in Ghana presented their respective experiential learning programs, which place students into rural communities to work on local development challenges.

Key takeaway messages from the session were that being involved in 4-H or similar activities gives students a sense of responsibility. The 4-H leaders represented at the session would like universities as partners. They believe 4-H has an agriculturally focused curriculum that is relevant to the livelihoods of youth.

The write-up of the InnovATE session in the RUFORUM program as well as the presentation schedule is in Annex 1. The presentations are available on the InnovATE website at the following link: <http://www.oired.vt.edu/innovate/events-listing/workshops/ruforum-5th-biennial-conference-south-africa-october-2016/>

Excluding presenters and InnovATE personnel, twenty-four people signed the attendance sheet. From these attendees eight universities were represented (Peace University; Mekelle University, Ethiopia; Muni University, Uganda; Makerere University, Uganda; Egerton University, Kenya; Catholic University of Milan, Italy; University of Cape Coast, Ghana; Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya).

One of the audience members later wrote to the InnovATE project e-mail address and said, "I would like to send my sincerely appreciation to you on the shared stories of 4-H program that was prepared by RUFORUM in room 9 at CCCC Hotel in Cape Town. The stories from different countries were very interesting and educative. Personally, I feel like the program is very powerful in youth development and commercialize the agriculture sector especially in LDC's where rural - urban migration and unemployment rate is very high. I feel like Agriculture is the solution to this. As a youth, I believe we can make the Africa we want by changing our mindset towards agriculture and engage ourselves effectively in agriculture activities."

The evaluation by participants and the audience members showed: 94% of respondents found the workshop applicable and 100% agreed or strongly agreed that they found new and helpful information in this workshop, they would be able to use the information gained when returning to their jobs, and would attend a follow-up advanced workshop on this subject.

The team of presenters met for two hours Thursday night after the presentation session to work out how best to promote university involvement in 4-H. Through this discussion a goal was set for each 4-H program (Ghana, Liberia, Tanzania) to develop an MOU with one university.

Annex 1:

The Fifth African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference 2016

Positive Youth Development and Experiential Learning in University Outreach

Concept Note

Background & Introduction	<p>The InnovATE project is funded by the US Agency for International Development to promote human and institutional capacity development at agricultural education and training institutions. Corresponding to the Biennial 2016 Theme 3, this side session will promote outreach and community engagement of universities focusing on positive youth development programs and experiential learning.</p> <p>Positive youth development programs promote self-reliance, confidence, teamwork, leadership and entrepreneurial thinking among youth through extracurricular clubs supported by local communities. They are also effective mechanisms for dissemination of agricultural extension, nutrition, and health messages in rural areas.</p> <p>Experiential learning is a pedagogic method that involves students in community-centered problem solving. Experiential learning is integrated into formal classes for credit. The session will highlight how to do so effectively by examining successful cases and discussing factors that lead to good learning outcomes.</p>
Aims & Objectives of the side Event	<p>Participants will learn how positive youth development and experiential learning can be used to improve university outreach. The session will feature and compare successful models of positive youth development programs in Africa, emphasizing opportunities for university faculty members to provide agricultural technical guidance. Experiential learning programs will be featured as models for community engagement of university students.</p>
Approach and Methodology	<p>The session will combine invited presentations with large-group discussion to distill success stories and lessons learned.</p>
Venue and Participants	<p>Venue: Century City Conference Centre, Meeting Room 9 Date & Time: Thursday 20th October 2016 from 1115-1730 Participants will be 4-H organizers and agricultural faculty members responsible for university outreach efforts.</p>
Side Event Organizers and Contact	<p>This session will be led by the USAID-funded Innovation for Agricultural Training and Education (InnovATE) project and RUFORUM Secretariat. Contacts: Larry Vaughan, Director, InnovATE. larryjv@vt.edu Johanna Cricenti, Project Manager, InnovATE. johanna5@vt.edu</p>

Side Event Programme

SESSION 9.7 Thursday 20th October 2016, CCCC Meeting Room 9, 1115-1730		
MAIN THEME	Positive Youth Development and Experiential Learning in University Outreach	
Time	Activity	Responsible Person
11.15 - 11.45	Welcoming remarks and introductions	Larry Vaughan. USAID Innovation for Agricultural Training and Education (InnovATE) project
Session I: Positive Youth Development Models (Moderator: L. Vaughan)		
11.45 - 12.00	4-H in Senegal	Bineta Guisse. USAID Education and Research in Agriculture Project. Senegal
12.15 – 12.30	4-H in Ghana	Appiah Kwaku Boateng, 4-H Ghana
12.30 – 12.45	University involvement in 4-H Ghana	Osman Alhassan. 4-H Tamale, Ghana.
12.45 – 13.00	Discussion	
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch	
Session II: The Interface between Outreach and University Students (Moderator: L. Vaughan)		
14.00 - 14.20	Integrating Experiential Learning across a University Curriculum	Courage Kosi Setsoafia Saba, University for Development Studies (UDS). Ghana
14.20 – 14.40	Experiential Learning in Agriculture and Health in Tanzania	Carolyne Nombo, Sokoine Agricultural University. Tanzania
14.40 – 15.00	Discussion	
Session III : Positive Youth Development II (Moderator: L. Vaughan)		
15.10 – 15.45	Assessing Opportunities for University Outreach in Liberia's 4-H Program	Roland Massaquoi. University of Liberia G. Umaru Sheriff. 4-H Liberia.
15.45 – 16.15	A Gender Toolkit for Positive Youth Development Programs	Susan Naburi. 4-H Tanzania
16.15 – 16.50	Discussion	
16.50 – 17.00	Closing remarks	L. Vaughan. InnovATE