

PLANNING REPORT
EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON AND MAKERE UNIVERSITY
NUTRITION EDUCATION AND POLICY

December, 2004

The Education Partnership Program of Makerere University, Uganda (MU), and the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW), which focuses on nutrition education and policy, was launched with planning meetings of each university's advisory committee and full team in October, 2004, and by a visit to Makerere by Kenneth Shapiro, UW Project Director, in November, 2004. Results of the meetings and visit are presented in this report.

1. Participant Information Forms

Forms have been developed to gather additional information about project participants. A key component is information on objectives for the visit. A sample is appended. The forms will help the partner that is receiving the visitor arrange the most useful program possible. They will also allow the sending partner to identify and take advantage of complementarities among participants. Completed forms will be posted on the project website (www.cals.wisc.edu/uganda) so that all participants can learn about each other.

2. Participant Interviews

At Makerere, Shapiro met with eleven of the proposed participants: Florence Muranga, John Kakitahi, Joyce Kikafunda, Aresi Semana, Christine Magala-Nyago, Agnes Namutebi, Deborah Kasenti, David Sserwada, Lynn Atuyambe, Elizabeth Nabiwemba, Christopher Orach.

3. End-of-Project Accomplishments

Partners at MU and UW have started to build on the objectives specified in the proposal and are working to identify specific outcomes for this project and others which may be launched as a result of this project's collaborations. At Makerere, discussion centered on curriculum for a BSc in Nutrition as well as a distance Diploma and Certificate in Nutrition. Discussions of end-of-project accomplishments will continue.

4. Publicity and Broader Involvement

Efforts have been initiated to spread word of the project through the two institutions and the larger interested community and also to explore prospects for involving additional faculty members. The project is not viewed as an isolated activity but rather as part of the broader and long-standing relationship between UW and MU. Thus, beyond its own objectives, the project is expected to help further that broader relationship.

A project website has been established (www.cals.wisc.edu/uganda). Preliminary plans call for the following to be posted: the aforementioned participant information forms; abstracts of reports on each exchange visit; powerpoint lectures; relevant documents; links to relevant departments at each university; and so forth. An artist at MU was commissioned to develop a project logo.

At Wisconsin, one of the regular seminars of the Nutritional Sciences Department was devoted to the project and to discussion of nutrition in Uganda and Africa. Prior to launch of the project, three African Studies Program seminars were presented by project participants who discussed their research and informed the audience of the upcoming project.

During Shapiro's visit to Makerere, he met with the following campus leaders: First Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs; Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture (home of the Food Science and Technology Department); Dean of the Faculty of Medicine; Director of the Institute of Public Health; Director of the Division of Information Communication Technology Support; Chair of Food Science and Technology; Director of the Mwanamugimu Child Malnutrition Clinic (at Makerere's Mulago Hospital); Director of the Institute of Adult and Continuing Education; and chairs of several departments relevant to food security aspects of nutrition. (Please see appendix.) At most of these meetings he was joined by Florence Muranga, Makerere Project Director, or John Kakitahi, Institute of Public Health.

Shapiro linked several MU faculty members with UW faculty working on related aspects of food availability. Neither of these groups are part of this project, but their work certainly affects nutrition.

Shapiro delivered a seminar about the project, and he met with the full faculty of the Department of Food Science and Technology, which offers the MSc in Nutrition and is planning for a BSc and other programs.

Muranga, Shapiro and Susan Nitzke, UW Professor of Nutritional Science at Makerere for the first exchange visit, were interviewed by a reporter for New Vision, one of the two leading English language daily newspapers.

The UW Biotechnology Masters Program, which brought a group of students to Makerere this past March, had sent a water filtration machine to MU's Department of Food Science and Technology. Muranga arranged for Shapiro and Nitzke to formally

present the gift to the Vice-Chancellor. He was called away and so the ceremony was conducted with the Deputy VC, Academic. Photos of the ceremony were sent to the press.

5. The U.S. Embassy

Muranga and Shapiro met with Mark Schlachter, Director of Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy. Schlachter invited Muranga to submit a concept paper regarding possible supplementary assistance from the Embassy. He also requested a follow-up meeting with Muranga. The U.S. Consul, Peter Hancon, joined the meeting to discuss visa procedures. Muranga and Shapiro also met with James Dunn at USAID to discuss related projects. In January, James Ntambi and John Ferrick of UW will bring a class to Uganda, and they have an appointment with Ambassador Kocher, who was not available during Shapiro's visit.

6. Linking Students/Courses

The partners are considering possibilities to link students through web-based courses. One possibility is a "metacourse" such as that developed by MU, Tufts, and the University of Dar es Salaam. Each university offers its own course, but develops certain segments in common. Students have the opportunity to discuss those segments with counterparts at the other universities through "chat rooms" or similar mechanisms. Muranga and Shapiro visited MU Political Science Professors Kasaija and Mbwana, who offer the metacourse. They displayed the course materials, which are presented with Blackboard software. The main constraints they face are (a) too few computers to meet student demand, and (b) insufficient bandwidth that causes slow downloading and computer interaction.

Another example of a possible link for faculty and students is through the Global Seminar. This is an international collaborative program run through Cornell University, which offers courses on the central theme of environment and sustainability. Electronic delivery platforms include: Internet, Video Conferences and a Course Information program that utilizes discussion boards, email and virtual chat rooms.

Muranga and Shapiro met with F. F. Tusubira, Director of the Directorate of Information Communication Technology Support (DICTS). He said that Blackboard will probably be phased out in favor of Kewl, an open source software developed at University of Western Cape, South Africa. Blackboard costs MU \$7,500 while Kewl is free. UW does not support Blackboard. Kewl will be investigated.

Tusubira said that MU now has a bandwidth of 2.5 megabytes per second shared among the approximately 3,000 computers on line at the university, and this is far too little. Negotiations are now underway with MTN to lower the cost. They now pay \$28,000 per month. He expects MU to be able to increase its bandwidth to 10 or 15, which will be a major help. If more speed is needed, it is possible to buy 1 megabyte of bandwidth for the exclusive use of one department at \$2,000 per month plus 17% VAT, depending on the outcome of negotiations with MTN.

Tusubira estimates a cost of approximately \$50,000 to equip a computer lab with 20 computers (\$24,000), a network printer (\$4,000), networking (\$8,000), furniture/workplaces (\$4,000), and \$10,000 for an LCD projector, whiteboard, air conditioning, etc.

7. Schedule

First year participants from Makerere:

- Christine Magala-Nyago: February – April or May, 2005
- Florence Muranga and Aresi Semana: June - July, 2005
- Agnes Namutebi and Joyce Kikafunda: September – October, 2005

First year participants from Wisconsin

- Susan Nitzke: November – December, 2004
- Cynthia Haq: January – May, 2005 (supported by Fulbright)
- Aili Tripp: May – June, 2005
- Lisa Naughton: June – July, 2005
- James Ntambi: June-July, 2005

8. Substitutions

- Elizabeth Nabiwemba will replace Frank Tule. Nabiwemba specializes in maternal and child health. Recent work has been on health-seeking behavior, community sanitation, and anemia.
- Deborah Kasente may replace Musisi Nakanyika. Kasente specializes in women and gender studies. Her current work examines the relationship between child nutrition and primary school attendance and acquisition of literacy.

9. Other Visits

During his planning trip, Shapiro also made the following visits:

- Mwanamugimu Malnutrition Wards at MU's Mulago Hospital
- Rakai Health Sciences Program (the major Makerere/NIH/Hopkins/Columbia AIDS survey research program)
- Lyantonde Community Based Integrated Nutrition Program
- Lyantonde Clinic
- Farms near Jinja
- Makerere University Experiment Station at Kabanyolo
- Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the National Strategy for the Advancement of Rural Women in Uganda (organization started by First Lady Janet Museveni)

Appendix 1: Participant Information Form

Dear Colleague,

We are looking forward to your participation in the Educational Partnership Program between Makerere University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. To maximize benefits to you and the universities, it is important for everyone to get acquainted as soon as possible. To start that process, would you please provide the information requested below. This is intended to expand the information you provided for the proposal. If you can send this back as an email reply, that will facilitate distribution. Please limit your response one or two pages. Thank you

A copy of the proposal is attached for your convenience.

Sincerely,

Florence Muranga and Kenneth Shapiro, Program Directors

Name _____ Department(s) _____ (MU or UW?)

When do you expect to visit our partner? Please be as precise as possible. _____

1. Briefly describe your main area(s) of expertise; your current research, teaching, outreach, and/or administrative activities; your prior involvement with the partner university, if any; other relevant experience; and other information you consider important. If you have a personal website, please include the address.
2. What are your professional development objectives for your visit (for yourself and your institution)? What do you hope to do while there? What do you hope to learn? What skills do you hope to acquire? What research would you like to do? What other professional development objectives do you have for your participation in this program? Please be as specific as possible.
3. What do you hope to contribute to our partner during your visit? Do you hope to get involved in teaching, research, outreach, curriculum development, program design, etc.? If so, please provide whatever details you can at this early stage (e.g., what subjects for teaching or curriculum development, what research topics, what kinds of outreach programs).
4. If you know the individuals or departments you want to work with during your visit, please list them.
5. Is there anything else you would like the participants to know about you?
6. What would you like to know about our partner to help you plan your visit?

Appendix 2: Additional Contacts

In Addition to project participants, Shapiro met with the following Makerere personnel:

Lillian Tibatemwa- Ekirikubinza - First Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs.

Mateete Bekunda - Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, and Professor, Soil Science

Nelson Sewankambo – Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Jacob R.F. Aniku – Associate Professor, Soil Science Department

Hanita Bachou – Senior Nutritionist and Director, Mwanamugimu Nutrition Unit

Bernard Bashaasha – Senior Lecturer and Head, Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness

Adipala Ekwamu – Regional Coordinator, Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (FORUM)

Joyce Kakuramatsi – Kikafunda – Senior Lecturer & Head, Department of Food Science & Technology

Samuel Kyamanywa – Associate Professor & Head, Department. Crop Science

Tenywa Makooma Moses – Associate Professor & Head, Department of Soil Science

Denis Okello–Atwaru – Senior Lecturer and Director, Institute of Adult and Continuing Education (IACE)

Florence Olal-Odur – I.A.C.E. Department of Distance Education

Mary Silver – Director, Kabanyolo Research Station

F.F. Tsubira – Director, Directorate for Information Communication Technology Support

Nathan Twinamasiko – Executive Director, Dairy Development Authority

Christine Zirabamuzaale – Associate Director, Institute of Public Health

In Jinja District, Shapiro met with **Hon. Tuma Ruth** – Women’s Representative, Jinja District

At Lyantonde in Rakai District, Shapiro met with **Daniel Rugwiza**, Clinical Director, Lyantonde Clinic; **Lillian Busingye**, Coordinator, Community Based Integrated Nutrition Program (COBIN); and **Margaret Mwesigye**, Family Care Worker, COBIN.