

AFRICA CROP SCIENCE SOCIETY CONFERENCE 2013, CAVS ATTENDANCE

The 11th African Crop Science Society Conference (ACSSC) was held on October 14 - 17th, 2013 at the Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel, Entebbe in Uganda. The theme of the conference was '*Sowing innovations for sustainable food and nutrition security in Africa*'. The thematic areas included; agronomy, crop physiology and cropping systems, horticulture, crop improvement and genetics, post harvest handling and food sciences, agricultural extension and education, agricultural economics, biotechnology, integrated crops and livestock systems, crop protection, soil and water management and environment, climate change in agriculture. There were also plenary sessions with keynote speakers and a farmers' forum on food security. The keynote presentations touched on several important issues among them; The Science agenda for Agriculture in Africa emphasizing on the need for improved crop science for Africa's food and nutrition security, opportunities for increasing crop productivity through agro-ecological intensification touching on the need to exploit the rich agro-ecological diversity in Africa through innovation to produce adequate food for the growing population in the continent, the development of commercial agriculture through strong government policies to support agricultural innovation for agricultural growth, the need for partnerships and strategic alliances for better performance of the agricultural sector, the importance of M&E the need to generate evidence that the policy makers can use to make decisions that will have a positive effect on agriculture and most importantly to ensure that the process of implementing the science agenda involves the stakeholders the farmers for ownership.

A team of postgraduate students drawn from the Faculty of Agriculture and the Veterinary sciences led by Prof Florence Olubayo and Prof George Gitau attended the conference through the support of RUFORUM. Also in attendance was Dr. Cecilia Onyango. The students had a chance to interact and broaden their network in the academic arena and also add value to their career advancement as scientists. The titles of the papers and poster presentations are as follows;

Oral presentations:

Enhancing food and nutritional security through adoption and up-scaling of sustainable technologies in the drylands of Kenya. Mwango'mbe, A.W., Olubayo, F.O., Muiru, W.M., Mbugua, S.K, Munga, T. Mnene, W.N. **Presented by Prof. F.M. Olubayo. The presentation was awarded best oral presentation Award at the conference.**

Adoption of ICTs for Agricultural Information Access among smallholder farmers in Kenya. Odongo D.A; Mugivane F. I and Olubayo, F. M. **Presented by Prof. F.M. Olubayo**

Application of Petrifilms as a simple and cost effective diagnostic test to detect bovine mastitis organisms in Kenya. C.K. Gitau, R.M. Bundi, J. Vanleeuwen and C.M. Mulei. **Presented by Prof. C.K. Gitau**

Occurrence of mastitis and associated factors in one-humped camels in West Pokot County, Kenya. C. Kisa Toroitich, G.K. Gitau, P.M. Kitale and G.C. Gitau. **Presented by Prof. G.K. Gitau.**

Production, utilization and indigenous knowledge of spider plant in Kenya. C. M. Onyango, C.N. Kunyanga, E.G.Ontita, R.D. Narla and J.W. Kimenju. **Presented by Dr. C.M. Onyango.**

Breeding snap bean for multiple disease resistance, pod quality and pod yield in Eastern Africa. P.M. kimani, R.D. Narla, M.A. Ugen, A. Mosoni, S. Musaana, and C. Onyango. **Presented by Dr. C. Onyango.**

Effect of different cooking methods on the nutritional value of some african indigenous leafy vegetables in Kenya. Tumwet TN, Mwangi AM, Kogi-Makau W, Kang'ethe EK. **Presented by Mrs. T. N. Tumwet**

Enhancing soil moisture content for increased food production in semi arid areas of Kenya: Results from an on-farm trial in Mwala District, Kenya. Karuma Anne , Mtakwa, P. W Amuri, N. and Gachene, C.K.K. **Presented by Ms. Anne Karuma.**

Effect of Root Knot Nematodes on the Growth of Indigenous Leafy Vegetables in Kenya. Kimaru S.L, Kimenju, J.W, Onyango C.¹, Kilalo D. . **Presented by Mr. S.L. Kimaru**

Status and spread of Banana Xanthomonas Wilt in Kenya. J.K.Kwach, J.W.Mothomi, M.A. Onyango and J.H. Nderitu. **Presented by Mr. J.K. Kwach.**

The role of camel milk in pastoral household livelihoods in drylands of Kenya. Yazan Elhadi, D. Nyariki and O. Wesonga. **Presented by Yazan Elhadi.**

Characteristics of calf rearing systems and their impact on calf health in small holder dairy farms in Mukuiweini District-Kenya. G.P. Shepelo, G.K. Gitau, J. Vanleeuwen and C.M. mulei. **Presented by Gertrude Shepelo.**

Experimental infection of PPR in goats and sheep in Kenya using field isolates. S.M. Maina, C.G. Gitau and P.K. Gathumbi. **Presented by S.M. Maina.**

Characteristics of rabbit (*Cryptolagus caniculus*) production in Kenya. J. Serem, C.K. Gitau and M. Wanyoike. **Presented by J. Serem**

Poster Presentations.

Effect of amaranthus hybridus on the immunity of laboratory white albino rats. Tumwet TN, Mwangi AM, Kogi-Makau W, Kang'ethe EK.

Potential of combining host plant resistance and intercropping in the management of root-knot nematodes and insect pests in the indigenous leafy vegetables. Kimaru, S.L¹, Kimenju, J. W., Onyango, C. and Kilalo., D.C

Investigating viability of the premium influenced land agro-usage structure introduction for production of Leafy vegetables in Vihiga and Jinjia. S. Munialo, L.S.M. Akundabweni, J. Mburu, A. Namutebi and J. Kyasi.

Characteristics of rabbit (*Cryptolagus caniculus*) production in Kenya. J. Serem, C.K. Gitau and M. Wanyoike.