



**Factoring Youth Voices into Critical Issues:  
Agenda on Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Food  
Security and Nutrition in Africa  
9-10 March 2012**

## **I. Background**

Youth development, empowerment and leadership are gaining prominence in the development agenda of national governments, regional and international development organizations. The year 2011 marked as the 5<sup>th</sup> year since the adoption of the African Youth Charter adopted by the Ministers in Charge of youth and approved by the African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government in July 2006. Since then, many prominent organizations such as the African Union's Commission and the United Nations have initiated programs to build youth capacities for quality and meaningful participation in development and decision making processes. However, the challenge of implementing these programs remains.

The youth (18-35 years) in Africa constitute around 14.1 percent of the global youth population, making up a relatively large proportion of the total population in most countries in Africa. Young men and women are a unique part of the society that requires special attention not only because of the demographic bonus but also the inert energy they possess. They are a formidable creative resource that can harness the development potential of Africa if the right policies and enabling environment are created. They represent a vital opportunity for economic growth and sustainable development in Africa that should not be missed.

Investing in youth development has the potential to yield greater economic growth and social well-being not only for today but also to serve as good models for the next generations. In order to achieve the positive outcomes in the areas of education, employment, health and citizenship, to fight poverty, a holistic approach to youth involvement and commitment to development process is a matter of urgent concern which should focus not only on the youth, but also on all the related factors that help shape their behaviours.

Africa and for that matter Kenya is bedevilled by several development challenges due to our failure to harness the enormous potential of science, technology and indigenous innovations that abound on our continent. We have been crippled by poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition and severe environmental degradation. Compounding the existing situation is the ever increasing adverse impact of climate change. With the boisterous commitment of the youth to bring about change in Africa we believe that in the midst of all these challenges, there is a glimmer of hope for Africa to rescue itself from the deep crisis.

Inspired by this, the University of Nairobi, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) in partnership with the ATPS Network through its Africa Youth Forum for Science and Technology (AYFST) and Africa Women Forum for Science and Technology (AWFST) programs and the National Council for Science and Technology (NCST), Kenya intend to organize a youth conference to establish a platform for Youth in Kenya and beyond to interact, build capacity, explore economic, social and technical complexities through science, technology and innovations in tackling the challenges, and to gain better understanding of the need for multi-disciplinary perspectives for solving developmental problems in Africa through innovative research.

The proposed conference aims to strengthen the gains from an initial consultative meeting on sensitizing the youths on their role in providing solutions to critical issues facing Africa held in the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS), University of Nairobi, Kenya on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 which was organized by Kabete Campus University Student Organization (KCUSO) in partnership with African Youth Forum in Science and Technology (AYFST) and College Administration. This was to bring together students, young researchers, renowned experts and practitioners in an effort to lay the ground work for future collaborative research, advocacy and capacity development of the youth to confront the challenges associated with environmental degradation, climate change and food & nutrition insecurity.

The event will be an exceptional learning experience, providing a networking horizon as participants will come from major universities in Kenya and Africa at large. It will also act as a spring board to creative and innovative thinking towards Sustainable development in Africa.





## 2. CONFERENCE VENUE AND DATE

The conference will take place on 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, University of Nairobi, Kenya.

## 3. CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- I. To enhance and develop skills, standards, and competencies among young men and women in Africa.
- II. To identify and prioritize strategies to improve research by the youth in battling climate change, environmental degradation and food & nutrition insecurity.
- III. To create an enabling and supportive environment for networking amongst the youth as a platform for them to interact with role models in the field of science, technology and innovation.
- IV. Bring to fore the enormous leadership potential within young professionals in research and possibilities in our multi-disciplinary context.
- V. Motivate the youth into visionary and innovative action that makes a difference in the development of Africa.

## 4. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- I. Proceedings for the conference on strategies for environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation and mitigation, food and nutrition security.
- II. A communiqué demarcating the way forward

## 5. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Enhance the involvement of more youth in research for development in Africa.
- Stimulate creative thinking of the youth about local and regional issues on agricultural development and broaden their horizon.
- Youth and gender empowerment in Agricultural Research for Development.
- Enhanced knowledge of Africa youth in mainstreaming youth concerns into development policies and practices;
- Strengthened capacity of African young men and women to address critical development challenges and leverage opportunities presented.

## 6. CONFERENCE METHODOLOGY

Calls for extended abstracts for oral presentations, posters and exhibitions will be made with specific guidelines. Selected papers/posters/exhibitions will be presented at the conference which will run on a two-day program. The program will include plenary sessions with keynote speakers and four parallel sessions corresponding to the thematic areas. There will be two key note speakers on each of the two conference days. Keynote presenters will focus on their practical experiences (successes and disappointments) and those of their institutions within the context of the respective thematic areas. They will be expected to shed light on the reasons for the successes and failures as well as suggest the way forward.

The conference will provide a platform for young research researchers to showcase their innovative ideas, tools and products by setting up space for posters and booths. The top three student presenters in each of the presentation categories (oral, posters and exhibitions) will be recognized at the close of the conference.

## 7. CALL FOR PAPERS

Papers are invited from young researchers and at undergraduate and postgraduate levels from diverse disciplines in agricultural, veterinary biomedical and environmental sciences that will address any of the following four conference themes:

- I. **Food and Nutrition Security:** Papers to be presented will cover *topics in* crop production, animal health and production, post-harvest, nutrition, food safety, biotechnology and agricultural machinery and equipment.





2. **Environmental sustainability:** Papers to be presented will cover climate change adaptation and mitigation, land and water resource management, environmental health, risk and disaster management, wildlife conservation, biodiversity, agro-forestry, energy-saving technologies for agriculture and bio-energy
3. **Agribusiness and Value addition:** Papers to be presented will cover agricultural value chains, agro-processing, marketing, trade, entrepreneurship and business ideas.
4. **Policy, Gender, Education and Technology Transfer in Agriculture:** Papers to be presented will cover policy, gender and youth issues in agriculture, HIV/AIDS and agriculture, ICT in agriculture, agricultural teaching and learning, development and adoption of technologies/innovations, community engagement, Vision 2030, collective action and Global partnership

## 8. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

We particularly invite contributions to the Conference that address the above sub-themes from young researchers with interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary approach.

### Abstracts

The Conference Secretariat will evaluate the scientific quality of the submitted abstracts on the basis of the following criteria: novelty of the research, significance of the findings, clarity and relevance to the Conference themes. While topics will span the global scale, focus will be on the four thematic areas: *Food and Nutrition Security, Environmental Sustainability, Agribusiness and Value Addition, and Policy, Education and Technology Transfer*. You will need to select the category and topic most suited to your abstract. Authors should be particularly cognizant of the importance of setting forth the objectives and hypotheses of the study in a clear, succinct manner and of summarizing the new, unpublished results. If an abstract is poorly written, the paper will not be accepted for presentation at the conference.

Abstracts must describe in a succinct manner the purposes and results of the research so that the quality, originality, and comprehensiveness of the work can be evaluated by the Conference Secretariat.

Each abstract should contain:

- (a) An introductory sentence indicating the purposes of the study;
- (b) A brief description of pertinent experimental procedures;
- (c) A summary of the new, unpublished data; and
- (d) A statement of the conclusions.

Authors must accept sole responsibility for the statements in their abstracts. Titles should be indicative of the content of the abstract. The combined length of the abstract title, list of authors, and body should not exceed **1,000 words** (Extended Abstract). Authors should prepare and proofread their abstracts carefully prior to submission.

The abstract (in MS Word) should be emailed to: [youth4sti@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:youth4sti@uonbi.ac.ke)

All PRESENTERS must register to attend the Conference. If an abstract is accepted and the PRESENTER does not register, the abstract may be withdrawn. Notifications of abstract receipt will be sent to the PRESENTER by email.

The following information should be taken into consideration in abstract preparation:

- Presenting author's contact details
- Email address
- Full postal address
- Daytime and evening phone number
- Author and co-authors' details
- Affiliation details: department, institution, country(if relevant)

Abstract title - limited to 20 words in UPPER CASE





All abstracts will be reviewed by the Conference Review Committee. Consideration will be given to the author's preference concerning poster or oral presentation. Presenting authors will be notified by February 28<sup>th</sup> 2012 regarding the status of their abstract acceptance.

### Poster specifications

The title should be bold and well centered using any san-serif styles and font not less than 40.

The authors and affiliations must be accompanied with full addresses e.g. Monya<sup>1</sup>, K. and J. Kariuki<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Agricultural economics, University of Nairobi, P.O. Box 20953, Nairobi, Kenya

<sup>2</sup> Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Technology, University of Ghana, P.O. Box 333, Accra, Ghana

**Theme e.g. 1:** Climate change, adaptation and mitigation

The body specifications will be: one page with two blocks in portrait orientation, 1 x 2 ft. Only printed posters will be allowed. Posters should include drawings, figures, text, code fragments and other details that clearly convey information

### 9. EXHIBITIONS

Exhibitions will include but not limited to current innovations in science and technology, new product development (agro-based, IT, Health-based etc) and any other demonstrations on new research frontiers and technology transfers. Posters may be designed to enhance demonstrations.

Questions about the conference should be directed to: [youth4sti@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:youth4sti@uonbi.ac.ke)

### 10. CONFERENCE LANGUAGE:

The official language of the conference will be English. All abstracts must be submitted in English.

### 11. CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS:

Selected extended abstracts will be considered for publication as conference proceedings.

### 12. CONFERENCE HOMEPAGE:

[www.uonbi.ac.ke](http://www.uonbi.ac.ke)

### 13. SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

Dates	Activities
February 8 <sup>th</sup> 2012	Announcement of the call for papers
February 24 <sup>th</sup> 2012	Deadline for submission of abstract
February 28 <sup>th</sup> 2012	Notification of Abstract Acceptance
March 6 <sup>th</sup> 2012	Deadline for the submission of PowerPoint Presentation

### 14. REGISTRATION:

All conference participants are required to register and at least one author per paper must attend. Conference registration conditions vary depending on the origin and the package chosen.

### 15. AVAILABLE SUPPORT

All selected participants will be sponsored.

### 16. EXHIBITION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

An exhibition will be organized during the conference at the same venue. To exhibit at the conference, the young exhibitors need to apply ahead of time to the following email address: [youth4sti@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:youth4sti@uonbi.ac.ke). Spaces for exhibition will be very limited and will be based on first come first served. Target Exhibitors will be on innovative science, technology and innovation products, prototypes, etc. produced as a result of research, good policies and practical applications of innovations.





## 17. CONTACTS

Conference Organizing Committee

Email: [youth4sti@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:youth4sti@uonbi.ac.ke), Mobile. No. 0728978272 /0722873357.

