

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: The case of RCE Greater Eastern Uganda

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3rd African Regional Centres of Expertise Meeting 20th-21st August 2013

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Presentation outline

- About Greater Eastern Uganda RCE
- Key community engagement and research activities
- Emerging challenges for the region
- Conclusion



Some Key on-going activities

- Sensitization workshop, seminars, public talks, radio and print media opportunities on education for sustainable development
- Promotion of mentorship, and career guidance services for promoting science education among the youth.
- Undertake in-service S&T training for primary & secondary school teachers and laboratory staff.

ON-GOING RCE/ESD PILOT ACTIVITIES: For replication/up Scaling:

Sensitization of the key stakeholders during workshops and seminars



Cross-section of participants in the Institutional seminar on Education for sustainable Development (ESD) and Regional centre of Expertise (RCE) organized by Busitema University on 27th 2012 at Rock Hotel in Tororo Municipality.

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Some of the on-going RCE/ESD pilot activities

Mentorship
and career
guidance
activities
from
Faculties to
the schools
at all
levels;



Bachelor of Science Education student giving career guidance presentation to a group of Secondary School Students of Petta Community Secondary School in Tororo District during March 2013 outreach activity

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Establishing community out-reach centers:

Busitema University Tororo center : For skill based training to enhanced productivity and employability and entrepreneurship and community development



The pioneer students (Left) of the skill-based certificate course in computer applications programme based at Tororo Center (January 2013)

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Supporting community development through research:

Case of a collaboration among Universities NGOs and Local government on a study to determine Distribution and Community perspective on Medicinal values and conservation of *Aloe tororoana* (Reynolds) in Tororo



Key information

- ❖ Generally, the communities had extensive use of the species which is mainly collected from the wild.
- ❖ The leaf sap is processed for treating wide variety of human and livestock illnesses.
- ❖ These included fevers, cough, stomach pains in humans and poultry diseases in livestock



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Key follow up project: Tororo Rock

The key stakeholders have agreed to develop the site where the plant exists for tourism, education, culture preservation in a projects named; **Developing tourism, education and sustainable conservation potential of Tororo rock:**



Tororo rock where the research was undertaken on *Aloe tororoana*

Emerging challenges: Disasters have become common and challenges in the region: *Being addressed through community engagement and research*



Devastation by Landslides



Devastation by floods

Famine due to unreliable rains & prolonged Droughts



46 dead as hunger pounds Karamoja, Teso- Sunday Monitor 21st July 2013



Crop failures due to unreliable rainfall

Conclusion

- ❖ Our experience within the short time indicate that there is yet a lot to learn on how to engage with community.
- ❖ There is high willingness of the stakeholders to engage in the RCE activities from the cultural leaders, religious leaders, private sectors, local governments, central government civil society organisations and political leadership.
- ❖ The stakeholders see the universities as their savior being able to mobilize them to address community livelihood challenges.
- ❖ We need to learn the skills on how to mobilize resources locally to address the community challenges.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- A photograph of three men standing in a field with trees in the background. The man in the center is holding a large green plant with thick leaves. The man on the left is wearing a black shirt and a backpack. The man on the right is wearing a blue shirt and a tan vest. The text of the acknowledgements is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.
- ❑ Tropical Biology Association (TBA) for the small grants programmes that supported this study.
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 - ❖ National Universities Commission of Nigeria

THE END

**Thank You
for
Attention**

Questions, Comments & Discussions are Appreciated

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