



**National Agricultural Research Organisation - Makerere University
Joint Agricultural Dissemination Conference
21 - 24 November 2016
Speke Resort Munyonyo,
Kampala, Uganda**

Second Announcement

THEME: AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

About the conference

Together, the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) and Makerere University (MAK) will co-host their first **Joint Agricultural Dissemination Conference** during 21-24 November 2016 at the Speke Resort Munyonyo in Kampala, Uganda. The conference is intended to create a platform and forum for dissemination, dialoguing and showcasing of novel, and modern agricultural research findings, technologies and other innovations targeting socio-economic transformation of developing countries. The conferences will, among others, underscore innovative strategies to enable the agriculture sector prominently contribute to Uganda's efforts to achieving the upper middle income status. The conference will comprise of more than 20 sessions, graced by distinguished keynote speakers; posters; workshops, and technology exhibitions of ready-to-use innovations.

More than 600 participants are expected to attend the conference from various institutions of agriculture and other related sectors globally. We particularly expect participation of researchers, scientists, farmers, the private sector such as seed companies, agro-input dealers, processors, marketers, policy makers, agricultural extension workers, Non-Governmental Organisations, Community based Organisations, civil society organization members, finance (macro & micro) institutions and development partners, to mention but a few.

Conference objectives

The conference seeks to provide a platform for stakeholders in the agricultural sector to:

- (a) Disseminate agricultural research outputs in the form of technologies, innovations, knowledge and information;

- (b) Dialogue on current bottlenecks to effective contribution of agricultural research to sustained agricultural transformation; and
- (c) Leverage synergies among actors within the agricultural sector for meaningful agricultural development

Conference Theme

The theme for the conference is “**Agricultural Research and Innovation for Socio-Economic Transformation**”.

Conference Sub-themes

The theme is disaggregated under five subthemes as described below:

1. Partnerships for enhancing utilization of agricultural innovations

This sub-them will cover aspects of partnerships and collaborations aimed at enhancing generation, uptake and utilization of research results/outputs by all stakeholders / beneficiaries including farmers, processors, traders, agro-input dealers, extension agents, consumers, policy makers and development partners. The sub-theme examines among others the roles, synergies, challenges and opportunities of partnerships in enhancing the contribution of agriculture to food and nutrition security, household incomes, health, employment and innovations for research capacity strengthening.

2. Advances in agricultural innovations for increased competitiveness

The sub-theme focuses on generation and development of technologies and innovations that directly or indirectly address the challenges faced by stakeholders in the agricultural sector, with the main aim of increasing the sector competitiveness. It considers current research findings in areas of crops, forestry, livestock and fisheries with regard to variety/breed improvement, agronomy, protection, nutrition, value addition and marketing. Other aspects include interventions in water (for crop, animal and fisheries resources) and farm mechanization.

3. Closing the gender gap in agricultural transformation

This sub-theme seeks to examine advances in skilling the different gender categories, especially women and youth, for effective participation in the agricultural transformation. It also addresses issues of social and environmental safeguards and equity that are gaining prominence in influencing the agricultural sector performance and overall competitiveness.

4. Strengthening enabling environment for agricultural transformation

The sub-theme is intended to explore challenges and creative mechanisms for addressing the gaps in formulation and implementation of agricultural policies, laws and environments, including institutional arrangements, with the aim of strengthening the enabling environment for generation, dissemination and utilization of agricultural research innovations necessary for national socio-economic transformation. It will provide a platform for presentations and discussions on effects of policies, for instance on agricultural development, markets, economics, financial services, and business development, among others.

5. Mainstreaming evaluation research in agricultural initiatives

This subtheme aspires to tap into current knowledge and experiences on evaluation research (ER), which is an emerging aspect of agricultural research and development. The subtheme is also intended to provide useful feedback about key regional initiatives undertaken, with focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. The goal of this sub-theme is to influence decision-making or policy formulation through the provision of empirically-driven feedback. Sponsors, donors, client-groups, administrators, staff, and other relevant constituencies are expected to benefit from papers featured in this sub-theme.

Conference registration fees

A uniform non-refundable registration fee of US\$150.00 or its equivalent in Uganda Shillings per participant will be charged to cover your conference materials and meals during conference sessions.

Conference exhibition

The NARO-MAK conference will be a high-level agricultural dissemination conference that will showcase to the world, some of the best and newest agricultural products and technologies from Uganda. Interested exhibitors are encouraged to book space and get a valuable opportunity to showcase and demonstrate the leading role and commitment of their respective companies or organizations, in transforming agriculture in Uganda.

Travel and other information

Please monitor developments on the websites (www.naro.go.ug). NB: a conference webpage coming soon)

Important conference dates

18 th August 2016	Registration forms uploaded / availed on NARO website (www.naro.go.ug)
30 th August 2016	Deadline for submission of abstracts
30 th September 2016	Deadline for submission of full papers
15 th October 2016	Deadline for booking of space for exhibition
21 st November 2016	Conference opens
24 th November 2016	Conference closes

Conference Secretariat contacts

For more information, contact the conference secretariat through:

NARO-MAK 2016 Conference Secretariat, National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) P.O. Box 295, Entebbe, Uganda Tel: +256 414 320325 Email: naromak2016conference@naro.go.ug	NARO-MAK 2016 Conference Secretariat, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (CAES), Makerere University P.O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 414 542277 Email: naromak2016conference@caes.mak.ac.ug
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