

## Scientific Research Paper Writing Workshop

### Concept Note

#### Background

Communication of research findings in peer-reviewed journals is the standard by which research scientists and their findings are evaluated by the scientific community. Publication ensures that research findings are accessible for use in related studies and are thereby better translated into agricultural improvement. Scientific writing skills are not an innate talent, but are developed and sharpened through active and continued engagement in research and writing / journal publication, and through peer review mechanisms. Today's societal demand for addressing agricultural challenges and other human needs call for continuous strengthening of journal publication skills, and other skills needed to communicate science to diverse groups of stakeholders. In Africa particularly, researchers within the National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) are under increasing pressure to demonstrate their contribution towards solving Africa's agricultural challenges through research, dissemination and application of findings.

To boost publication in international peer-reviewed journals by scientists working in African NARS, the Biosciences eastern and central Africa - International Livestock Research Institute (Beca-ILRI) Hub normally holds scientific research paper writing workshops annually as part its capacity building program to support African NARS. The Hub's capacity building program aims at supporting and strengthening African NARS to effectively, efficiently and sustainably deliver on their mandates.

#### Training objective

The objective of the writing / training workshop is to strengthen the skills and knowledge of African NARS research scientists in publishing scientific research findings in peer reviewed journals.

#### Expected outputs and outcomes

*Main immediate expected outputs:*

- At least 25 NARS research scientists trained.
- At least 15 research manuscripts from NARS researchers for further development towards publication within 6 months.

*Main immediate outcomes:*

- Improved scientific writing knowledge and skills for at least 25 NARS research scientists
- Increased awareness among NARS researchers about new sources of research information and publication opportunities

#### Training approach

A team of highly experienced internationally sourced consultants together with some of the staff at Beca-ILRI Hub will conduct the training workshop. Selected participants will benefit from intensive, interactive hands-on training during which they will develop their own manuscripts with the goal of submitting to a journal for publication within three to six months of completing the workshop.

Participants will be expected to carry a project report for conversion to a paper, and/or figures and tables and any other illustrative material that have been generated from data analysis. In order to fully benefit from this workshop, bringing a manuscript that is in an advanced stage of preparation is **highly discouraged**.

- Partners** The workshop is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through a partnership between CSIRO and the BecA-ILRI Hub, the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The UK Depart for International Development (DFID), the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).
- Key dates** Call release date: **26<sup>th</sup> August 2015**  
Application deadline: **21<sup>st</sup> September 2015**  
Information to successful applicants: **24<sup>th</sup> September 2015**  
Information to unsuccessful applicants: **25<sup>th</sup> September 2015**  
Training dates: **26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015**
- Workshop venue** The workshop will be conducted at ILRI Campus Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. More information about ILRI can be found [here](#).
- Contacts for inquiries** Inquiries about the Scientific Research Paper Writing Workshop and / or the BecA-ILRI Hub Capacity Building Program and other opportunities should be directed to:
- Dr. Wellington Ekaya, Senior Scientist Capacity Building ([w.ekaya@cgiar.org](mailto:w.ekaya@cgiar.org))
  - Ms. Valerian Aloo, Capacity Building Program Officer ([v.aloo@cgiar.org](mailto:v.aloo@cgiar.org))