

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. The dynamic nature of today's scientific world and the associated societal demands for addressing agricultural challenges call for frequent strengthening of publication skills of researchers to facilitate information exchange and utilization to address development challenges. 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 mandate.

Training objective

The objective of the training workshop is to strengthen the skills and knowledge of African NARS researchers 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 10-15 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 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 Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs through Sida and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

Key dates

Call release date: **11th September 2014**
Application deadline: **5th October 2014**
Information to successful applicants: **10th October 2014**
Information to unsuccessful applicants: **11th October 2014**
Training dates: **10th – 14th November 2014**

Workshop venue

The workshop will be conducted at ILRI Campus Nairobi, Kenya.
More information about BecA-ILRI Hub can be found at:
<http://hub.africabiosciences.org/>

Contacts for inquiries

Inquiries about the Scientific Research Paper Writing Workshop and / or the BecA-ILRI Hub Capacity Building Program should be directed to:

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