

CONCEPT NOTE

Scientific Research Paper Writing Workshop – 2016

BecA-ILRI Hub

Background

Researchers within African 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. Communication of research findings in peer-reviewed journals is the standard by which research scientists and their findings are evaluated by 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 innate, 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.

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** conducts an annual scientific research paper-writing workshop. This workshop is part of a larger capacity building program that aims at supporting and strengthening capacity African NARS to drive agricultural innovation for impact.

Training objective

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

Expected outputs and outcomes

Main immediate expected outputs:

- 25 NARS research scientists and BecA alumni trained.
- At least 15 research manuscripts produced for further development towards publication within 6 months.

Main immediate outcomes:

- Improved scientific writing knowledge and skills for at least 25 NARS research scientists and BecA alumni.
- Increased awareness among about new sources of research information and publication opportunities.
- Increased awareness about the opportunities at BecA-ILRI Hub.

- Training approach** A team comprising highly experienced trainers from the International Foundation for Science (IFS) and 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**.
- Financial Support** The workshop is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through partnership between CSIRO and the BecA-ILRI Hub; the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; The UK Department for International Development (DFID); the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).
- Key dates**
- Call for applications release: **1 September 2016**
 - Application deadline: **10 October 2016**
 - Information to successful applicants: **13 October 2016**
 - Applications submitted after the **10 October 2016** deadline and incomplete applications will not be considered.
 - Training dates: **13 – 18 November 2016**
- Workshop venue** The BecA-ILRI Hub in Nairobi is a centre for excellence in modern plant, animal and microbial biology in Africa. A joint initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)/ African Union (AU/NEPAD) and ILRI, the BecA-ILRI Hub was developed within the framework of AU/NEPAD's African Biosciences Initiative. The BecA-ILRI Hub avails world-class research facilities, including a range of molecular, plant transformation and genomics laboratories, and other research platforms to African national researchers and their partners working on African agricultural challenges. The Hub hosts and conducts research in crop, microbe and livestock areas where new developments in science offer promise to address previously intractable problems constraining Africa's development. An extension of the capabilities found in national research programs, the BecA-ILRI Hub is closely associated with a network of regional nodes and other affiliated laboratories and organizations throughout the region. Capacity building is central to all activities, which span agriculture and food security and their intersections with human health and nutrition, and the sustainable use of Africa's natural resources. Further information is available at <http://hub.africabiosciences.org>
- Inquiries** For inquiries about the workshop and / or the BecA-ILRI Hub Capacity Building Program send email to abcfprogram@cgiar.org