

# AFRICAN NATURAL PRODUCTS RESEARCH AND TRAINING NETWORK (RISE - AFNNET) REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

[www.rise-afnnet.com](http://www.rise-afnnet.com)

Supported by The Carnegie Corporation of New York



By  
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Uganda



Tanzania



Kenya





## RATIONALE



Natural Products have immense potential to contribute to poverty eradication and sustainable livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa; however, the existing systems for their development as a resource and livelihood option are weak & fragmented.

# RATIONALE

- Rapid loss of NP Biodiversity: Neglected & Underutilized; Rapid population growth, loss of agricultural lands, and insufficient human capacity
- Transform Africa's rich biodiversity into a socioeconomically important NP industry.
- Expand and Build NP Value Chains research and educational programs in NP fields as Health, Engineering, Biochemistry, Economics, Environment and Ecology, Pharmaceuticals, Cosmetology, Nutrition etc.



# HUMAN CAPITAL AND HEIs AS A PILLAR



- **ANY** sustained development of a nation depends on the quality and quantity of its skilled human capital.
- Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are the fulcrum of development in Africa because current policies drive young people to Higher Education and they are at the centre of a sustainable Public Private Sector interface.

To address these, AFNNET was founded by Makerere University, University of Nairobi and Sokoine University with the support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York through the SIG and AAS.



Rozites caperata

# Vision and Mission



- **Vision:** To be the principal higher education-led network in African Natural Products Value Chains.
- **Mission:** To nurture transformative Skills, Technology, Innovations and Community services in the African NP Industry.



# Strategy

- Nurturing a new generation of NP academics, professionals and entrepreneurs
- Sustainable Networking and Partnerships
- Transformative educational models and curricula (Educations & Training)
- Instrumentation and Technology centers (Research)



# ACHIEVEMENTS

1. A multi- and trans-disciplinary regional MSc program in NP Technology & Value Chains.
2. Enhanced inter and intra- University collaborations in the region
3. Deepening public-private sector collaborations in teaching, research, extension, service and internships
4. Contributed to Career growth, Promotions and Staff Retention





## ACHIEVEMENTS



5. Increased networking & learning opportunities for stakeholders – 8 networking events (workshops, symposia, conferences & seminars); 4 Skills dev't courses (KN, ETH, GMN & EGP)
6. 22 (11 PhDs, 11 MSc) new NP scientists and academics under mentorship – 10 are female; 22 mentor Team
7. [www.rise-afnnet.com](http://www.rise-afnnet.com)





## **LEVERAGING SPIN-OFFS & MULTIPLIER EFFECTS**

- AFNNET members writing and winning other joint grants e.g. HED - USAID grant, EDULINK-EU
- More multi-disciplinary regional courses e.g. MTAD
- Natural Products Forum
- WMIPE (UoN) and AFRISA (MAK)

# CHALLENGES

- Instrumentation & Infrastructure
- Funding
- Institutional delays
- Tight deadlines Vs mindset transformation



The African Academy of Sciences



Science Initiative Group  
Institute for Advanced Study





# Future Focus



# Consolidating Achievements

1. More MScs
2. Upgrade existing MScs to PhD.
3. PostDoc training
4. Integrate stronger E-learning Technology
5. Develop information and database systems
6. Faculty retention at Universities
7. Networking

**Thank you!**