



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY



**ENVIRONMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (EFD-Mak) Centre
Uganda)**



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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Director's Office EfD-Mak centre

Concept: Prof. Edward Bbaale

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Abbreviations

EfD	Environment for Development Initiative
IGE	Inclusive Green Growth
COVID	Corona Virus Disease
Sida	The Swedish International Development Aid
CoBAMS	College of Business and Management Sciences
CAES	College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
NPR	National Peer Reviews
NDP	National Development Plan
LTEDS	Long-Term Emissions Strategy
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ICT	Information Communication Technology
NWSC	National Water and Sewerage Corporation
SEEA	System of Environmental Economic Accounting
GDP	Gross Domestic Product

Executive Summary



The year 2020/2021 was rocked by mainly two major challenges that disrupted the center activities. The declaration of the Corona Virus Diseases (COVID 19) a global pandemic and the measures to curb its spread disorganized the activities in all academic institutions especially activities that required face to face interactions. Nonetheless we were able to conduct online activities as dictated by the new norm.

In addition, there was delay in the execution of the centre activities for half a year as the EfD Global Hub in Sweden, embarked on the process to develop the new 2021-2024 umbrella agreement after the four year project cycle.

The good news is that, the Global hub successfully completed the process with Sida and signed a new agreement between Sida and University of Gothenburg for the coming four years. The four-year grant agreement forms a solid basis for the development of EfD in the years to come.

Consequently the EfD Mak Center received funding and embarked on a number of activities starting July 2021 following the partial lifting of the second lockdown.

We were able to conduct two policy tours in West Nile and South Western Ugandan districts of Arua and Kabale on our new theme, *Forestry and Biodiversity: Addressing the challenges of Forest Degradation and enhancing Environment Management in Uganda*". Under capacity building efforts, the centre held six trainings including seminars for researchers and trainings for civil servants. In the quest to boost the university resource envelop, two of our research fellows competed and won two Sida grants. Other important milestone recorded in the year under review included the Maiden visit of the Director of EfD Global Hub Assoc. Prof. Gunnar Köhlin and the launch of the Inclusive Green Growth Economy program at Makerere. This report is a representation of the major impact activities undertaken by the center between July and December 2021.

On behalf of the EfD-Mak Center, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Sida and the Global hub for the support and consideration to fund Makerere University for the next four years. Our special gratitude goes to Makerere University top Management and college leadership for the support accorded to the EfD Mak Centre since its inception. To the centre staff both research fellows and administrative staff, I thank you for your dedication to push the center this far.

I thank you

Prof. Edward Bbaale

DIRECTOR

1.0: INTRODUCTION

1.1: EfD-Mak Centre

The Environment for Development initiative (EfD-Mak) Centre Uganda started its full operation in the Financial year 2019-2020 with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The center went through a full process of institutionalization and established a fully functional office with five (5) Administrative staff managing its operations. The center has lived to its mandate by enrolling over 20 Research fellows (13 Senior Research fellows, 9 Research fellows and 1 Junior Research fellow). The center has conducted trainings and policy dialogues both at low and high-level and exchanged ideas and debate on the status, impact and direction of environmental policy in the country. Through the research fellows, the centre conducts research, publishes, writes policy briefs and establishes local and international research and policy networks with collaborating research institutions and policy makers in Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

EfD-Mak Centre is managed by two colleges - College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS) and the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES). The Centre is headed by Prof. Edward Bbaale from CoBAM's School of Economics, deputized by Prof. Johnny Mugisha, from CAES' School of Agricultural Sciences.

Vision

The Centre's vision is to become a hub for quality training, research and policy engagement in environmental economics and development in the Africa region and beyond.

Mission

The Centre's mission is to provide high quality policy-relevant research, graduate training support, policy engagement and outreach in the realm of environment and development economics in order to enhance sound environmental management and natural resource utilization for sustainable development.

The EfD-Mak will work with relevant government departments, the private sector, development partners and civil society to drive research and policy action that are underpinned by issues regarding environmental management and sustainable development. The Center's teaching, research, technical support and policy engagement targets the development of skills in priority areas including climate change, energy, food, forests, water, fisheries, agriculture and sustainable development.

The project objectives and results will be achieved through a number of activities including:

- Enrolling Junior and Senior research fellows and conducting training and research in environmental economics;

- Establishing local and international research and policy networks with collaborating research institutions and policy makers in Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies;
- Monitoring and evaluating the performance of the individual researchers;
- Organizing international conferences, seminar series and meetings for Senior and Junior Research Fellows, academics, researchers and policy makers;
- Training researchers and staff in rigorous environmental policy analysis/ frontier methodological approaches to environmental questions;
- Holding high-level policy dialogues with policy makers, private sector actors, non-government organizations, academia and civil society organizations to exchange ideas and debate on the status, impact and direction of environmental policy in the country;
- Developing policy briefs out of every technical research done or policy dialogue in non-technical language, for sharing with relevant policy makers;
- Conducting short course for government officials and parliamentarians to enable them better appreciate environmental economics and hence mainstream environmental policy in their daily work;
- Organizing policy tours, policy research workshop and fieldwork in the four regions of the country to bring on board environmental policy makers in government, environmental activists in the private sector and civil society organizations followed by a policy-research workshop;
- Conducting policy-research review dialogue and fieldwork in different government Ministries, Departments and Agencies as well as private sector and civil society organizations to identify the policy gaps that need to be closed through empirical research and to bridge the gap between research and policy;
- Publicizing Efd activities in both print, electronic and non-conventional media.

1.2: Members of EfD-Mak Centre Uganda



Bbaale, Edward Professor, School of Economics
DIRECTOR & Senior Research Fellow



Mugisha, Johnny Professor, School of Agricultural Sciences, Makerere University
Deputy Director & Senior Research Fellow

		
<p>Hisali, Eria Assoc. Professor School of Economics Senior Research Fellow</p>	<p>Bruno L. Yawe, Assoc.Professor School of Economics, Senior Research Fellow</p>	<p>Matovu, Fred Senior Lecturer School of Economics Senior Research Fellow</p>
		
<p>Okumu, Ibrahim Mike, Senior Lecturer School of Economics Senior Research Fellow</p>	<p>Bashaasha, Bernard Professor, School of Agricultural Sciences, Senior Research Fellow</p>	<p>Mukadasi Buyinza, Professor School of Agricultural Sciences Senior Research Fellow</p>
		
<p>Ekere, William, Senior Lecturer School of Agricultural Sciences Senior Research Fellow</p>	<p>Elepu, Gabriel Senior Lecturer, School of Agricultural Sciences Senior Research Fellow</p>	<p>Mwebaze, Tom Senior Lecturer, School of Economics Senior Research Fellow</p>



Namaalwa Jjumba, Justine, School of Forestry
Senior Research Fellow



Matovu, Fred Lecturer School of Economics
Research Fellow



Oryem John Bosco, School of Economics
Research Fellow



Bbaanga Margaret, Lecturer School of Economics
Research Fellow



Byakaga, Patrick Lecturer School of Forestry
Research Fellow



Turinawe, Alice, Lecturer School of Agricultural Sciences
Research Fellow



Kavuma, Susan N, Lecturer School of Economics
Research fellow



Nanyiti, Aisha Lecturer, School of Economics
Research Fellow



Guloba, Madina. Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC)
Research Fellow

		
<p>Tatwangire, Alex, Lecturer School of Agricultural Sciences Research Fellow</p>	<p>Kilimani, Nicholas, Lecturer School of Economics Research Fellow</p>	<p>Nyanzi John Bosco, Lecturer School of Economics Research Fellow</p>
		
<p>Sseruyange, John Lecturer, School of Economics</p>	<p>Babyenda, Peter Assist. Lecturer, School of Economics Junior Research Fellow</p>	<p>Kasalirwe, Fred, Assist. Lecturer, School of Economics Data Manager</p>
		
<p>Anyango Jane, Communication Officer</p>	<p>Makune, Eve Hilda Registrar, School of Agricultural Sciences Administrative Officer</p>	

2.0: IMPACT ACTIVITIES 2021

2.1: POLICY DIALOGUES /TOURS

The centre conducted two policy dialogues on the theme: “*Forestry and Biodiversity: Addressing the challenges of Forest Degradation and enhancing Environment Management in Uganda*”.

2.1.1: Academia and local government officials in the West Nile region discussed forestry and biodiversity conservation



The LCV Chairman, the Vice Chancellor Muni University and the Resident district Commissioner pose for a group photo with participants after the opening ceremony

Over 60 participants from academia, local government officials, the private sector and civil society organisations met on 2nd December, 2021 at Muni University to discuss the status of forests and biodiversity in the West Nile Region of Uganda. The policy dialogue was organized by the EfD-Mak center in collaboration with the Muni University and Arua district local government under the theme, “ *Forestry and Biodiversity: Addressing the challenges of Forest Degradation and enhancing Environment Management in Uganda*”.

Arua was selected because of atrocities committed on nature and an influx of refugees in the region who affect nature directly due to lack alternative sources. The degradation of the environment and forests in the region is higher than the national rate. West Nile has over 40 years of degradation which has worsened. Most of the charcoal and firewood supplied in Kampala and other towns come from West Nile and this has led to the loss of indigenous tree cover. Attempts to replace it with eucalyptus and pine also impact the flora and fauna.

Before the refugee problem, the tobacco growing in the West Nile depleted the soil in the region for a long time. When they were curing tobacco they were using indigenous trees for fuelwood leaving the ground bare.

The West Nile region used to have two rainy seasons, March to May and July to November, but in the last three years, the region has had one season of drought from December to May. The scarcity of construction materials and fuelwood forces women and girls to take long and dangerous walks. The region is experiencing food insecurity due to soil depletion caused by the clearance of the forests and because of the drought, annual crops are decreasing while perennial crops like tea, cocoa, banana, and coffee have ceased.

The voices gathered from the discussions will be summarized in policy briefs. The national dialogue will be organized with voices from all districts to identify policy gaps and engage ministers and advocates who are in the parliamentary committees on the environment, natural resources, and agriculture.

Proposed solutions

- Muni University has embarked on several research projects on sustainable and alternative use of the environment including a pilot project on biogas from fecal sludge as a main source of fuel for homes and institutions to reduce pressure on forest cutting using sludge.
- The university is designing courses in environment and natural resources to bring on the Masters, Bachelors, and Diploma level. We are also partnering with organizations to provide information to many local and international NGOs, create awareness and talk to the local communities.
- The district leadership to defend, identify and promote a conservation culture.
- Need for special funding to green the region.
- District plans to spend resources on individual leaders and homesteads to ensure they plant trees, change people's mindset and promote forest management.
- Engaging the National Forestry Authority to include the district forest office in all the activities.
- Work with the Uganda National Roads Authority to provide seedlings to plant trees while the next two years will be dedicated to restoring Arua district.
- Subsidies on alternative sources of energy such as electricity and solar, and gas to make it more accessible and affordable, to promote alternative building materials, and the need to speak to residents since the protection of the forests begins at the community level.

Read more:

<https://news.mak.ac.ug/2021/12/academia-local-govt-officials-in-west-nile-sensitized-on-forestry-biodiversity-conservation/>

<https://www.efdinitiative.org/news/academia-and-local-government-officials-west-nile-region-sensitized-forestry-and-biodiversity>

<https://newvisionapp.page.link/vKcuU3m8BZSDr62s7>

2.1.2: Government officials sensitized on forests and biodiversity conservation in Kabale



Participants posing after the opening session at White Horse Inn in Kabale.

Over 50 officials from the Kabale district government were made aware of the need to protect the environment for sustainable livelihoods and future generations. This happened in a policy dialogue: Forestry and Biodiversity: Addressing the challenges of Forest Degradation and enhancing environmental management in Uganda”.

The meeting held on November 3rd, 2021, attracted participants from government ministries and agencies, NGOs, the private sector, politicians, the environmental police, civil society organizations, and members of the academia from Kabale and Makerere University.

Kabale is a unique part of the country because of its landscape. It has a high population mostly residing on steep slopes. Since food is prioritized for households, the environment has been encroached on including fragile ecosystems.

“The steep slopes result into landslides and flooding in the valleys, and therefore we wanted to interact with stakeholders including policymakers, district leaders, those practicing conservation of the environment like tree planters, to remind them of the benefits of the environment, its conservation, and what we gain when we conserve it”, The Deputy Director EfD-Mak Center Prof. Johnny Prof. Mugisha explained.

Climbing beans, waragi, and soft drinks impact the environment

People in Kabale used to grow the bush beans (short beans) until they became unproductive and replaced them with high-yielding climbing beans. Which require access to trees to get and hence carelessly cut the branches.

Waragi and soft drink factories near lakes and rivers damage natural resources and about 90% of the wetlands in Kabale have been depleted with no intact wetland in the district while rivers have been encroached on by dumping soil. Soft drinks including Babababa, Numi, Entare, and waragi (alcohol) brewing in wetlands divert rivers to work as coolants. They use molasses which dries out the grass. The

chemicals enter the rivers, rusting the Maziba dam and killing mudfish and frogs in the rivers. There are changes in rain seasons, the dry spell goes to April yet April and September used to be rain seasons. The hardwood tree black wattle, which takes up to 35 years to mature, is threatened because it's good for charcoal and firewood. Mammals are getting extinct due to uncontrolled human activities within the district.

It was noted that Uganda has very nice legislation and institutions in terms of environmental conservation and protection. The biggest challenges are the view of Natural resources as public and free goods, non-valuation (price) of these environmental goods, poor implementation of the laws, corruption, and inadequate capacity and facilitation to aid the implementation.

Proposed solutions: Awareness raising among the locals and those in authority on the need to protect the environment, increased budgetary allocation to the environmental police protection unit and other local government entities, punitive punishment to environmental degraders, and introduction of other non-climbing varieties of beans. Political heads in the district are trying to see how we relocate the factories to protect the natural resources and considering a bye-law compelling the population to plant at least three trees for one tree cut down to reduce soil erosion.



The climbing beans in one of the farmer's gardens.

Read more:

<https://www.newvision.co.ug/articledetails/119998/climbing-beans-fueling-deforestation-in-kabal>

<https://news.mak.ac.ug/2021/11/kabale-district-local-government-officials-sensitized-on-conservation-of-forests-biodiversity/>

<https://www.efdinitiative.org/news/government-officials-learned-about-importance-forests-and-biodiversity>

3.0: TRAININGS AND CAPACITY BUILDING EFFORTS

The centre held six training sessions for academicians and civil servants.

3.1: Uganda includes IGE vision in national plans and policies



A section of the IGE fellows posing for a group photo with Collins Oloya (3rd) after the closing ceremony

The Government of Uganda will include the Inclusive Green Growth (IGE) vision in the national development plan, policies, and legal framework. This promise was given by the Director of the Directorate of Environment and Natural Resources, Collins Oloya who represented the Minister of Water and Environment, while closing the three-day joint cross-national workshop for IGE fellows in Uganda on 25th November 2021.

Over forty researchers and policymakers from Sweden, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Ethiopia converged at the Speke Resort Hotel Munyonyo to analyze and discuss the current use of policy instruments and gaps for a transition to a greener and more inclusive economy.

The Director said that the National Policy Reviews discussed at this meeting contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Agenda as well as Uganda's development objectives as outlined in vision 2040, the National Green Growth Strategy, the National Determined Contribution, the National

Development Plan III and the Program Action Implementation Plan of the Ministry of Water and Environment and line ministries.

Although Uganda has great water resources, forests and wetlands, biodiversity, minerals, fisheries, and oil and gas resources, the care of these natural resources has suffered from the development resulting in rapid deterioration of the quantity and quality, degradation of habitats and loss of biodiversity and the associated ecosystem services.

In the vision 2040 the government of Uganda aspires to attain a green and clean environment with no water and air pollution, restoration of degraded areas, and conservation of the flora and fauna

To achieve this vision, Uganda is committed to implementing the National Development Plans. So far, three NDPs have been implemented and the country has registered an annual average growth rate of about 6.5 % over the decade preceding 2016.

Currently, the country is implementing the NDP III (2021-2026) which is aimed at sustainable industrialization for inclusive growth, employment, and sustainable wealth creation.

“The legal framework is being revised to cater for inclusive green growth, most notably the National Environment Act 2019, the Climate Change Act 2021, the National Forestry and the Tree Planting Act, and the draft National Wetland Bill. Also, several strategic documents have been developed with a focus on inclusive green growth. The updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) has been submitted to the UNFCCC. A Long-Term Emissions Development Strategy (LTEDS) is in the final stages of being developed to ensure that Uganda meets its commitments towards reduction of emissions,” the minister stated.

Under the NDPII, the Government of Uganda is now committed to budgeting and planning with a total of 17 programs that are implemented following the principles of the IGE. The different sectors have also developed sectoral strategies in line with the IGE vision

Hindrances to implement IGE

The implementation of reforms to streamline IGE in the national agenda, policies and legal framework has not been without challenges. The key hindrances to IGE not only Uganda but across the region include the issue of poverty, high population growth rates, lack of data, inadequate capacity and funding for IGE among others.

This training comes at a very opportune moment and has provided greater understanding, knowledge, and ability to critically review and analyze current economic policies and their emphasis. The training also provided more practical solutions which IGE fellows will use to address these challenges in their respective countries.

3.2: Workshop on cross-country peer-learning and training opens in Uganda



Ambassador Maria Håkansson and Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe Vice Chancellor Makerere University (6th and 7th) pose for a group photo with participants

A three day workshop focusing on National Policy Reviews and training was opened at the Speke Resort Hotel Munyonyo in Uganda. Over 40 researchers and policy makers from Sweden, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Ethiopia participated. The function running 23rd -25th, November 2021 was organized by the EfD-Mak-Centre in Uganda in collaboration with EfD's Global Hub and the Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development (GMV) at the University of Gothenburg. It is a part of the Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) capacity-building program for senior civil servants and policymakers in East Africa and is sponsored by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

The purpose of the National Policy Review (NPR) training was to strengthen cross-country peer learning by conducting an analytical review of their neighboring country's NPR and strengthen networks on Inclusive Green Economy in the region.

The workshop was opened by the Swedish Ambassador in Uganda Maria Håkansson and also graced by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Maris Wanyera, the Vice-Chancellor of the Makerere University Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, and the Principal of the College of Business and Management Sciences Assoc. Prof. Eria Hisali.

Focus is on a green transition

Ambassador Maria Håkansson said the workshop comes at the right time.

“We are living in the midst of climate change. It affects all of us living now and climate and biodiversity is a top priority of my government and we see it linked to poverty reduction and economic development,” she said. She noted that although a lot of focus today is on the COVID pandemic, there is a need to start tracking the way out of the crisis towards recovery.

“Recovery strategies need to be developed to promote inclusive growth, employment, and competitiveness. Identifying such strategies will depend on how deep and long-lasting the economic recession becomes. We must ensure that the recovery strategies keep us on track towards Agenda 2030,” the ambassador emphasized.

She reported that Sweden was the first country to pass an environmental protection act in 1967 and has continued to take a leading role in tackling climate change to government action and set a goal for carbon neutrality that is more ambitious to the Paris Agreement.

In addition, the Ambassador said that the Swedish government has successfully decoupled carbon dioxide emissions from growth since 1997 without compromising public welfare

By adopting ambitious climate policies, Sweden also wants to set a good example for others to follow and in doing so, it is one of the world's largest providers of climate financing and sharing knowledge and in programs such as the Inclusive Green Economy in practice.

Uganda’s progress towards inclusive green economy implementation

Representing the Permanent secretary, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Maris Wanyera said that for years, Uganda has experienced a positive trend in population growth which is associated with increased unemployment and environmental destruction.

“The country is still challenged with the abuse of natural resources especially forests and wetlands. This has raised concerns on whether the economic growth has been achieved at the expense of the environment and natural resources,” she said.

Uganda was among the first countries to mainstream SDGs into its development plan, although a strategy that unpacks green growth into sectoral interventions had not yet been devised.

In response, the government developed the Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy (UGGDS) as a blueprint to operationalize green growth principles and accelerate the

implementation of global development goals, Uganda Vision 2040 and the National Development Plans 2 and 3.

The goal of the UGGDS is, according to Maris Wanyera, to achieve inclusive low emissions, an economic growth process that emphasizes effective and efficient use of natural, human and physical capital while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide for present and future generations.

To achieve the objectives of the UGGDS, Maris Wanyera said, the government requires that all new projects across all sectors include aspects of sustainable green growth emphasized in the implementation of the National Development Plan II (2015 – 2020) and currently in NDP III (2021 – 2026).

“Environmental degradation is an urgent matter for Uganda’s academia

Vice-Chancellor Makerere University Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe said Uganda must address environmental depletion.

“There is massive use of firewood as the major source of cooking fuel, for home use and export to countries like South Africa. It may be fetching us some money but we need to think of our future generation. As a country we need to think seriously about alternative energy sources, otherwise, we are heading for real trouble will leave our children in a difficult situation,” Barnabas Nawangwe said.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the government has tried to come up with laws on protecting the environment but the challenge remains with enforcement while alternatives such as the use of electricity and solar energy are in place but with limitations of affordability and reach hence the need for the private sector to come on board to supplement government efforts.

In addition to promoting multidisciplinary research that brings together expertise in agriculture, economics, forestry, environment, and gender. the university he said has a responsibility to conduct research, find solutions to the pressing issues, and provide the government with policy briefs to implement policies based on research.

National Climate Change Act 2021 and to further augment the Green Growth Development Strategy

“Uganda has just recently passed the National Climate Change Act 2021 and to further augment the Green Growth Development Strategy and to address the post COVID 19 recovery, the country is working on integrating climate resilient and low carbon emission measures into governments’ stimulus and recovery packages. The priority areas are climate finance, ICT (digitizing of sectors), resilient transport, urban an built environment, energy, human capital development and public procurement”.

Maris Wanyera



EfD Global hub Director Prof. Gunnar Kohlin and colleague interact with Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe after the opening ceremony.

IGE fellows challenged on addressing capacity gaps

The Principal of the College of Business and Management Sciences, Prof. Eria Hisali paid tribute to the leadership of the EfD-Mak Centre for mentoring the IGE fellows in Uganda pledging commitment to support the program.

Hisali challenged the IGE fellows to look at the capacity gaps in matters related to inclusive green economy noting that the training in Uganda has covered six fellows and this is only a drop in the ocean compared to the size of public service in and the challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation.

“How fast are we going to scale up the group to reach out to a bigger number of people? The second challenge is the domestication of the concept of an inclusive green economy. With the different international protocols, experience is given and many ideas on how to take up the inclusive green economy, how much of this has been domesticated across the different countries?

Do we have a coherent framework in our countries for monitoring and evaluating the progress and how much of this concept is appreciated out there and if not, what should we do to cover the capacity gaps?” Hisali asked.

Read more:

<https://www.efdinitiative.org/video/voices-workshop-i-uganda>

<https://efdinitiative.org/news/ige-cross-country-national-policy-review-and-training-workshop-opens-uganda>

<https://efdinitiative.org/news/uganda-includes-ige-vision-national-plans-and-policies>

<https://efdinitiative.org/blog/lets-get-kitchen-together-inclusive-green-economy-ige-capacity-building-practice>

<https://newvisionapp.page.link/TL3HmFeGxkAjxPHR8>

3.3: Researchers trained on information methods to improve water bill payments



Some of the participants with the facilitator online

Water bills paid too late or not at all are common in many countries. This causes difficulties to maintain water infrastructure and provide water services. However, given the right information, more customers are willing to pay on time. Such information methods were the theme of an EfD Uganda training session at Makerere University. Over 40 Makerere University researchers from the School of Economics were trained on new methodologies of information treatment to improving water bills payments. The training was organized and hosted by the EfD Uganda (EfD-Mak) Centre on 14th October 2021.

The seminar was facilitated by Dr. David Fuente from the School of Earth, Ocean, and Environment, University of South Carolina, USA. David Fuente presented studies conducted in among others Kenya and Ethiopia on the topic “**Testing information treatments to improve the financial sustainability of water utilities**”.

He said policymakers face the challenge of raising water prices and improving customer payment behavior. Dr. David Fuente delivered his presentation online.

57% are late in Kampala

“Water infrastructure is capital intensive, but largely out of public view. Improving customer awareness of the costs of water supply and sanitation may increase their perception of, ‘fair’ water prices. However, the way you present information matters, and further research is needed,” David Fuente said.

Late payments, customer arrears, are a constant problem in the water and sanitation sector in the Global South which undermines financial stability.

“For example, in South Africa, households owe the municipal governments 40 billion rands (about 4 billion USD). In Kampala Uganda, 57% of the residential customers’ accounts have arrears while in Nairobi Kenya, 60% of customers have arrears,” he said.

Hard and soft methods

David Fuente observed that very limited work is done to understand why customers do not pay their bills. Assumptions may be wrong and lead to policy mistakes. He provided insights from literature and studies from Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Africa that examined customer perceptions of “fair” water prices and information treatments to improve customer bill payment behavior.

Methods to improve bill payment included hard threats of disconnection for non-payment, soft encouragement that informs tenants, simple payment reminders, routine billing information, subsidies, sanctions, and moral persuasion.

Research may go a long way

There is a proposal that is competing for Sida funds titled, “Using information treatments to improve water bill payments under the National Water and Sewerage Corporation”.

The Director of the EfD-Mak Centre Prof. Edward Bbaale shared that the National Water and Sewerage Corporation, NWSC, of Uganda lacks resources to maintain their supply and pipes and to reach the unserved areas.

He said that if the proposed study in Uganda wins the Sida grant, it will go a long way in informing NWSC and the government on how to improve water bill payments.



Prof.

Edward Bbaale (L) delivered the welcome remarks

“Great training”

Dr. Oryem John Bosco, a lecturer in the School of Economics described the training as a good chance for researchers to understand what other researchers are doing. “Understanding what research is done on utility payments and challenges that communities face is relevant and links to the SDGs and the national development goals,” he said.

Peter Babyenda, a Ph.D. candidate said the training was great. “The presentation and methodology are new to us and touch on the water issue where we have so many problems. I can’t wait to see how this study goes and to learn more on methodologies”, Mr. Babyenda stated.

Read more:

<https://news.mak.ac.ug/2021/10/researchers-trained-on-new-methodologies-of-improving-customer-water-bill-payment-behaviour/>

<https://www.efdinitiative.org/news/researchers-were-trained-information-methods-improve-water-bill-payments>

3.4: Academicians trained on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)



Participants listening to Dr. Nicholas Kilimani online

Over 30 members of the academia comprising staff and graduate students from Makerere University School of Economics, Muni University, and Makerere University Business School on 28th September 2021 met in a seminar to discuss the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA).

The seminar was organized by the Environment for Development Initiative (Efd-Mak) Centre and facilitated by Makerere University's don, who is also a Research Fellow at the Efd-Mak center, Fullbright Scholar Dr. Nicholas Kilimani. Nicholas Kilimani streamed live from the USA on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, focusing on Integrated Water Resources Management, Policy Analysis, and Decision making.

New area of interest to the government of Uganda

The Director of the Efd-Mak Center Prof. Edward Bbaale said the seminar has been exciting because it brought onboard a new area that is of interest to the government of Uganda.

"The Uganda Bureau of Statistics, the National Planning Authority, and other partners are trying to work on the system of Environmental-Economic Accounting away from the conventional system of National Accounting," said Edward Bbaale.

"Our System of National Accounting is deficient in incorporating Environmental aspects because as we produce and consume, we are depleting the environment which we refer to as natural capital. But there is no way in our conventional GDP measurements that we are accounting for this. This new system is a solution to this."

Nickolas Kilimani showed participants how to undertake the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and explained the key variables that are important in this system specific to the water sector. Kilimani exposed participants to the policy and non-policy variables, the output, and elaborated on how to say, a policy on the construction of a dam can be analyzed to understand the impact on the rest of the economy in terms of the social, economic, and environmental outcome. Participants were also tipped on some methods such as the Computational General Equilibrium Models which can be utilized to understand each of these issues analytically.

Key lesson: Important for policymaking

The key takeaway for academicians is to understand and utilize the new system in research to influence policy decision-making.

“We need to invest our time to include the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting in our research as economists and academicians. And to our students, this is an area worthy of investing their time in,” Edward Bbaale said.



Prof. Bbaale speaking to participants during the seminar at Makerere University

“It is a starting point of a deeper analysis into how the environment is being affected by our production and consumption activities,” Edward Bbaale said.

He explained that the facilitator made them understand how these analyses are important for policymaking. He pledged to involve policymakers from the Ministry of Water and Environment and the National Water and Sewerage Corporation in the next seminar.

Participants commend the training

Makerere University Ph.D. student from the school of economics Alex Aliga, who is also a lecturer at Muni University Uganda said the seminar was valuable:

“It has enriched many of the things that I had learned in class. The System of Environment and Economic Analysis though new is very important because once you understand Natural Resource Accounting and integrate it into GDP, you understand the full value of our resources. In that case, it means that we may be richer than we thought we are. Some of these things are not easy to bring to the GDP which is the measure of our national economy.

“Understanding how you can apply the theoretical things in practice and to influence policy is very important for our country given the fact that our resources are under attack, climatic change, and environmental issues are real, then we need this knowledge so as to be able to sustainably use our resources for a better future,” he said.

Dr. Paul Edabu, a Senior Lecturer Muni University said:

“The day’s seminar was an eye-opener to the current situation in Uganda bearing in mind that we have two blocks of people who are in accounts and economics and there is no integration even in our ministries.

Our country is in a paradox. People are restricted from cutting down trees from the forests and carrying out farming in the wetlands. The next day, a factory is erected in the wetland. This seminar is timely and something I had yearned to learn because it incorporates the environment as a key resource into the national accounting system,” Paul Edabu commented.

Read more:

<https://news.mak.ac.ug/2021/09/academicians-retooled-on-the-system-of-environmental-economic-accounting-seea/>

<https://www.efdinitiative.org/news/academicians-learned-about-system-environmental-economic-accounting-seea>

3.5: Civil servants get training on how to design green policy instruments



Policy Engagement Specialist Peter Babyenda who is in charge of coordinating the IGE program in Uganda interacts with some participants at Hotel Protea Kampala

Officials from Uganda’s Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) participate in a program that provides knowledge on how to design and enforce policy instruments to achieve a transition towards a green economy. In September they took part in a two-day online training session.

The program is called Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) in Practice and is an extensive capacity development program that covers five countries, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda. In Uganda, it’s hosted by the Makerere University’s Environment for Development Initiative (EfD-Mak) Center.

Uses economic instruments

The two-day training (16th-17th of September 2021) was held virtually and physically. Participants were senior public servants from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Water and Environment, the National Planning Authority, and the National Environment Management Authority.

The training was facilitated by the University of Gothenburg, Sweden including the IGE program Head, Anders Ekbohm. Other instructors were Niklas Harring, Daniel Slunge, Emelie César, Martin Solvinger and Erik Sterner.

The program focuses on the use of environmental policy instruments, and specifically economic instruments such as environmental taxes, pollution fees, subsidies or subsidy reduction, and other types of fiscal incentives for societal development in line with the Global Agenda 2030.

“Future generations in mind”

It’s an advanced in-service training with direct applicability in the participants’ daily work involving theoretical training within IGE, practical exercises, project development, and support for implementing own change work.

“The major aim of the program is to create capacity among public servants to plan sustainably, so that while planning, they should be mindful of the future generation in terms of the environmental issues,” said Peter Babyenda, Makerere University’s Policy Engagement Specialist who is in charge of coordinating the IGE program in Uganda.

He also noted that Uganda has a long way to go when it comes to implementing green policy instruments.



Program coordinator Mr. Peter Babyenda and government officials attending the training in Kampala Uganda

Will advance green growth

Ronald Kagwa works with the National Planning Authority as Manager Production Trade and Trading planning and is also in charge of the green growth development strategy and its implementation.

“We are here to build capacity in green growth policies especially how to use green growth instruments to advance inclusive growth in development. So today has been a good day in that, we have learned about policy instruments, trust, policy attitudes all of which are critical for successful implementation of green policy instruments”. Said Dr. Kagwa

Moreen Anino is an Assistant Commissioner in the Ministry of Water and Environment.

I am here to undertake this program on Inclusive Green Economy and today I am happy to have learned about social inclusion and developing instruments that are acceptable to the public because this will help us to achieve higher levels of compliance during the implementation of these policies,” Ms. Anino said.

Previous training sessions were held in June 2021 and more are scheduled for October. The program will be wrapped up by regional training in November, and with discussions among peers from Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Kenya where notes shall be compared.

EfD and Gothenburg Centre for Sustainable Development (GMV), collaborate in an extensive program for capacity development in Eastern Africa, IGE. This program strengthens the national capacity to create an inclusive green economy. The training focuses on economic instruments while considering the social aspects of the policy implementations. The IGE program is fully sponsored by Swedish Development Agency (Sida).

Links:

<https://news.mak.ac.ug/2021/09/senior-public-servants-skilled-on-policy-instruments-design-under-the-ige-program/>

<https://www.efdinitiative.org/news/civil-servants-get-training-how-design-green-policy-instruments>

3.6 Makerere researchers tipped by EfD-Tanzania on how to operate from a policy and research perspective



EfD-Mak Centre Director Prof. Edward Bbaale and research fellows posing for a group photo with the facilitator Dr. Byela Tibesigwa online

Researchers from Makerere University Environment for Development Initiative (EfD-Mak) Centre on 7th September, 2021 converged in a seminar to learn from the EfD-Tanzania on how to effectively operate the centre to attract and motivate research fellows, mobilize resources, conduct research and influence policy.

The seminar held virtually and physically at EfD-Mak Conference room at Makerere University was officially opened by the Principal Makerere University College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS) represented by his Deputy Assoc. Prof. Yawe Bruno.

The seminar was facilitated by Dr. Byela Tibesigwa, a Senior Research Fellow from the EfD- Tanzania.

Dr. Yawe thanked the EfD-Tanzania and EfD-Mak centre for nurturing and managing the relationship noting that it speak volumes in terms of working together, mobilizing resources, building trust and partnerships.

Dr. Byela Tibesigwa highlighted Tanzania's experience and the collaborative research recently conducted with development partners, universities and policy makers to drive policy oriented research.

She said the centre has senior and junior research fellows and a ten (10) member multi-stake holder policy board comprising ministries, the Vice president's office, UNDP ,UNEP, Ministry of tourism, university lecturers, heads of departments, permanent secretaries, National Environmental Management Council, different embassies, among others.

“We identify key policy challenges and convene a policy board workshop once a year to highlight our research plans, engage with and get direction from the board”, she said.

In terms of attracting funding and co-funding, Dr. Byela described the Swedish embassy and the EfD Global Hub as very important reliable partners for funding and connection with other partners.

“We were so lucky to get additional funding from the Swedish embassy and the global hub that connected and allowed us nurture good relationships and linking us with partners like the World Bank, Government of Tanzania, Embassy of Norway, UK, Germany and many other development partners.

You want to keep senior and junior researchers interested besides the EfD core funding, get funds through consultancies and other funding. Invite government ministries and present ideas on their interest of funding. Keep advertising yourself, looking at policy interaction, keeping on news, and summaries in newspapers to attract funding”, Dr. Byela said.

Despite the minimum funding, Dr. Byela advised the center to come up with non-conventional ways to motivate and keep research fellows interested in center activities for example by mentoring their junior research fellows through lunch seminars.

“You can keep and motivate research fellows through research seminars outside the university. Hire the junior and senior research fellows to organize EfD tasks or events. Instead of centre administrators, let the junior and senior research fellows organize field tours.

Most research fellows target publications and making research that is relevant to drive policy dialogue in the country. Put them as authors in publications”, Dr. Byela Tibesigwa advised.



Some of the EfD-Mak research fellows attending the seminar physically : Photo: EfD-Mak Centre

Dr. Byela also noted that currently, EfD-Tanzania does not have written guidelines on how to engage researchers and authorship criteria on projects. She said, it would be good for Makerere University to have guidelines for various operations.

Presenting one of the recently conducted environmental study on sustainable use of charcoal and resultant policy note in Tanzania, Dr. Byela observed that most of the environmental issues, such as use of charcoal, single use plastic bags and bottles and wrappers are a huge environmental problems cutting across Africa but presenting a delicate balance that require consideration of other political, economic, social and other aspects.

She said with the EfD Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) program, centers are set to look at the social acceptance and policy issues and this could be good for Makerere University to provide policy direction for the country.

The Director EfD-Mak Centre Prof. Edward Bbaale extended appreciation to Prof. Razack of the EfD-Tanzania for making time and nurturing the collaboration with EfD-Mak centre reporting that there is a joint project about gender, food security and COVID 19, a sign of internationalization of research among the centers.



EfD-Mak Centre Director Prof. Edward Bbaale (standing) delivering his closing remarks: Photo: EfD-Mak centre
Prof. Bbaale appreciated Dr. Byela Tibesigwa for the inspirational presentation about the EfD- Tanzania

You have pointed the gaps of Makerere and we have learnt. We have a big debt to establish a policy board as a steering committee to provide strategic direction of the centre.

You have talked about collaboration between EfD and the Swedish Embassy. We have had officials attending our policy engagements and presentations. It was not deep to support and recommend us to funders. This is one thing to pick up seriously”, Edward Bbaale

The Director appreciated Dr. Byela for sharing on how to keep researchers motivated and expressed commitment to involve them in data collection and other center activities

Prof. Bbaale observed that Tanzania's' environmental analysis was key in connecting environment to the economy and pointed out key gaps and research areas that are applicable to Uganda.

“We have a debt to mobilize colleagues and partners to take up environmental analysis to implement research from an informed point of view”. The Director said.

Links:

<https://news.mak.ac.ug/2021/09/mak-researchers-tipped-by-efd-tanzania-on-operating-from-a-policy-research-perspective/>

<https://www.efdinitiative.org/news/makerere-researchers-get-tips-efd-tanzania-how-operate-policy-and-research-perspective>

4.0: RESOURCE MOBILISATION

4.1 Makerere wins two EfD 2021 Sida Grants worth USD 144,918



Grantees and Chief Guest Dr. Eria Hisali, centre staff pose for a group photo with the EfD Global Hub Research Manager Dr. Franklin Amuakwa-Mensah online:

A team of researchers from Makerere University led by Dr. Aisha Nanyiti and Dr. Fred Matovu won two of the Environment for Development Initiative (EfD) 2021 Grants worth USD 144,918 funded by Sida.

The two collaborative projects involving Makerere University, the University of Dar es salaam Tanzania and Total Uganda were officially launched by the Principal College of Business and Management Sciences (CoBAMS) Assoc. Prof. Eria Hisali on behalf of University management on 18th August, 2021.

The blended function was held physically and online at the EfD-Mak Conference room and graced by partners from EfD Tanzania and Dr. Franklin Amuakwa-Mensah the EfD Research Manager, responsible for administration of the EfD research fund at the EfD Global Hub in Sweden.

The 55,747 USD project titled, “A Randomized Control Trial (RCT) on the Adoption of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Cooking Technology among Fast Food (Chapati) Vendors in Uganda”, is being spearheaded by Dr. Aisha Nanyiti as the Principal Investigator (PI) assisted by three Co-PIs Dr. Fred Matovu, Dr. Suzan Kavuma and Mr. Richard Ssebagala.

Dr. Nanyiti said, whereas Biomass is predominantly the energy used for cooking by households and food vendors in Africa, the technologies burden women and pose negative health and economic effects.



Dr. Nanyiti reported that these technologies lead to deforestation which poses a risk to the environment and contributes to climate change. She observed that there are cleaner technologies like LPG available on market but the question is adoption.

“The main objective of this study is to assess the effect of hire purchase schemes and health and safety information on adoption of LPG.

Specifically, this study seeks to examine the impact of information on health and safety benefits, Hire purchase, Learning from LPG use in grace period before purchase amortization, and Peer learning on adoption of LPG stoves by chapati vendors for their businesses”, Dr. Aisha Nanyiti stated.

To achieve the objective Dr. Nanyiti said the study will employ ARCT in Kampala, three treatment arms (Treatment A- information only, Treatment B-information + hire purchase and Treatment C-information + grace period learning+ hire-purchase) and also carry out Surveys (Baseline., Endline, Follow-up surveys and Peer learning interviews)

The main objective of this study is to assess the effect of hire purchase schemes and health and safety information on adoption of LPG. Specifically, this study seeks to examine the impact of information on health and safety benefits, Hire purchase, Learning from LPG use in grace period before purchase amortization, and Peer learning on adoption of LPG stoves by chapati vendors for their businesses”, Dr. Aisha Nanyiti

The second project worth USD 89,171 titled, “Gender differences in COVID-19 effects on food security and adaptive strategies among the urban poor: Experiences from Uganda and Tanzania”, is being led by Dr. Fred Matovu assisted by Mr. Fred Kasalirwe, Dr. Razack Lokina and Byela Tibesigwa



“The aim of the study is to understand the impacts of the pandemic on the food situation of the households under different COVID-19-related movement restrictions, the coping strategies and the gender dimension” Dr. Fred Matovu the PI said

Dr. Matovu said the study seeks to understand the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on food security among the urban poor and how this vary across gender.

The study will also explore the effect of COVID-19 disruptions on food affordability and consumption among urban poor and their gender dimension and how the urban poor cope with the effects of food security shocks during COVID-19 pandemic across gender.

The study methodology according to Dr. Fred Matovu will involve the use of both primary and existing national household surveys, collection of primary data on a sample of households in Kampala and Dar es Salaam to establish the effects of COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdown measures on the food security and the coping measures adopted and how these varies by gender.

Dr. Matovu also explained that to analyse the effects of COVID-19 on food security, they will estimate the extent to which the COVID-19 crisis has affected the food security using dummies capturing the varying degrees of income loss due to the pandemic

Launching the two projects, the Principal CoBAMS Assoc. Prof. Eria Hisali congratulated the grantees for making Makerere University proud by winning the highly competitive studies.

“It is a clearly deserved win, the effort you put in has been rewarded and it is our sincere hope that you will continue putting in the effort you have put in up to the very end and you should not relax at this stage.

The Director Efd-Mak centre and the team at the secretariat, we want to say thank you. We see the results of your efforts. I have been part of these activities and it has been one of those centre where we can see clear results”, Dr. Hisali Eria



Assoc. Prof. Eria Hisali (2nd) launching the projects flanked by some of the grantees:

Dr. Hisali hailed the grantees for initiating the collaborative studies and appealed to the collaborating institutions that this should be the starting point of engaging in bigger collaborations.

He said the two studies have clear huge potential for policy whether looking at coping with effects of COVID-19 and hazardous effects of the current used energy. He implored grantees to bring on board policy makers as quickly as possible to have their insights so as to quicken the uptake.

Research Manager Efd secretariat Dr. Franklin Amuakwa-Mensah congratulated the fund recipients for being successful. He explained that the fund acquisition process undergoes three processes involving concept note submission, full proposal writing and presentation. He encouraged centers to link up to have additional funds.

Links:

<https://news.mak.ac.ug/2021/08/mak-wins-two-sida-efd-2021-grants-worth-usd-144918/>

<https://www.efdinitiative.org/news/makerere-wins-two-efd-2021-sida-grants-worth-usd-144918>

5.0: OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE YEAR

5.1 The Director of EfD Global hub Prof. Gunnar Köhlin makes his maiden visit to Makerere University



The delegation received by Prof Eria Hisali at CoBAMS on arrival at Mak.

A four-man delegation of Swedish environmental economists arrived at Makerere University on 22nd November 2021 to discuss collaborative initiatives on the environment and sustainable development. The delegation was led by the Director of EfD Prof. Gunnar Kohlin from the University of Gothenburg.

The team paid a courtesy call on the office of the Director of Graduate Research and Training, the office of the Vice-chancellor, office of the Principal College of Business and Management Sciences. The team also held a meeting with EfD-Mak research fellows during which the Director, EfD Mak center Prof. Edward Bbaale addressed the guests and participants virtually from Ghana.



The Swedish delegation meeting Prof. John Mukadasi Buyinza in his office

The Swedish team was in Uganda to attend the three-day IGE cross-country National Policy Review and Training Workshop in Speke Resort Munyonyo Hotel, from November 23-25, 2021 aimed at strengthening cross-country peer learning by conducting an analytical review of their neighboring country's NPR and strengthen networks on Inclusive Green Economy in the region.



The Swedish team and Mak team pose for a group photo with the Vice-Chancellor Prof Barnabas Nawangwe (5th) after the meeting

The visit by the Swedish team was also in preparation for the EfD Global Annual conference to be hosted by EfD-Mak Center at Makerere University next year 2022.

Prof. Gunnar met with the university's top officials including the Director of Graduate Research and Training Prof. John Buyinza Mukadasi, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, the Principal College of Business and Management Sciences Assoc. Professor Eria Hisali before meeting the EfD Mak research fellows.

Prof. Gunnar Köhlin who was making his maiden visit to Uganda and Makerere University since the inception of the center in 2019, commended the EfD-Mak center for being active and progressive in implementing the activities across the country including policy dialogues, training researchers and civil servants.

He appreciated the collaborative efforts between the school of Agricultural Sciences in the college of agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the School of Economics in the College of Business and Management Sciences in nurturing the EfD-Mak center and implementing a number of activities.



The research fellows pose for a group photo with the Swedish delegation after the meeting

In different meetings with university officials, Prof. Gunnar discussed ideas of how to move the EfD research agenda forward.

Prof. Gunnar emphasized the need for academia to join the global efforts to implement the conventions and commitments.

“The clock is ticking and we have just started a decade to move the global Agenda 2030 and to deal with the implementation of the Paris Agreement to address many challenges such as biodiversity loss, climate change, and deforestation among others. Academia in the past choose to stand aside and not actively join the policy discussions but now, given the urgency of the global challenges academia needs to be brought on board and commit to the implementation of national and international agreements”, Prof. Gunnar Köhlin

He said this can be done through intensification of research, building academic programs, and forming multidisciplinary research teams to conduct joint research to effectively solve the problems.

Other strategies discussed include the development of short-term and full-blown academic training programs tailored to the country’s needs, integrating short and long-term training programs in the university curriculum, having new stand-alone programs, and expanding the needs assessment on what capacities are needed to deliver.

Prof. Gunnar and the university officials also discussed the need to institutionalize the EfD-Mak Centre beyond just being a project, bringing onboard more international funding

Part of the institutionalization and sustainability efforts discussed included the move to engage government to take over the EfD initiative and streamline it in the budgeting process, integrating the center activities within the university curriculum and research.

The other idea was integrating the center activities in the college and unit levels for instance formulating policy labs, and developing a student internship model, and equipping students to be able to conduct outreach and advocacy activities on the environment in communities.

It was also suggested that besides international funding, there was a need for a university commitment to create and integrate the EfD initiatives into the university financial system so that the center is part and parcel of the university.



The Swedish delegation and some Mak staff pose for a group photo with Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi (5th) after the meeting

Researchers were also called upon to leverage institutional support from the EfD secretariat to bring in more international funding to the university. Key priority areas of focus in the Swedish collaboration with Uganda according to Prof. Gunnar are Human Rights, democracy and rule of law, gender equality, and environment. Climate change, inclusive economic development, quality health, and reproductive rights

Prof. Gunnar applauded Makerere University for ensuring an interdisciplinary approach in implementing the activities of the center saying, this EfD is not a project to take away but to build institutions adding that, the Global hub was focusing on building capacity and ready to support this.

Links:

<https://news.mak.ac.ug/2021/11/director-efd-global-network-assoc-prof-gunnar-kohlin-visits-mak/>

<https://efdinitiative.org/news/director-efd-global-network-assoc-prof-gunnar-kohlin-makes-his-maiden-visit-makerere>

5.2 Makerere launches new program, “Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) in Practice”



Makerere University launched a new program dubbed “Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) in Practice”. IGE in Practice, is a collaborative programme between Makerere University’s Environment for Development Initiative (EfD-Mak) Center and the University of Gothenburg, Sweden fully funded by Swedish Development Agency (Sida). Other participating countries are Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda.

The program is aimed at strengthening Uganda’s capacity for transformation towards an Inclusive Green Economy largely under the United Nations SDG 8 that focuses on promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

5.3: Edward Bbaale delivers an inaugural professorial lecture

The Director of the EfD-Mak Center, Professor Edward Bbaale delivered an inaugural professorial lecture on 17th December 2021. He is one of the youngest professors at Makerere University to deliver such a lecture.

The ceremony was attended by staff and members of the university’s top management including the Vice-chancellor Professor Barnabas Nawangwe and his deputy in charge of Academic Affairs Associate Professor Umar Kakumba, the former Vice-chancellor Prof. John Ddumba-Ssentamu, the Principal College of Business and Management Studies Associate Professor Eria Hisali and his Deputy Associate Professor Yawe Bruno. Representatives from the government’s ministries, departments and agencies, and family members also graced the occasion.



The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs) Dr. Umar Kakumba (2nd) hands over the certificate in commemoration of the inaugural lecture to Edward Bbaale (L) flanked by the Chair Professorial Inaugural Committee Prof. Elly Sabiiti

The professorial lecture is a tradition in many reputable universities and a highly regarded public talk by an appointed professor.

Edward Bbaale delivered his lecture on the theme: *Rethinking Growth in Africa: Firms and the Business Environment Quality*. For the last decade, Bbaale has centered his research on firms and African economies. He has particularly looked at the dynamics and economic roles of firms in bridging productivity, export and employment gaps in Africa and the quality of business environment necessary for firms in Africa to flourish.

Barnabas Nawangwe said, the inaugural lecture was in line with the current global economic challenges caused by COVID -19 pandemic where the whole business sector in Uganda has been affected and livelihoods compromised.

He also commented that the University's research ought to have a bigger impact on the African continent. According to him, Makerere contributes over 70% of the research in Uganda, but on a continental level only about 3%.



The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs) Dr. Umar Kakumba (2nd) hands over another certificate in commemoration of the inaugural lecture to Edward Bbaale (L) flanked by the Chair Professorial Inaugural Committee Prof. Elly Sabiiti

Umar Kakumba reported that since Makerere University has more than 90 full professors, the University professorial organizing committee has drafted a policy that will require professors to deliver lectures within a year of appointment. Those retiring will be required to deliver a valedictory lecture.

Inaugural Lecturer follows Bbaale's promotion to a full professor

At its 666th meeting held 30th June, 2021, Makerere University's Appointments Board considered Dr. Edwards Bbaale's application for promotion from the rank of Associate Professor to a full Professor.

Edward Bbaale, is now a full and 2nd Professor of Economics in the College of Business and Management Sciences, School of Economics, Department of Economic Theory and Analysis of Makerere University.

He holds a PhD in Economics, of Johannes Kepler University of Linz-Austria, 2008, M.A. (Economic Policy and Planning), Makerere University, 2002 and B.A. (Economics), Makerere University, 1998 among other qualifications.

Edward Bbaale joined Makerere University as a Teaching Assistant in the then Faculty of Economics and Management in 2002-2003 rising to the rank of Assistant Lecturer in 2003-2008, and later to a Lecturer in 2008-2012.

In September 2010-September 2011, Bbaale was awarded a fellowship as a Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for Global Development in Washington D.C. USA, sponsored by IDRC-Canada.

He later rose to the rank of Senior Lecturer, a position he served from August 2012-November 31st 2014. He was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor serving the School of Economics in that capacity from 1st December 2014 to 30th June, 2021 when he climbed the top academic ladder of professorship. .

Edward Bbaale has served Makerere University in various capacities. Currently, he is the Dean of the School of Economics, a position he has held from 2nd February 2015 to date; Coordinator, EPM-Makerere University Programme, 1st March 2015 to date; Member of Senate of Makerere University, 2nd February 2014 to date; Member of Makerere University Senate Anti-Sexual Harassment Committee, 19th October 2015 to date and; Member of Organisation Committee for the Launch of Professor Emmanuel Tumusiime - Mutebile Chair and Centre at Makerere University launched on October 27, 2015.

Prof. Edward Bbaale has taught and supervised 16 graduate students to completion, conducted research and consultancies in the area of Development-Micro Economics. At national level, he has coordinated a number of projects aimed at informed policy making, formulation, analysis and advocacy.

Prof. Bbaale has written over 30 papers, published in peer reviewed journals, using survey data obtained from secondary sources (especially the World Bank Enterprise Surveys, UNIDO data sets, UDHS, UNHS among others and from own primary surveys undertaken on enterprises and households across the country. Edward, therefore, has very rich hands on experience in handling huge survey data sets.

One of his papers that used enterprise data, published in the African Journal of Economics and Management Sciences, was voted as a Highly Commended Award Winner at Literati Network Awards for Excellence 2012 (<<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/literati>>). At a macro level, Edward has undertaken cross-country studies using panel data techniques.

Prof. Edward Bbaale has travelled widely and presented a number papers as an expert at national and international workshops and conferences.

Links:

<https://news.mak.ac.ug/2021/12/prof-edward-bbaale-delivers-professorial-inaugural-lecture/>

<https://www.efdinitiative.org/news/edward-bbaale-delivers-inaugural-professorial-lecture>

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