

NaFIRRI and Stakeholders host African Union Directors



Left-right (Prof Daniel Adjei, Dr Mohamed Seisay and Dr Modibo Traore) at NaFIRRI Jinja



The delegation with the Director of research at NaFIRRI and the Dean of school of natural sciences Busitema University

Directors of the African Union International Bureau of African Resources (AU-IBAR) are visiting National Fisheries Resources Research Institute in Jinja and Kajjansi respectively.

The visit is a verification mission to establish NaFIRRI as the center of excellence in Fisheries Research in Africa. The delegation headed by Dr. Modibo Traore, Dr. Mohamed Seisay and Professor Daniel.

Interactions with the AU IBAR team included NAFIRRI stakeholders from Makerere – Dr. Peter Akol and Busitema University -Dr. Alice Nakiyemba and Fisheries Training Institute, Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization and the former Directors of NaFIRRI including Dr. Fred Mugenyi, Dr. Oguttu Owahyo and Dr. John Balkirwa. Other former staff of the Institute present was Dr. Lucas Ndaula, Dr. Rose Mugidde, Dr. Jackson Eftri.

Dr. Modibo noted that “for NaFIRRI it is good that other organizations also associate with it and taking in newer stakeholders as it grows”.

The Director of Research at NaFIRRI, Dr. Anthony Taabu Munyaho noted that it is a semi-autonomous Institute under the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO). ESTABLISHED BY AN Act of Parliament that is offering Research in Fisheries. The old institute traces its existence at the time of the First fish frame survey on Lake Victoria done in 1927 and has since grown through the hands of the East African Community and eventually under NARO upon its institution in 2005 through the NARO Act of Parliament. In regards to Scientific Advice and up-take by government when NaFIRRI recommended that the number of boats be limited to avoid over fishing in the Lakes, it was agreed and so far fish catch has improved .

Dr. John Walakira noted that NaFIRRI has a collaboration with AU IBAR on issues of animal health and are providing technologies and offering support on animal health through International Livestock Research Institute and also working with the Makerere University Veterinary College and with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) are collaborating to become the center of Research in fish health in Uganda and in the East African Region.

Robert Kayanja from the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) thanked the team that short listed NaFIRRI as one of the institutions to be a center of excellence in Fisheries Research. He observed that that LVFO is proud to associate with NaFIRRI, which has the historical position in the region as the former headquarters of fresh water

Organization was hosted at NaFIRRI then known as the East African Fresh water Resources Organization (EAFRO) was coordinated from NaFIRRI in Jinja.

“Having NaFIRRI as a center of excellence is beneficial to the EAC especially for fish breeding and looking at this initiative of fish breeding, it is more poised to help in the region “

Makerere a long term collaborator of NaFIRRI noted that “Supervised students, internships, MUK is looking at being field based and NaFIRRI is expected to be a stakeholders for supporting this learning. Dr. Akol from Makerere University explained that “When the University changed its training approach in 2015, it requested for funding and experiment modular stakeholder training approach for which NaFIRRI was the first to test this training. In 2017 MSC students were placed at NaFIRRI for 3 weeks and were trained by the staff of NaFIRRI”.

The Dean of the faculty of Natural Sciences at Busitema University expressed the support from NaFIRRI to the University. “When starting the MSC, we started with NaFIRRI, staff are some of who are also teaching on the University programming, supervising Research and so far there are students on apprenticeship at NaFIRRI.”. She noted that the relationship is growing stronger, since the center for graduate studies is housed at NaFIRRI-Jinja the two institutions share resources like Laboratories, library and these are beneficial to all parties.

On behalf of the former staff of NaFIRRI, Dr. Fred Mugenyi said that “This institution is very suited for the African Union proposal as a center of excellence. It is very linked to different world institutions, to various countries, receiving grants from donors and agencies. NaFIRRI has steadily grown and will continue growing. The end point is to become a center of excellence of Fisheries Research in Africa.