



Training Course on Research Proposal Writing

with a focus on upgrading value chains of
neglected and underutilized species of plants

November 3-7, 2014, Nairobi, Kenya

Monday, November 3rd, 2014: Introduction & formulating research problem statements

08.30 Registration of participants

IMPORTANT NOTE: each participant must bring a draft IFS proposal – hard as well as electronic copy - in order to register

09.00 **Official opening**

Welcome addresses

Prof. John Kimenju, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Nairobi University

09.30 Exercise to introduce professional backgrounds of both the participants and workshop resource persons

09.45 Overview of the objectives and the planned structure of the workshop
Richard Hall, International Foundation for Science

10.45 *Refreshment break*

11.00 Neglected and underutilized species and EU-ACP NUS project background
Per Rudebjer, Bioversity International

11.20 What value chains are about: examples from Bioversity International's research and development of neglected and underutilized species
Per Rudebjer

12.30 *Lunch break*

13.30 Conceptualizing research and formulating research problems/project justification/problem statements
Richard Hall.

Group Exercise: drafting of a clear statement of the problem(s) being addressed by each of the draft proposals

15.30 *Refreshment break*

16.00 Plenary presentations of examples of problem statements

During the day: 'Clinics' by appointment with individual resource persons on participants' draft IFS research proposals (all participants will have the opportunity to have a half-hour appointment during the week)

Tuesday 4th November: Following instructions, guidelines and drafting an effective title

08.30 Reflection on Problem exercise, and individual writing of specific problem descriptions
Kiarie Njoroge and Per Rudebjer

09.00 Lecture: Research Proposal application guidelines and administrative requirements
Richard Hall

International Foundation for Science (IFS) presentation
Richard Hall

10.00 *Refreshment break*

10.30 Lecture: Connecting research with development impacts: impact pathways and theory of change
Per Rudebjer

Group Exercise: Stakeholders, outputs, outcomes, impacts in relation to the participant's proposed IFS research

12.30 *Lunch break*

13.30 Literature searches: making the best use of the internet for sourcing scientific literature
Peter Mulwa, ICT Manager, University of Nairobi

14.45 Improvements to the original draft titles of the IFS proposals prepared prior to the workshop
Richard Hall

15.30 *Refreshment break*

16.00 Improvements to the original draft titles, continued
Richard Hall

17.00 End of work sessions for day

During the Day: Clinics by appointment with individual resource persons on participants' draft IFS research proposals

Wednesday 5th November: Log frame approach to formulating goals, aims, objectives and activities; the summary; what do reviewers look for – role playing

08.30 Basics of Logical Framework Analysis: how these are structured and why they can be useful in clarifying research ideas,
Richard Hall, Per Rudebjer

09.30 Exercise: drafting a log frame table

10.30 *Refreshment break*

10.45 Presentation of log frame exercise

12.00

12.30 *Lunch break*

13.30 Formulating a concise and clear Summary
Richard Hall

Group Exercise – Summary

15.30 *Refreshment break*

Group Exercise – Summary

During the day: Clinics by appointment only with individual resource persons on draft research proposals (continuation)

Thursday 6th November: Appropriateness of experimental designs and structured surveys

08.30 Plenary presentations of summaries

09.30 Lecture 1: Overview of statistical methods used in field and laboratory experimentation and the use of statistical software packages: main pitfalls and limitations. Biometrician
Parin Kurji, Head Biometry Unit, University of Nairobi and Jaameeta Kurji, Epidemiologist

10.30 *Refreshment break*

11.00 The scientific hypothesis
Richard Hall

12.00 Group Exercise: examples of experimental/survey designs of a sample of participants' draft IFS proposals

12.30 *Lunch break*

14.00 Group Exercise: continued

15.30 *Refreshment break*

16.00 Group Exercise: presenting the experimental/survey designs

17.00 Summary and conclusion of day's proceedings

End of Day: Clinics as above

Friday 7th November: From the evaluator's perspective: role playing

08.30 The IFS grant evaluation process: what do the reviewers look for?
Richard Hall

09.00 Role-playing: IFS Scientific Review Panels - participants to evaluate IFS proposal applications; completion of evaluation forms and formulation of final verdicts

10.30 Results of role-playing exercise

11.30 Formal closing of Workshop

Lunch