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