Third IAALD Africa Chapter Conference

*e-Agriculture for Improved Livelihoods and Food Security in Africa*

Emperor Palace
Johannesburg, South Africa
21 – 23 May 2012

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS
[www.iaald-africa.org]

About the Conference

The International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD) Africa Chapter conference is a biennial conference that brings together individuals and organizations, both within and outside Africa, interested in agricultural information and knowledge for improved food security and livelihoods on the continent. The first conference was held in May 2006 at the Intercontinental Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya and the second in July 2009 at M Plaza Hotel, Accra, Ghana.

Conference Theme and Sub-Themes

Application of information and communication technology (ICT) in the rural domain, with a primary focus on agriculture (e-Agriculture), has emerged as one major focus of ICT for Development (ICT4D). e-Agriculture was also identified as a priority by the International Community at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in 2003. Paragraph 21(a) of the WSIS Plan of Action called for measures to ensure the systematic dissemination of information using ICT on agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry and food, in order to provide ready access to comprehensive, up-to-date and detailed knowledge and information, particularly in rural areas.

The theme for the third Chapter Conference is *e-Agriculture for Improved Livelihoods and Food Security in Africa*. Contributions focusing on e-agriculture in and outside Africa, and placing emphasis on impact and lessons learned in the following sub-themes are invited:

- Innovative e-Agriculture Initiatives;
- Mobile and Wireless Applications/Technologies and Agriculture;
- ICT Adoption and Use by Small-Scale Farmers;
- National Initiatives/Projects Towards Bridging the Rural Digital Divide;
- Investing in e-Agriculture;
- National e-Agriculture Policies and Strategies;
- ICT and Food Security;
- Capacity Development Initiatives in e-Agriculture;
- Research in ICT Application in Agriculture and Rural Development;
- Web 2.0/Social Media in Agriculture and Rural Development.

Conference endorsed by:

[www.e-agriculture.org](http://www.e-agriculture.org)  [www.esoko.com](http://www.esoko.com)  [www.infita.org](http://www.infita.org)
Submission Procedure

Submissions should include the speaker's name(s), title (i.e. Mr. Dr. Ms. Prof, etc), position, affiliation/institution and address, e-mail address, telephone and fax numbers, a short one-paragraph biographical note, the title of the proposed paper, and an extended abstract of 500 – 1000 words. Each abstract will be double-blind reviewed. Papers accepted will be included on the conference CD. Selected papers will be considered for publication in the Agricultural Information Worldwide Journal. Costs associated with participation in the conference are the presenters’ responsibility. Abstracts should be submitted to:

Krishan Bheenick (Chairperson - IAALD Africa 2012 Conference Programme Committee)
Programme Manager
Food and Agricultural Research Council, Reduit, Mauritius
Email: eagriculture@iaald-africa.org

Important Dates

- Deadline for abstracts' submission: 30/09/2011
- Notification of acceptance: 31/10/2011
- Early bird registration: 31/10/2011
- Submission of full papers: 28/02/2012
- Preconference events: 18–20/5/2012
- Main Conference: 21–23/5/2012

Conference Registration Fees

Conference registration information, including fees and registration forms, will be available on the IAALD Africa website (www.iaald-africa.org) as from 1 August 2011.

Pre-Conference Events

Organisations and individuals interested in organising related meetings, seminars or workshops as pre-conference events should submit a 500 word summary of the proposed event to Gracian Chimwaza by 16 December 2011. The dates for pre-conference events are 18 – 20 May 2012.

Conference & Poster Exhibition

An exhibition of products, services and posters relating to ICT application in agriculture and rural development will be held from 21–23 May 2012 at the conference venue. For details, please contact Liza Monteiro.

Conference Participants

Participants will include: policy makers and experts from ministries of agriculture and related ministries; development professionals from NGO’s serving rural farmers and communities; Internet and mobile phone service providers; representatives of international development agencies; agricultural extension officers; ICT4D experts implementing e-agriculture initiatives and projects; information and knowledge management and communication professionals; research scientists, scholars and students involved in e-agriculture research projects; and youths involved in ICT in agriculture.

Contacts and Inquiries

Conference:
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Exhibition:
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Conference endorsed by: