SIDE EVENT #11: The Collaborative Masters in Agricultural and Applied Economics and its Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development

VENUE: Large Briefing Room

Organized by: African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)

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Discussant:
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Abstract
The African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) is a public not for profit organization dealing in capacity building for research and training in Africa, whose secretariat is based in Nairobi, Kenya. It has two main divisions, the Research and the Training Divisions. The research division deals with Collaborative and Thematic research while the training coordinates three postgraduate programmes in economics that include over 40 universities: the Collaborative Masters in Economics (CMAP), Collaborative PhD Programme in Economics (CPP) and the Collaborative Masters in Agricultural and Applied Economics (CMAAE). AERC’s role and its contribution to Africa’s growth agenda, and opportunities for partnerships with other knowledge centers at the global level with organizations such as IFPRI and at the regional level with ReSAKSS, ReNAPRI has been notable. The CMAAE, an internationally recognized MSc program with the participation of 17 Universities in the Eastern, Central and South African Region has been at the fore-front of AERC’s contribution to evidenced based policy making in agriculture in the region. Out of the 17 universities that are part of the network, 8 are accredited to offer the course while the others participate in departmental capacity building programme. Beginning in the 2015/16 fiscal year, the programme is envisaged to cover Ghana and Nigeria in West Africa. Noting the inadequacy of skills for agricultural policy analysis, formulation and implementation, CMAAE has the following objectives: building human capacity for research and analysis in agricultural and applied economics through regional training at the postgraduate level; strengthening the capacity of participating departments; and promotion of collaborating networks among economists, agricultural specialists and policy makers. AERC also carries out research within the region and has a network of over 3000 economists, 200 of whom meet twice every year to share results of their research and to mentor and be mentored by a group of international economists (resource persons) from across the world.

The objectives of the side-event include:
- Provide insight into AERC’s role and its contribution to Africa’s growth agenda, and opportunities for partnerships with other knowledge centers at the global level
- Draw attention to evidence-based economic policy making in Sub Saharan Africa and how networks such as AERC could/do serve the region
- Create awareness of AERCs programmes and opportunities among stakeholders for possible engagement and optimization of available resources