

Towards a new emerging partnership between Flanders and Jimma University

Coordinators

Jimma University: Dr. Meseret

Ghent University: Prof. Duchateau

Programme manager: Ato Abafita

A coincidental IUC birth

- Flemish coordinator worked at ILRI with headquarters in Nairobi and Addis Ababa



ICP follow-up workshops

- ICP biostatistics (Hasselt University) follow-up workshop at ILRI, Nairobi, in 2004
- ICP biostatistics follow-up workshop at ILRI, Addis Ababa, in 2004
- Contact with Prof. Deckers, coordinator of IUC-MU to trace local participants for ICP workshop

The MU-JU-UGENT link

- MU - Professor Deckers
- JU – Dr. Worku Legesse, alumnus from ICP Environmental Sanitation, UGENT
- UGENT – Professor Duchateau

Inception of IUC-JU: content

- Main theme

Investigating the Impact of Gilgel Gibe Dam A Multidisciplinary Approach towards Capacity Building

- Ask for research proposals
- Demand driven from within JU

Criteria for discipline selection

- No duplication of IUC-MU
 - Phocus on health
- Leads to collaboration with IUC-MU
 - Also agronomy included
- Leads to collaboration with Flemish academics
- Complementarity and compatibility

The project teams

- Ecology
- Zoonotic and animal diseases
- HIV/Aids
- Child nutrition
- Soil fertility
- Infectious disease epidemiology
- (ICT and library)
- (Impact assessment and supporting unit)

Ecology

- **Achieving Millennium Development Goals through Environmental Sustainability, Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion.**
 - Providing safe and adequate water supply, and improving sanitation facilities.
 - Solid and liquid waste management of Jimma town
 - Rehabilitation and restoration of biodiversity
 - Improving the forest ecology, management system and land use pattern around the catchment areas of the Gilgel Gibe.

Zoonotic and Animal Diseases

- **Improving the Human and Animal Health Status and Increasing the Livestock Productivity at Gilgel Gibe .**
 - Schistosomiasis (human and animal)
 - Fasciolis
 - Trypanosomosis
 - Mastitis
 - Animal nutrition

HIV/Aids

- **An integrated HIV/Aids prevention and intervention approach.**
 - Integrate research, training and service delivery in HIV/Aids.
 - Policy development and program formulation in the area of HIV/Aids intervention.
 - Evaluation of the efficacy, effectiveness and impact of prevention and intervention on HIV/Aids control.

Child nutrition

- **Development of child nutrition intervention strategies to improve child survival, growth and development**
 - Generate baseline and longitudinal data on child survival, growth and development dynamics.
 - Decrease the rate of LBW by 20% by implementing nutritional approaches around Gilgel Gibe Hydroelectric dam.
 - Decrease infant and child mortality from common childhood infections by 25% through improvement of nutrition
 - Develop and test nutritional interventions which address women's nutrition.

Soil fertility

- **The sustainable use of soil resources and the Gilgel Gibe dam.**
 - Establish the rate of siltation and the level of accumulation of major nutrient elements in the Gilgel Gibe dam
 - Study appropriate methods to maintain soil organic matter.
 - Develop high yielding soya bean cultivar with greater N₂-fixation capacity and more efficient use of phosphorus.
 - Establish appropriate cropping systems to improve soil fertility and sustainable productivity in the catchment area.
 - Generate knowledge on the dynamics of soil nutrient capital, land use and land productivity.

Infectious disease epidemiology

- **Infectious diseases epidemiology: dynamics, modeling, prevention and control around Gilgel Gibe Hydroelectric dam, Jimma zone**
 - Improve the health status of the community.
 - Develop a center of excellence to study and model infectious disease dynamics/epidemiology with special emphasis on the relationship with water resource development.
 - Assist the teaching learning process of the health science fields in terms of research opportunities, trainings and service delivery to the community.

Multidisciplinary approach

- Through a multidisciplinary approach towards
 - Better living conditions for communities in the Gilgel Gibe area and its catchment.
 - Sustainable development of land and dam.
 - Outstanding research capacity (centers of excellence) with human capacity building
 - Better collaboration with South (JU and MU) and North
 - Improved training and education