



The African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) A Hallmark of Excellence

*Redefining capacity building, policy response
and outreach*

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www.aercafrica.org



ABOUT AERC

- The African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), established in 1988, is a public not-for-profit organization devoted to the advancement of economic policy research and training.

Mission

To strengthen local capacity for independent, rigorous inquiry into problems pertinent to the management of African economies, through a synergetic programme combining economic research with postgraduate training in economics

- AERC's principal objective is to strengthen local capacity for conducting independent, rigorous inquiry into problems pertinent to the management of economies in Sub-Saharan Africa.



AERC & AFMA

- Research and training focus
- Building production systems that transform agric. sector in Africa through capacity building
- Communication of research results to enable evidence based policy making
- Creating a knowledge base for sustainable agriculture and natural resource management



The AERC network





: Research & Training Programmes

- Research

 - Thematic Research

 - Collaborative Research

- Training

 - Collaborative Masters Programme (CMAP)

 - Collaborative PhD programme (CPP)

 - Collaborative Masters in Agricultural and Applied Economics (CMAAE)

 - WFP-P4P Project on Data analysis and Knowledge Mgt

 - UNU-Wider Project on Climate Change



Thematic research support

This is a “learning by doing research” modality

- During Biannual Workshops proposals are vetted by resource persons and those found satisfactory are issued a grant

- Research Areas:

- Poverty, Income Distribution and Food Security
- Macroeconomic Policy, Investment and Growth
- Finance and Resource Mobilization
- Trade and Regional Integration
- Natural Resource Management and Agricultural Policy Issues

Output to date:

- Support to 2,624 African researchers in 35 African countries
- 109 thematic research papers available on the AERC website
- About 600 researchers enhance their analytical skills in technical workshops



Collaborative Research

- Window 1: Capacity Building Research
- Window 2: Special Research Projects
- Window 3: Senior Scholars /Network Capacity
- Window 4: Sponsored /Partnership Research



CMAAE

- CMAAE has enrolled over 490 students
- Awarded over 200 scholarships
- Awarded 8 PhD fellowships to faculty staff
- Supported over 15 faculty staff in research
- Over 90% of CMAAE alumni employed in SSA

Accredited

- University of Zimbabwe
- Makerere University
- Bunda College of Agriculture
- University of Nairobi
- University of Pretoria
- Sokoine University
- Egerton University

Non-Accredited

- University of Rwanda
- University of Swaziland
- Stellenbosch University
- Haramaya University
- University of Zambia
- Eduardo Mondlane University
- Moi University
- Jomo Kenyatta University
- University of Botswana



CMAAE Supported Activities

Msc. Support

- Scholarships
- Thesis Research
- Shared Facility for Electives (SFSE)
- GRE coaching and examination
- Graduate Internships
- Theses dissemination
- Conference travel grants

Institutional support

- Institutional grants (AFMA, AAAE, universities)
- PhD fellowships (local & sandwich)
- Staff exchange programme
- Thematic Research
- Retooling (Subject & LSMS-analytical)
- Instructors workshops

THE COLLABORATIVE PhD PROGRAMME (CPP)

- The doctoral programme by coursework and thesis is a product of collaboration across the African continent.
- The collaboration covers:
 - ❖ Formulation of the rationale and design of the programme itself.
 - ❖ Development and approval of core and elective course outlines.
 - ❖ Teaching of the core and elective courses.
 - ❖ The setting and marking of the comprehensive examinations.
 - ❖ Supervision of theses: sourcing of supervisors, participation in the thesis workshops, and examination of the theses.
 - ❖ Having a PhD Academic Board that is responsible for monitoring the progress of the programme.
 - ❖ Periodic reviews of the programme.
 - ❖ Human and other resources pooled from within and outside Africa to ensure that this collaboration is continuous, effective and optimal.



Flagship Agric Research

- WFP – P4P Smallholder market development through targeted support
- Climate Change mitigation and the green economy
- Farmer residue management in the era of Climate variability
- The Economics of Crop-livestock production systems in Sub-Saharan Africa



Overall impacts

1. Individual capacity building
2. Changes in economic policies in SSA
3. Institutional capacity building – departments of economics compared to other university departments in SSA
4. Development of the economics and agricultural economics discipline in SSA
5. Strengthening of national policy research institutes



Communications & Outreach

Research Policy Nexus:

Events

Senior Policy Seminars
National Policy Workshops
Dissemination workshops



Electronic Website

On-line library access
On-line research/other papers
TV special editions
TV advertorials

Publications

Research Papers
Book volumes with major publishing houses
Press and magazine paid-for pullouts
Targeted dissemination packages
Corporate papers/reports



Conclusion

- Evaluations and reviews over the years have underlined the validity of AERC's approach, the quality of the AERC programme, and the continuing relevance of its mission and agenda.
- AERC is proud to be a partner of AFMA and will continue to support its activities

With an involved network and supportive partners, we will continue to grow.



Thank you for your attention