Australian Council of Deans of Agriculture (ACDA)

Australia – Africa Universities Network
Sydney, 29th November 2012

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Australian universities offering agriculture
ACDA – Scope

- Undergraduate programs
- Postgraduate programs
  - Masters by coursework
  - Masters by research
  - Doctor of Philosophy by research
- Research & Development
- Policy
Internationalisation is a priority

- All members have established international programs
- Partners:
  - NARs, NGOs, CGIAR, universities
- Funding:
  - ACIAR, AusAID, Crawford Fund, etc.
Australian Agricultural Faculties

- Globally competitive
- 4-7 are in top 100 institutions in the world for any combination of citations and papers in agriculture and plant and animal sciences (ISIweb of Science)
- Lifelong partnerships
## Example research areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Production systems</th>
<th>Discipline strengths</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extensive Agriculture</td>
<td>Animal science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perennial Horticulture (incl. forestry)</td>
<td>Agronomy</td>
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<td>Livestock (incl. dairy)</td>
<td>Climate science</td>
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<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Cell biology</td>
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<td>Food Supply Chains</td>
<td>Crop protection</td>
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<th>Facilitating innovation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Policy and Society</td>
<td>Entomology</td>
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<td>Barriers to adoption</td>
<td>Soil Science</td>
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<td>Enabling &amp; empowering</td>
<td>Plant Pathology</td>
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<td>Natural resource management</td>
<td>Microbiology</td>
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<td>Plant breeding</td>
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<td>Plant physiology and nutrition</td>
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<td>System integration</td>
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Future challenges:

- Increase food production
  - 70% increase by 2050
- From a shrinking resource base
  - Land, water, energy, people...
- *Sustainable intensification*
  - ‘more from less’, resource use efficiency
- Complexity, uncertainty, contestability
Australia Africa Agriculture

- Low and variable rainfall
- Infertile soils
- Focus on rainfed agriculture
- Integrated crop – livestock systems
- Farming Systems Research
  - People
  - Management of natural resources
  - Economics
- Researcher – farmer partnership
Research for Development (R4D)

- Research designed to have positive impact
  - Poverty alleviation
  - Food security
  - Rural livelihoods
  - Gender sensitive

- Focus on developing human capacity
  - Resilience
  - Innovation
Education is the best investment for future development

“The problems that exist in the world today cannot be solved by the level of thinking that created them.”

Albert Einstein
ACDA welcomes approaches from our African partners
Together we can make lasting progress on our shared challenges

http://www.csu.edu.au/special/acda/
- President: Professor Iain Young, UNE
- Vice President: Professor Holger Meinke, UTAS/TIA
- Secretary: Professor Jim Pratley, CSU