

## Sudan Research Symposium

### Food security and poverty alleviation under changing environmental conditions

#### International Symposium –Khartoum, 12–14 December 2011

The University of Reading, a world-leading research institution in areas critical for the well-being of East Africa, is partnering with researchers, policy makers and practitioners in Sudan to build capacity within this region of Africa.

Up to 30 academics from the University of Reading with expertise in climate variability and change, agricultural production, food security, urban and rural poverty and social protection and well-being will be collaborating with academics from five Sudanese universities, NGOs working in Sudan, and practitioners working in related fields, beginning with a symposium in Khartoum in December.



Further information can be found in our conference brief. Please also view the programme overview and detailed outline of speakers.

List of Institutions:

Ahfad University for Women

- The University of Gezira
- University of Khartoum
- University of Reading
- Sudan Academy for Banking and Financial Sciences

- Sudan University of Science and Technology

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## **Institutions**

### **Ahfad University for Women**

Ahfad University for Women (AUW), is a non-governmental, non-profit making, non-sectarian university in Omdurman, established in 1966 and has a long history of creating proficient, professional women dedicated to promoting improvements in the status and living conditions for Sudanese women and their families. Research is an integral part of AUW programs and it carries out different types of researches i.e. policy oriented research, action oriented research, gender and women empowerment researches, knowledge production research and scientific researches. AUW partnership with national higher education and European Universities such as Reading University has enabled it to widen the scope of researches and involving several of its faculty from different specializations thus providing clear and policy oriented recommendations that help in shaping policies and interventions for the wellbeing of Sudanese people. This is why AUW recognizes the forthcoming research Symposium as a golden opportunity for building more solid partnerships with researchers and forming multi-lateral partnerships that involves academics from other Sudanese universities and Reading University.

Please download the abstracts of the participants from Ahfad University for Women.

### **The University of Gezira**

The University Of Gezira (U. of G.) was established in 1975 at Wad Madni City in central Sudan. The university is close to one of the biggest agricultural projects in Africa — the Gezira Project. The school's main objective is to supply the project with high-calibre graduates. It is considered to be one of the leading universities in Sudan. It has a community-oriented education model.

The mission of the institution was to create a regional university for training of personnel to service the large Gezira Scheme. The Gezira state is one of the most distinctive and affluent areas of the country and considered to be the cornerstone of the country's economy. Initially, there were a handful of schools, but today the university has expanded to fourteen schools and four institutes.

Food security is an important issue of interest for Gezira University, and many faculties and departments have the roles towards food security like Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Faculty of Animal Production, Institute of Promotion of Horticultural Crops, Institute of Sugar, Department of Food Science and Technology and faculty of Medicine.

Please download the abstracts of the participants from The University of Gezira.

#### **University of Khartoum**

"My institution is the University of Khartoum and we think that the symposium is an excellent chance for our University researchers to pursue their research collaboration with the University of Reading and other participating institutions' researchers. The symposium contains themes which we consider as greatly needed research topics and that come at the right time in our efforts to develop our country, which is undergoing a very harsh time in its history."

Dr Salah Mohamed Elawad, Agricultural Development Planning and Policy Consultant at the University of Khartoum.

Please download the abstracts of the participants from the University of Khartoum

#### **University of Reading**

'The University of Reading has a long relationship with Sudan. Many of our alumni are in senior academic positions within its universities and we have numerous on-going research projects with our partner universities in areas such as Construction Management, Archaeology and English Language. To further enhance our collaborations, The University of Reading is joining with its partner universities in Khartoum for a research symposium on Food Security, Climate Change and Poverty Alleviation. This will bring together academics from at least six institutions and staff from NGOs to share their expertise, engage in discussion and foster develop new collaborative projects to tackle these global challenges for the benefit of Sudan and all participating institutions'.

Professor Steven Mithen, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Internationalisation and External Engagement at the University of Reading.

Please view details of participants from the University of Reading or download the abstracts.

#### **Sudan Academy for Banking and Financial Sciences**

The Sudan Academy for Banking and Financial Sciences (SABFS) was founded in 1963 and is located in the centre of Khartoum. As the regional centre of expertise for microfinance, it works to explore the sustainability of microenterprises and social enterprise development.

Please download the abstracts of the participants from SABFS.

### **Sudan University of Science and Technology**

Situated in Khartoum State, in the heart of Sudan, the origins of Sudan University of Science and Technology (SUST) date back to 1950 when the Khartoum Technical Institute was founded. It became the University of Science and Technology in 1990 and now comprises 19 colleges distributed among nine campuses in Khartoum. The diversified colleges reflect its constant endeavour to seek knowledge in all fields to produce successful graduates and a successful nation.

As well as providing educational programmes, SUST produces a great deal of original scientific research that leads to sustained development and the ability to cope with new technology, leading to the emergence of prominent and distinguished scientists of high international calibre. The University also collaborates with other higher education and scientific research institutions to help achieve development plans and places concern on intellectual issues, folklore and development in the Arab, African and Islamic world.

Please download the abstracts of the participants from SUST.

## **Addressing urban & rural poverty**

Dr Isam Mohamed Ali El Laythy; Dr Abdel Rahman Mohamed Mohamed Saeed; Dr Yusif

Hassan Ahmed Balula

Globally, the poverty phenomenon receives an increasing attention, because it continues to cause extraordinary human suffering, particularly in developing countries where more than one person in five subsists on less than \$1 a day. Although global efforts to reduce poverty have been moderately successful over the last twenty years, with extreme poverty declining in certain areas of rapid economic development, notably China and India, progress has been uneven. For instance, in the region of Sub-Saharan Africa (Sudan apart of it), debilitating poverty continues to afflict ever increasing numbers of people. As consequence, the vast majority of the population in this region suffers extreme deprivation, unable to afford to meet basic human needs such as access to clean water or nutrition, let alone adequate health care, education, clothing and shelter. Therefore, renewed efforts to address the problem of poverty or destitution are urgently needed in the whole region, included Sudan.

The purpose of this paper is to give brief account on the trends of poverty in Sudan and to shadow the light on the rural poverty and urban poverty as well. Further, an attempt is made to clarify the different reasons and factors behind poverty incidence in Sudan. The range of efforts (policies and strategies) addressing rural and urban poverty in the country are also going to reviewed with special reference to the monetary policy. A special consideration would be given the role of Sudan Academy for Banking and Financial Sciences (SABFS) within the National Vision of the Central Bank of Sudan (CBS) for developing and expanding the microfinance sector in Sudan as powerful mechanisms for poverty reduction in the country. Finally, questions are going to be raised in the discussion of the paper findings in order to identify topics related potential researches in the area of rural and urban poverty in Sudan.

Keyword: Rural poverty, urban poverty, microfinance.