

# **FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT**

## **FIRST AFRICA SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON EDIBLE AND MEDICINAL MUSHROOMS**

Date and Venue: October 25 – 29, 2006, Nile Resort Hotel, Jinja, Uganda

Theme: Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms for Health and Poverty Alleviation in Africa

Organizers:

- Natural Products Research Network for Eastern and Central Africa (NAPRECA-Uganda).
- Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

### **1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE**

Mushrooms have long been valued as tasty, nutritious food by different societies throughout the world. In the developing world, including Africa, mushrooms are used as food and medicine in many societies. In Africa, however, the medicinal and nutritional importance of mushrooms has not been adequately studied and documented. In the developed world, mushrooms now occupy a central position in natural products research (medicine, food, environmental issue etc). For instance, there is now increasing evidence that medicinal mushrooms have a wide array of medicinally important compounds that have anticancer and antiviral activity; offering great hope for the production of new drugs for ailments like HIV/AIDS, Avian influenza and the many cancers that afflict humanity today. Mushroom growing is also a source of considerable economic gain to farmers in the developed world, notably Japan, China, Europe and the USA. Africa lags behind in this unfolding ‘mushroom revolution’.

This conference will therefore be a meeting point between mushroom growers and scientists in Africa and the rest of the developed world; which will result in a beneficial exchange of experiences between stakeholders in the mushroom industry and scientists within and outside Africa. It will raise awareness of the scientific and commercial value of mushrooms and thereby sensitizing policy makers on the value of edible and medicinal mushrooms. This awareness will result in commitment of more resources into research and production of mushrooms in this continent by government and rural/industrial development agencies.

### **2. SUB-THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE**

The conference will cover scientific presentations in the following subject areas:

- Ethno-mycology and mushroom toxicology
- Mushrooms in food and medicine

- Mushrooms and the environment
- Taxonomy and systematics in tropical mushrooms
- Socio-economic aspects of mushroom industry in Africa
- Mushrooms as non-timber forest products

### **3. TARGET PARTICIPANTS**

This conference will attract several individuals and groups, including but not limited to the engaged in research in the following fields:

- Food Science and Nutrition
- Pharmacology and Physiology and nutrition,
- Forestry products and Botany,
- Environment and wildlife,
- Public Health
- Molecular Biology and Taxonomy

In addition, the conference will attract the farming community (especially active and prospective commercial mushroom growers); and mushroom spawn producers. Graduate students of Environmental Science, Forestry, Crop Science, Molecular Biology, Mycology etc. will also benefit from the conference.

### **4. ORGANISATION OF THE CONFERENCE**

This conference is organized and run by Makerere University (Uganda) and the Natural Products Research Network for Eastern and Central Africa (NAPRECA-Uganda). The conference brings together the resources of 4 faculties of Makerere University: Veterinary Medicine, Science (Chemistry and Botany departments, Agriculture (Food science department), and Forestry. Three committee will be responsible for organizing the conference. The committees are:

#### **a). Main Organizing committee**

The main Organizing Committee is composed of:

- Dr. Deo. Olila, Convener & NAPRECA ADVISOR  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Makerere University
- Dr. M Kamatenesi, Chairperson NAPRECA  
Faculty of Science, Makerere University
- Dr. F. Ejobi, Treasurer NAPRECA  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Makerere University
- Ass. Prof. J.D. Kabasa  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
- Prof. Oryem-Origa, ADVISOR NAPRECA  
Faculty of Science, Makerere University
- Dr. Esezah Kakudidi, ADVISOR NAPRECA  
Faculty of Science, Makerere University
- Mr. Kimbowa – JERA/VICE-SECRETARY NAPRECA  
Faculty of Science, Makerere University
- Ms. P. Ipulet  
Faculty of Science, Makerere University

- Prof. Kiremire, ADVISOR NAPRECA  
Faculty of Science, Makerere University
- Mr. Robert Byamukama, SECRETARY NAPRECA  
Faculty of Science, Makerere University
- Mr. Muyanja, Faculty of Science, Makerere University
- Prof. Obua, Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation, Makerere University
- Dr. Eilu, Gerald Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation, Makerere University
- Ass. Prof. C. Dranzoa, Graduate School, Makerere University

#### **b). Scientific Committee**

The Scientific Committee is composed of:

- Dr. Omoanghe S. Isikhuenmen, North Carolina A&T State University, USA
- Prof. Okhuoya, Department of Botany, University of Benin, Nigeria.
- Prof. P.K.T Munishi, PKT  
Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania.
- Dr. L. Kisovi, Kenyatta University, Kenya.
- Ms Magda Verfaillie, Belgium
- Prof. Midiwo, Executive Secretary NAPRECA-Regional  
University of Nairobi, Kenya

#### **c). Technical Steering Committee**

The Technical Steering Committee is composed of:

- Dr. Deo. Olila, Convener & NAPRECA ADVISOR  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Makerere University
- Dr. M Kamatenesi, Chairperson NAPRECA  
Faculty of Science, Makerere University
- Dr. F. Ejobi, Treasurer NAPRECA  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Makerere University
- Prof. Oryem-Origa, ADVISOR NAPRECA  
Faculty of Science, Makerere University
- Dr. Esezah Kakudidi, ADVISOR NAPRECA  
Faculty of Science, Makerere University
- Ms. P. Ipulet  
Faculty of Science, Makerere University
- Prof. Kiremire, ADVISOR NAPRECA  
Faculty of Science, Makerere University

### **5. TIMELINE OF THE CONFERENCE**

The important dates for the conference are:

- 31<sup>ST</sup> January, 2006: First call for Abstracts
- 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2006: Second Call for Abstracts
- 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2006: Deadline for abstracts
- 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2006 - Deadline for full papers

- Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2006 – Arrival in Jinja: Nile Resort Hotel
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2006, Scientific Presentations
- Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2006: Mushroom Forays (Mabira Forest)
- Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2006: Closing ceremony & Departures
- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2006 (Post - Conference Mushroom Cultivation workshop).

## 6). CONFERENCE FEES

**REGISTRATION FEES:** (US \$ 150; POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS US \$ 100; **ACCOMODATION & FOOD:** US \$ 500). (NB: Those who will also wish to attend the post conference mushroom growing/cultivation workshop (30<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November) will pay an extra US \$ 350 per person for accommodation and food). Enquiries about this should be addressed to the organizers (E-mail: olilad@vetmed.mak.ac.ug).

## 7). SPONSORSHIP

We solicit support for sponsorship for the first Africa Scientific Conference on Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms. Some of the benefits you will receive include conference registrations, preference for exposition hall spaces, reserved tables for your group, and your company logo printed on conference materials. We propose the following sponsorship levels:

**a). Platinum (US \$ 5,500):** Most prominent placement of company logo on banners and literature for the duration of the conference; 2 free registrations; a reserved table at all meals and conference functions; your literature distributed in conference packets; reserved sitting at all events; free exhibit space; Acknowledgement at all conference functions.

**b). Gold (US \$ 4,000):** Two free registrations; prominent placement of company logo on banners and literature for the duration of the conference; 1 free registration; a reserved table at all meals and conference functions; your literature distributed in conference packets; reserved sitting at all events; free exhibit space; acknowledgement at conference social functions.

**c). Silver (US \$ 3,000):** One free registration; Placement of company logo on banners and literature for the duration of the conference; 1 free registration; acknowledgement at conference social functions; free exhibit space.

**d). Bronze (US \$ 2,000):** One free registration; placement of company logo on banners for the duration of the conference; company name mentioned in conference materials; acknowledgement at conference social functions.

**e). Patrons and Friends: (US \$ 1,000):** One free registration; placement of company logo on banners for the duration of the conference; company name mentioned in conference materials; acknowledgement at conference social functions.

## 8). CONTACTS

Please contact any of the following persons for any further information you may require:

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