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Eingelangt am 20/05/16

EU-AU-IIASA Water-Energy-Food Nexus Event
(30 August to 2 September 2016, Ispra, Italy)

Theme: Evidence-based policymaking on the Water-Energy-Food nexus

Objective:

In a world marked by complexity, evidence-based policymaking is critical to enhance the effectiveness of public policies and thus ensure the well-being of citizens. To develop the necessary skills for improving practices in integrating evidence into policy-making for the Water-Energy-Food nexus, the European and African Union Commissions together with IIASA are co-organising a capacity development event. **Its purpose is for African and European scientists and policymakers to better understand the constraints and demands from both the scientific and the policy-making perspective and to develop together new skills in using evidence for policy on the nexus.** This event, organised within the framework of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, will take place from 30 August to 2 September 2016 in Italy.

Format:

The seminar will be highly participatory with some lectures to set the scene. Most of the time will be dedicated to working practices, skills, behaviours and methods, in both the scientific and policy-making domains in the form of masterclasses and group work. The interaction between policymakers and scientists should enable better understanding of the use and need of evidence, models and scenarios in the process of policy development. Participants will be joined by senior EU and AU policymakers and world-renowned scientists. This will provide an opportunity for the participants to interact with them and to learn more about the high-level science-policy challenge in the water-energy-food nexus. The seminar will offer a series of masterclasses covering a wide range of issues.

African participants:

The organisers have already selected 50 African participants, working on the Water-Energy-Food nexus and representing a vast range of countries, including Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe. **Now we are looking forward to choosing their European counterparts.**

Please help identify policymaking or scientific colleagues from your Member State working on nexus issues for Europe or Africa.

Target EU audience:

We are currently welcoming applications from the following participants:

- Policymakers (junior to middle level) from European institutions¹, as well as national Ministries (Environment, Energy, Agriculture, Water and Irrigation, Development, Research, Economy and Planning, etc.) and parliaments, notably young parliamentarians;
- Scientists from across the EU.

Eligibility criteria:

- At least 2 years of work experience in the water – energy – food nexus.
- Commitment to participate in the event for the whole duration of the seminar.
- Strong motivation to use and provide evidence for policy.
- Citizenship of an EU Member State.
- Proficiency in English.

¹ European Commission (JRC, DEVCO, RTD, REGIO, ENER, AGRI, GROW, ESTAT, etc.), European Parliament, Committee of the Regions, EEAS, etc.



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- **For scientists:** Participation in collaborative research projects funded by FP7, Horizon 2020, the AU Research Grants, Kwame Nkrumah Scientific awards, the ACP S&T Programme and the ERAfrica initiative will be considered an asset.

Draft Seminar Programme:

The event is envisaged to last for 4 days with a high level panel on the 31st August 2016 followed by parallel sessions of masterclasses. Indicative topics for the masterclasses are:

1) Operating at the science-policy interface
a) Informed decision-making in crisis and disaster risk management situations
b) What counts as knowledge: using non-scientific (indigenous plus traditional and local) knowledge with scientific evidence
c) Wicked problems: dealing with scientific and political controversies
d) Policymaking at international, continental, national, regional and city levels
2) How to provide and use evidence
a) Using earth observation satellite images for sustainable development
b) Using and Challenging Modelling, Systems thinking and other Analysis – how to gain confidence in what they say and use them to test policy options
c) Consolidating evidence via systematic reviews for policymakers
3) Techniques for co-creating policy
a) Shaping what may come – using foresight and horizon scanning to anticipate policy challenges
b) Design principles to integrate different expertise and experience when co-creating policy
c) Using behavioural insights in policy formulation
4) Stimulating effective dialogue
a) Effective written and oral communication is a two-way street
b) Innovative ways to visualise data

Application:

If you wish to apply, please complete the Application Form, available at ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/event/workshop/european-commission-au-iiasa-evidence-and-policy-event. Include your CV and a short motivation letter (up to 500 words) outlining how your work in the Water – Energy – Food nexus is relevant to the evidence-policy focus of the seminars and why you would benefit from attending the event. The deadline for applications is **6 June 2016**.

Please note that travel and accommodation expenses of successful European applicants will not be covered by the organisers.

Contact:

For more information, please contact JRC-KNOWLEDGE@ec.europa.eu.



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