

## LETTER OF INVITATION TO THE ICAS-V DELEGATES

Dear Delegate,

On behalf of the National Organizing Committee (Uganda) and the International Organizing Committee/Scientific Programme Committee, we take this opportunity to invite you to the Fifth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS-V) to take place from 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010 in Kampala, Uganda. This venue was selected during the ICAS-IV conference in Beijing, China.

The ICAS-V conference is open to all producers, suppliers, trainers and users of Agricultural Statistics, such as economists, statisticians, researchers, analysts and decision-makers from government entities, the academia, , development partners and international organizations. It is as well open to the private sector, including the business community. More details and updates regarding the conference can be found at the Conference website [www.icas-v.org](http://www.icas-v.org) . A copy of the ICAS-V detailed programme and brochure can also be downloaded from the website. We request for your support and assistance in distributing the brochure and in publicizing the information therein as widely as possible.

The Conference will focus on the UN report titled “**Global Strategy for Improving Agriculture Statistics**” under the **theme “Integrating Agricultural Statistics into National Statistical Systems”**. The need for integration of agricultural statistics stems from the fact that many countries have for instance been using piecemeal approaches rather than integrated frameworks that would be the basis of long term development plans towards sustainable statistical systems. Various assessments of country capacities have revealed a serious decline in the quantity and quality of agricultural statistics. This is in the wake of emerging data requirements on issues surrounding agriculture such as poverty and hunger, global warming, increasing agricultural prices, the use of land and water, and the increasing use of food/feed commodities to produce biofuels. ICAS-V is therefore part of a ground breaking effort to address this decline together with the emerging needs and the conference discussions will centre on how to achieve progress.

This conference follows successful conferences in Washington, Rome, Mexico and Beijing. It is organized under the auspices of Government of Uganda (GOU), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), African Development Bank (AfDB), Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PARIS21), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the World Bank and others. We have designed an innovative scientific programme in consultation with all stakeholders and therefore the Conference will provide a common platform for all participants to exchange experiences and discuss strategies of implementing the global strategy for improving agricultural statistics. The detailed programme is available on the website [www.icas-v.org](http://www.icas-v.org)

Organizations and Individuals who are interested in attending the conference as participants, sponsors, exhibitors, presenters of papers, or presenters of posters are invited to send their contact information to the conference organizers at: [www.icas-v.org](http://www.icas-v.org). Those intending to make presentations are advised to submit copies of the abstracts to the session organizers, whose names and addresses are available on the website, not later than 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2010. The template of standard format for preparing papers can also be found at the conference website

In addition to the wide variety of technical presentations, the conference participants will be entertained to music galas and typical Ugandan traditional dances. They will have the opportunity to sample genuine and delicious local foods and drinks too. Besides, commercial services for pre- and post- conference safaris to historical sites, other tourism destinations and social activities will be available at the Conference site at favourable rates.

We look forward to meeting you in Uganda, “The Pearl of Africa”, to share a great and productive time.



E.S.K. Muwanga Zake (PhD)  
Chair, ICAS-V National  
Organising Committee Chairman  
Board of Directors  
Uganda Bureau of Statistics



Pietro Gennari  
Chair, ICAS-V Scientific  
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