

CONNECTED

Community Network for African Vector-Borne Plant Viruses

www.connectedvirus.net

Newsletter - Number 2 - January 2018



To kick off this update for CONNECTED network members, we'd firstly like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who played a part in our hugely successful UK Launch Conference in Bristol (29 – 31 January). That includes those who attended, presented, helped organise ... and those of you who followed proceedings on our [Twitter feed @CONNECTED_Virus](#)

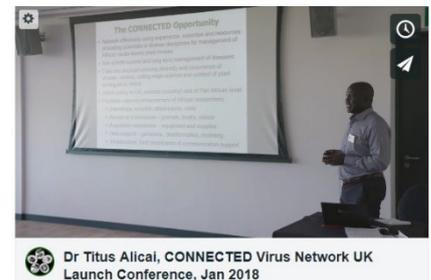


Full report on the CONNECTED UK Launch Conference

Dozens of scientists from 11 African countries joined scores from the UK and elsewhere for the inaugural conference of a ground-breaking project that brings together world-leading researchers to tackle vector-borne plant disease that devastates crops in Sub-Saharan Africa. [To read the full report of the conference use this link.](#)

Videos of conference presentations

The UK Launch Conference presentations were filmed and will shortly be made available on the [CONNECTED website](#) and our YouTube channel. We hope this will be helpful to network members who weren't able to attend (and to those who want to watch again). When these videos are published we will be in touch again, and we'll be encouraging people to give their thoughts online as we continue our work to make this a truly interactive and collaborative network.



BBC broadcast about CONNECTED

A six-minute BBC radio feature about the CONNECTED project and the Launch Conference was broadcast on Sunday 4 February, and is available to listen on the BBC iplayer. It features Dr Anne Wangai (KALRO, Kenya), Dr Angela Eni (Covenant University, Nigeria) and CONNECTED project co-director Professor Neil Boonham. [The feature begins approximately 1 hour 22 min and 20 seconds in here.](#) so you can move your cursor along to get straight into the feature.

Africa Launch Conference

In the next few weeks we aim to finalise and provide network members with details of our further Launch Conference in Africa which will take place in Spring 2018. Watch this space ... and please feel free to pass this newsletter to others in your own networks who you think might be interested in the CONNECTED network.



Baseline network member information

It is important to that we capture baseline information from our network members so we can monitor our network's growth and development. We will be gathering data on an annual basis so if, as a network member, you haven't yet completed the annual monitoring form, please do so now. [You can find this annual monitoring form here.](#)



Delegate feedback requested, please

It was wonderful to welcome so many delegates to our UK Launch Conference in Bristol (pictured). If you attended and haven't yet given us your feedback, please would you do so now? [You can find the short feedback form here](#) – please complete it and email it to us at connectedvirusnetwork@gmail.com. Thank you!

Fridge magnet game!

If you attended the UK Launch Conference you'll have had in your delegate pack a word magnet game (pictured), which lets you make fun biology- and plant virology-based phrases on your fridge! Do please take a picture of what you come up with. It would be great if you could email them to us, so we can share them on the CONNECTED network website and on our Twitter feed!



Have you got any conference photographs?

We'd like to put together a gallery of photographs from the UK Launch Conference. If you attended and would like to contribute, please email them to the team at connectedvirusnetwork@gmail.com

And finally for now, here's a message from Biosciences for Farming in Africa (B4FA) ...

It was great to meet so many people at the CONNECTED NETWORK Bristol launch conference. We look forward to getting your research concerns to a wider world of policy makers, fellow scientists and researchers, journalists, educators, extension workers and practitioners. That's CONNECTED! B4FA aggregates and amplifies news of research, innovation and best practice on bioscience **for and about farming in Africa** – reaching 10,000+ people per month. Please send links to your press releases, news, views, and breakthroughs to karen@b4fa.com. And please follow us on Twitter (@b4fa) or subscribe to our [Week in Review](#). Please stay CONNECTED!

Thank you for reading this newsletter ... and warm wishes from the CONNECTED team!

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