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0700

14 May 2009

Climate System Analysis Group (CSAG)

ENGEO Department

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Dear Tracy Ewen

**Application: winter school on using climate information for adaptation and policy development, hosted by Climate Systems Analysis Group at University of Cape Town in July 2009**

I recently joined the Limpopo Department of Agriculture's (LDA) Research Services subdirectory Adaptive Research and Innovation, as Researcher in Precision Research Agriculture. My educational training is in the field of hydrology with specialization and interests in climate change, water and agriculture. Climate impact assessments on water and agriculture are part of research I am currently conducting, and for my studies which I am completing with the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

I heard about the winter course offered by your institution at the National Climate Change Summit exhibition held in Midrand early this year. The aim of applying is to improve and acquire new skills which will enable me to reach the some of the objectives set out by LDA, including research capacity building. The targets identified that this course will possible address are related to three laid out of goals outline in the course training, which are climate change and variability data analysis, regional climate change scenarios and vulnerability, impacts and adaptation in key sectors (including water, agriculture, the urban environment). These targets including:

- downscaling of Global Circulation Models (GCM) scenarios in southern Africa,
- techniques for vulnerability and sensitivity assessments and data analysis,
- translating this data or climate impact risk to specific adaptation strategies, and

- how the impact assessments and their associated uncertainties are best translated to or incorporated in current policies?

My experience in climate change research is mainly in impact analysis, i.e. sensitivity of biomes to plausible climate scenarios and recently projection future climate impacts on agricultural production, and associated yield reduction and limitation factors, using state-of-the-art station level GCMs outputs or scenarios.

I hope my application will be considered.

Regards

Lekalakala RG