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Rise begins disbursements of grants

The Regional Initiative in Science and Education (Rise) has announced three beneficiaries of its programme to train new science and engineering faculty members for African universities.

The African Materials Science and Engineering Network (Amsen), Southern African Biochemistry and Informatics for Natural Products (Sabina) and the Western Indian Ocean Regional Initiative in Marine Science and Education will each receive a grant of \$800,000 over a period of 2.5 years.

Rise was launched in December last year by the Carnegie Corporation to increase the number of well-trained university academics to teach future scientists and engineers. It will be supported through a \$3.3 million grant.

Carnegie says Amsen will focus on improving education in material sciences. Sabina will concentrate on studies related to improving food security and public health. WIO-RISE will use research and training to promote the sustainable development, utilisation and protection of the coastal and marine environment. The three were chosen from 48 proposals submitted from 29 countries.

African Academy of Sciences executive director Thomas Egwang welcomed the announcement, saying Rise would create a skills base that would meet the needs of industry.

"The Rise initiative is a welcome shot in the arm for science and technology training in African universities. The timing is really spot on at this time when the continent has to adapt to a dynamic and rapidly changing world. The best coping mechanism is well-trained human capital,"? Egwang said.

Other sites Rise.

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