

## Signing of FAO and RUFORUM MoU

Dates: 25<sup>th</sup>, October, 2017

Venue: BICC, Lilongwe, Malawi

Hosted by: RUFORUM & FAO

### Concept Note

#### Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) works to strengthen the contribution of universities to agricultural development in Africa. African universities are limited by various challenges, including inadequate staffing at the PhD level, retiring staff, inadequate infrastructure, mismatch between supply and demand for skills; and weak research output. RUFORUM is initiating a partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to benefit from their strategic experience and expertise in agricultural and rural development for university development.

FAO works to eradicate hunger, malnutrition and poverty and make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable in line with the sustainable development goals (SDGs). To achieve these goals, FAO works in partnership with different stakeholders, such as private sector, civil society, universities and research institutions. Over the years, FAO has built up a strong repository of agricultural resources, including training course, MOOCs, research outputs, study reports among others, that will be of benefit of RUFORUM member universities. Through this partnership, FAO can share its technical knowledge and expertise on sustainable development themes with students and researchers. RUFORUM will also benefit from the available resources of good agricultural practices, tools and guidelines relevant for eradication of hunger, malnutrition and sustainable agriculture in Africa. This collaboration will enable greater use of FAO resources by African universities and strengthen university education in Africa. It is expected to foster stronger involvement of students and researchers in development-related projects with local communities.

#### Rationale and Objective of the event

The overall goal of the FAO-RUFORUM partnership is to increase the engagement of Africa's academic institutions in FAO actions in Africa to eradicate hunger, malnutrition and increase sustainability of agriculture. The partnership aims to provide opportunity for experiential learning through having access to the FAO technical knowledge and expertise and encourage its uptake within the academic institutions of Africa, to strengthen the academic excellence of academic staff, so that the academic institutions would be able to better contribute to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition and improvement of sustainable livelihoods in Africa.

The more specific objectives of the project are:

- Sign MoU between RUFORUM and FAO and strengthen access to resources at FAO by African universities and their students;
- Strengthen academic excellence of selected academic staff and supervisors in terms of teaching methodology and quality;
- Strengthen the knowledge of students in the areas of nutrition, climate change, land tenure, food loss and waste through sharing FAO technical expertise in these areas, as well as provide them with a practical experience of working with FAO field projects in the aforementioned thematic areas

**Participation, Venue, Date and Agenda** The signing of the MoU will take place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 during a dinner hosted by FAO at the BICC, Lilongwe Malawi. The event will be attended by the RUFORUM Board, IAP, TC, and other invited guests

**Key Outputs of the Ceremony** A signed MoU between RUFORUM and FAO outlining key areas of collaboration and modalities for such collaboration and a corresponding work plan.

**Convenor and Contact Persons** The Principal hosts of this event will be RUFORUM and FAO. The Contact Persons are Dr Moses Osiru ([m.osiru@ruforum.org](mailto:m.osiru@ruforum.org)) and Dr Ghosh Kakoli ([Kakoli.Ghosh@fao.org](mailto:Kakoli.Ghosh@fao.org)).

## Agenda

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Time	Activity	Responsible person
18.00 - 18.15	Arrival of guests	Jackeline Nnam
18.15 – 18.30	Welcome Remarks by RUFORUM Executive Secretary	Prof. Adipala Ekwamu
18.30 -18.45	Remarks by the RUFORUM Board Chair	Prof. Mabel Imbuga
18.45 -19.00	Remarks by the FAO Deputy Director	Dr Daniel Gustafson
19.00- 19.15	Signing Ceremony	Dr Solange Uwituze
19.15-19.20	Group picture	Ms Joan Apio
19.20 – 20.20	Dinner is served	Ms Juliet Aweko
20.20.30	Departure	all