

# Fostering Global Partnership for Higher Agricultural Education and Research in Africa

**Dates:** Monday 2nd, December, 2019

**Time:** 08:30 - 17:00

**Venue:** School of Medical Sciences Auditorium, University of Cape Coast

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## Background

African universities and other tertiary education institutions are critical players in the transformation of agriculture, a very important sector which employs over 70% of Africa's population and contributing over 25% of the continent's Gross Domestic Product. It is forecasted that agriculture will remain an important sector for the African continent given that food demand will increase by more than double the current because population is expected to double the current 1.2 billion in the continent. As a result, over 40% of the jobs and businesses will be available in the agricultural sector either as producers (farmers) or agro-processors, traders, regulators, financial service providers, manufacturers etc. making it a pivotal and interconnecting sector that cannot be done away with. Recognizing this fact, important global and African continental players such as the United Nations, World Bank, European Union, African Union and government agencies are making significant contribution in shaping the future of tomorrow's agriculture through development of appropriate policies and regulatory frameworks such as Sustainable Development Goals, African Union Agenda 2063 which all recognize the importance of the agricultural sector in global and continental economic growth. Agricultural sector specific strategies such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy (STISA 2024) and the Science Agenda for Africa's Agriculture (S3A) recognize the need for concerted effort and investment in transforming and sustaining higher performance of Africa's agriculture for livelihood improvement and economic growth.

Globally, there is consensus that Science, Technology and Innovation will play a critical role in transforming African agriculture. In Africa, STISA 2024 and S3A place specific emphasis on investment in research and innovation to transform African agriculture coupled with the role of private sector. However, to effectively harness the potential of STI, quality human resources with scientific rigor, innovation and business acumen are a requirement coupled with availability of

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training, research and production infrastructure. Developed countries in Europe, Asia and the Americas have taken advantage of this and have accelerated the transformation of the agriculture and other sectors to develop their economies. Africa is also accelerating its strides in harnessing the role of STI in agricultural transformation through engineering, use of ICTs for agriculture etc. However, significant challenges are still being faced in Africa. By 2014, only 27% of the researchers had PhDs at agricultural research institutions in Sub Saharan Africa with females constituting only 24% of 27%. Five years down the road, this has not changed significantly since this is an average time it takes to produce one PhD. The budget allocations for graduate training and agricultural research in Africa is very low with few African countries meeting the commitment of investing 1% of their GDP in Research and Development as per the 2014 Maputo declaration. At the university level, lecturers with PhDs is declining with a majority of them being at the verge of retiring.

While Africa is grappling with these challenges, significant success has been registered in other parts of the world such as Europe, Asia and the Americas. Models for agricultural development deployed by the American Public and Land Grant universities, Science and Technology Backyard Model deployed by China Agricultural Universities, EARTH University's Student Outreach Model, among others have proven to be a successful models of universities to transform the agricultural sector. African agricultural universities could learn from these models, adapt and deploy them in transforming agriculture in their own countries. The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), a network of 121 universities in 38 African countries established in 2004 to mobilise African universities to cause transformation of the agricultural sector, has therefore convened a partnership meeting to discuss different models and identify those that will work for Africa. RUFORUM was created to mobilise African universities and other partners to address the challenges the sector faces through providing financial and technical support for training innovative, passionate and entrepreneurial graduates, generation of technologies and innovations through research, and community transformation through university outreach. RUFORUM believes that it cannot do this alone and that expertise, lessons, human and financial resources of other institutions within and outside Africa are required in partnerships and collaboration to transform Africa's agriculture.

As part of its efforts to foster global partnerships in higher agricultural education and research, RUFORUM has organized a one day event to provide a platform for networks of universities working in agriculture and related sciences, and research institutions from Africa and across the globe to share experiences on models that their institutions are deploying to transform agriculture in their countries/continents. The event will also distill lessons and best practices which African universities can adapt and develop models that best fit African universities as leaders in transforming the agricultural sector through training, research, innovation and outreach. The event will also be a platform for the participating institutions to forge partnerships and collaborations among each other. The one day event is organized as a pre-cursor to the 15<sup>th</sup>

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RUFORUM Annual General Meeting in Cape Coast and takes place on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019. The meeting will attract a network of higher agricultural education institutions from Africa, Europe, Asia (Korea, Japan and China) and Americas and development partners engaged in financing or technically supporting agricultural research in Africa and those continents/countries.

### Objectives of the partners' meeting

The overall objective of the meeting is to develop effective models for higher agricultural education and research to transform Africa's agriculture.

The specific objectives of the meeting are;

1. Share experiences on models for higher agricultural education across the globe,
2. Adapt models for the future of relevant and responsive higher agriculture education in Africa,
3. Establish a partnership to operationalize selected models for transformation of Africa's higher agricultural education and research.

### Meeting approach

A synopsis of Africa's agriculture and food trends and emerging issues that require innovative and entrepreneurial graduates, and cutting edge innovations will be provided by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA). Country level cases of such trends and issues will be provided by Sudan and Ghana as examples for Africa. A panel discussion will be organized along the theme ***promoting international collaboration for impactful research for development and knowledge sharing***. The panel will commence with a keynote address from International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA). Responses and experiences sharing will be provided by representatives from Africa, Europe, and China. A second panel discussion will focus on ***sharing best practices for in higher agricultural education through partnerships*** and will be preceded by a keynote address from the Association of African Universities. The panelists will be drawn from Africa, Europe, China and Korea. Following the panels, the participants will distil actions and strategies for effective partnerships and collaboration to address training and research challenges in Africa's agricultural sector. Out of the selected strategies and actions, the partners will agree on actions they would like to push forward from the session as a partnership.

### Expected outputs

The expected outputs from the session are;

- A documentation of key trends and issues affecting African agriculture,
- A profile of successful models for training agricultural graduates, research and innovation by universities for community and economy transformations in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America

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- A model for tomorrow’s agricultural transformation by African tertiary agricultural institutions
- A global partnership programme to operationalize the model for tertiary agricultural institutions to transform Africa’s agriculture

### Invited institutions

The Governance and members of the RUFORUM Network, European Alliance on Agricultural knowledge for Development (Europe), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Belt and Road/South-South Cooperation Agricultural Education, Science and Technology Innovation League (BRSSCAL), Seoul National University (SNU), Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN), Brazil-African Institute, Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA), New Zealand, University of Siegen, Germany, Wageningen University and Research Centre, Netherlands, Association of African Universities (AAU), European Association of Erasmus Coordinators, North West Agriculture and Forestry University, China, Ministry of Education, Ghana, and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ghana.

## Session Agenda

Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Rofela Combey, University of Cape Coast

Session Rapporteurs: Mr. Emmanuel Okalany, Ms. Wivine Matabaro Adidja and Mr. David Martin Amitu

Time	Agenda item	Responsible party
<b>Session One: Setting the Scene</b>		
Session Chair: Mr. Patrick Robert Ankobiah, Chief Director, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana		
0830-0845	Welcome Remarks	Prof. Joseph Ghartey Ampiah, Vice Chancellor, University of Cape Coast, Ghana
0845-0900	Remarks and Setting the Scene	Dr. Florence Mayega Nakayiwa, Deputy Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
0900-0915	Statement from Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ghana	Dr. Victor Agyeman, Director-General, CSIR
0915-0930	Opening address	Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto, Minister of Food and Agriculture, Government of Ghana
0930-0950	<b>Key Note Address:</b> Africa’s Food and Agriculture Outlook: Trends and Emerging issues	Dr. Yemi Akinbamijo, Executive Director, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Ghana
0950-1010	Plenary Discussion	All

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1010-1040	Health Break	
<b>Session Two: Promoting international collaboration for impactful research for development and knowledge sharing</b>		
Session Chair: Dr. Mary Shawa, Former Permanent Secretary, Government of Malawi and RUFORUM Board member		
1040-	<p><b>Lead Speaker:</b> Dr. Kwesi Atta-Krah, Director, Country Alignment and Systems Integration, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)</p> <p><b>Panel Speakers:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prof. H. C. Hubert Roth, University of Siegen, Germany</li> <li>2. Dr. Jennie Van der Mheen, Wageningen University and Research Centre, Netherland</li> <li>3. Dr. Zichao Zhang, China Agricultural University</li> <li>4. Prof. Rose Mwonya, Vice Chancellor, Egerton University, Kenya</li> <li>5. Dr. Kiringai Kamau, Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition</li> </ol>	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr. Mary Shawa, Malawi</p>
	Panel Discussion	All
	Summary by the Moderator	Dr. Mary Shawa, Malawi
1300-1400	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	To be guided by UCC
<b>Session Three: Promoting global partnership for higher education: Sharing best practices</b>		
Session Chair: Prof. Mohammed Salifu, Executive Secretary, National Council for Tertiary Education, Accra, Ghana		
1415-1600	<p><b>Lead Speaker:</b> Prof. Etienne Ehouan EHILE Secretary General, Association of African Universities, Accra, Ghana</p> <p><b>Panel Speakers:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prof. Joon Weon CHOI, Deputy Dean, Graduate School of International Agricultural Technology, Seoul National University, Korea</li> <li>2. Prof. Tim Chancellor, Representative of AGRINATURA &amp; Greenwich University, UK</li> <li>3. Prof. Nuno Escudeiro, Polytechnique Institute of Porto, Portugal and Vice-President of the European Association of Erasmus Coordinators</li> <li>4. Prof. Daniel Sherrard, EARTH University, Costa Rica</li> </ol>	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Prof. Mohammed Salifu, National Council for Tertiary Education, Accra, Ghana</p>



	5. Dr. Qiao Wenjun, Deputy Director, Office of International Cooperation and Exchange, North West Agriculture and Forestry University, China	
	Panel Discussion	All
	Summary by the Moderator	Prof. Mohammed Salifu, National Council for Tertiary Education, Accra, Ghana
1600-1630	HEALTH BREAK	
<b>Session Four: Designing action agenda for strengthening partnership for higher education and research in Africa</b>		
1630-1700	Group Work to distil key actions and strategies to strengthen international collaboration in the field of higher education and research in Africa	<b>Moderator:</b> Prof. Agnes Wakesho Mwang'ombe, University of Nairobi, Kenya
1700-1730	Plenary Presentations and discussion	
1730-1740	Summary of key issues and action points	Dr. Alice Mutiti Mweetwa, Deputy Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
1740-1750	Closing Remarks	Prof. George Kanyama Phiri, RUFORUM Board Chair and Vice Chancellor, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi

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