



# Community Action Research Platforms (CARPs): Building Socially Relevant Universities for Community Impact

## Concept note for a Book Project Side Event

Venue: University of Zimbabwe

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

### Background

The CARP projects that have been supported by the Mastercard Foundation through the TAGDev programme have been remarkably successful in strengthening the engagement of universities with society. These platforms have strengthened the links of actors all along commodity value chains and built relationships across sectors. The universities have worked with local farmers on selected commodities to identify and overcome constraints to strengthen value chains. New knowledge has not only been created, but has been trialed and implemented with small farmers working closely with service agencies to help to sustain these new initiatives. Senior research scientists, students, the private sector, development agencies and local government have worked together and established a new multi-disciplinary, multi-agency approach to rural research in a way that improves local livelihoods and national inclusive, sustainable development goals. The students and researchers have been inspired by their potential to improve lives, and the communities and agencies they have worked with, are appreciating the potential of the university to transform their lives.

A book to document this approach is proposed. Routledge has accepted the following title for this book project “**Agricultural Higher Education in Africa: Collaborating with Farming Communities**”. The book will be in two volumes. The first will be written in a story-style by an established author with knowledge of the projects and will provide a generalist overview of what was achieved in a way that will appeal to a broad audience. The second volume will be written by the Principal Investigators of the various projects grouped into different disciplinary parts. This volume will provide the researchers’ perspective on what was achieved, giving a summary of research outputs with references to their scientific papers. It is also expected that these chapters will include an analysis of what worked well, how the major challenges in this approach can be addressed and what measures are required to ensure the sustainability of the innovations generated and institutionalize this approach more widely within their university.

### CO-ORGANISERS:



### Central focus on the proposed book

The book aims to document and share with a wider audience the story and methodology of Community Action Research Platforms, a remarkably successful approach to strengthening the engagement of African universities with society. The book will explore how this approach developed across diverse contexts and applications and the ways in which focused, multi-sector collaborations have gained momentum generating unexpected spinoffs. It will explore the unique contributions and lessons of this research platform approach. It draws from the experiences, learning and sharing of a wider African network of more than 160 universities committed to harnessing science towards practical, sustainable and inclusive development. The book makes a case for repositioning African universities as fulcrums of development in society, and shares the rich experiences, learnings and scientific findings of diverse researchers, practitioners and students who have been working towards achieving this reality on the ground.

### Intended users-market for the proposed book

This book, exploring transdisciplinary engagements towards science-led community transformation and development, will hold appeal for scholars, academics and researchers in fields related to agriculture and rural development, higher education and sustainable growth. While it is primarily aimed at scholars, the book would also hold relevance to professionals in higher education and rural development, as well as post-graduate students. As the book addresses institutional issues to strengthen the relevance of universities as well as the multiple benefits of multi-agency partnerships, it will be of interest particularly to scholars and practitioners with interests in innovation, collaboration, experiential learning and entrepreneurial education in a rural development context. Beyond scholars and practitioners, this book offers development partners especially funding agencies, lessons of innovative interventions that support community and rural development and transformation. It provides a value proposition to development partners on the need to make use of universities and ensure that Africa’s agricultural growth and rural development could make better progress when underpinned with knowledge, capacity and skills development.

### Programme

Date and Time	Activity	Person in charge
13 <sup>th</sup> December, 2022	Day One	
8:00-8:30	Arriving to the venue	All
8:30-8:35	Introductions	All
8:35-8:40	Opening Remarks	Assoc. Prof. Anthony Egeru, RUFORUM
8:40-9:00	Knowledge creation from Research: Perspectives from the Mastercard Foundation	Ms. Pauline Gangla, Mastercard Foundation

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9:00-9:20	The CARPs: What I saw from the Development Perspective	Dr. Codou Dhiaw, Independent Consultant
9:20-9:40	Reactions	All
10:00-10:45	Reflections on the CARP implementation and transformation	Prof. Mukasa
10:45-11:00	CARPs Book Project: the need and process	Prof. Kay and Ms. Megan
11:00-11:30	Health Break	All
11:30-12:15	<p><b>Chapter Progress Updates and feedback</b></p> <p>1) Uganda: Pig Production and Marketing for Smallholder Farmers in Northern Uganda (Elly Kurobuza Ndyomugenyi)</p> <p>2) Kenya: Building Resilience to Food Insecurity Induced by Climate Variability Through Cassava (Richard M.S. Mulwa, Joseph W. Matofari, Joshua O. Ogendo, Bockline O. Bebe)</p>	<p>Prof. Ndyomugenyi</p> <p>Prof. Mulwa</p>
12:15-13:00	<p>1) Benin: Cultivating Baobabs to Promote Biodiversity, Food Security, Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptation (Achille E. Assogbadjo and Flora Chadare)</p> <p>2) Zimbabwe: Reducing Post-harvest Losses Through Grain Storage and Value Addition (George Nyamadzawo, Ronald Mandumbu, Agather Kamota, Florence Mapfeka, W.I Nyakudya, Desire Marongwe, Blessing Masamha)</p>	<p>Prof. Assogbadjo</p> <p>Prof. Nyamadzawo</p>

**CO-ORGANISERS:**



13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	All
14:00-14:45	<p>3) Kenya: Empowerment and Poverty Reduction in Rural Coastal Kenya Through the Cassava Value Chain (Agnes Mwang'ombe, D.C. Kilalo, P. Waswa)</p> <p>4) South Africa: Building Competitiveness for Communal Farmers Through the Wool Value Chain (Jan Swanapoel and Carlien Voster)</p>	<p>Dr. Kilalo</p> <p>Dr. Swanapoel</p>
14:45-15:00	<p>5) Botswana: Enhancing Safflower Production and Product Development for Food Security and Improved Livelihoods of Small Scale Farmers (V.E. Emongor, B. Tiroesele, O.G. Moatshe)</p> <p>6) Uganda: Developing Agribusiness and Market Linkages in the Rice Value Chain for Food Security and Incomes in Northern Uganda (B. Mugonola, A. Kasharu, J. Lamo and D. Ogwang)</p>	<p>Prof. Emongor</p> <p>Prof. Mugonola</p>
15:00-15:30	Health Break	All
15:30-16:15	<p>7) Namibia: Selective Encroacher Bush Thinning to Preserve Rangelands and Biodiversity and Develop Community Livelihoods (S. Angombe, J. Mupangwa, C. Togarepi)</p>	<p>Dr. Angombe</p> <p>Prof. Kibe</p>

**CO-ORGANISERS:**



	8) Kenya: Promoting Access to High Quality Seed Potato for Improved Productivity and Smallholder Farmer Incomes (Anthony Mwangi Kibe)	
16:15-17:00	<p>The CARP Story: From Ivory Towers to Fulcrums of Development</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Designing for Relevance: a New Orientation for Research</li> <li>2. Building Multi-Sector Engagements with Communities</li> <li>3. Institutions Fit for Purpose</li> <li>4. Learning in Motion</li> <li>5. Change Agents, Ripple Effects and Wider Impacts</li> </ol>	Megan, Kay and Anthony
<b>14<sup>th</sup> December 2022</b>	<b>Day Two</b>	
8:30-13:00	Facilitated Revision of Chapters	All

**CO-ORGANISERS:**

