

Press Release



13th September, 2021

Twenty Two (22) winners of RUFORUM Young African Entrepreneurs Competition 2021 announced

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is pleased to announce the 22 winners of the 2021 RUFORUM Young African Entrepreneurs Competition. The competition attracted 340 applications from 26 countries in Africa namely Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo Brazzaville, Cote d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somali, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.

The following three-stage process was undertaken to identify the top 22 winners:

1. All 340 applications were reviewed for compliance to the call guidelines
2. A total of 319 (93.9%) applications were compliant and were each evaluated by three independent assessors
3. Top 22 applications were selected basing on mean scores from the three independent evaluators.

The final list of the top 22 successful winners from nine countries across Africa are presented in the Table below.

RUFORUM believes in the transformative power of entrepreneurship in addressing youth unemployment in Africa. Empowering and involving young people in enterprise development will support youth integration into the economic growth for youth employment. The twenty (20) competitively selected business enterprises will receive an all-expense paid trip (air ticket, and hotel costs) to participate and pitch their innovations during the 7th Africa Higher Education Week slated for 6-10 December 2021, Cotonou, Benin.

The call for applications was open to applicants from across Africa. The [first competition](#) which was organized in 2016 attracted a total of 756 applications from 38 countries. The fifteen (15) most competitive youth enterprises were awarded during the [Fifth Africa Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference](#) that was held in Cape Town, South Africa. The second competition was organized in 2018, and it attracted a total of 1,332 youth from 42 African countries and [23 competitive youth enterprises](#) were awarded during the [Sixth Africa Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference](#) that was held in Nairobi, Kenya.

RUFORUM extends its appreciation to all applicants for responding to the RUFORUM Young African Entrepreneurs 2021 Competition and to the reviewers.

Top 22 winners of the RUFORUM Young African Entrepreneurs Competition 2021 ranked by
Score

N°	Names	Gender	Country
1.	Ghislain Irakoze	M	Rwanda
2.	Abdul Gafaru Dasana Amin	M	Ghana
3.	Mulanga Jacques Baruani	M	DR Congo
4.	Nahurira Hillary	M	Uganda
5.	Costantine Edward Herman	M	Tanzania
6.	Dorah Momanyi	F	Kenya
7.	Kisaakye Jovia	F	Uganda
8.	Samuel Mwangi	M	Kenya
9.	Grace Nyokabi Kimani	F	Kenya
10.	Boby Ogwang	M	Uganda
11.	Ntirenganya Elie	M	Rwanda
12.	Damilola Aminat Adeyemi	F	Nigeria
13.	Nshimirimana Evariste	M	Burundi
14.	Kihumuro Wilbur John	M	Uganda
15.	Matiedje Nkenmayi Gislaine	F	Cameroon
16.	Marion Nyangoma	F	Uganda
17.	Akwo Ashangndowah	M	Cameroon
18.	Esther Wanjiru Kimani	F	Kenya
19.	Adaeze Akpagbula	F	Nigeria
20.	Birabwa Brooks Rhona	F	Uganda
21.	Badedji Rodrigue Landry	M	Benin
22.	Malieh Maxime	M	Cameroon

Notes to Editors:

About RUFORUM:

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a consortium of 129 African universities operating in 38 countries on the continent with a mission to: ***“Strengthen the capacities of Universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of smallholder farmers through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact oriented research and the maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, national agricultural research institutions”***. RUFORUM was established by Vice Chancellors in 2004 with a Secretariat hosted at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. In 2014 RUFORUM signed a MoU with the African Union Commission to support implementation of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024) Priority One on reducing poverty and ensuring food and nutrition security. RUFORUM has supported the training of 229 BSc, 2053 MSc and 627 PhD graduates, of whom 98% work in their countries or region, the generation of over 300 agricultural technologies and mobilized over \$236.3 million for strengthening postgraduate education in Africa. Please visit www.ruforum.org for more information.

For additional information, contact the Corporate Communications, & Advocacy officer below;

Name: Evaline Acan

Corporate
Communications, &
Advocacy officer

Email:
communications@ruforum.org

Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)

Plot 151/155 Garden Hill, Makerere University Main Campus
P.O. Box 16811 Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256-417-713-300 (office) | Direct Line: +256-417-713-317

Twitter: [@ruforumsec](https://twitter.com/ruforumsec)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ruforumnetwork>

Blog: <http://blog.ruforum.org/>

Website: www.ruforum.org