

## **RUFORUM Webinar Series (2020)**

### **Introductory Note for Webinar 13**

**Date: 07<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Time: 15.00-17.30 East African Standard Time**

## **Global university partnerships for addressing emerging development challenges**

Universities worldwide are charged with training human resources who are the next generation of leaders and policy makers, researchers and innovations, and entrepreneurs. In other words, universities and other training institutions hold in their hands, the future of tomorrow's world. In a short and medium term, universities conduct research, produce knowledge and innovate to solve societal challenges and provide policy guidance. While universities have continuously provided such support and national level, there is a recognition that alliances and partnerships are important in the higher education sector. The world has become a global village, connected either physically by fast means of transportation or virtually through social media platforms, professional research network platforms, etc. Therefore, labour force, technologies and innovations easily find themselves across oceans and seas, which was not the case 30 to 50 years ago. The need for knowledge, technologies, labour force, infrastructure and other resources sharing became even more important in times of emergency such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the functionality of networks and effective sharing of resources, countries have been able to mitigate the "would be worse" consequences of COVID-19.

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) recognizes that for universities in Africa to confront the challenges that Africa faces especially in agriculture, the most important sector in the continent, partnership with other university networks is vital. African universities will benefit from vast experience of countries and continents where universities have played a critical role in driving technology and innovation for social transformation and economic growth. Partnerships and alliances among universities across the globe would reduce reinventing approaches by adaptation of what has worked elsewhere. With this in mind, RUFORUM organized a global partnership for higher agricultural education and research on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2019 in Cape Coast, Ghana which explored different approaches to training agricultural graduates and production of impact oriented technologies and innovations. Models for higher agricultural education across the globe were explored, with a selection of those which could be adapted to Africa's context. However, it emerged that there was a need for a functional way of engagement across continents in agricultural higher education and research to operationalize the adaptation of emerging best practices across the continents and maximize positive outcomes of alliances and partnerships.

This Webinar 13 is thus dedicated to exploring possible ways of operationalizing the adaptation of emerging best practices among continents. Specifically, the Webinar will discuss; i) emerging higher agricultural education, research and innovation models; ii) and present possible programmes between Africa and each of the continents represented, and iii) avenues for financing such partnership programmes. The Webinar will bring together partners from Association of African Universities (AAU), Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), The European Alliance on Agricultural knowledge for Development (AGRINATURA), Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU), The Belt and Road/South-South Cooperation Agricultural Education, Science and Technology Innovation League (BRSSCAL), Indian Agricultural Universities Association, (IAUA), Institute of Green Bio Science and Technology, Seoul National University, Korea.

<p><b>Webinar 13: Global University Partnership for Addressing emerging Development Challenges</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Dr. Pauline Essah</b> Head of Research and Insight Education Sub Saharan Africa</p> <p><b>Discussant:</b> <b>Prof. José Zaglul, President,</b> Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences (GCHERA)</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 07<sup>th</sup> October 2020</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 1500-1730 East African Standard Time</p>	<p><b>Panellists</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Prof Carolyn Glynn</b>, President for European Alliance on Agricultural knowledge for Development (AGRINATURA)</li> <li>2. <b>Mr. Bernie Burrola</b>, Vice President for International Programmes. Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU)</li> <li>3. <b>Prof R.P. Singh</b>, Executive Secretary. Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA)</li> <li>4. <b>Prof Ki Hee Ryu</b>, Institute of Green Bio Science and Technology, Seoul National University, Korea</li> <li>5. <b>Prof Coumba Toure Kane</b> Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)</li> <li>6. <b>Prof Feng Weizhe</b>, Secretary General, The Belt and Road/South-South Cooperation in Agricultural Education, Science and Technology Innovation League (BRSSCAL)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the emerging models of higher agricultural education, research and knowledge exchange that are transforming societies and economies? Are technology, entrepreneurship and innovation playing a role?</li> <li>2. How is Africa, through African universities, contributing to and/or benefitting from such models? What could be done to amplify or accelerate this?</li> <li>3. What programmes, initiatives or activities are in progress, or proposed to be implemented between Africa and your network, to maximise impact in addressing African agriculture and food systems related challenges? What outputs, outcomes and impact are expected from these?</li> <li>4. What funding avenues are available to operationalise such modalities and how can university partners access these?</li> </ol>
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	<p>7. <b>Prof. Etienne Ehouan Ehile</b>, Secretary General for Association of African Universities (AAU)</p>	<p>5. Do policy makers / practitioners and industry have a role to play in the success of such partnerships? If yes, then why and how?</p> <p>6. What are your predictions or expectations for how such partnerships will impact development challenges, particularly in agriculture, in the next five to ten years?</p>
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There will be simultaneous English/French/Arabic Translations

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