

Press Release



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African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology receives RUFORUM Recognition Award

13th June, 2016
Kigali, Rwanda



Above: His Excellency Dr. Martial De Ikounga, recipient of the RUFORUM recognition award during the FARA Science Week in Kigali, Rwanda

His Excellency Dr. Martial De Ikounga, the African Union Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology was recognised by RUFORUM for ***“his commitment and outstanding leadership in the development and implementation of national and continental-wide functional frameworks for Science, Technology & Innovation in Africa”***. This event took place during the seventh Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) Science Week being held 13-16 June 2016 here in Kigali, Rwanda.

RUFORUM as part of its mandate with the African Union Commission is implementing Priority One ***“Eradication of hunger and achieving food and nutrition security”*** of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA -2024). In his remarks, Commissioner Ikounga reiterated the importance of Science, Technology and Innovation for achieving Africa’s goals. He thanked RUFORUM for supporting universities to align their resources to the STISA 2024 to ensure the achievement of STISA 2024. He also noted that RUFORUM had achieved a lot in support of STISA, for which he commended RUFORUM.

RUFORUM has worked closely with two Departments of the African Union Commission since its signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with African Union Commission in July 2014. The two Departments are Human Resources, Science and Technology and the Department for Rural economy and Agriculture. For more information on RUFORUM's engagement with African Union, please click on the links below;

1. Dialogue on STISA 2024: [African Ministers meet in Malawi](#)
2. RUFORUM Convenes stakeholders to develop an Implementation Plan for the [Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa](#)
3. Her Excellency, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma receives a [RUFORUM Award for Her exemplary leadership and Advancement of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation](#)



Notes to Editors:

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a network of 60 African Universities with mission to 'strengthen the capacities of Universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of small-holder 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 in 2004, with Secretariat hosted by Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. RUFORUM signed MoU with the African Union and has mandate to support capacity building for science, research and technology development in Africa. RUFORUM has supported the training of over 1500 postgraduate students, the generation of over 300 agricultural technologies and mobilized over US\$70 million for strengthening postgraduate education in Africa. Please visit www.ruforum.org for more information.

The 7th Africa Agriculture Science Week: The Africa Agriculture Science Week (AASW) and FARA General Assembly (GA) is the principal forum for all stakeholders in African agriculture Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to reflect on their achievements and craft strategies and actions aimed at enhancing the contribution of agriculture STI towards accelerating the continent's economic and social transformation. This event is organized every three years. The last such event, the sixth AASW and FARA GA, was held in Accra, Ghana in July 2013. Please visit <http://faraafrica.org/aasw7/> for more information.



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