

FOREWORD

Prof. Mabel Imbuga, RUFORUM Board Chair



Since its inception in 2004, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM, see www.ruforum.org) has steadily grown to become an important player in Agricultural and Higher Education landscape in Africa. Created by Vice Chancellors of 10 universities in Eastern and Southern Africa, RUFORUM has expanded its membership to now 55 universities in 22 countries in Africa. A core function of RUFORUM is to foster integration of African Universities in national innovation process to support Africa's development. A key component of this effort is working collaboratively amongst the member universities and with other actors in and outside Africa to ensure Africa has the required human and

institutional capacity to drive Africa's development agenda, especially of ensuring Food and Nutrition security.

In recognition of RUFORUM's role to mobilise African Universities to support Africa's development agenda, especially the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), the African Union Commission in July 2014 mandated RUFORUM to lead the development of Implementation Plan for the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy (STISA-2024) Priority One on Eradication of Hunger and Attainment of Food and Nutrition Security in Africa. Subsequently, RUFORUM conducted a series of consultative meetings with various stakeholders to derive this RUFORUM Implementation Plan for STISA Priority One. The Plan presents an analysis of the essential role of STI in transforming African agriculture. This transformation is a central component for reaching the desired outcomes in 2024. To make Africa hunger free, and food and nutrition secure, the Plan provides a practical and effective roadmap to achieving the Africa Accelerated Agriculture Growth and Transformation (3AGT) goals for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods. It also provides a blue print concerning STI contribution towards 3AGT and Africa's transition to an innovation-led, knowledge-based economy. Given the interdependence of various agriculture, and food and nutrition security stakeholders in the implementation of this Plan, RUFORUM pleads for full ownership, responsibility, and accountability to the African people by concerned parties in order to wipe out hunger and food and food insecurity from the face of mother Africa for ever.