

SUMMARY REPORT

The 15th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting



2nd - 6th December, 2019

University of Cape Coast, Ghana

BACKGROUND

1.1 The RUFORUM Annual General Meeting (AGM) is a statutory yearly gathering of Member Universities and their stakeholders convened purposely to give accountability, strengthen governance, ratify annual work-plans as approved by the Board of Trustees, and guide the organisation's development strategy. The AGM is the supreme organ of the RUFORUM network and is composed of Vice Chancellors, Principals and Deans, and other stakeholders who represent non-University actors but with vested interest in Africa's higher agricultural education sector. It has been adopted as a practice that the scope of the Annual General Meeting events extends to scientific meetings, conferences and other activities that show case university involvement to improve livelihoods in Africa through training, research and community engagement.

The 15th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting hosted by the Government of Ghana and Ghanaian RUFORUM Member Universities: University of Cape Coast; Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi; University of Development Studies, Tamale; University of Ghana, Accra; and, University of Education, Winneba was held at the University of Cape Coast from 2nd – 6th December 2019. The 2019 AGM the first to be held in West Africa provided an opportunity for mobilizing wider participation of West African Universities in several opportunities of the network

1.2 Pre-AGM events provide for in-depth dialogue among different actors on topical issues affecting the agricultural higher education sector on the continent. This also provided opportunity to non-university actors and academia from across the continent to meet and dialogue on topical and emerging issues in the agricultural sector. The AGM was convened on the 6th December, 2019 at the New Examination Center, University of Cape Coast, Ghana.

MAIN THRUSTS

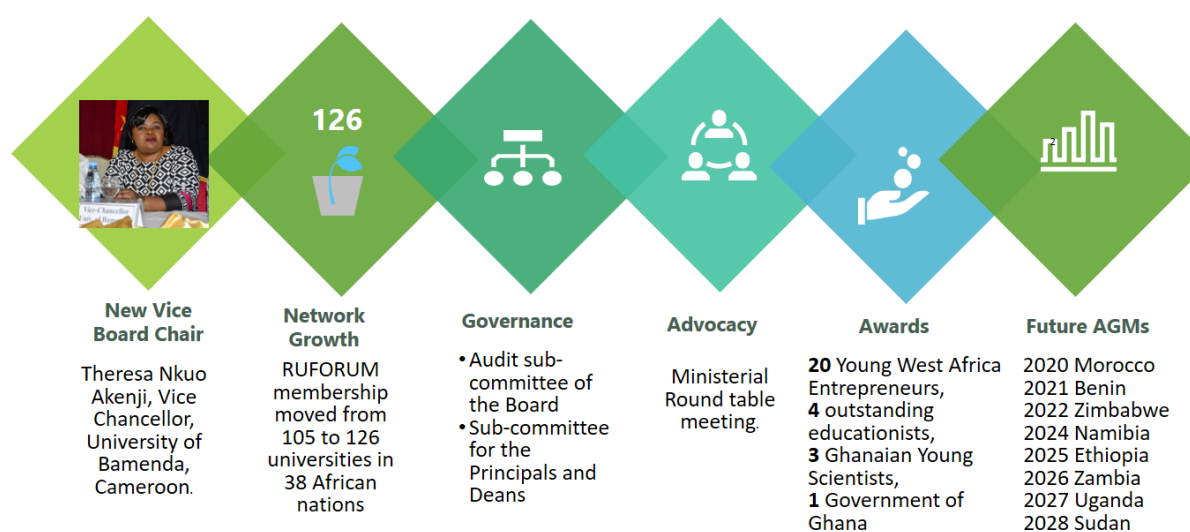
1. Examined key issues in regards to Africa's Universities Agenda for AHESI
2. Reviewed and approved
 - minutes of the 14th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting, held on 22 October 2018, at the University of Nairobi towers, Chandaria auditorium.
 - reports for the Activity Year July 2018 – June 2019 and
 - Annual Work plan and Budget for the Activity Year July 2019 – June 2020
3. Provided a platform for networking opportunities and facilitate exchange of experiences, lessons and good practices with particular interest for the West African universities
4. Provided opportunity for scientists, researchers and students to present their work
5. Advocate for policy engagement/ renewing/strengthening partnerships between universities, policy makers and other sectors that impact on livelihoods
6. Recognized the contributions of the Government of Ghana to RUFORUM

The overall objective of the 15th RUFORUM AGM was to highlight and deliberate on key developments within the network whilst exploring on what it takes to deliver on the transformation of Africa through strengthening Agricultural Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESI). The AGM examined key issues in regards to Africa's Universities Agenda for Agricultural Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESI) under the theme: *Delivering on Africa's Universities Agenda for Higher Agricultural Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESI): What will it take?.* The 2019 AGM coincided with RUFORUM's 15th anniversary as a network, and marked the first year of implementation of the RUFORUM [Vision 2030 strategy](#) and its [Operational Plan 2018-2022](#).

The events and meetings therefore provided an opportunity for RUFORUM reflect, learn and consolidate achievements from implementing the programmes over the past 15 years.

- 1.3 The key highlights of the AGM were: Election of a new Deputy Board Chair- Prof Theresa Nkuo Akenji, Vice Chancellor, University of Bamenda, Cameroon; expansion of RUFORUM membership from 105 universities to 126 universities in 38 African nations; formation of the Audit sub-committee of the Board and a sub-committee for the Principals and Deans; the hosting of the Ministerial Round table meeting; 28 recognition awards (20 Young Entrepreneurs from West Africa, four outstanding educationists, three Ghanaian Young Scientists, and one award to the Government of Ghana); and, decision to host the 2020 AGM in Morocco, 2021 AGM and Triennial Conference in Benin; 2022 AGM in Zimbabwe; 2024 AGM and Triennial Conference in Namibia; 2025 AGM in Ethiopia; 2026 AGM in Zambia; 2027 AGM and Triennial Conference in Uganda and 2028 AGM in Sudan.

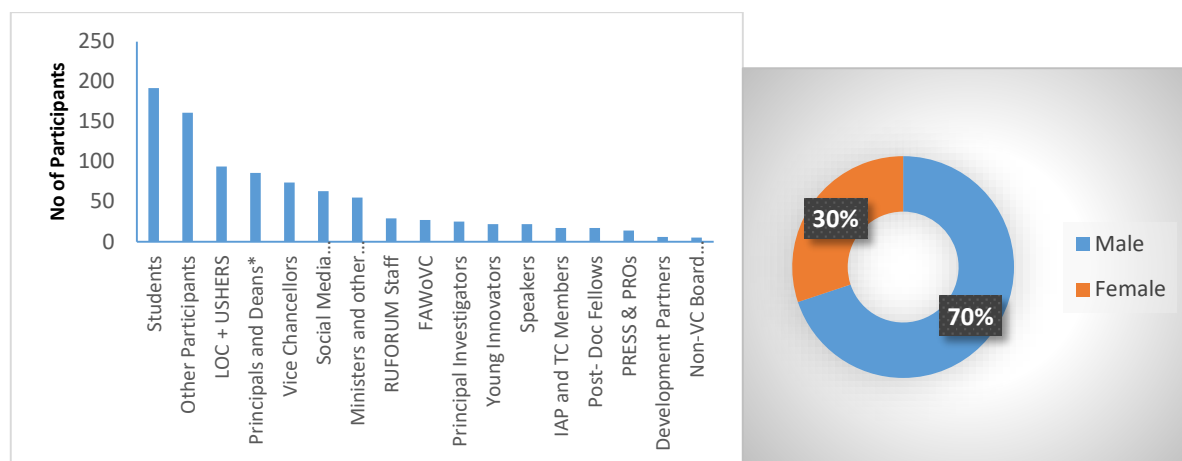
15th AGM Key Highlights



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ORGANISATION AND DELIVERY

- 2.1 The 15th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting convened 35 side events. These events brought together over 1003 stakeholders including Policy Makers, University Leaders, development partners, staff and students to dialogue on what it takes to deliver on the transformation of Africa through strengthening Agricultural Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation. The

Annual General Meeting was also used to recognise outstanding educationists in Africa; Young Scientists in Ghana; and, West Africa Young Entrepreneurs respectively.



Categories of participants at the 15th RUFORUM Annual General meeting

2.2 The Pre and Post AGM Events:

Flagship Programs Events



- TAGDev Principal Investigators Meeting
- Joint TAGDev Steering Committee and 16th RUFORUM Technical Committee Meeting
- Planning meeting for Indigenous Chicken -African Union Commission Research team
- Presentation for Post-Doc Fellows

Trainings & Scientific Sessions



- Training for Sentinel Students
- Entrepreneurship training and market place for Principals and Deans
- Scientific Sessions
- Social media training for the University of Cape Coast to cover the AGM
- Scientific Data Management Training for PhD students and Young Scientists
- Proposal Development, Scientific Writing and Presentation Training for Master Students
- Skills Enhancement training for Post-Doctoral Fellows and Emerging Scientists
- AGORA, AGRIS and Open data Training by FAO



Exhibition and Posters



Young Innovators



- Young Innovators Mentorship Session
- Lunch time meeting for Young innovators with BRIDGIN Foundation
- Young Innovators Awards

Policy Dialogues



- Ministerial Round Table
- Technocrats Round Table Dialogue
- Ministers and Vice Chancellors Policy Dialogue
- Dinner meeting for Sudan Minister and Sudan Universities representatives
- Meeting of Ugandan Ministers and Vice Chancellors
- Debriefing of Ghana Government officials in Accra

Partnership and Funding Dialogues



- Breakfast meeting for Uganda & Zambia Government Officials and BADEA
- Breakfast meeting for Vice Chancellors with the BRIDGIN Foundation
- Meeting of Uganda Government Officials and BRIDGIN Foundation
- RUFORUM Meeting with FAO Africa Regional Office
- Fostering Global Partnerships for Higher Education and Research in Africa- RUFORUM- EU Partnership dialogue

Business Meetings



- Official AGM Opening and Recognition Awards
- Principals and Deans Business Meeting
- RUFORUM Business Meeting & AGM
- RUFORUM Board Meeting
- Vice Chancellors' Forum (Includes Principals and Deans)
- The Statutory RUFORUM International Advisory Panel Meeting

Forum for Women Vice Chancellors in Africa



- Meeting of the Project Management Committee of FAWoVC
- Symposium for Forum for Women Vice Chancellors in Africa (FAWoVC)
- Interactive session for FAWoVC, other senior women leaders and emerging scientists

EMERGING ISSUES

3.1 The 15th RUFORUM AGM approved the admission of 21 universities, which increased the organisation's footprint specifically in West and Northern Africa, expanding the network to 126 member universities in 38 African countries.

3.2 RUFORUM awarded 28 recognition awards to outstanding achievers; more specifically **four** outstanding educationists for their long-term service to Africa in Education, Science, Technology, Innovation and Leadership, **three** Ghanaian Young Scientists, **20** Young Entrepreneurs from West Africa, and **one** award to the Government of Ghana.



Outstanding Educationists recognized during the 15th RUFORUM Annual General meeting

- a) The four outstanding educationists awards went to the following;
- i. Prof Mabel Imbuga, former Vice Chancellor, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology; recognition award for excellent leadership and management contributing to the advancement and transformation of University Education in Africa. Prof Mbuga was formerly, Chairperson of RUFORUM Board
 - ii. Prof Frans Swanepoel, University of Pretoria; recognition award for outstanding contribution to the advancement of science and the development of higher education and agriculture in Africa.
 - iii. Prof Eriabu Lugujjo, Vice Chancellor, Ndejje University; Recognition Award for excellence in championing Science and Mathematics, exemplary Leadership and strengthening partnerships for the advancement of Higher Education in Africa.

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Alabi, Mr. Anthony Ebitimi Owei, Mr. Ante Joseph, Mr. Israel Terwase AYUA, Mr. Nnaedozie George Idoko, Mr. Tunde Adeyemi, Mr. Michael Olusanya, Mr. Ugochukwu Stephen Ugwudi (**Nigeria**); Mr. Thierno Souleymane AGNE (**Senegal**); and, Mr. Felix Ayite (**Togo**)

- 3.3 A social media training was conducted for the University of Cape Coast to cover the 15th AGM. 60 participants (42 Male; 18 female) were trained in the effective use of Social Media platforms to engage, fact-check, collaborate and share information about the 15th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting. The training enhanced Students' use of new media platforms for communication.
- 3.4 RUFORUM Meeting with FAO Africa Regional Office The meeting involving 18 participants among other things discussed:
- RUFORUM is piloting students' led agricultural extension model, on which RUFORUM would want to collaborate with FAO;
 - FAO would want RUFORUM to facilitate access to capacity/skills in various aspects of agriculture that not available in some countries from countries where they have abundant capacity/skills;
 - FAO and RUFORUM could explore a tripartite engagement between FAO, RUFORUM and European counterpart – i.e. AGRINATURA;
 - FAO and RUFORUM collaboration initiatives should also integrate resource mobilization activities.
- 3.5 A scientific data management training for 60 (13 females and 47 males) PhD students and Young Scientists was convened on 29th November-2nd December 2019 to equip them with skills required in conducting their research efficiently and effectively, including data management and analysis in GenStat and excel; inferential Statistics such as ANOVA, AMMI, Mixed model, Regression and Chi-square); and, design of experiments in GenStat.

Students engaged in a Scientific Data Management session



Students engaged in a Scientific Data Management session

The following recommendations for course improvement:

- Certificate of participation should be provided to the trainees
- Time should be increased for this training to two weeks
- The training session needs to be separated into two sessions; research design and data collection and, data management, analysis and interpretation. Natural and Social sciences also need to be approached

differently

- iv. Multivariate, Bioinformatics and analysis of data by Atlas Ti, SATA and Nivo needs to be considered in future trainings
- v. Masters students and PhD need to be segregated to enable Masters students grasp the basics in statistics

3.6 Eighty four (84) Masters and 16 Doctoral students from ten institutions in seven African countries were trained in proposal development, scientific writing and presentation. The training enabled the students several skills and new knowledge including use of tools such as the Fog Readability Index and the Journal Author Name Estimator (JANE); and, confidence in delivering oral and poster presentations. The following recommendations emerged;

- i. A module on Thesis Write-up needs to be introduced in university curricula
- ii. RUFORUM Member universities need to pursue and institutionalize best practice approaches to postgraduate student's supervisions and mentorship. This may entail developing and delivering modules that are designed to promote effective graduate students supervision.
- iii. Graduate students need to take initiative/efforts and proactively engage university Librarians to support and get equipped with respective Literature search capabilities.
- iv. RUFORUM Member Universities should develop and enact policies / guidelines that facilitate generation of peer-reviewed publications from Theses

3.7 A skills enhancement training for 36 (15 female) Post-doctoral Fellows and emerging scientists was undertaken in project management and leadership. The training enhanced the participants' project management skills including risk management; financial management; leadership; and, communication skills. Similarly, the 19 Post-Doc Fellows were provided with a platform for interaction and sharing of key topical issues that relates to the young faculty staff development and career advancement. The following key issues/recommendations emerged from the presentation:

- i. Postdoc time and completion of studies by students: Bachelors and Masters Students may complete within the time-frame of the Post doc fellowship, but most PhD students may not. They may need more time and extra resources to complete.
- ii. In reporting results of the project, Fellows need to focus on the research findings rather than number of papers/publications.
- iii. In some cases, the status of Post doc Fellows is not recognized in some Universities, as their inputs into students' supervision are not taken by other supervisors. Hence, Post Docs have to work together with other supervisors.

3.8 Training Workshop on Accessing Scientific Publications in AGRIS and AGORA was undertaken under the FAO and RUFORUM Partnership to increase access and use of higher education research in agriculture from within and outside Africa by African universities. The training involving 17 participants (11 Male, 6 Female) skilled participants in retrieving journal articles from Research4Life programmes focusing on

AGORA; searching and retrieving AGRIS bibliographic records; and, use of open science and open data to enhancing access to agricultural sciences and technical information.

- 3.9 The Project management Committee meeting of the Forum for Women Vice Chancellors in Africa discussed and approved the project implementation documents including the project implementation plan, monitoring and evaluation plan, communications plan and the procurement plan ;and, shared lessons emerging from project implementation to-date.
- 3.10 The Dinner meeting for Sudan Minister and Sudan Universities representatives involving the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Sudanese Ambassador in Ghana, Vice Chancellors-University of Khartoum, University of Gezira, University of Kordofan and Prof. Adil Deifalla paved way for the endorsement of the RUFORUM Charter by Sudan Authorities.
- 3.11 The FAWoVC symposium was held on 2/12/2019. The Symposium involving 100 participants deliberated on key issues to be addressed in the Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) ecosystem in regards to gender inclusive development in ST&I. The symposium resulted into the development of a programme of action to strengthen gender role and inclusivity in especially the Agricultural Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESTI) and other initiatives. Four country studies from Mali, Mozambique, Sudan and Uganda to form the baseline for gender and STI interventions under the FAWoVC were presented. The following issues emerged from the symposium;
 - i. Inclusivity needs to be mainstreamed into ST&I policy frameworks.
 - ii. Gender mainstreaming policies need to be revisited to ensure that they help in empowering females in ST&I.
 - iii. Training more females does not necessarily translate to change. Diversification is very important.
 - iv. Enrolment of girls in ST&I is still low; women are reluctant to apply for leadership positions yet this is important towards achieving gender equity.
 - v. Women are not advancing in academia, a situation which requires equilibrium to be established between work and academia to encourage/support the young women /girls to balance between families and work.



A FAWoVC symposium participants

- 3.12 The session on Fostering Global Partnerships for higher education and research in Africa focused on bringing convergence of development partners, practitioners and academia from the global south and global north including the Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRICs) as part of strengthening and leveraging synergies. This event resulted into the following key issues and recommendations;
 - i. Investment for agricultural Research for Development and ST&I in agriculture in order to develop Science Technology and Innovation is currently less than 1% GPD per country for research, lower than what was agreed.
 - ii. Partnerships need to be based on shared values, mutually beneficial, mutually capacity building, accountability and respect
 - iii. Need to provide strong abilities to enhance Youth employability especially soft skills; need to look at labour market; need relevant curriculum at Master's and doctoral levels, practical learning; need to recognize the importance of TVETS as part of the value chain of education; and, developing events and new tools.

- 3.13 The TAGDev Principal Investigators meeting involving 38 participants (26 Male and 12 female) was held for sub-projects under the Transforming Agricultural Universities in Africa to meaning involving fully contribute to Africa's growth and development (TAGDev) initiative. The meeting resulted into the following key issues/recommendations;
 - i. Academicians need to understand the needs of the Private sector and thus establish entry points of engagement.
 - ii. Refocusing university academics from disciplinary based research to community action research is a daunting task requiring patience and experimentation.
 - iii. Public health concerns need to be embedded in RUFORUM Entrepreneurship Challenge Program (RECAP) projects, with special emphasis on hygiene. The students need to be provided with the right equipment, advised to adhere to rules of public safety and oriented in public health concerns during the project inception stages
 - iv. The TAGDev project is triggering transformation is taking place at all levels, the question is how to ensure that this is sustained and impactful.

- 3.14 The 16th Technical Committee Meeting and 4th TAGDev Steering Committee Meeting was held 02 December, 2019 to provide advice, quality assurance and technical backstopping to the TAGDev implementation team at the RUFORUM Secretariat and the implementing universities. The meeting recommended that;
 - i. RUFORUM fully articulates the dynamics of the Graduate Teaching Assistantship Programme (GTA) by publishing a communique for the attention of Principals and Deans.
 - ii. The RUFORUM Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) Programme be accorded special attention during oversight by the RUFORUM Technical Committee.

- 3.15 The Planning Meeting for Native Chicken AUC Research Project Team developed a new workplan, pushing most to activities to 2020 and further discussed the developed narrative report.

- 3.16 The Social and Environmental Trade-offs in African Agriculture or Sentinel project is currently supporting 27 PhD students. During the first call for proposals, student topics were not aligned to the Sentinel project and thus irrelevant in addressing the Sentinel research objectives. Thus a training was undertaken and enabled students refine respective proposals; gain access to free software (QGIS, R-studio and ILWIS) for practice; and, access relevant literature from facilitators and receive peer support (see www.slack.com).
- 3.17 RUFORUM in collaboration with E4IMPACT conducted an Entrepreneurship training and market place for **84** Principals and Deans. The trainings focussed on enhancing the transformation agenda in entrepreneurship and catalysing the development of the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Africa. The following key issues emerged from the training;
 - i. Entrepreneurship training needs to be embedded into the RUFORUM member universities' curriculum as a way of facing challenges and seizing opportunities that are presented by the ever-changing high education environment.
 - ii. Young entrepreneurs need to be linked to mentors as well as utilising the peer mentorship program including from previous cohorts.
 - iii. Both academic and non-academic Staff need to be retooled in financial literacy.
- 3.18 The RUFORUM International Advisory Panel (IAP) meeting recommended that: i) Member States request the African Union Commission (AUC) to reach out to the World Bank to obtain support for implementation of the Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education for Agri-Food Transformation in Africa (SHAEA) project; ii) RUFORUM Secretariat engages with both the AUC Human Resources, Science & Technology and the Rural Economy and Agriculture Directorates to take advantage of the opportunities focusing on capacity building collaborative engagements.
- 3.19 The Joint Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Finance, Education & Science, Technology and Innovation and Vice Chancellors from Uganda involving 22 participants resulted into the following resolutions;
 - i. Retreat be undertaken for Vice Chancellors and policy makers to share improved management and leadership styles and, devise ways and means to improve the financial standing of the universities through alternative resource mobilisation efforts
 - ii. The Government of Uganda is working out details for the establishment of a research foundation/fund based on the South African Model. Research funds will be competitively accessed by both public and private universities.
 - iii. The universities are part of the ongoing human capacity development dialogue and plans under the National Planning Authority.
 - iv. RUFORUM to engage the Minister to follow up with the Cabinet Secretary for the next steps in presenting Cabinet Memo for institutionalising RUFORUM to Cabinet.
 - v. Within the provisions of the Public Finance and Management ACT advocate for a lower rate of VAT for infrastructure development in the private universities
 - vi. Develop a paper to be presented to the Ministry of Education and Sports outlining the issues and responses highlighted above

- 3.20 Fifty two (52) posters and 45 exhibitions embraced the 15th RUFORUM AGM to provide a designated platform and informal, interactive environment for academia, farmers, the private sector, and development partners to showcase cutting edge innovations. The following issues and recommendations emerged;
- i. Three types of posters were evaluated: posters of completed research projects, posters of research proposals and posters of business incubation projects. Separate criteria for assessing these categories needed to be developed.
 - ii. There was no standard format used for making the posters.
 - iii. There were indications that there was inadequate close supervision and mentoring from supervisors;
 - iv. There was no time allocated to the viewing of posters and exhibitions. This dampened the spirits of the students and exhibitors.
- 3.21 The Vice Chancellors' Forum involving 151 (43 female, 108 Male) participants recommended the following key actions to strengthen Agricultural Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation:
- i. Prioritizing Research and Development
 - ii. Human resource development, infrastructure and accreditation of curriculum
 - iii. Incentivizing researchers to attract research funds
 - iv. Universities need to collaborate with partners implementing continental and regional initiatives to strengthen ST&I.



A section of panelists at the Vice Chancellors Forum

- 3.22 A Joint Meeting of Permanent Secretaries Responsible for Agriculture, Education & Training, Science, Technology and Innovation was convened to review of Progress in Implementation of Ministerial Decisions of October 2016 and October 2018 Ministerial Meetings in Cape Town (South Africa) and Nairobi (Kenya), respectively, and Implementation of the Tasks assigned to

RUFORUM from the Committee of Ten Heads of State Summit held in November 2018 in Lilongwe, Malawi.

- 3.23 Six Scientific sessions were organized to share information on research advances on topical issues affecting agriculture and livestock in Africa. These sessions included; livestock and livestock production systems; soil fertility and soil health systems in Africa; natural hazards, disasters and environmental crises; biosafety, biosecurity and biorisk management; agrifood systems; and, digital innovations, economics and policy analysis. The following key messages emerged:
- i. Science today and tomorrow is about synergy across disciplines;
 - ii. Livestock production and products deficit are investment opportunities in Africa;
 - iii. Agrifood systems approach offers opportunity for addressing Africa's food, nutrition and income needs;
 - iv. Higher agricultural education, science, technology and innovation confers leverage for unlocking diverse opportunities in Africa;
 - v. Disruptions to economy, environment, livelihoods and infrastructure in Africa due to natural hazards, crisis and disasters is on the rise; and,
 - vi. Partnership, networking and advocacy increases convergence of investments and multiplicative power of collaboration in delivering requisite innovations
- 3.24 The 18th RUFORUM Board Meeting recommended that whilst engaging the different African Governments in supporting the proposed regional initiatives of BASTIC, RISSCAW, SASTIE, AfriDAP and SHAEA, priority areas for the different Member States be considered as points of engagement. The meeting further recommended that;
- i. Member Universities comply with the US\$ 5000 membership fee to further support resource mobilization efforts by the Secretariat.
 - ii. RUFORUM Secretariat annually submits a report of the interest growth on bank savings.
 - iii. RUFORUM Secretariat reinvests the principal as well as the interest generated until an expenditure plan is developed for the use of the interest generated on Bank savings.
 - iv. Stringent accountability with clear financial reports be undertaken by the Universities for funds disbursed from RUFORUM Secretariat to the Universities.
 - v. Measures be developed for assisting Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) students whose fees have to be processed through the Government within a predetermined schedule.
 - vi. The Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) Programme considers a larger proportion of agricultural Programmes.
- 3.25 The Ministerial Round Table meeting deliberated on how Member States can promote the new continental initiatives to promote Higher Agricultural Education, Science, Technology and Innovation. The meeting attended by representatives of the Governments of Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, eSwatini, Ghana, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe recommended that;

- i. Member States endorse the RUFORUM Charter through their respective procedures;
 - ii. Member States commit to participation in the Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education in Africa (SHAEA) program and the African Union Commission to engage the World Bank to execute the funding arrangements for full implementation of the SHAEA program and the Sub-Regional Agricultural Productivity Programmes;
 - iii. Member States support the strengthening of TVET systems and educational value chains in Africa;
 - iv. Member States engage RUFORUM as technical advisory agency in the design and implementation of Higher Agricultural Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Initiatives;
 - v. The African Union Commission to reach out to African Development Bank and other Funding Agencies to finance the Five Continental Initiatives and a Regional Academic Mobility Programme;
 - vi. The African Union Commission requests multi-lateral agencies to include RUFORUM in funding support to Africa; and,
 - vii. African Governments and the African Union Commission to table the above recommendations through the African Union Commission Specialized Committee on Human Resource and Science and Technology, to the African Heads of State and Government during their AU Heads of State January-February 2020 Summit.
- 3.26 The Young Innovators mentorship session deliberated on intellectual Property Rights and Patenting; and, provided awardees with several options of utilizing the prize of US\$ 2000.
- 3.27 The Lunch time meeting for Young Innovators (3 females and 17 males) with BRIDGIN Foundation highlighted the need for the Young Innovators to think big in the business and create jobs for others, and Prof. Tanko Mouhamadou promised provide guidance for the three cohorts of young innovators in their business plans.
- 3.28 The Interactive session for FAWoVC, other senior Women leaders and Emerging Scientists involved 86 participants (50 female, 36 male). The meeting recommended that:
- i. The Forum for Women Vice Chancellors documents and shares action points and/or roadmap on female empowerment;
 - ii. Mentor-mentee forums be regularized to enable impactful progress;
 - iii. Universities need to train Graduate Fellows instead of recruiting Teaching Assistants;
 - iv. Men support Spouses to grow up in their carrier to reduce family conflicts.
- 3.29 RUFORUM in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation has continued to implement the TAGDev Programme. As such, a joint TAGDev Steering Committee and RUFORUM Technical Committee meeting was held. During the meeting, the following issues were raised:
- i. RUFORUM to clearly articulate the dynamics of the Graduate Teaching Assistantship Programme.
 - ii. RUFORUM to share briefing note/communique for the attention of principles and Deans about the Graduate Teaching Assistantship Programme.
 - iii. As RUFORUM and Technical Committee to accord GTA special attention whilst undertaking monitoring visits with the different Universities.



RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Principals and Deans recommended that:

- 4.1.1 RUFORUM consults the Deans and Principals Sub Committee for the agenda for the next Deans and Principals Business Meeting.
- 4.1.2 RUFORUM considers organizing a separate meeting for Deans and Principals; which should be detached from the AGM so they could have enough time to discuss issues that are pertinent to them.
- 4.1.3 RUFORUM Board should recognize the Deans and Principals Sub Committee as part of its formal structure and also provide the necessary funding for its activities
- 4.1.4 Functional National Chapters spearhead the lobbying of National Governments for the RUFORUM Charter.
- 4.1.5 Deans and Principals in various countries come together to form National Forums to discuss issues relevant to higher education in Africa. Composition of the Forum could include: academia, government, private sector, research institutions, NGOs etc. Members agreed to take the opportunity to start the formation of the national forum before leaving the DPM 2019.
- 4.1.6 RUFORUM Secretariat to prepare database on available GTA vacancies; including subject specific areas from all members Universities to serve as a guide for future applicants.
- 4.1.7 Deans and Principals to lobby respective Vice Chancellors to honour their subscription fees.
- 4.1.8 Deans and Principals to follow up faculties members with pending RUFORUM accountabilities.
- 4.1.9 Communication from RUFORUM secretariat needs to be directed either to the Vice Chancellors or Deans and Principals to enable follow-up on RUFORUM requested actions.

4.2 The 15th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting recommended that;

- 4.2.1 Prof Theresa Nkuo Akenji, Vice Chancellor, University of Bamenda, Cameroon be the new RUFORUM Deputy Board Chair
- 4.2.2 The External Auditor always provides a synthesis report of the External Audit findings, to depict an independent view
- 4.2.3 Twenty (21) new member universities be admitted, bringing the network membership to 126 from 38 African countries
- 4.2.4 The Secretariat engages in dialogue with potential hosting countries for the 2029 Annual General Meeting and the 2030 Annual General Meeting and Triennial conference
- 4.2.5 Establishment of the Audit Board sub-committee with Professor Luke Mumba, Vice Chancellor of University of Zambia, as Chair for a period of three years (2020-2022).
- 4.2.6 A Sub-Committee for Principals and Deans be created to support operations of the Principals and Deans Committee, which has become large, (200 members).



RESOLUTION

The 15th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting resolved that;

- i. The 2020 Annual General Meeting be hosted in Morocco
- ii. The 2021 Annual General Meeting and Triennial Conference be hosted in Benin
- iii. The 2022 Annual General Meeting be hosted in Zimbabwe
- iv. RUFORUM Secretariat to dialogue with the countries that have offered to host the
2023 Annual General Meeting
- v. The 2024 Annual General Meeting and Triennial conference be hosted in Namibia
- vi. The 2025 Annual General Meeting be hosted in Ethiopia
- vii. The 2026 Annual General Meeting be hosted in Zambia
- viii. The 2027 Annual General Meeting and Triennial conference be hosted in Uganda
- ix. The 2028 Annual General Meeting be hosted in Sudan.