

**Joint Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Agriculture, Education & Training, Science, Technology and Innovation
(Ministerial Policy Dialogue Round Table)**

Concept Note

Date: Wednesday 5th December, 2019

Time: 0900-1300

Venue: Academic Board Chamber, University of Cape Coast

Focus: Promoting Africa wide Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture, Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation

Master of Ceremonies: Mrs. Mary Ama Bawa, University of Cape Coast

Session Rapporteurs: Dr. Florence Nakayiwa, Mr. Emmanuel Okalany and Dr. Sylvanus Mensah

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Background

The Dialogue is a follow up to the previous Ministerial meetings held in October 2016 in Cape Town, South Africa and more recently in October 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. These meetings agreed on key action points and tasked the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) to consult with Member States and other Actors to develop Regional/ Continental initiatives to strengthen Higher Agricultural Education, Science, Technology and Innovation in African universities, so that the universities are better placed to contribute to meeting development needs of the Member States and attainment of Agenda 2063. In the same vein, the Committee of Ten Heads of State Summit (C10) of November 2018 in Lilongwe, Malawi tasked RUFORUM to engage African universities in responding to key development challenges and strategies aimed at accelerating attainment of the aspirations outlined in Key continental frameworks especially the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) and the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), amongst others.

In 2016, African Ministers of Agriculture, Higher Education and Training, and Science, Technology and Innovation met in Cape Town, South Africa and reviewed the Continent's landscape in terms of Agriculture and the role universities can play especially in terms of the CAADP, which is Africa's

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policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food and nutrition security, economic growth and prosperity for all. They also considered the role African universities should play towards achieving the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024), which is a strategy adopted by the African Heads of State and Government in June 2014 as a continental framework for accelerating Africa's transition to an innovation-led, knowledge-based economy within the overall framework of the AU Agenda 2063. They agreed that Member States should work together to address three issues:

1. Urgency to develop a regional initiative to strengthen the contribution of African universities to support agricultural transformation in the continent. They tasked RUFORUM to develop a framework for the regional initiative, reach out to the Member States and funders. This was the origin of the *Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education in Africa (SHAEA)* regional concept. In 2017 in Malawi the World Bank announced a commitment of funding the initiative to the tune of \$250m through the International Development Association (IDA) window, which is the part of the World Bank that helps the world's poorest countries.
2. Concerted efforts to strengthen Science, Technology and Innovation in the continent for which RUFORUM was tasked to develop an initiative and reach out to the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).
3. Urgency to escalate graduate training especially at Doctoral level to strengthen capacity of African universities for generation of knowledge and technology.

Accordingly, RUFORUM has developed five Regional Initiatives in consultation with different agencies, universities and Member States and also developed a framework documents for implementation of the Ministerial Round Table meeting decisions. The five continental initiatives are:

- a) *Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education in Africa (SHAEA)*
- b) *Building Africa's Agriculture, Science, Technology and Innovation Capacity (BASTIC)*
- c) *Strengthening Africa's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Capacity for Economic Development (SASTIE)*
- d) *Joint Initiative to strengthen Staff capacities in African Universities and increase the pool of Women scientists (RISSCAW)*
- e) *University Engagement to support Human Capital Development, Youth Employability and Entrepreneurship for Agricultural Transformation in Africa (HEEAT)*

These have been presented to various bodies, and will also be presented to the meeting of Ministers Responsible for Agriculture, Education & Training, Science, Technology and Innovation on 5th December, 2019 after they have been considered by the meeting of Technical Experts from the Member States on 4th December 2019 at University of Cape Coast, Ghana. One other key decision in the previous Ministerial meeting held in October 2018 was for the Member States to e

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endorse the RUFORUM Charter so as to provide a legal framework for operations of RUFORUM in the different Member States. The endorsement is to follow each Member State's procedures.

Objectives of the Ministerial Policy Round Table Dialogue

The main objective of the Round Table discussion by the Ministers and other Member States' Representatives and other Partners is to promote Africa-wide cooperation and collaboration in the field of Agriculture, Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation for advancement of economic development and improvement in the livelihood of the African people. As such, the Ministerial Round Table meeting will deliberate on the participation of Member States in five continental initiatives that were developed by RUFORUM Secretariat based on the recommendations of the Ministerial meetings of October 2016 held in Cape Town, South Africa, October 2018 held in Nairobi, Kenya, and tasks assigned to RUFORUM by the Committee of Ten Heads of State Summit (C10) of November 2018 in Lilongwe, Malawi.

Specifically therefore, the Joint Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Agriculture, Education & Training, Science, Technology and Innovation will:

1. Receive and discuss statements by development partners on the funding opportunities to support Africa wide Cooperation in the field of Agriculture, Higher Education & Training, Science, Technology & Innovation;
2. Receive country statements by Ministers and Heads of delegation on the status of Agriculture, Higher Education & Training, Science, Technology & Innovation and key areas for cross-country cooperation;
3. Receive and consider update on implementations of the Tasks assigned to RUFORUM by the previous C10 summit and Ministerial meetings;
4. Receive and review a report from Technical Experts Meeting of 4th December 2019 on the five continental initiatives and other issues they will have considered during their deliberations on 4th December 2019; and'
5. Agree on Key recommendations for actions to be included in the Ministerial Communique (The Cape Coast Ministerial Communique 2019).

Meeting approach

This will be a half day meeting to focus on promoting Africa wide cooperation in the field of Agriculture, Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation. The first part will have statements from the invited development partners. Thereafter, the second part will receive country statements by Ministers (5 Minutes per country) on the status of Agriculture, Tertiary & Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation. The third and last part will focus on the report from *Technical Experts Meeting* of 4th, December 2019 and discussion on key recommendations to be included on the Ministerial Communique (the Cape Coast Ministerial Communique).

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Expected outputs

The expected outputs from the meeting are;

- i. Recommendations on the funding priorities for Africa’s Agriculture, Higher Education & Training, Science, Technology & Innovation
- ii. Recommendations on the implementations of the proposed continental initiatives by the Member States
- iii. A Ministerial Communique (the Cape Coast Ministerial Communique) on *Promoting Africa wide Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture, Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation*

Invited participants

Participants are mainly Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Education & Training, Finance, Science, Technology and Innovation. However, there will also be representatives of development partners and other technical experts from relevant bodies including other senior officials in the relevant ministries.

Proposed programme (Venue: Academic Board Chamber)

Time	Agenda item	Responsible party
Session Chair: Prof. Kwabena Frimpong Boateng, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Government of Ghana		
0900-0910	Welcome Remarks	Prof. Joseph Ghartey Ampiah, Vice Chancellor, University of Cape Coast, Ghana
0910-0920	Setting the Scene	Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
0920-0930	Statement on behalf of Government of Ghana	Hon. Yaw Osafo-Marfo, Senior Minister, Ghana
0930-0937	Strengthening Regional cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation	Islamic Development Bank (TBC)
0937-0944	Strengthening Human Capital Development, Youth Employability and Entrepreneurship for delivery of Agenda 2063	African Development Bank (TBC)
0944-0951	Building capacity for Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Economic Development in Africa	Arab Development Bank for Economic Development (TBC)
0951-1000	Enhancing Delivery of Young Africa Works initiative	Shona Bezanson, Head of Scholars Program, Mastercard Foundation
1000-1010	Investing in Africa’s future through high-tech research and innovations: Perspective from the BRIDGIN Foundation	Prof. Tanko Mouhamado, CEO BRIDGIN Foundation

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1010-1025	Open discussion	All
1025-1050	Health Break	UCC to Guide
1050-1220	Country Statements by Ministers (5 Minutes per country): Status of Agriculture, Tertiary & Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation and key areas for cross-country cooperation	
1220-1240	General Discussion	Prof. Kwabena Frimpong Boateng, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Government of Ghana
1240-1310	Report from Technical Experts Meeting of 4th December 2019 and Consideration of Draft Ministerial Communique	Mr. Benjamin Kofi Gyasi, Chief Director, Ministry of Education
1310-1320	Closing Remarks	Prof. Kwabena Frimpong Boateng, Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Government of Ghana
1320-1430	LUNCH	

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