



RUFORUM's 15th Annual General Meeting

RUFORUM-AGRINATURA partnership and resource mobilization meeting

Participation is by invitation only

Date: Tuesday 3rd December 2019

Venue: Sasakawa Conference Room

Time: 19:00 – 22:00

Concept Note

Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and The European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development (AGRINATURA) have since 2008 established a strong partnership as entry points to universities and research institutions in Africa and Europe. This partnership was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2008 and later renewed in May 2019 at the 2019 AGRINATURA General Assembly *held at the Agro Tech bio centre* in Gembloux, Belgium. RUFORUM and AGRINATURA have specifically invested time, expertise and money to regularly scan the funding environment, review Calls for proposals and widely sharing the opportunities, brokering partnerships and supporting development of proposals through Write-shops and proposal reviews among other collaborative activities. The partnership has registered success in terms of mobilizing resources. Between 2008 and 2018, a total of 23 projects amounting to Euro 36.63 million were mobilised. The projects engaged/ are engaging over 180 partners from over 50 countries in Africa and Europe.

While the two institutions have registered tremendous success over the last ten years, the funding landscape supporting research and training for Europe-Africa partnerships in agriculture and related sciences is changing. Change has largely been driven by development of new funding programmes with new rules of partnership

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and implementation, and changes in leadership at the European Commission and African Union Commission. The new leaders have developed new strategies and funding programmes with different focus and implementation arrangements compared to the previous programmes. Over the last ten years, the RUFORUM-AGRINATURA partnership has also focused on largely on support from the European Commission and African Union Commission with less effort in seeking for funding from bilateral funding agencies and Private Foundations.

Recognizing the evolution of the funding landscape that supports Europe-Africa partnership, RUFORUM and AGRINATURA have organized a consultative meeting on Tuesday 3rd December 2019, to discuss and develop strategies to consolidate the partnership between Africa and Europe and mobilize resources to finance joint Europe-Africa partnership programmes and projects.

**Objectives
of the side
Event**

The overall objective of the meeting will be to develop strategies for resource mobilization to finance European and African universities and research institutions projects and programmes in agricultural research and training.

Specifically, the meeting will;

1. Discuss current and future funding opportunities for Europe-Africa partnerships in agriculture and related sciences research and training from various funding agencies in Europe and Africa
2. Review challenges and causes of limited success in calls for proposals
3. Develop a working strategy for enhancing success in accessing the funds
4. Identify, prioritize and develop an action plan for responding to current and future Calls for proposals

**Meeting
approach**

A presentation on available funding opportunities in Europe and Africa will be made by AGRINATURA. The presentation will include opportunities available at the African Union Commission, European Commission and Bilateral Funding Agencies. In an open discussion, the participants will discuss the challenges encountered in mobilizing their members to respond to the different calls for proposals and the major causes of failure in competitive calls for proposals. In a free and open discussion, participants will discuss opportunities for success in the future calls for proposals and develop strategies to increase success. The participants will also

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identify existing calls for proposals and develop an action plan with clear follow-up actions for responding to them, while deploying the strategies agreed upon.

Venue and Participants

Venue: Sasakawa Conference Room

Date & Time: Tuesday 3rd December 2019, 19:00-22:00

Side Event Organizers and Contact

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)
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Contact : Dr Alice Mweetwa and Mr Emanuel Okalany, RUFORUM Secretariat
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Proposed Meeting Agenda

| Time | Activity | Responsible person |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 19:00 - 19:10 | Arrival and registration of participants | RUFORUM/University of Cape Coast |
| 19:10 - 19:20 | Introductions | RUFORUM |
| 19:20 – 19:50 | Dinner and welcome remarks | RUFORUM/University of Cape Coast |
| 19:50 - 20:10 | Presentation of available funding opportunities for Africa-Europe partnership | AGRINATURA |
| 20:10 – 20:30 | Presentation on key issues from reviewers and proposals | Mr. Gerard Den Ouden |
| 20:30 – 21:00 | Discussion on challenges faced in responding to calls for proposals and strategies for addressing these challenges | RUFORUM |
| 21:00 – 21:30 | Prioritisation and action plan for responding to future calls for proposals | AGRINATURA & RUFORUM |
| 21:30 - 21:40pm | Closure | FARA |

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