

## 18<sup>th</sup> RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

**Theme: Strengthening Africa's Agri-food Systems in the Post COVID-19 Era – Opportunities and Challenges**

**BUILDING A MOVEMENT OF CHANGE-MAKERS IN AFRICA: EVERY DOT COUNTS**

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Time: 18:30-22:00 CAT**

**Venue: Harare International Conference Centre**

**Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3NLst8G>**

### Concept Note

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### Context and background

The demographic youth bulge in Africa presents opportunities for the continent, particularly if they can be skilled and guided to harness their energy and innovativeness. Youth harbor an immense dividend to society as they have great potential to drive economic growth if well equipped to participate in labor markets, support job creation and resourced as producers and consumers. More importantly, the youth by virtue of their characteristics of youthfulness, lacking political and emotional biases are well placed to enhance creative innovation. Through education, they can become useful citizens, supporting governance through political reforms and sowing the seeds for future governance, political dispensation and prosperity for all. Further, skilled and empowered youth can spearhead economic progress and social inclusion. At present, Africa has over 200 million young people (15-24 years of age), constituting 20 percent of the population, 40 percent of the workforce, and 60 percent of the unemployed on the continent.

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That number is projected to increase significantly in the next 20-30 years, highlighting the critical need to put in place effective strategies that prepare youth for productive engagement in Agriculture and indeed other fields toward rural and industrial development. On the other hand, if not gainfully employed this significant population will become a liability that will further undermine development gains and growth prospects so far made<sup>1</sup>.

Investing in young people has long-term returns. In a rapidly evolving and competitive world, the Mastercard Foundation has over the years of its work in Africa helped to create new and exciting opportunities that make significant changes and improve the conditions, policies and incentives that expand opportunities for millions of young women and men in the continent. The Mastercard Foundation has done this through various strategic investments but specifically through interventions that catalyze medium and long-term sustained changes: (1) knowledge, skills, attitudes and behavior — capacity and capability — of young women and men as they seek, create, and take up opportunities for dignified and fulfilling work, and the ripple effects on their families and communities; and (2) institutions, social and economic systems and mindsets as they intentionally respond to youth-focused demand through policies practices and the allocation of resources.

Through a collaborative effort, the Mastercard Foundation and Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) have been implementing an eight year project. The Transforming African Agricultural Universities to meaningfully contribute to Africa's growth and development (TAGDev) aims to transform African agricultural universities and their graduates to better respond to developmental challenges through enhanced application of science, technology, business and innovation for rural agricultural transformation. The TAGDev now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year of implementation has trained **305** (148 Male, 157 Female; 170 BSc, 129 MSc, 7 PhD) instead of the previously required 200 students at Egerton University and Gulu University. The programme has additionally trained another 232 students through its scale-up initiatives. This brings to a total number of students trained to 537 from across 28 African countries. These young people have equally created a total of 216 start-ups that are now employing 1337 people and they are further actively involved in rural transformation through the delivery of complementary extension and advisory services. Thus, these young women and men represent the various dots from across Africa. However, they embody a spirit of change through various actions and initiatives that they have commenced implementing and influencing. For example, The4Pillar Giveback initiative in Kenya, created by the TAGDev students is supporting linking universities to the communities and transforming lives.

## Purpose of the session

The objective of this session is to provide a platform for TAGDev beneficiaries (students) to directly engage with the Mastercard Foundation and global audience to share their experiences and impact of the programme on their lives, institutions, and communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Agbor, J., Olumide, T., and Smith, J. (2012). Sub-Saharan Africa's Youth Bulge: A Demographic Dividend or Disaster? [http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/reports/2012/1/priorities%20foresight%20africa/01\\_youth\\_bulge\\_agbor\\_taiwo\\_smith.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/reports/2012/1/priorities%20foresight%20africa/01_youth_bulge_agbor_taiwo_smith.pdf)

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## Session format

The session is designed as moderated and interactive session with a key note speech and panel presentations through a round table approach.

## Programme

**Moderator:** Prof. Peter Mbatia, Vice Chancellor Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, South Africa & Chairperson TAGDev Steering Committee

Time	Activity
17:30-18:00	Arrival of Guests and open discussions
18:00-18:10	Opening Remarks: Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
18:10-18:30	Documentaries: CARP Impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheep &amp; Wool CARP in South Africa (University of Free State)</li> <li>• Rice value chain CARP in Uganda (Gulu University)</li> <li>• Cassava Value Chain CARP in Kenya (Egerton University)</li> </ul>
18:30-18:50	Keynote Address: Reeta Roy, CEO & President Mastercard Foundation (TBC) <i><b>"Building a movement of change-makers in Africa: Every dot counts"</b></i>
18:50-19:10	Interactive session with Reeta Roy
<b>Evidence of TAGDev Impact</b>	
19:10-20:00	<b>Panel One: Finding meaning and fulfillment in Community Service</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monique Sognigbe, Serving Marginalized Pastoral Communities (Benin)</li> <li>2. Ms. Simon Assocle &amp; Nelson Koliesuah: Empowering refugees (Benin &amp; Liberia)</li> <li>3. Anthony Emaru: The 4Pillar Giveback (Kenya)</li> <li>4. Olivier Nihimbazwe Burundi: Water for Development (Burundi)</li> </ol>
20:00-20:50	<b>Panel Two: Translating entrepreneurship training into viable businesses</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gabriel Mahindu Kwendo; Comrade Dairy-Delivering value to local milk producers (Kenya)</li> <li>2. Helvi K. Unoovene; Profiting from Shea butter from Uganda in Namibia (Namibia)</li> <li>3. Mary Ocaya; Producing wine from local fruits enabling local women earn more</li> <li>4. John Mugonya, Empowering youth in entrepreneurship Agripreneurship Alliance (Uganda)</li> </ol>
20:50-21:30	<b>Panel Three: Adapting Institutions to deliver unique training approaches: Experiences from pilot Universities and adapting universities</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prof. Duncan Ongeng, Gulu University</li> <li>2. Prof. Nancy Mungai, Egerton University</li> </ol>

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	3. Aden Abdikareem, Nugaal University (Somalia): Experiences of adopting and adapting the Egerton University and Gulu University model
21:30-21:40	<b>Reflections: Prof.</b> Phil Cotton, Human Capital Development, Mastercard Foundation
21:40-22:40	<b>Dinner</b>

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