



## 18th RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

### BINDURA UNIVERSITY LEARNING SCHOOL PILOT AND RUFORUM

**Student community engagement for achieving sustainable food security through water-energy-food nexus approach**

**Pre-online training: Wednesday 23 November 2022**

**Time: (14:00-16:00 CAT) 08:00-10:00 ET**

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3TM9ped>

**Friday/Saturday 09th-10th December 2022**

**Side Event: Wednesday 14th December 2022**

#### Objectives

1. For students to:
  - learn about the water-energy-food Nexus approach through a community-based food security related issue
  - develop an innovation perspective using design and system thinking concepts coupled with collaborative lateral thinking techniques in an exciting informal collaboration learning experience
  - Promote a WEF Nexus outlook in students while informing them about sustainable food security challenge
2. To prepare for side event and future Collaborative Learning Schools

#### Target Audience

Students sponsored by the RUFORUM projects and students enrolled for the MSc in Food Security and sustainable agriculture, and 1-4 US and other Africa country students.

Number of students Attending: 30

#### EVENT DELIVERY APPROACH

##### Pre workshop activities

1. Identity community study area (Bindura staff)
2. There will be a 2-hour online training for students on 23 November. The training will provide an overview of SustainFood project and WEF nexus and prepare students with

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background about systems analysis, team building design contest approach and process including introduction of the grand challenge and rules of the Collab-a-Thon.

3. After online event students will form into 5 multidisciplinary teams 5-6 people. Each group will have at least one person who is able to visit the community and collect information about food water and or energy security issues therein.
4. Prior to the in-person event, students' teams will have met to discuss these issues.
5. Invite community leaders, farmers and other key stakeholders Day 2 morning including Lunch

#### Day 1:

1. Introductions
2. Review of online material
3. Teams will go through design thinking phases. We will moderate these steps to ensure that all teams go through the same phase and introduce several problem-solving techniques.
4. Designing a solution and quick prototyping

#### Day 2:

1. Reporting to communities/policy makers
2. Summary and next steps - prepare for side event
3. Discuss follow-up engagements with SustainFood

### **SIDE EVENT Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

**Title of the Side-Event:** Student and community engagement for achieving sustainable food security through a Water-Energy-Food Nexus approach.

#### **Brief background including rationale and objectives**

The United States and African partners have recently launched the SustainFood Network (<https://sustainfood.psu.edu/>) to address the escalating gravity of the food, water and energy security concerns in Africa. Water-Energy-Food (WEF) nexus is an approach that has relevance to informing evidence-based decision-making in Africa. Farmers, communities and policy-makers require guidance on trade-offs toward sustainable food systems and approaches for identifying and assessing high-impact innovations.

This side event will present results and outputs from a student-led community-level farmer field school activity held just prior to the RUFORUM AGM event in collaboration with Bindura University. Sustainfood partners and Bindura University students will work and devise solutions to a community-sourced problem using a Collab-a-Thon approach. The Collab-a-thon objective is to demonstrate how we can use designing thinking concepts coupled with

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collaborative lateral thinking techniques in an exciting informal learning experience to instill an innovation mindset in students while informing them about sustainable food security challenges. We will discuss how students can learn about the WEF Nexus approach through role playing, and educators can adopt demonstrated techniques in their classroom or extension activities

### **Event delivery approach and draft programme**

Any student attendee and AGM participants are welcome. This event will be three hours and will be delivered through the following steps.

1. Introduction of SustainFood and Collab-a thon (15 minutes)
2. Report from Bindura students on their innovations (1 hour)
3. Break (15 minutes)
4. Small break group discussion to discuss how this approach can be adapted and used both in communities and in the classroom to increase students' collaborative problem-solving skills in sustainable food system innovation (30 min)
5. Reports form breakout groups (30 minutes)
6. Follow up engagement in SustainFood (30 min)

### **Expected Outcomes:**

This interactive session will

- 1) describe innovative solution to pressing WEF nexus and sustainable food issues in a local community
- 2) Improve the participants' creative and collaborative problem-solving skills by demonstrating how innovation teams can use design thinking concepts to collect facts, identify problems, generate alternative solutions as a team, evaluate and select the best possible solution, and quickly test their ideas by seeking unbiased input from various stakeholders. In particular, participants will learn how to address sustainability problems involving food, energy, and water security through a transdisciplinary lens, understanding the importance of involving community stakeholders and decision-makers in problem identification.

### **Number and categories of participants**

SustainFood Student Mini Collab-a-Thon will be open to all AGM participants.

### **Sitting arrangements.**

We need a room with round table for group discussion

### **CO-ORGANISERS:**

