

18th RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

CREATING CONVERGENCE OF INVESTMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN AFRICA FOR GREATER IMPACT

Technical Experts Dialogue for Representatives from Ministries of Agriculture, Education, Science Technology and Innovations

Date: Tuesday 13th December, 2022

Time: 08:30-13:00 CAT

Venue: Jacaranda Hall, Harare International Conference Centre

Focus: Review Progress since Ghana and explore avenues for strengthening cross country collaboration
in the field of Higher Agricultural Education and agricultural development

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Background

RUFORUM was established by Vice Chancellors in 2004 to meet three basic objectives:

1. Provide a **platform for training quality graduates** to support development processes in Africa
2. **Rationalize resource** use and enhance economies of scale and scope
3. Provide a platform for **networking, resource mobilization and advocacy** to transform universities for relevance towards inclusive sustainable development

In 2018, Universities under the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) network, adopted the African Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy (AHESTI)/ [Vision 2030](#) as a guiding framework for strengthening universities' contribution to Africa's development. This was premised on the realisation that universities and their constituents have a significant role towards sustainable development to meet *Agenda 2063* and the SDG targets. Knowledge brokerage, science, technology and innovations will drive these Agenda if Africa is to realise any tangible benefits.

Concurrently, the [2018 Ministerial meeting](#) held during the Sixth Africa Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference in Nairobi challenged African Universities to develop regional investment programmes for enhancing human capital development and strengthen cross country collaboration in the field of Higher Agricultural Education and agricultural development.

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Subsequently, five continental initiatives were endorsed by the 2019 [Ministerial Round table during the 15th Annual General Meeting](#) in Cape Coast Ghana. The follow on Ministerial round table during the 17th RUFORUM AGM and Triennial Conference hosted in Benin 2021, in addition to endorsement of the RUFORUM Charter, identified three core areas of focus to move the process forward

1. Strengthen linkages within and across the education and other sectors
2. Partnerships for strengthening higher agricultural education and food and nutrition security
3. High level policy commitment by African ministers, Heads of State and Government to strengthen agri-food systems

This meeting was coming on the backdrop of the United Nation Food System Summit 2021 (UNFSS) where the Vice Chancellors made a statement to *Mobilize resources for continental initiatives that support human capital development that increase Africa's capability in research, innovation and entrepreneurship* and the [Lilongwe Declaration](#) of the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) as outlined by the Summit hosted by His Excellence Dr Lazarus Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi. In all these convenings the need to nurture and facilitate active collaboration of universities, and national Governments to promote ST&I for the benefit of community growth and development stands out.

The main objective of the 2022 Ministerial Round Table therefore is to review progress since Ghana and explore avenues for strengthening cross country collaboration in the field of Higher Agricultural Education and agricultural development

- a) Several milestones have been made since the 2021 Ministerial Round table in Benin. Support towards the Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education in Africa Programme (SHAEA) was revived. The USD70 million World Bank supported programme now reconfigured to focus on strengthen linkages between universities in participating countries and regional agricultural sector needs under the Eastern and Southern Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence Additional Financing Project -Additional Financing (ACE II AF) is at an advanced stage in Malawi and Mozambique. Six African Higher Education Centres of Excellence have been identified, five (5) in Malawi and one (1) in Mozambique. These centres are designed to promote collaboration within the countries and across the African region. We anticipate that additional countries will make arrangements to participate in this initiative.
- b) RUFORUM continues with its collaborative Graduate Teaching Assistant programme, that provides a framework for Africa/ Network based human capital development.
- c) New governments' backed programmes have come on board; the BRIDGIN Foundation signed a USD 500 million agreement for supporting development of high-tech centres of Excellence in Uganda. It has further committed to support centres of excellence in a Malawi

based programme that will promote regional collaboration in the Eastern and Southern Africa region.

- d) The RUFORUM e-learning resource platform to promote online teaching across the network was initiated. This programme, supported by the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), has enabled the sharing of teaching resources across the network
- e) More recently, following discussion with RUFORUM, BADEA has accepted to work with selected Sub-Saharan African countries to support programmes to increase agricultural productivity, post-harvest management and value addition
- f) Two Climate Smart Agriculture initiatives were operationalised. These are collaborative programmes with a diverse array of partners from the research sector specifically the CGAIRs, the private sector, community and public sectors.

While these stand out as islands of success, they are still fragmented and focus on a few countries, notably, Malawi, Mozambique and to a limited extent Uganda. It is important to have a more intentional and structured approach to ensure that the higher agricultural education sector is more collaborative and connected across the continent. It is important for policy makers to explore, identify and operationalise pathways that bring together different actors but most especially convene higher agricultural education players and ST&I actors to make a meaningful contribution towards Africa's economic development. Specifically, deliberate on areas of focus to mobilise support from African Governments, the African Union Commission, and other stakeholders for:

1. Commitment towards long-term funding for higher agricultural education, science technology and innovations
2. Investment in youth programs that advance requisite technical skills, entrepreneurship and uptake of digital solutions to expand innovation and employability
3. Explore for implementation: Strategic interventions and partnerships to catalyse graduate and postdoctoral training to bolster the capacity of universities to generate the requisite knowledge, skills and innovations for the development of sustainable agri-food systems in Africa.

Objectives of the Technocrats Round-Table Meeting

Based on the Ministers round table objective, the technical Experts' roundtable meeting will review the Benin 2021 Action Plan, the status and progress made since Benin, the challenges, and prospects for the realization of the strategies outlined in the Action Plan. The technical experts meeting will provide technical guidance on the most feasible and appropriate pathways for bridging the missed opportunities. The Technical experts will also review possibility of participation in the BADEA agricultural Productivity Programme and the proposed BADEA-RUFORUM Women in Food Security Series Initiative.

Approach

The technocrats meeting is designed to provide an in-depth analysis and discussions on the factors influencing higher education-policy engagement towards agriculture, science, technology and innovations development in Africa.

The RUFORUM Secretariat will present outlines of possible issues for discussion. Ideas generated will feed into the revised action plan against which the representative of the technical experts will make a presentation on the progress, status and agreed actions to take the policy, university and other stakeholder process forward to the Ministers meeting.

Meeting Venue

The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 13th December, 2022**, from 08:30 am to 13: 00 at **HICC**. The Session Chair will be Prof Fanuel Tagwira, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development in Zimbabwe. A draft Programme is attached below:

Programme

Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Musekiwa C. Tapera, Director Marketing and Public Relations, Chinhoyi University of Technology

Session Rapporteurs: Mr. Moses Waswa, Mr. Emmanuel Okalany, Mr Artur Fernando and Dr. Sylvanus Mensah; Dr Dennis Murekachiro, Dr Willie Ganda and Prof Norman Rudhumbe

Time	Agenda item	Responsible party
08:30-08:50	Arrival and Informal Interactions	
Session One: Setting the Scene		
Session Chair: Prof. Fanuel Tagwira, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Zimbabwe		
08:50-09:00	Welcome Remarks	Prof. Fanuel Tagwira, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Zimbabwe
09:00-09:10	Setting the Scene and Objectives of the Dialogue	Professor Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
09:10-09:20	Presentation on BADEA Agricultural Productivity Initiative	Dr. Sylvanus Mensah, Technical Specialist, RUFORUM Secretariat
09:20-09:30	Presentation on BADEA-RUFORUM Women in Food Security Series Initiative	Dr. Florence Nakayiwa, Deputy Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
09:30-09:40	Presentation on the proposed BADEA led RUFORUM Trust Fund for Human Capital Development for Food Security in Africa	Dr. Florence Nakayiwa, Deputy Executive Secretary, RUFORUM

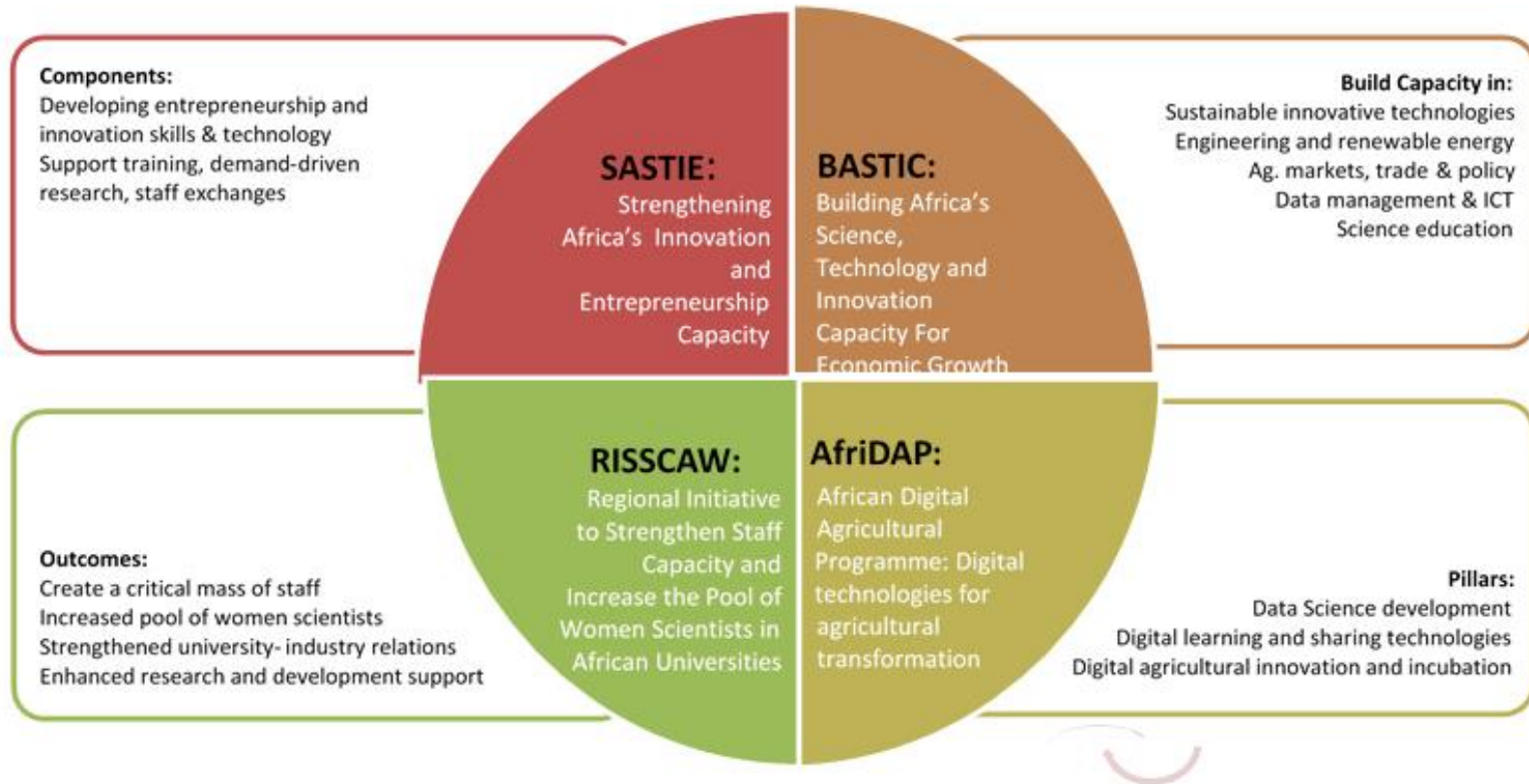
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09:40-10:10	Reaction to the Presentations	All
10:10-10:40	Health Break	LOC to Guide
Session Two: Progress update		
10:40-11:00	Progress in implementation of the Ministerial Decisions (2016; 2018; 2019; 2021) and Committee of 10 Heads of State Summit (C10) tasks assigned to RUFORUM	Dr. Florence Nakayiwa, Deputy Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
11:00-12:00	Responses and Statements from Country Representatives	Country representatives
12:00-12:20	Presentation of Summary Report & Draft Communique	Prof Norman Rudhumbu, Chief Director Human Capital Development. Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Zimbabwe
12:20-12:50	Reactions to the presentation	All
12:50-13:00	Closing Remarks	Prof. Fanuel Tagwira, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Zimbabwe
13:00-14:00	LUNCH	

CO-ORGANISERS:



Four initiatives for strengthening Higher Education and STI in Africa



CO-ORGANISERS:

