



The Seventh African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference 2021

Academia- Industry Virtual Conference Education, research, and incubation: the role of Universities in Agri- entrepreneurship and Community Engagement

16-17 November, 2021

Virtual Event: Click on the Link: <https://bit.ly/3nE6GVw>

Time: 16:00 (EAT), 15:00 (ITALY), 14:00 (Morocco and Benin)

Background and purpose

This academic-education-incubation virtual conference focuses on Agri-entrepreneurship and Community Engagement and its purpose is to consolidate collective experience of the keynote speakers and participants towards showing the impactful role of research, education, and incubation in the socio-economic development of the African continent.

The organizers aim at creating a space of dialogue and a platform of co-creation for actors of the academia, industry, and public institutions about possible areas for collaboration in the fields of Agri-entrepreneurship and Community Engagement. The event will encourage speakers and participants to identify key areas of interest for research and lessons learned in the implementation of educational programs in the above mentioned areas. Additionally, various stakeholders from the public and private sector will be invited to share valuable experiences and strategic orientation for the successful promotion and impactful practice of Agri-entrepreneurship and Community Engagement.

The conference will also highlight the crucial role of higher education institutions and education networks in the promotion of business incubation, especially through the presentation of experiences and successful cases. Moreover, the event intends to be an open space for the discussion and exchange of good practices in Entrepreneurship education, incorporating both theoretical and practical approaches for capacity building.

The event is sorted in five sections including speeches, panels, and a roundtable. Each of these sections is dedicated to a relevant aspect for the role of universities in supporting Agri-entrepreneurship and Community Engagement, including: education, research, the

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role of university incubators, experiences from university incubators, challenges in the management and sustainability of university incubators and a roundtable of stakeholders supporting Agri-entrepreneurship.

The speakers and panelists invited to the event come from a wide range of backgrounds including higher education institutions, corporations, international organizations, among others. Despite their diversity, they have in common their extensive experience working in the African continent, which ensures the generation of content that is relevant for the Strengthening Agri-Entrepreneurship and Community Engagement Training in East, West and North Africa (AgriENGAGE) consortium partners, for the project stakeholders and for the project's target audience. The conference is also expected to generate a network for the promotion of Agri-entrepreneurship and Community Engagement in Africa which stimulates the continuous exchange of knowledge and experiences between the institutions and individuals attending the event.

The conference is organized as part of AgriENGAGE, a project co-funded by the Key Action 2 of the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. The project aims at strengthening higher education institutions to provide excellent training programmes in Agri-entrepreneurship and Community Engagement responsive to evolving labor market demands for stimulating agricultural transformation and competitiveness.

The Conference will be held as part of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) Triennial Pre-Conference Events. The 7th RUFORUM Triennial Conference will be hosted by the Government of Benin through the RUFORUM member Universities. Two of these universities are also AgriENGAGE project partners, the University of Abomey Calavi and the National University of Agriculture.

By the end of the conference the organizers aim to launch the Network of African Universities Incubators; release a call for research in Agri-Entrepreneurship, and publish a guideline for the best practices in Entrepreneurship education (academic and hands-on).

Expected outputs

1. Incubation: Launching Network of African Universities Incubators;
2. Research: Release call for research in Agri-Entrepreneurship;

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- Education: Release a guideline for the best practices in Entrepreneurship education (academic and hands-on).

Approach and Methodology

The side event will be held over a period of two days in a virtual conference style including a series of presentations and panel discussions

Participants	Open to all persons in higher education, private sector, development partners, civil society and employers
Dates	16-17 November, 2021
Organizers	The event is organised by RUFORUM in collaboration with the RUFORUM Member universities in Benin (University of Abomey Calavi, Parakou University and National University of Agriculture)
Contacts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Anthony Egeru (a.egeru@ruforum.org) Prof. Patience Mshenga Anne Pastolero (acpastolero@gmail.com) Prof. Maria Sassi (maria.sassi@unipv.it)

AgriENGAGE Project Partners

East Africa (Kenya and Uganda)

- Egerton University
- Pwani University
- Uganda Martyrs University
- Gulu University

West Africa (Benin)

- University of Abomey Calavi
- National University of Agriculture

North Africa (Morocco)

- Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P)
- Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II (IAV)

European Partners

- University of Pavia (UNIPV)
- University of Copenhagen

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Draft Programme
Day 1: November 16, 2021

Session One: Opening Ceremony and Key note Address	
16:00-16:45	<p>Session Moderator: Dr. Anthony Egeru</p> <p>Remarks: Prof. Patience Mshenga, AgriENGAGE Coordinator</p> <p>Remarks: Dr. Alice Mweetwa, Deputy Executive Secretary, RUFORUM</p> <p>Remarks: Prof. Maxim Da Cruz, Vice Chancellor, University of Abomey Calavi</p> <p>Remarks: Maria Sassi, Member of the Executive Committee - European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI)</p> <p>Remarks: Francesco Metteucci - European Innovation Council</p> <p>Remarks: EU/Erasmus Secretariat</p> <p>Key note Address: Dr. Mohamed Anouar Jamali, CEO OCP Africa</p>
Session Two: Panel on Education, Entrepreneurship and Community Engagement	
16:45-17:25	<p>Session Moderator: Bisan ABDULKADER (UM6P), Morocco</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Mwilima Mushokabanji, Executive Director of Namibia Meat Corporation (Namibia): <i>How can Universities Realign for training competitive, entrepreneurial and intrapreneurial graduates for a competitive labour market?</i> 2. Dr. Milcah Mutuku, Egerton University (Uganda): <i>What reforms are required within the University-industry interface for advancement of engaged universities in Africa?</i> 3. David Gonahasa, Executive Director, Tripesa (Uganda): <i>How can universities realign training and learning to become enablers of Agripreneurship enabling agro-industrialization?</i> 4. Prof. David Hayes, Africa Business School (Morocco): <i>How can African Universities development interdisciplinary innovative education programmes: Experiences from Africa Business School</i>
<p>17:25-17:35: Video Documentary: Sheep Wool Value Chain, University of Free State, South Africa</p>	
<p>Session Three: Panel on Research in Entrepreneurship and Community Engagement</p>	
<p>17:35-18:15</p>	<p>Session Moderator: Prof. Maria Sassi, University of Pavia</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Nico Carsten, University of Copenhagen (Denmark): <i>How can Universities utilise research outputs to advance entrepreneurship and community engagement?</i> 2. Dr. Manal Mhada, UM6P (Morocco): <i>How can Universities utilise research in Agrobiosciences to drive entrepreneurship and community engagement?</i>

	<p>3. Ms. Adikath Abiola, National University of Agriculture (Benin): <i>What is the place and role of the students in university led entrepreneurship and community engagement?</i></p> <p>4. Dr. Basil Mugonola Gulu University (Uganda) and Prof. Patience Mshenga (Egerton University): How does the evidence of success for entrepreneurship and community engagement look like? Evidence from a collaborative ation</p>
18:15-18:30	Summary of the session: Mr. Emmanuel Okalany, RUFORUM (Uganda)

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Day 2: November 17, 2021

Session Four: The role of university incubators in the promotion of Agri-entrepreneurship and research in Africa	
16:00-16:30	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>1. Mr. Adnane Alaoui Soulimani, UM6P (Morocco): <i>Developing innovative incubators and accelerator programmes to support agri-entrepreneurship in Africa</i></p> <p>2. Ms. Kristin Kirkpatrick, Executive Director, Together We Grow (USA), <i>Learning institutions as places for nurturing talent and building life-long skills: How early-life Foundations matter?</i></p>

	<i>Three Questions to the speakers</i>
Session Five: Panel on Experiences from higher education institutions and academic networks working on the development of incubators to promote Agri-entrepreneurship	
16.30-17.15	<p>Session Moderator: IAV (Morocco)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Augustin Aoudji, Université d'Abomey-Calavi (Benin): <i>Delivering mentorship and incubation services to create competitive entrepreneurs: Evidence from UAC Start-up Valley</i> Dr. Anne Roulin, President, Agripreneurship Alliance (Switzerland): <i>Experience in Practice and Practice of creating an enabling entrepreneurship ecosystem for universities in Africa</i> Ms. Webber Ebony, Chief Operations Officer, MANRRS (USA): <i>Developing and delivering innovative programmes that enhance leadership, entrepreneurship and positive youth development?</i>
17:15-17:20 Video Documentary: Comrade Dairy, Gabriel Kwendo	
Session Six: Roundtable on the role of stakeholders in supporting Agri-entrepreneurship	
17.20-18:00	Session Moderator: Mr. Okalany Emmanuel

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Robert Kabushenga, CEO Rugeyo Farm (Uganda)- TBC: <i>How can we mobilise actors accelerate attracting, retaining and building viable youth led agri-enterprises in Africa</i> 2. Mr. Danie Jacobs, CEO Young Entrepreneurs, (South Africa)-TBC: <i>How can learning institutions attract private sector players to co-fund agri-entrepreneurship innovation and business development</i> 3. UNIDO (TBC): <i>How can UNIDO engage with universities to catalyse agri-entrepreneurship development</i> 4. Francesco Metteucci, Program Manager in Green Technologies at European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA)-TBC: <i>What innovation instruments are available at the EISMEA that African institutions can leverage and how can they go about it</i>
18:00-18:15	Conference Summary: Pwani and IAV

