

Inaugural RUFORUM Alumni Week 27th September to 1st October 2021

Please register here <https://bit.ly/3jmvW0j>

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) a network of 129 universities in 38 African countries has trained 195 undergraduates, 1,958 Masters, 536 PhDs and 29 Post-Doctoral fellows. The tracer studies conducted in 2014 and 2018 indicated that 98% of the Alumni are working in their home countries (within Africa), 53% are in long term or permanent employment contracts while 26% are in positions of influence at national, regional and continental level. The RUFORUM Network believes that the over 2,700 individuals trained to date are a force for change large enough to create a movement of agricultural transformation agents across Africa. The channel for mobilising this great movement is proposed to be the RUFORUM Alumni Network (RAN).

The RUFORUM Secretariat in collaboration with InHive Global are coordinating the establishment of the RUFORUM Alumni Network to facilitate the transformation of the agricultural sector in Africa. To mobilise Alumni and build momentum for participation in the Network, the RUFORUM Alumni Week is being organised virtually and expected to culminate into a Virtual launch of the RUFORUM Alumni Network. The Inaugural RUFORUM Alumni Week takes place in the week of Monday 27th September 2021 to 1st October 2021.

The objective of the Alumni Week is to re-energise and re-engage RUFORUM alumni across all programs and serve as a launch point for bringing together alumni from all RUFORUM Projects/programs. The Alumni week, being piloted in 2021, will in future be held annually, and will serve effectively as an alumni focused conference, where alumni will be able to among others:

- a) Share their latest research,
- b) Share their stories and achievements,
- c) Connect with other alumni with similar research interests and careers,
- d) Discuss research themes of common interest,
- e) Share funding opportunities and a chance to apply together,
- f) Be updated on the RUFORUM vision and how alumni are contributing to this,
- g) Get up-to-date on all the different alumni activities that they can engage in and be supported by at RUFORUM,
- h) Have an opportunity to sign up to give back initiatives for RUFORUM, including signing up to be ambassadors

THEME	Date	Content/Session	Keynote Speaker	Time
Sharing your stories	Monday 27 th Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Latest research collaborations and initiatives between alumni and RUFORUM members - How RUFORUM has shaped my career 		
	Tuesday 28 th Sept			



		- Alumni ambitions for the alumni network		
Alumni Week Launch	Wednesday 29 th Sept	Opening inspirational talk by Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary at Ruforum		
		Introduction to the alumni network	Emmanuel Okalany, Prerna Aswani (inHive)	
		What alumni want: Sharing what we've learnt (Tracer Study)	Moses & Verrah	
Cross-Cutting Skill Sessions	Thursday 30 th Sept	Networking as a researcher	TBC	
		Impact of covid on agriculture	TBC	
		Subject Specific Sessions (Content tbc TBC)	TBC	
Network Sustainability Visioning	Friday 1 st October	Cocreating the vision	TBC	
Cross-Cutting Skill Sessions		TBC	TBC	
Subject Specific Sessions		TBC	TBC	
Network Sustainability Visioning	Saturday 2 nd October	What happens next; upcoming network activities		

