

The Seventh African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference 2021

**Global Academia-Policy Partnership for Transformative Institutional Leadership, Skills
Development and Youth Employability**

Date: 06th December 2021

Time: 0900-1830 WAT (GMT+1)

Venue: Palais des Congres de Cotonou, Benin

Video conference (link: <https://bit.ly/3ikDGR9>)

Concept note

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Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) in partnership with global partners in higher agricultural education and scientific research from Asia, Europe, North & South America, and the African Development Bank, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the African Union Commission have convened four consecutive meetings to discuss entrepreneurship, youth employability, higher agricultural education & industrialization, science, technology and innovation. The first two meetings were physically convened as the *Afro-Arab Partnership* meeting held 28-30th September 2019 in Kampala, Uganda, and *Global partnerships for transformation of African higher agricultural education and scientific research* held in Cape Coast, Ghana held on 2nd December, 2019 respectively. The third and fourth meetings were convened virtually during the RUFORUM Webinar Series on 7th October 2021 and the Pre-United Food Systems Summit independent dialogues on 2nd June 2021 respectively. Further, bilateral events between partners have been convened to discuss similar issues. In particular, the Mastercard Foundation through its Program, *Young Africa Works*, is supporting efforts across Africa to address issue of Youth Skill development and Employment.

Participation in these meetings included several higher agricultural education and research partners from Africa including the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and the Sub-Regional Research Organisations (SROs), University Networks, CGIAR consortium members and not-for-profit research organisations. Global



Consortium for Higher Education and Research in Agriculture (GCHERA), Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), American Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU), Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR), Belt and Road/South-South Cooperation Agricultural Education, Science and Technology Innovation League (BRSSCAL), Association of Indian Agricultural Universities, Association of Caribbean and Pacific Universities, Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA), EARTH University (Costa Rica), Zamorano Institute (Honduras), Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS), The European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development (AGRINATURA), Seoul National University, Korea, Association of African Universities, among other partners.

Additionally, RUFORUM with the support of the African Development Bank, commissioned a study on the Korean model and contribution of universities to national economic development with recommendations for African higher education.

Emerging from these dialogues and the study, are recommendations on the need for review and redesign of higher agricultural education and scientific research to meet the current human capacity skills demands, making agriculture attractive for the youth, and youth entrepreneurship and employability. Specifically, the following key issues have been identified for further consideration and action:

- Youth entrepreneurship and employability, skills & sustainable capacity building for job creation, and making agriculture attractive for youth;
- Review of transforming African agricultural Universities to meaningfully contribute to Africa's growth and development;
- Enhanced collaboration between training & research with private sector and policy;
- Transformational institutional leadership in higher agricultural education and training the next generation of ethical and socially responsible leaders in the agricultural sector;
- Enhanced Community engagement;
- Online learning and teaching;
- Excellent science for society through the establishment of Centres of Excellence; and,
- Bio-based, climate proof and circular & green economy

As a way forward, it was agreed that Africa could learn from the various models such as the Higher Education model of Korea; the cooperative extension model at the American Public and Land Grant Universities in the USA; participatory action research in Europe; applied environmentally friendly technologies in India; Science and Technology Backyard (STB) and Simple Technology Big Harvest models of China, amongst others. Further the university-research institutes-industry linkages model of Korea has enhanced the competitiveness of its agribusiness sector and Africa could borrow from this. Accordingly, a special session will be held on 6th December during the 7th Africa Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference slated for 6-10 December 2021 in Cotonou, Republic of Benin, West Africa.



Meeting Objectives & Approach:

The meeting will be a one day event on 6th December 2021 and organized in four major parts that will include: **Session I** for setting the stage for the meeting; **Session II** will involve a dialogue on the required collective action for enhancing academia and policy collaboration; **Session III** will bring together expert views on how partnerships can be formed and promoted for the development of skills and job opportunities in the agriculture sector, specifically making agriculture attractive and profitable to the youth along the different commodity value chains; and, finally **Session IV** will focus on lesson sharing and learning on transformational institutional leadership in higher agricultural education and the required collaborative actions.

The proposed meeting will be jointly hosted by the African Development Bank and RUFORUM and will bring together actors from within and outside Africa including RUFORUM member universities, policy and private sector, among others. A separate two-day event has been arranged for 27 & 28 October 2021 to delve into issues of Green Gas Emissions and Renewable Energy ([link: https://bit.ly/3ijYybg](https://bit.ly/3ijYybg)).

Draft Programme

Time	Agenda item	Responsible Party
Session I: Setting the Scene		
Session Chair: Prof Brice Sinsin, Former Rector, University of Abomey Calavi, Benin		
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome Remarks	Prof. Bruno Djossa, Vice Chancellor, National University of Agriculture, Benin
9:10 – 9:20	Remarks and Setting the Scene	Professor Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
9:20 – 9:35	Opening address	Hon. Professor Eléonore Ladekan Yayi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Benin
9:35 – 9:55	Key Note Address: Partnerships for Higher Education, Innovation, Industrialization, Inclusion and Sustainable Economic Development: A perspective from the African Development Bank	H.E. Dr. Akin Adesina, President, African Development Bank (TBC)
9:55 -10:25	Health Break	
Session II: Enhanced Academia and Policy Collaboration: A Need for Collective Action		
Session Chair: Ms. Hendrina Doroba Chalwe, Division Manager for Education and Skills Development (AfDB)		
10:25 – 13:00	Lead Speaker: Dr. Stephen Onakuse, President of AGRINATURA Panel Speakers:	Rapporteur: Yamungu Boniface Alongo



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Taeyoon KIM, Graduate School of International Agricultural Technology, Seoul National University, Korea 2. Hon. Muhindo Nzangi Butondo, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Democratic Republic of Congo 3. Prof. Ndeye Coumba Touré, Rector, Université Sine Saloum El hadj Ibrahima NIASS (USSEIN), Senegal 4. Prof Francis Petersen, Rector, University of Free State, South Africa 5. Marta Iglesias, Senior Policy Officer, European Commission Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development 6. Dr. Abdou Tenkouano, Executive Director, West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WACARD) 	
	Panel Discussion	All
	Summary by the Moderator	
13:00-14:00	LUNCH/HEALTH BREAK	
Session III: Promoting Collaboration for Skills Development & Job Creation in the Agriculture Sector: Making Agriculture Attractive to the Youth		
Session Chair: Dr. Codou Diaw, Senior Programme Manager, Mastercard Foundation Scholars Programme, Kenya		
14:00-15:30	<p>Lead Speaker: Prof Philip Cotton, Head of Scholars Program, Mastercard Foundation</p> <p>Panel Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hon. Prof. Alpha T. Wurie, Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Sierra Leone 2. Hon. Dr Douglas Letsholathebe, Minister of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology, Botswana 3. Prof Nancy Mungai, Director, Research & TAGDev Program 	Rapporteur; Emmanuel Okalany



	<p>Coordinator, Egerton University, Kenya</p> <p>4. Mr. Anthony Ebitimi Owei, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, ePoultry.NG, Nigeria</p> <p>5. Ms. Dora Fiani, President, Knowledge Economy Foundation, Egypt</p> <p>6. Dr. Serge Abihona, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin</p>	
	Session discussions with panelists and audience	All
	Summary by the moderator	
15:30-16:00	HEALTH BREAK	
Session IV: Transformational institutional leadership in higher agricultural education		
Session Chair: Prof Theresia Akenji, Vice Chancellor University of Bamenda, Cameroon & RUFORUM Deputy Board Chair		
16:00-17:30	<p>Lead Speaker: Prof Jose Zaglul, President, Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research for Agriculture & President Emeritus, EARTH University, Costa Rica</p> <p>Panel Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Arturo Condo, President, EARTH University, Costa Rica 2. Prof Teresa Akenga, Vice Chancellor, University of Eldoret, Kenya 3. Prof Luke Mumba, Vice Chancellor, University of Zambia, Zambia 4. Prof Prof. Gustave Nachigera Mushagalusa, Vice Chancellor, Universite Evangelique en Afrique, DRC 5. Dr. Li Li, Associate Professor at the College of International Development and Global Agriculture, China Agricultural University, China 6. Prof. Ki Hee RYU, Institute of Green Bio Science and Technology, Seoul National University, Korea 	<p>Rapporteur; Sylvanus Mensah & David Ekepu</p>



	Panel Discussion	
	Summary by the Moderator	
1730-1740	Summary of key issues and action points	Dr. Alice Mutiti Mweetwa, Deputy Executive Secretary, Programme Development & Implementation, RUFORUM
1740-1750	Closing Remarks	Prof George Kanyama-Phiri, RUFORUM Board Chair & Vice Chancellor, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources

CO-ORGANISERS:

