



0-December, 2021 | Volume 1, Issue 04

## A Daily Brief on the 7th Africa Higher Education Week #AfricaHEWeek2021

### Agriculture Scientists look at Youth unemployment and Partnerships

Youth unemployment, access to education, partnerships and e-learning in the agricultural science and innovation sector will be high on the agenda during the Seventh African Higher Education Week and Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) Triennial Conference 2021 that is taking place in Cotonou, Benin until 10 December. The event, happening for the first time in a francophone country, has been preceded by a week of pre-conference events, where at least 80 out of 143 member universities of the RUFORUM network have already been represented.

Some 500 delegates, including government ministers from the education, science and agriculture sectors, are expected at the event this week, with another 1,500 from around the world expected to participate through virtual links, said Professor Adipala Ekwamu, the executive secretary of RUFORUM. Also expected are senior government officials, the vice-chancellors of RUFORUM member universities, deans and principals of universities, academics, researchers, innovators, students and representatives from development partners, the private sector and non-governmental organisations. “The expected attendance is overall good. We have had only a few travel cancellations by some participants from Europe, South Africa and South Korea, which is understandable in view of the outbreak of the latest COVID-19 variant,” the executive secretary noted. [Please click here to Read More.](#)



### Staying Safe during the RUFORUM Triennial Conference

#### Inside this Issue:

- Press Releases
- Thought Pieces
- Media Articles
- Blogs / News
- Press Interviews
- Photo Gallery
- Social Media

RUFORUM extends appreciation to the RUFORUM Board, the World Health Organisation and Africa Union Commission through the Africa Centre for Disease Control for the work you have done to help Africa cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank you to all other organisations including our National Governments for the work done towards managing the COVID-19 pandemic, and efforts towards economic recovery of the African continent.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed key gaps in Africa's Science capacity to respond to the COVID-19 and other global challenges and clearly showed the urgent need for Africa to make significant and sustained investment in Science, Technology and Innovation. We encourage all participants to follow the safety guidelines by the Government of Benin. [Click here for more Information on COVID-19 testing and Results.](#)

## Emerging Opportunities and Challenges for Higher Institutions of Learning in the post Covid-19 Era

The closure or lockdown of all education institutions across Africa and the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak put the student population and their parents at stake with arguable responses to handling the continuation of teaching and learning while at home. It is evident in many of the African countries that they were not prepared for the situation that had befallen them. Many of the African institutions of learning in the prevailing circumstances could not easily continue delivering teaching and learning to its students because the education environments were not well prepared. The educational institutions indeed lacked capacity (human and infrastructure) to partake their mandate within such trying moments which prevented people from meeting physically and many countries had gone to lockdowns. Substantial gaps were identified in the preparedness of teachers to effectively handle students' teaching and learning ubiquitously. The teachers lacked adequate ICT skills to teach using the virtual means and also the institutions were under resourced in terms of ICT infrastructure to use. [Click here to Read More.](#)



Professor Jude T. Lubega,  
Vice Chancellor of Nkumba University, Uganda

*"Universities for a while have remained as islands without many links to communities around them, but it is time they realised that they cannot do much on their own, thus the need to embrace everybody"*

*Prof. Adipala Ekwamu, Executive Secretary – RUFORUM*

## Digitalisation of Agriculture in Africa Challenges and Areas of Action



Dr. Drake Patrick Mirembe - ICT Innovations and Incubation, ICT4D, Cyber Security, ICT Integration and Organization Leadership

Agriculture still remains the core economic activity for low-income families globally and the most prevalent form of agriculture practice is smallholder farming, which accounts for over 500 million farms producing 80 percent of the world's food supply. On African continent, Agriculture remains a backbone of most of African economies, providing livelihood to over 70% of the populations especially those that live in Sub-Sahara Africa. Over 80% of farms in Africa are smaller than 5 hectares and make up most of farmland on the continent and these are largely run by family farmers who feed and employ approximately 2/3 of the population.

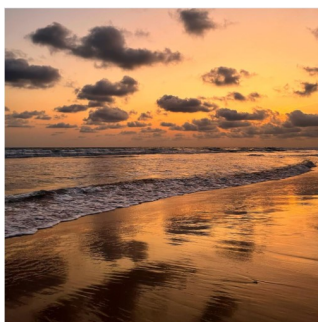
Besides Agriculture, one sector that is rapidly expanding on the continent is the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector i.e. the digital technology sector. The landing of global Internet sea cables on the continent and the associated improvement in the global connectivity of the continent continues to stimulate the rapid expansion of the ICT sector in all regions of the continent. As noted by various scholars and practitioners, that access to ICT services in a digitally and globally networked world plays a critical role in social transformation of communities. [Click here to Read More.](#)



# The 7th Africa Higher Education Week 2021 - Cotonou, Benin



## What's happening on Social Media?



Instagram Account

Beautiful Cotonou in Benin, the small French speaking country nestled between Nigeria and Togo. This is Obama Beach and we're here to document the 7th African Higher Education Week. My first...

Engagement 50  
Sentiment 😊

Dec 2, 2021



Uganda Christian University  
@UCUniversity

#Centerofexcellence  
The Vice Chancellor Prof. Aaron Mushengyezi, has led a team of UCU staff to Benin to participate in the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RuForum)...

Engagement 35  
Sentiment 😊

Uganda  
Dec 6, 2021 5:39 PM



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@ruforumnetwork

Happening now!  
Global Academia-Policy Partnership for Transformative Institutional Leadership, Skills Development and Youth Employability  
#AfricaHEWeek2021

Engagement 53  
Sentiment 😊

Uganda Engagement 56  
Dec 6, 2021 12:26 F Sentiment 😊



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Partnerships for Higher #Education, Innovation, Industrialization, Inclusion and Sustainable Economic #Development: A perspective from the @AfDB\_Group  
#AfricaHEWeek2021

Uganda  
Dec 6, 2021 12:27 PM

Join the Conversation online using #AfricaHEWeek2021



Conference Co-Organizers:

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