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

New Leadership: The Second Female RUFORUM Board Chair appointed for 2022

The RUFORUM Network is pleased to announce Professor Theresia Nkuo-Akenji as the new RUFORUM Board Chair effective immediately. On the 8th December 2021 during the RUFORUM 20th Annual General Meeting in Cotonou, Benin, Professor Nkuo Akenji was elected as the new board chair replacing Professor George Kanyama-Phiri, the former Vice Chancellor of Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) who has served the Network for the last 3 years. The Secretariat appreciates the leadership of Professor Kanyama-Phiri which championed and catalyzed policy change in Higher Education in Africa.

Professor Theresia Nkuo-Akenji is the Vice Chancellor of the University of Bamenda in Cameroon, and the Deputy Board Chair of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM). She was formerly the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Internal Control and Evaluation, Head of the Department of Life Sciences and Coordinator of the Microbiology Degree Programme in the University of Buea, Cameroon. [Click here to Read More.](#)



Staying Safe during the RUFORUM Triennial Conference

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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.](#)

Operationalizing Agricultural Education Innovations for Sustainable Development in Sub-Saharan Africa

Agricultural Education is a program and a process designed for equipping learners with knowledge, skills and attitude in teaching and technical areas of agriculture to enable them impart same to students in Schools and Colleges (Amadi & Nnodim, 2018, Tsojon 2020). As a programme, it is designed to develop a particular knowledge and skills associated with various farming designs (Tata & McNamara, 2018). Agricultural Education as a course of study is offered in tertiary institutions (Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges and similar institutions) which are involved in teaching and learning processes that provide academic credits and competencies that lead to certificates, diplomas and degrees (Suskie, 2018; Oladunjoye, 2018). Tertiary education institutions offering agriculture program perform the roles of teaching, research and service to the growth of citizens (Ryan et al., 2018).



Prof. Augustine Ogbonna Ani,
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture - Uni-
versity of Nigeria Nsukka, Nigeria

Operationalizing is mostly used in research design, especially in studies on psychology, social sciences, life sciences and physics. Operationalization is a process of defining the measurement of a phenomenon that is not directly measurable, though its existence is inferred by other phenomena. This means that despite the impressive gains or benefits in agriculture, the increasing population are still underfed. [Click her to Read More.](#)

I am delighted to become the new Board Chair of the RUFORUM Network. I have worked closely with RUFORUM for many years and look forward to continuing to partner with the Outgoing Board chair Professor George Kanyama-Phiri, former Vice Chancellor of Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Board of Trustees, International Advisory Panel (AIP), the Technical Committee, the Principals and Deans Committee, the RUFORUM Secretariat and all stakeholders to enhance the capacity Building for the Network." **Professor Theresia Nkuo Akenji – RUFORUM Board Chair**

Africa: e-learning platform launched for agriculture HE

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity, an organisation made up of 143 universities in 38 African countries, is piloting the platform in universities spread across the countries of Uganda, Malawi and Zambia, and is targeted at priority agriculture education course programs. The platform is the first and one of the pillars of the African Digital Agriculture Programme, an initiative meant to harness digital technologies for agricultural transformation of Africa, and enhance higher agricultural education in the continent's universities.

The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa is supporting the digital learning platform, with a number of co-funders also coming on board to supplement the bank's seed money, said Francis Otto, Knowledge Hub manager at RUFORUM.

"Although many higher education institutions world-wide have moved towards adoption of e-learning, many universities in Africa still lag behind and have been severely affected by especially the Covid-19 pandemic," he told the Seventh African Higher Education Week & RUFORUM Triennial Conference 2021 taking place in West African country of Benin.

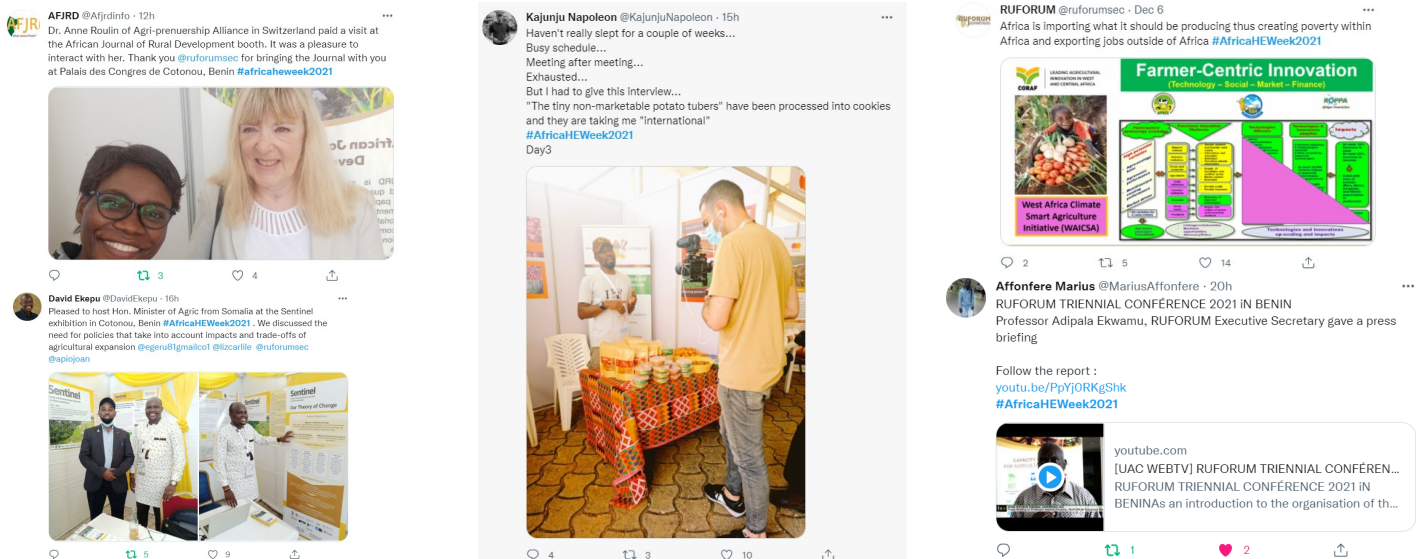
Some 12 universities both public and privately owned have been picked for the pilot, explained Otto. "From the needs assessment survey conducted, 12 institutions were identified as having limited human capacity and infrastructure to operate e-learning platforms yet they have demonstrated the need to implement e-learning", he explained on selection of pilot universities he noted..

The Commonwealth of Learning, Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Mastercard Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are the other co-funders of the platform, he disclosed. [Click here to Read More.](#)

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



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