



The Seventh African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference 2021

TRANSFORMING HIGHER EDUCATION: ORIENTATION, ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND VISION FOR CHANGE for AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES EDUCATION

Organized by the American University of Beirut Transforming Higher Education Project in partnership with GCHERA, EARTH University and RUFORUM

Dates: November 25-26 November, 2021 (15:00-17:00 EAT)

Login Details/Registration: <https://ruforum-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlpduutazltGtxqrSoOBLIE77nui8PI5FtB>

Background

Tertiary education in agriculture is confronted with many challenges that requires universities to rethink their educational models. Sustainable agricultural systems, climate change, the need to increase food production to respond to population growth, food nutrition, every increasing demands and opportunities of agricultural markets, the ever increasing globalization, and business focus, all of these and more require a broader focus of agriculture beyond agricultural production. Universities need to educate graduates as agents of change. Professionals and leaders with the abilities to think critically, to act locally and to think globally, to be job creators, to contribute to rural communities and their development, to act as ethical leaders. Our graduates today are expected to have higher order thinking skills and appropriate soft skills including the capacity to be ethical leaders, to work in teams, to develop personal relationships and to resolve conflicts, to communicate effectively with different groups, to innovate and create new products and businesses. But our traditional university systems are not adequate to meet these expectations.

The university focus must be on student learning, which requires us to change the university culture, to focus on student learning and the design of learning environments,

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opportunities and processes. The faculty will become facilitators of learning, creating and designing active learning environments, where students are engaged in self-driven learning, and the faculty's role is to structure and guide the learning process.

What are the key elements of success? EARTH University has created an innovative student centered educational model built around five key elements, including experiential and action-based learning. Integral to this model is that students apply theoretical concepts learned in class to real life situations. The university is engaged with the community to enhance student learning and community development and students learn basic business and entrepreneurial concepts and put them into action by building and operating businesses. EARTH offers a systemic values-based educational system oriented toward students living and assimilating basic values leading to ethical behavior upon graduation. And the fifth key element is the focus on Dialogue and Conflict Resolution as we learn to work more collaboratively and less competitively in the future.

The Series of Orientation Training and Dialogue Sessions

The purpose of these workshops is to introduce a discussion on the challenges confronting agricultural universities and their graduates and the need to create a systemic vision of the new university and the corresponding culture to address these challenges. What is the Role of 21st Century University? How can we achieve the envisioned change and manage a transformation process? What should the new educational model look like for your university and what are the key elements of success? These workshops will provide an overview of these challenges and questions for those universities that are committed to the transformation process. It is directed toward university leaders, Vice-Chancellors, Deans and department heads, as well as individual practitioners.

1. Participants

- a. Senior university leadership
- b. Deans, Directors, and Faculty of Faculties of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- c. University administrators, and other key actors within the university system
- d. Selected students

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- e. Special invited guests
- 2. Time and day
 - a. Time
 - i. 3 pm to 5 pm Eastern Africa Time
 - ii. 6 am to 8 am Costa Rica
 - b. Days for event
 - i. Session 1, November 25, 2021
 - ii. Session 2, November 26, 2021

Programme

Time/Date	Programme Schedule
25 th November, 2021	
14:45-15:00	Participants Login and background video play Egerton University TAGDev Transformation Story
15:00-15:15	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Sylvanus Mensah, RUFORUM 2. Prof. Jose Zaglul, President GCHERA
15:15-15:45	Why should universities change? Dr. Jim French, GCHERA Secretary General
15:45-16:00	Brief reactions from Vice Deans, Principals and Participants Moderator: Dr. Sylvanus Mensah
16:00-16:30	Student panel on perspectives of university experience and beyond Moderator: Prof. Nancy Mungai Panelists

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ayiri Joshua, Gulu University (Nigeria) 2. Nelson Papi Kolliesuah, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) & Gulu University TAGDev Alumni (Liberia) 3. Ms. Aipa Grace Bekah, Egerton University (Kenya) 4. Ms. Monique Sognibe, Andre Foods International & Gulu University TAGDev Alumni (Benin)
16:30-16:50	<p>Vice Chancellors and Deans and Principals Reactions. In light of the presentation from Jim and Students experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflecting on Internal processes and key issues that require transformation • Contextualizing the needed transformation <p>Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Clement Okia, Muni University</p>
16:50-17:00	Closing of Day One
14:45-15:00	Login and Video Documentary
15:00-15:30	<p>Transforming Higher Education the Path Forward (elements of success, theory of change, experiences from pilot universities)</p> <p>Dr. Jim French, GCHERA</p>
15:30-15:40	Discussions and reflections on the elements of success
15:40-16:30	<p>Change experiences from African Universities implementing innovative training models</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Walter Odong, Gulu University</p> <p>Speakers Prof. Nancy Mungai-Egerton University Prof. Duncan Ongeng-Gulu University</p>
16:30-16:40	Discussions and reflections on the innovative model of training in higher education institutions

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16:40-17:00	Path forward: Available Tools and steps for university transformation & Transforming Higher Education project support Dr. Jim French, GCHERA
17:00-17:15	Reflections, conclusions and Closing Dr. Roula Bachour, Wageningen University & Research

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