



2nd RUFORUM TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

CONCEPT NOTE

AFRICA - EUROPE HIGH LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE ON HIGHER AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Date: 14th August 2024 **Time:** 14:00-18:17:50 CAT

Venue: Mercure Hotel, Room Omatako 2, Windhoek, Namibia

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3UNg3Tj>

Contacts: Dr. Stephen Onakuse (S.Onakuse@ucc.ie);

Prof. Patrick Okori (p.okori@ruforum.org)

BACKGROUND

The need to invest in human capital is essential to support transition to a knowledge-based economies. Indeed country, [continental](#), [global agencies](#) and forums such as the World Economic Forum all underscore the importance of skilling Africa's young people for the emerging world of work. According to the [United Nations Populations Fund](#), 60 % of Africa's population is below 25 years, and is projected to reach 1.4 billion by 2063. Many of these youth are not being integrated into the cash economy. [The African Development Bank](#) estimates that 12 million young Africans are ready to enter the world of work annually, but the continent can only create one third of the required formal jobs. The recently launched [African Union Second 10-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063](#), also dubbed as the decade of acceleration (2024-2033), highlights the need for the continent to train at least 100,000 PhD level scientist over a decade.

The under-performing job creation nature of Africa's economy, the large demand for highly skilled personnel, the limited funding for higher and tertiary education, and the pressure on institutions of higher learning to expand admission for millions of young Africans graduating from secondary education has created immense pressure of Africa's Higher Education Sector. Yet Africa still has one of the lowest enrollments in [higher education at 6%](#), just one quarter of the world average. The era of the structural adjustment programmes in Africa (1980-1990's), and the conversion of many tertiary education institutions into universities across Africa, has contributed to misbalancing of Africa's human resource pyramid. Africa must rebalance its skills sets in order to meet the diverse capacity needs of the continent. The central role of higher education in development is also underscored by the European Union's agenda for higher education. As such, some of the European Union's focus investments including Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, and other mechanisms, enable the higher education sector to adapt to new development demands and realities. Of concern is the need for green transitions and digital economy transitions compliant skilling and development solution. Europe and Africa share a lot in common including their socio-economic development trajectories. Recent global threats, opportunities, and emerging futures call for concerted engagements to chart a shared vision of success.



PURPOSE OF THE DIALOGUE

To leverage the convening power of both RUFORUM and Agrinatura¹ and their partners to engage and co-create policy directions for transformative African and European higher education, research, and innovation agendas.

OBJECTIVES

1. Hold high-level policy discussions that will set policy, research and innovation agendas and leverage existing frameworks for African and European Universities and allied institutions to support informed policy development and execution in Africa-Europe partnership.
2. Review, dialogue, and make recommendations for strengthening Africa-Europe in higher education, science, technology, and innovation.
3. Review, dialogue, and make recommendations for resourcing the implementation of actions that underpin green, digital, and inclusive Africa-Europe partnership in higher education, science, technology, and innovation.

APPROACH

The meeting is designed to have three sessions that will include an official opening, and two technical sessions that will focus on; (a) Policy frameworks for strengthening Africa-Europe Research and Science capacity; (b) Dialogues on experiences and lessons learnt from implementing intra-Africa, Africa-European partnerships as well as global collaboration for building human and science capacity for Africa. A mix of plenary presentations including presentation of keynote papers and panel discussions will be held. Statements will be made by the European Union, African Union Commission, and Governments. Representatives of apex higher education, and agricultural research bodies and development banks may make statements on accelerating investments in agricultural higher education and agricultural development.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. Opportunities for strengthening co-creation of science and knowledge products to inform policy at country and continental levels identified and the leaders to champion development into concrete actions identified and endorsed.
2. An action plan and road map for engaging all stakeholders towards marshalling resources and investments for contemporary development focused higher agricultural education, science, technology and innovation within the framework of Africa-European collaborations developed.

¹ Agrinatura is an Association of European Universities and Research centres. <https://agrinatura-eu.eu/>



DATE, VENUE AND LANGUAGE

The high-level policy meeting is a blended event that will take place on 14th August 2024 at the Mercure, Windhoek, Namibia. Participants can register to participate through this [link](#): to participate virtually. The meeting will be held in French and English.

PARTICIPANTS

The high-level round table will draw leaders from RUFORUM and Agrinatura member universities; Government technocrats from Ministries of Agriculture, Higher Education, Science and Technology, the African Union Commission, The European Union and number of allied education and research networks. Other expected participants include: BADEA, World Bank, Inter-University Council of East Africa, Association of African Universities (AAU), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Sub Regional Agricultural Research Organisations, One CGIAR, Islamic Development Bank, Global Research Alliance for Agricultural Green House Gases (GRA), African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD), Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), among others.

DATE AND VENUE

Hotel TBC, Windhoek, Namibia: **Date** 14th August 2024

PROGRAMME

Rapporteurs: AGRINATURA and RUFORUM

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3UNg3Tj>

Time	Activity	Responsible
Session 2: Official Opening Ceremony: Call for Action to Strengthen Africa's Human and Science Capacity		
Session Chair: Dr Alfred Van Kent, Executive Director, Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation		
14:00- 14:10	Arrival and registration of participants	
14:10-14:20	Welcome address by University of Namibia	Prof. Kenneth K. Matengu, Vice Chancellor
14:20-14:30	Welcome remarks from RUFORUM	RUFORUM Board Chair/Executive Secretary



14:30-14:40	Welcome Remarks from AGRINATURA	Dr. Stephen Onakuse, President, AGRINATURA
14:40-15:00	EU-Africa partnerships: what have we learnt	Mr. Mukulia Kennedy Ayason, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission
15:00-15:10	AU-EU Africa partnerships for agriculture and development	H.E. Ana Beatriz Martins, EU Ambassador to Namibia
15:10-15:30	Official Opening Address	Hon. Carl Schlettwein, MP, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
Session 2: Policy frameworks and agendas for strengthening Africa's Research and Science capacity Session Moderator: Prof. Ioannis Dimitriou, Vice President Agrinatura EEIG, and Senior Research Advisor at SLU Global, Vice-Chancellor's Office.		
15:30-16:30	Lead Paper 1: Imperatives for strengthening Africa- European Union higher education and research agendas: Lessons learnt and new opportunities.	Prof. Ylva Hillbur, Pro Vice-Chancellor, international relations, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden.



	<p>Panel Discussion: Making the partnership work for African and European Universities</p> <p>Panellist I: Prof. Peter Mageto, Vice Chancellor of Africa University</p> <p>Panellist II: Prof. Georgewill Owunari, University of Port Harcourt</p> <p>Panellist III: Jelle Maas, Wageningen University</p> <p>Panellist IV: Prof. Rachid Serraj Director of Strategy & Africa Initiative at UM6P</p> <p>Panellist V: Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Vice Chancellor, Makerere University.</p> <p>Question and answer session</p>	Prof. Ioannis Dimitriou
<p>Session 3: Convergence and way-forward planning for strengthening Africa-European strategic partnerships for higher agricultural education, research for development and policy</p> <p>Theme: Leveraging existing networking framework for policy agenda generation and prioritization and implementation for strengthening Africa's higher agricultural education, research for development and policy</p> <p>Session Moderator: Dr. Petronella Chaminuka, ARC, Acting Group Executive for Impact and Partnerships, ARC, South Africa.</p>		
16:30 - 17:20	<p>Lead Paper 2: The AU-EU International Research Consortium on Research and Innovation on Food, Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture as a coordination mechanism for a coherent AU-EU partnership</p>	Dr. Aggrey Agumya, Executive Director, FARA



	<p>Panel Discussion: Experiences from Africa and Europe for making the IRC relevant and effective</p> <p>Panellist I: AGRINATURA</p> <p>Panellist II: Dr. Patrice Grimaud Director for East Africa, CIRAD</p> <p>Panellist III: National Research Foundation, South Africa</p> <p>Panellist IV: National Council for Research, Science and Technology, Namibia.</p> <p>Question and answer session</p>	Dr. Petronella Chaminuka
17:20 – 17:40	<p>Strengthening regional coordination of the partnership in Africa</p> <p>Panellist I: Dr. Enock Warinda, Executive Director, ASARECA</p> <p>Panellist II: Dr Moumini Savadogo, Executive Director, CORAF</p> <p>Panellist III: Executive Director and Head of Mission, CCARDESA</p>	Dr. Petronella Chaminuka
17:40-17:50 PM	Wrap up session	Dr. Petronella Chaminuka and Prof. Ioannis Dimitriou
17:50-18:00	Health Break	