

# Press Release



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Development of human capital key limitation for achieving African vision

19<sup>th</sup> June, 2016

Kigali, Rwanda



Above: Dr. Musafiri Malimba Papias, Minister of Education, Rwanda tours the RUFORUM Exhibition Stand at the FARA Seventh Agricultural Science Week, Kigali, Rwanda

Education, and particularly higher education is no longer only for the elite but a necessity for development! These remarks were made by Dr. Musafiri Malimba Papias, Minister of Education, Rwanda at the opening of a side event organised by the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and the African Union Commission on the Use of science, technology and innovation for implementing the Agenda 2063. The Side event took place on 14 June, 2013 during the FARA Science Week in Kigali, Rwanda under the theme *“Apply Science, Impact Livelihood”*. Dr. Musafiri noted that Education in the continent had improved significantly, particularly in terms of access but more needed to be done to strengthen quality and relevance to employers. He also noted the need to strengthen capacity for job creation for graduates. Prior to the opening, Dr. Papias visited the RUFORUM exhibition stand. He applauded RUFORUM for its service to Rwanda, including servicing the University of Rwanda as well as the over 34 MScs and PhD students trained who are now working in various sectors in Rwanda, particularly at the Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB) and University of Rwanda (UR).

Dr. Papias called for joint action by African stakeholders to establish and enhance mechanisms towards improving science, technology and innovation in Africa. *“We must work together to ensure that future generations will inherit a strengthened continent with greater hope than we experienced in our lifetime”* he concluded.

The side event attracted 98 participants representing Sub-Regional Organisations, private sector, African universities and continental policy bodies. It was organised to provide opportunity to highlight the perspectives of employers of agricultural graduates and share current interventions to strengthen human capacity development in Africa linked to the implementation of the STISA 2024 by RUFORUM and its partners. During the event the African Union Commission debriefed participants on its recently launched research call.

The Side event recommended:

- Increase tracking, collection and analysis of capacity related information to guide the planning/ implementation
- Transforming tertiary education to support skills development that responds directly to national priority needs such as under the Rwanda Workforce Development Authority
- Focus on skilling the youth for job creation
- Revising curricula to reflect the current and future skills needs: business management skills, policy design and reform; systems approaches (AIS), proposal writing, research methods, communication skills, etc.
- Capacity development at individual, organizational and systems level. This should consider lifelong learning and use of ICT tools to widen access.
- Create an enabling environment to enhance capacity retention
- Focused attention be given to strengthen higher education and technical and vocational education including for extension delivery



#### Notes to Editors:

**The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)** is a network of 60 African Universities with mission to ‘strengthen the capacities of Universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of small-holder farmers through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact oriented research and the maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, national agricultural research institutions’. RUFORUM was established in 2004, with Secretariat hosted by Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. RUFORUM signed MoU with the African Union and has mandate to support capacity building for science, research and technology development in Africa. RUFORUM has supported the training of over 1500 postgraduate students, the generation of over 300 agricultural technologies and mobilized over US\$70 million for strengthening postgraduate education in Africa. Please visit [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org) for more information.

**The 7<sup>th</sup> Africa Agriculture Science Week:** The Africa Agriculture Science Week (AASW) and FARA General Assembly (GA) is the principal forum for all stakeholders in African agriculture Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to reflect on their achievements and craft strategies and actions aimed at enhancing the contribution of agriculture STI towards accelerating the continent’s economic and social transformation. This event is organized every three years. The last such event, the sixth AASW and FARA GA, was held in Accra, Ghana in July 2013. Please visit <http://faraafrica.org/aasw7/> for more information.

**The Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA 2024)** was adopted by African Union Heads of States and Government to ensure the centrality of science in strategies for enhancing technological innovation as the underpinning for economic development in Africa. The Mission of STISA-2024 is to “Accelerate Africa’s transition to an innovation-led, knowledge-based economy”. STISA 2024 articulates six priority areas to significantly contribute to the vision of African Union as described in the ‘Agenda 2063- The Africa We Want’. The six priorities are 1) Eradication of Hunger and Achieving Food Security; 2) Prevention and Control of Diseases; 3) Communication (Physical and Intellectual Mobility); 4) Protection of our Space; 5) Live Together-Build the Society; and 6) Wealth Creation and covers all key sectors.

**The Agenda2063:** It is a strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years. It builds on, and seeks to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development. The seven African Aspirations were derived through a consultative process with the African Citizenry. These are: a Prosperous Africa, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development; an integrated continent, politically united, based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance; an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law; a Peaceful and Secure Africa; Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics; an Africa whose development is people driven, relying on the potential offered by people, especially its women and youth and caring for children; an Africa as strong, united and influential global player and partner. - See more at: <http://www.au.int/en/agenda2063/about#sthash.oovRwYNU.dpuf>

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**Contacts:**

**Name:** Joan Apio

Program Officer -  
Communications, Publicity &  
Marketing

**Email:** [communications@ruforum.org](mailto:communications@ruforum.org)

**Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)**

Plot 151/155 Garden Hill, Makerere University Main Campus

P.O. Box 16811 Kampala, Uganda

Tel: +256-417-713-300 (office) | Direct Line: +256-417-713-317

Twitter: [@RUFORUM](https://twitter.com/RUFORUM) | [@ruforumsec](https://twitter.com/ruforumsec)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ruforumnetwork>

Blog: <http://blog.ruforum.org/>

Website: [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org)