



Training the Next Generation of Scientists for Africa

RUFORUM IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE TRANSFORMATION OF AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA

Who We Are

Founded as a Network in 2004, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a consortium of 126 member universities in 38 African countries.

Why RUFORUM Exists

- Realize economies of scope and scale through academic exchanges including fostering regional centers of excellence to train the next generation of agricultural scientists.
- Provide an effective platform for University support to smallholders farmers through linkages with national agricultural research systems, the private sector and rural communities.
- To champion national and regional policies to support effective postgraduate agricultural training and research.

Our Operational Environment

- Serious lack of the skilled human resources needed to reach 6% agricultural growth and fulfill CAADP goals; Only 1 in 4 scientists are female.
- Universities need to be better linked with National Agricultural Research Systems and national policy.
- Graduates need to be better adapted to employment opportunities.
- Research needs to be more responsive to smallholder farmers and the rural poor.
- Inadequate investment in higher education: poor remuneration, inadequate facilities, lack of funds for field research and few incentives for out-reach and uptake of research.
- Limited collaboration and partnerships among African universities – most universities in Africa have closer relationships with Europe and the USA.

\$208m

Mobilized by RUFORUM on behalf of member universities

489

Research grants awarded

500

Networking events held

1,919

MSc graduates trained

525

PhD graduates trained

118

Undergraduates trained

94%

Alumni live and work in their country of origin

75%

Alumni found employment within 6 months of completion

73%

Alumni are on permanent or long-term contracts

45%

Female Representation

Changes we want

- Proactive graduates who are innovative and with the skills and commitment to improving livelihoods in rural areas and able to lead the transformation of agriculture in their countries.
- Universities working closely with all stakeholders along the value chain to address the problems identified by small farmers.
- A closely integrated network of universities, faculty and students, sharing experiences, new technologies, approaches and resources.
- Greater visibility of the network throughout Africa and beyond.
- More investment in higher agricultural education from governments, regional bodies and partners.
- Greater use of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to support agricultural transformation

Our partnership strategy

We focus on mutually reinforcing partnerships with a Network of universities comprised of over 30,000 faculty and non-academic experts, non-governmental organizations, regional research and development agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors and a burgeoning private sector.

How we see the future

Building national capacity through networks and economies of scale

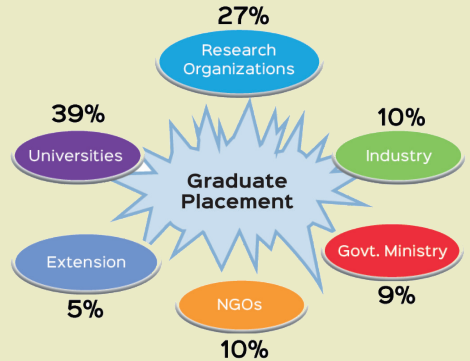
- Integrating higher agricultural education with farmers' associations, National Agricultural Research Institutes, extension and development agencies, and the private sector.
- Investing further in regional MSc and PhD programs and scaling up research outputs and operational uptake.

Enhancing regional collaboration and other science partnerships

- Forming scientific partnerships globally with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, universities and research institutes in emerging and industrialized economies.
- Facilitating increased intra-African access to quality education across the continent.
- Supporting post-graduate higher education and establishing post-doctoral programs.

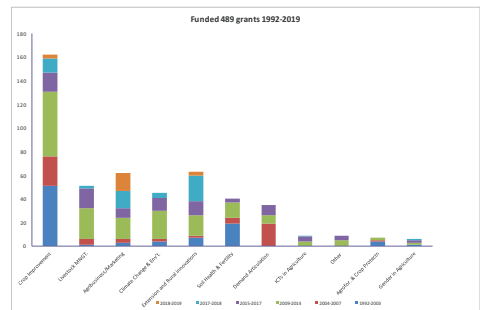
Placement: Graduates fill a diverse set of national human capital needs

Note: Includes all MSc. graduates from 2004 to 2014 sourced from the RUFORUM Tracer Study, 2014. All sources of funding are included.



Funding across a range of agricultural disciplines

Note: Includes all grants under the Competitive Grant System (CGS) and Nurturing Grants (NG)



63%

of alumni produced at least one paper in a referenced journal

56%

Alumni are in a position of influence at regional, national or local government levels

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