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**SUMMARY REPORT**  
on the Implementation of C10  
Commitments Assigned to RUFORUM



## Our Motivation

“Transforming agriculture in Africa requires innovative scientific research, educational and training approaches. The education sector needs to be more connected to the new challenges facing rural communities and needs to build capacity of young people to be part of the transformation of the agricultural sector”. Reinforced by the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa





## Our Vision

Vibrant transformative universities to catalyse sustainable inclusive agricultural development to feed and create prosperity for Africa

## Our Mission

To strengthen the capacities of Universities to foster innovations responsive to the demands of smallholder farmers and value chains through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact-oriented research, and the maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, market actors, national agricultural research and advocacy institutions, and governments

# Introduction

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a consortium of 121 universities in 38 countries spanning the African continent with a vision to create ‘vibrant, transformative universities to catalyze sustainable, inclusive agricultural development to feed and create prosperity for Africa’.

RUFORUM was established to provide a platform for networking, resource mobilization and advocacy; rationalize resource use; and, promote the integration of member universities into Africa’s development processes including the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A), Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), and the African Union Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024).

To support the implementation of these strategies including the Continental TVET Strategy, the African Union (Assembly Decision AU/Dec.671 and Assembly/AU/Dec 572) established the Committee of Ten Heads of State (C10) in July 2015, with two Africa Heads of State from each geographical region of Africa to voluntarily participate in the Committee comprising of: Senegal; Sierra Leone; Egypt; Tunisia; Gabon; Chad; Malawi; Namibia; Kenya; and Mauritius. The C10 was endorsed by the African Union Assembly of January 2018 and held its inaugural

meeting in Addis Ababa on 27 January 2018. The C10 has since adopted its rules of procedure, and held its first Extra-Ordinary Summit hosted by the Government of the Republic of Malawi, 2-3 November 2018 in Lilongwe, Malawi. The major outcome was the C10 Declaration and Action Plan with three major commitments including; 1) investing in education, science and technology; 2) promoting education in Africa; and, 3) engaging the private sector.

Following the Summit in Lilongwe-Malawi, RUFORUM in collaboration with other partners was mandated to oversee the implementation of specific activities as enshrined in the C10 Action Plan. These activities, as assigned to RUFORUM, either in leading or other partner capacity fall under four priority areas, i.e., Priority area 1: Operationalize the African Education Fund in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB); Priority Area 4: Strengthen teacher development and retention; Priority Area 5: Enhancing TVET and skill development for employment; and, Priority area 7: Strengthen higher education, science, technology and innovation.

Progress in implementation of these priority areas largely under the RUFORUM Transforming African Agricultural Universities to meaningfully contribute to Africa’s growth and development (TAGDev) flagship is highlighted in the table below.

**Table 1: Key results achieved against each task assigned to RUFORUM by the C10**

Strategic Action	Key results by August 2019
<b>C10 Commitment 1: Investing in Education, Science and Technology</b>	
<b>Priority area 1: Operationalize Education, Science and Technology Funds in Africa</b>	
<p><b>Strategic Action 1.1:</b> Commit a special fund to facilitate the training of female university members of staff and women in general to PhD level to support Agenda 2063 vision of quality education and gender equality</p>	<p>This action was assigned to the C10 as the responsible partner to create the Special Fund with RUFORUM, ADEA, AFDB and UNESCO as other key partners.</p> <p>Part of the initiatives under RUFORUM is the support to launch the Forum for Women Vice Chancellors in Africa (FAWoVC), as a platform for networking, lesson learning and mentorship among the female Vice Chancellors (See FAWoVC Report). FAWoVC has commissioned studies in six countries namely Uganda, Sudan, Mozambique, Mali, Sierra Leone and Liberia to undertake a gender focused national STI case studies.</p> <p>The studies partly supported as one of the activities under the US\$ 150,000 grant from the Islamic Development Bank to strengthen the capacity of the Forum for Women Vice Chancellors in Africa will give an overview of the status of STI in the target countries and the efforts to train female university members of staff and women in general to PhD level to support implementation of Agenda 2063.</p> <p>RUFORUM has no special Fund for training female university members of Staff. However, the proportion of female students fully supported by RUFORUM for PhD training more than quadrupled from 12% in 2004 to 45% by December 2018. Overall, RUFORUM has supported training of 525 PhD students. These have been retained in their universities as lecturers and other teaching staff managing graduate and undergraduate programmes.</p> <p>Several of the universities have mainstreamed gender and focus on females in higher education science and technology. Nonetheless, the number of females in the academic ranks is still low. The Committee has to have special provisions to create the FUND that will increase the pool of women scientists and indeed in the academia.</p>

## C10 Commitment 2: Promoting Education in Africa

## Priority area 4: Strengthen teacher development and retention

**Strategic Action 4.1:** Increase qualified teachers in Member States at all levels with special attention to STEM, ICT skills and digital technology

This action was assigned to C10 and Member States as responsible entities, with RUFORUM and IICBA assigned as other key partners.

As a network of 120 Universities in 38 African countries, RUFORUM focus is on increasing quality and pool of especially academic staff at university level. New developments include: the Regional Training Centres and Programs to build human capital for Africa, with special emphasis on inclusivity and building capacity for fragile States; the RUFORUM Academic Mobility Program to train scholars in different universities across Africa and the home grown Graduate Teaching Assistantship programme, where up to one hundred and twelve (112) (30 female, 82 male) University staff from twenty nine (29) Universities in fourteen (14) African nations including Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, eSwatini, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda have been supported to undertake PhD studies.

The Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) programme aims at increasing the number of PhD trained staff in African universities under a partnership arrangement that significantly reduces cost and increases retention of the trained staff on the continent.

While laudable, the initiative still has teething challenges. Several of the sending universities are still emerging institutions themselves, they therefore do not have adequate resources to finance the research thrusts of the GTAs. Similarly, some receiving universities largely depend on tuition and the waivers under the GTA affect the resource envelope. However, the need to institutionalise and adopt the GTA program to increase the number and quality of academic staff in African universities is both pertinent and urgent.

RUFORUM has continued with the pedagogical and leadership training programmes of university lecturers through the Principal and Deans committee as well as through the Post doc fellowship program. These provide support to newly qualified academic staff with training and exposure that enables them to attain practical teaching and research skills as future academic leaders.

These initiatives are supported by development partners including the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). Sustainability beyond the donor support needs to be considered for adoption by the member university States especially.

## Priority area 5: Enhancing TVET and skill development for employment

**Strategic Action 5.1:** Promote dissemination and implementation of the Continental TVET Strategy

The C10 Summit assigned AUC, NEPAD and GIZ as the key implementing entities for this action, with RUFORUM, ILO, UNESCO, CAPA, ADEA and AFDB as other key partners.

RUFORUM activities under this action area have been through the Transforming African Agricultural Universities to meaningfully contribute to Africa's growth and development (TAGDev) flagship.

The flagship pursues greater integration and collaboration with the business, technical and vocational education and training (BTVE) institutions and focuses on skills building and forging sector skills alliances, in order to support the design and delivery of joint vocational training curricula, programmes, and teaching and training methodologies.

To date, 253 TVET students (98 females, 155 males); 927 out-of school Youth (488 female, 439 male); and 97 farmers (25 female; 72 male) have been engaged by RUFORUM Member universities especially Gulu University and Makerere University (Uganda); Bindura University of Science Education (Zimbabwe); University of Abomey Calavi (Benin); and, Egerton University and University of Nairobi (Kenya) in experiential learning and training collaboratively with university students. Emerging from these trainings is establishment of three (3) agribusiness enterprises by students from Northern Uganda Youth Development Centre including catering services, piggery production enterprise and fashion and design enterprise.

**Strategic Action 5.2:** Provide practical attachment programmes and strengthen incubation of business and entrepreneurship training

This action area was assigned to AUC, NEPAD, GIZ and RUFORUM as key implementing entities.

Operationalised under the TAGDev flagship, Entrepreneurship and Business Development are part of the Community Action Research Program (CARP). Business enterprises and training for forty one (41) value chains has been undertaken in 10 countries (Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe). Students attached to these value chains have an opportunity to develop enterprises under the business incubation model. African Development Bank through its partnership with Korean Government is providing additional funding to scale up these efforts in Ethiopia and Uganda.

## Priority area 5: Enhancing TVET and skill development for employment

**Strategic Action 5.3:** Capacity building of TVET trainers and stakeholders and Rebrand TVET for enhanced access, equity, quality and relevance

This task was assigned to AUC, NEPAD and GIZ as key implementing agencies with RUFORUM, ADEA, AFDB, ILO and UNESCO as other key partners.

RUFORUM, with support from Mastercard Foundation links universities to TVET institutions as a capacity building and mentorship program. Egerton University in Kenya is linked to Baraka Agricultural College.

These have collaboration under the Potato Seed Value Chain Community Action Research Program that ensures that the TVET and the university engage with community for meaningful contribution to development. Activities include training in areas that enhance the brand of the TVET institutions. Areas of focus for 2019 were communication skills, report writing, marketing and advocacy as well as documentation of the technologies from the TVET institution.

TVET institutions in Uganda (3) (Bobi Polytechnic, Bukalasa College of Agriculture and Northern Uganda Development Centre); Kenya (1) (Baraka Agricultural College), Benin (4) (Medji Agricultural College of Sekou; Agricultural College of Natitingou; Lycée Agricole Mendji de Sékou (LAMS); and, Lycée Technique Agricole de Natitingou (LTA-Nati); and Zimbabwe (1) (Magamba Training Centre) were engaged in experiential learning and training collaboratively with university students. Agribusiness enterprises have emerged from this training.

**Strategic Action 5.4:** Incorporate life skills development and career guidance in TVET

This action area was assigned to AUC, GIZ and UNESCO as the responsible partners with AFDB, ADEA, UNESCO, ILO and RUFORUM as other key partners. As a partner, the following were achieved during the year;

Skills development is integrated in the Mastercard Foundation supported RUFORUM TAGDev flagship, the participating universities and the constituent TVET institutions have revised curricular to incorporate non-traditional but requisite skills for small holders and other farming communities. For example, Gulu University in Uganda with support from RUFORUM reviewed the competence based non formal curriculum for artificial insemination (AI) and Indigenous microorganism (IMO) Technology at Northern Uganda Youth Development Centre TVET, and in collaboration with Curriculum Development Assessment and Certification Council (CDACC) of Kenya and Egerton University in Kenya, supported the development of occupational Standards for Piggery curriculum for Level 3 and Level 4 for Baraka Agricultural College academic programmes to respond to the skills needs among the out of school youth and community members.



### Priority area 5: Enhancing TVET and skill development for employment

**Strategic Action 5.5:** Enhance linkages between universities and TVET institutions with focus on strengthening practical skills and education to enhance innovation, entrepreneurship and skills development for employability

This action area was assigned to AUC, World Bank and RUFORUM as the responsible partners. During the year, the following were achieved by RUFORUM;

The initial steps for this initiative have been taken to identify opportunities for harnessing University-TVET engagement for community outreach; and, develop strategies for strengthening entrepreneurial training and curricular support for TVETs. The First National Agri-entrepreneurship Symposium was hosted in Gulu Uganda (25-26 May 2019). The Symposium involving over 600 participants including representatives from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and recommended nurturing University-TVET engagement to empower TVETs to perform better in terms of their function of youth training for employability, whilst enhancing university outreach relevance and expanding this engagement to other non-formal youth training initiatives outside TVETs.

### Priority area 7: Strengthen higher education, science, technology and innovation

**Strategic Action 7.1:** Strengthen foresight capacity at African Universities and other partners and support capacity building in this important area to support planning and future implementation of key programs

Key implementing agencies for this action are AUC, RUFORUM, NRF (National Research Foundation) and OCP Morocco.

This activity is still in nascent stages. Funding proposals focusing on establishing Data Science and Foresight Studies (DEFOS) Centre (Makerere University) and the African Digital Agricultural Programme: Digital technologies for agricultural transformation (RUFORUM/OCP Morocco) have been written. We do await feedback on the proposals. Harnessing big data and the foresight simulations and potential remain a key strategic investment area for agricultural transformation and policy decision in Africa.

## Priority area 7: Strengthen higher education, science, technology and innovation

**Strategic Action 7.2:** Develop programs to establish Research Chairs in African Universities, increase academic mobility schemes and improve infrastructure and increase staff capacity development

Key implementing partners for this action include AUC, RUFORUM, IsDB and NRF.

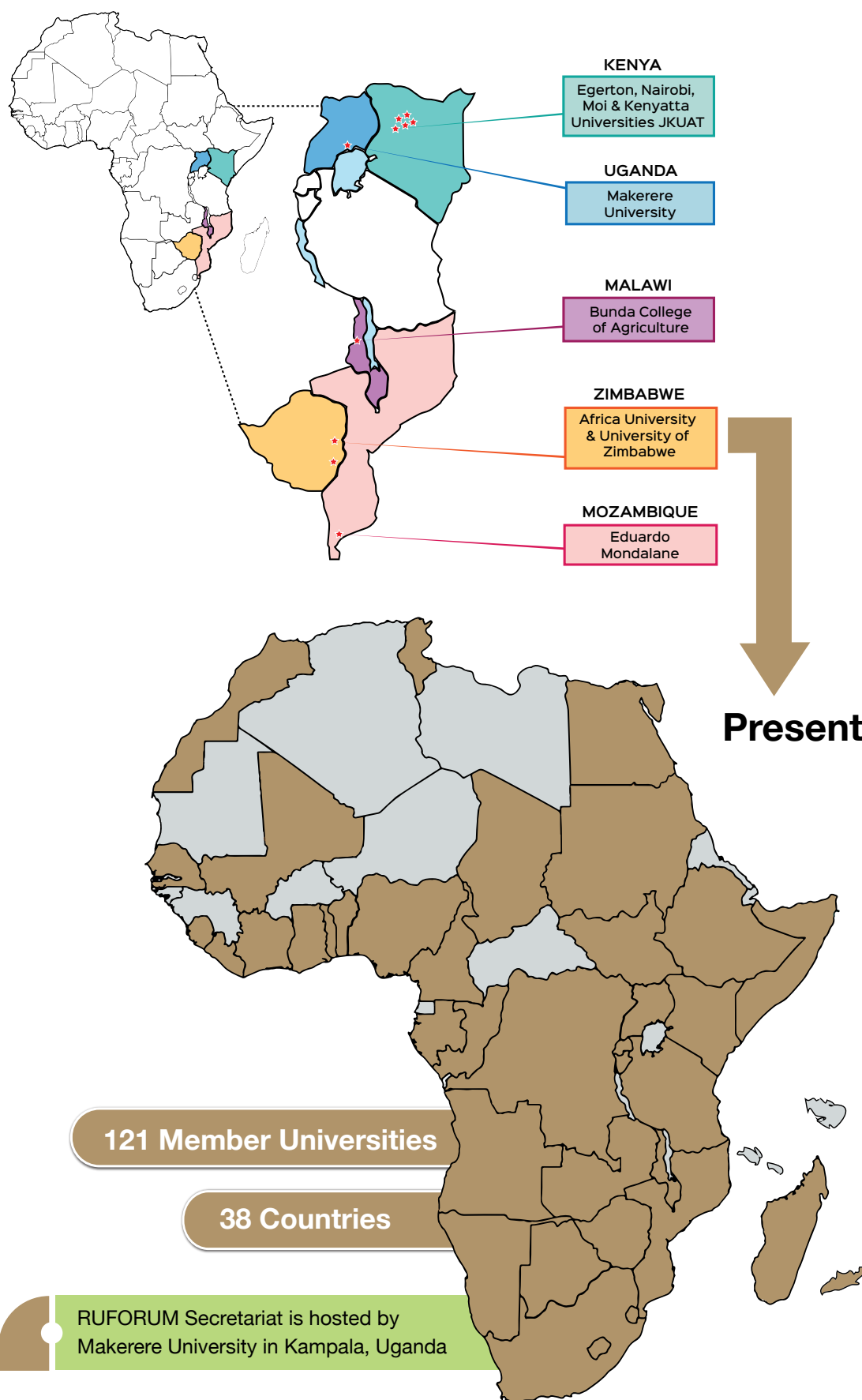
RUFORUM has continued to support training of students in different universities across Africa at both undergraduate and graduate levels: Benin, Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia. Special attention is given to moving students across regions and language barriers; B) RUFORUM has supported universities in Africa and Europe to participate in the Intra African Mobility call. C) To strengthen academic mobility across the continent, a new initiative, RUFORUM Academic Mobility Programme (RAMP) will be launched in 2020/2021.

The Research Chairs activity however, is still in the early stages of development and operationalisation. The process for soliciting for support and funding is ongoing and continuous.

As a way forward, RUFORUM in response to the Ministerial decisions of October 2018, and in line with the Malawi C10 Declaration, has developed four continental initiatives that will be presented to a Meeting of Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Education and Training, Science, Technology and Innovation, and Finance on 5th December 2019 in Cape Coast, Ghana for further review and decisions on Operationalisation. These initiatives are shown in the Figure below. A separate initiative on Strengthening Agricultural Higher Education in Africa (SHAEA) has already been endorsed by seven Member States namely Kenya and Uganda (eastern Africa), Cameroon (Central Africa), Malawi and Mozambique (Southern Africa), and Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana (West Africa).

Expansion has been in Scope, Countries and within Countries

## Phased Expansion 2004 - 2019



## Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture



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