



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 129 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, research and outreach

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, Private Sector 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 outreach and the uptake of research
- Limited collaboration and partnerships among African universities
- Most universities in Africa have closer relationships with Europe and the USA

\$214.9m

Mobilized by RUFORUM on behalf of member universities

400

Research grants awarded

1958

MSc graduates trained

537

Networking events held

536

PhD graduates trained

195

Undergraduates trained

1046

TVET students supported

52 PhDs, 73 MSc & 29 BSc supported through 29 Post-Doc Fellowships

575

Students supported under the RUFORUM Entrepreneurship Challenge Program (RECAP)

45%

Female Representation

927

Out of school Youth supported

53%

Alumni are on permanent or long-term contracts

98%

Alumni live and work in their country of origin

51%

Alumni found employment within 6 months of completion

63%

of alumni produced at least one paper in a refereed journal

26%

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

Changes we want

- Proactive graduates who are innovative and with the skills and commitment to improved 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

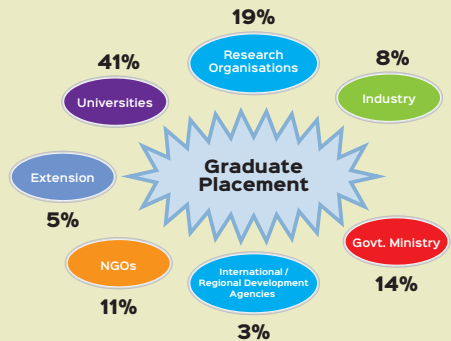
- Harnessing 4IR technologies to strengthen institutions and collaborations
- Integrating higher agricultural education with farmers' associations, National Agricultural Research Institutes, extension and development agencies, and the private sector.
- Investing further in regional MSc and PhD programs 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. and PhD graduates from 2004 to 2020 sourced from the RUFORUM Tracer Study, 2020.



Funding across a range of agricultural disciplines

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

