

FAO-RUFORUM PARTERSHIP

Planning for 2020 collaboration dialogue

Date: 28th November 2019

Venue: FAO Regional Office for Africa

Concept Note

Background

On 27 October 2017, FAO and the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and committed to work together to strengthen the capacities of RUFORUM member universities to better contribute to food security and nutrition, increase sustainability of agricultural and food systems, reduce rural poverty and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa.

The MoU provides a framework for the two organizations to carry out joint activities to:

- increase African students' and researchers' access to FAO's e-learning resources and scientific publications on food and agriculture;
- increase African youth skills through involvement in community-based field projects and FAO's regional and national initiatives;
- develop joint initiatives to strengthen institutional and technical capacities of RUFORUM member universities in the areas critical to SDGs implementation; and
- Strengthen outreach and multi-stakeholder regional dialogues to advocate best policies and practices to achieve food security and take joint actions for the implementation of the SDGs in Africa.

Several joint activities have been undertaken since October 2017, and the following, among others, are the key results that have been achieved:

- FAO and RUFORUM e-learning hub established to provide RUFORUM members and affiliated institutions with access to a number of multilingual e-learning courses free of charge.
- About 627 individuals (researchers, librarians and PhD students in RUFORUM member universities) were trained on fundamentals of information literacy and access to AGORA.
- About 171 individual from 50 (out of 85) RUFORUM universities trained (through a MOOC) on Open Data Principles, Using Open Data, Making Data Open, Sharing Open Data and Intellectual Property and Copyright.
- Ten students from RUFORUM member universities in 2018 received grants to implement their field projects in rural communities in Benin, Uganda, Kenya and Lesotho under the FAO supported RUFORUM's Community-Based Field Attachment Award (CFAPA) program, to

promote youth support for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and in particular, SDG2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

- Dialogue between academicians and parliamentarians to enhance their transformative potential to achieve Agenda 2063 and SDG2 was initiated at the FAO side event during the 6th Biennium Conference of the RUFORUM held on 24 October 2018, Nairobi, Kenya.
- There was an attempt to identify potential future opportunities for synergies between parliamentary initiatives on FSN in Uganda/ sub-regional level and activities of RUFORUM as well as joint proposals between RUFORUM and FAO for AU (EU) research grants on ‘*Food, Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA)*’ at the meeting held at FAO Uganda in April 2018. A topic on ‘*indigenous nutritious food system*’ was identified, yet, the legal arrangements of sub-contracting was not cleared by FAO headquarters on time.

Planning Meeting for 2020 and Date

RUFORUM will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 2-6 December 2019 at the Cape Coast University, in Cape Coast, Ghana. To take advantage of the presence of RUFORUM’s senior officers in Accra on their way to Cape Coast, a joint-planning meeting for the 2020 activities is being proposed to be held at RAF offices on 29 November 2019, from 09:00 to 11:30.

Objectives and Expected Outputs

The main objective of the proposed meeting is to discuss and identify opportunities for joint resource mobilization and joint activities to be implemented in 2020 in support of the Regional Initiatives and RAF work plan within the overall framework provided by the MoU (GWP 4 – Activity 4.1).

The expected output is an agreement on joint resources mobilization initiatives and broad outline of joint activities for 2020.

Participants

- Prof Adipala Ekwamu, RUFORUM Executive Secretary
- Dr. Florence Nakayiwa Mayega – RUFORUM Deputy Executive Secretary for Planning, Resource Mobilisation and Management
- Dr. Alice Mutiti Mweetwa, RUFORUM Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme Development and Implementation
- Dr. Anthony Egeru, RUFORUM Manager for Training and Community Development
- FAO RAF Regional Programme Leader
- FAO Regional Initiatives Delivery Managers and SP Focal Points OR Alternates
- FAO RAF Partnership Officers
- FAO PSPA staff
- FAO RAF South-South Cooperation Officer

AGENDA

Time	Activity	Who
14:30-14:40	Opening Remarks from FAO Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative for Africa	Mr. Abebe Haile Gabriel
14:40-14:50	Opening Remarks from RUFORUM Executive Secretary	Professor Adipala Ekwamu
14:50-15:15	Brief Presentations by FAO MOU Focal Point, and FAO Strategic Programme Focal Points	Mr. Justin Chisenga, Mr. Koffi Amegbeto, Mr. Scott Newman, Mr. Tony Nsanganira (on behalf of Ms. Pamela Pozarny), Mr. Mphumuzi Sukati, Mr. Jean Senahoun
15:15-15:30	Brief Presentations by RUFORUM Deputy Executive Secretaries and RUFORUM Manager for Training and Community Development	Dr. Florence Nakayiwa Mayega, Dr. Alice Mutiti Mweetwa and Dr. Anthony Egeru
15:30-16:25	Open Discussion on areas for increased collaboration and joint resource mobilization in 2020	All
16:25-16:30	Closing Remarks by FAO MOU Focal Point	Mr. Justin Chisenga
16:30-17:00	Refreshments	
Main Facilitator: Mr. Justin Chisenga		

Venue

14:30 – 14:45 The Office of the ADG/RR for Africa, Regional Office for Africa of FAO
 14:45 – 17:20 The Executive Conference Room, Regional Office for Africa of FAO

FAO Regional Office for Africa: #2 Gamel Abdul Nasser Road, Accra, Ghana (next to [Kempinski Hotel](#))

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Annex 1. FAO-RUFORUM MoU Activities for 01 August – 31 December 2019

GWP 1 - Advance knowledge dissemination on food security, nutrition, sustainable food and agriculture		
Activity	Expected Immediate Output (s)	Notes
1.1 Increase the membership of AGORA digital library, build capacities for its use and raise awareness of its benefits [<i>FAO Officer: Imma Subirats, Information Management Officer, Email: Imma.Subirats@fao.org; RUFORUM Officer: Mr. Emmanuel Okalany, Technical Specialist for Development and Partnership, Email: e.okalany@ruforum.org] and Dr. Runyararo Jolyn Rukarwa, Manager – Research and innovation. Email: r.rukarwa@ruforum.org</i>]		
1.1.1 Organize a training session for Post-Doctoral Fellows and Emerging Scientists on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGORA (Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture) • AGRIS (International System for Agricultural Science and Technology) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-Doctoral Fellows and Emerging Scientists acquire knowledge and skills on accessing and using AGORA and AGRIS 	<p><i>Training to be organized during RUFORUM AGM (December 2019) in Cape Coast, Ghana. Exact date and duration to be agreed upon. A full-day (08-00 – 17:00) would be ideal</i></p>
1.2 Establish joint-FAO-RUFORUM E-learning Hub to increase the access to FAO’s e-learning courses and materials [<i>FAO Officer: Cristina Petracchi, Capacity Development Officer, Email: Cristina.Petracchi@fao.org; RUFORUM Officer: Dr. Alice Mutiiti Mweetwa, Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme Development and Implementation, Email: a.mweetwa@ruforum.org</i>]		
1.2.1 Promote FAO e-learning modules on nutrition sensitive agriculture and MOOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in RUFORUM member universities use FAO e-learning courses on nutrition sensitive agriculture • Adoption of the FAO e-learning courses on nutrition sensitive agriculture into university training curricula of RUFORUM member universities promoted • Awareness about the MOOC (content, objectives, etc.) among senior officers in order to promote its use among future students 	<p><i>In collaboration with Ana Islas Ramos, Nutrition Education Officer (ESN), email: Ana.IslasRamos@fao.org</i></p> <p><i>Nadia Fanou, Nutrition and Food System Expert, email: Nadia.Fanou@fao.org</i></p> <p><i>Nature of the event for Activity 1.2.3 to be agreed upon.</i></p>

<p>1.2.2 Invite RUFORUM to collaborate and contribute to the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) being organized with the FAO Nutrition Division and partners on <i>Nutrition and Food Systems</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RUFORUM contribute to the MOOC development, contributes and promotes the MOOC through its network of partners institutions and affiliates 	
<p>1.2.3 Organize a session or side event or poster exhibition on training on nutrition and food systems and nutrition education during RUFORUM AGM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness of FAO training courses and learning materials on <i>nutrition sensitive agriculture and food systems</i> and nutrition education (ENACT/ENAF if relevant) among staff and students in RUFORUM member universities 	
<p>1.3 Create awareness and develop capacities for open science publishing and open data in agricultural sciences [FAO Officer: <i>Imma Subirats, Information Management Officer, Email: Imma.Subirats@fao.org</i>; RUFORUM Officer: <i>Mr. Emmanuel Okalany, Technical Specialist for Development and Partnership Email: e.okalany@ruforum.org</i>]</p>		
<p>1.3.1 Organize a training session for Post-Doctoral Fellows and Emerging Scientists focusing on open research data in agriculture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness of open (research) data and its role in scholarly communication in agriculture among Post-Doctoral Fellows and Emerging Scientists 	<p><i>The session will be part of Activity 1.1.1 above</i></p>
<p>GWP 2 - Contribute to FAO's Strategic Programmes and Regional Initiatives in Africa [FAO Officer: <i>Kazuyuki Fujiwara, Partnerships Officer, Email: Kazuyuki.Fujiwara@fao.org and Nadia.fanou@fao.org</i> RUFORUM Officer: <i>Dr. Florence Mayegwa Nakayiwa, Deputy Executive Secretary – Planning, Resource Mobilization and Management, email: f.nakayiwa@ruforum.org</i>]</p>		
<p>2.1 Participate in RUFORUM Ministerial Round Table Scientific Sessions during RUFORUM AGM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAO contributes to discussions of issues and policy in agriculture higher education in Africa 	<p><i>RUFORUM to invite FAO Assistant Director General & Regional Representative for Africa; theme and focus of his possible intervention to be agreed upon.</i></p>
<p>2.2 Share FAO Global Internship and Volunteer Fellows (IVF) opportunities with RUFORUM member universities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of applications from Africa to FAO Global IVF increased 	<p><i>Closing date for 2019 Call for Expression of Interest for Internships is 31 August 2019.</i></p>



<p>GWP 3 - Develop capacities and technical competencies of RUFORUM universities in the areas linked to food security, sustainable food and agriculture, climate change, SDGs implementation [FAO Officer: Justin Chisenga, Capacity Development Officer, Email: Justin.Chisenga@fao.org; RUFORUM Officer: Dr. Alice Mutiiti Mweetwa, Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme Development and Implementation, Email: a.mweetwa@ruforum.org]</p>		
<p>3.1 Organize and deliver joint webinars on FAO themes linked to nutrition, sustainable food and agriculture, partnerships and SDGs to raise awareness of staff and graduate students in RUFORUM universities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar 1: <i>Measuring Food Insecurity in SDG era - Carlo Cafiero, FAO Statistics Division.</i> • Webinar 2: <i>Education for Effective Nutrition in Action (ENACT)</i> (speaker to be identified) • Webinar 3: RUFORUM to propose a topic/theme and speaker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness of FAO’s work relating to SDGs, nutrition, sustainable food and agriculture among staff and students in RUFORUM universities 	<p><i>With support from: FAO - Loreta Zdanovaite, Ana Islas Ramos Nadia Fanou</i></p> <p><i>Dates and time for the webinars to be agreed upon.</i></p> <p><i>FAO will provide webinar platform (Adobe Connect)</i></p>
<p>GWP 4 - Promote joint resource mobilization, including within the framework of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation [FAO Officer: Kazuyuki Fujiwara, Partnerships Officer, Email: Kazuyuki.Fujiwara@fao.org and Peter Anaadumba, SSC Officer, Email: Peter.Anaadumba@fao.org; RUFORUM Officer: Mr. Emmanuel Okalany, Technical Specialist for Development and Partnership Email: e.okalany@ruforum.org]</p>		
<p>4.1 Hold face-to-face consultations to identify opportunities for joint resource mobilization and activities for 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft plan for joint resources mobilization and activities for 2020 agreed 	<p><i>The idea is to hold the meeting in Accra at FAO Regional Office for Africa either before or after RUFORUM AGM in November - December. Exact date and time to be agreed upon.</i></p> <p><i>With support from: FAO – Karin Christianson (Karin.Christianson@fao.org) and Justin Chisenga</i></p>



		<i>Mr. Emmanuel Okalany</i>
<i>4.2 Document and share lessons learned from the model of the Community Based Field Attachment project implemented with RUFORUM in 2018 and explore how they can serve to develop similar projects and to mobilize resources in collaboration with partners</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Lessons learned from Community Based Field Attachment project documented and shared and taken into account in FAO/RUFORUM resource mobilization activities</i>	<i>Loreta Zdanovaite</i> <i>Email:</i> <i>Loreta.zdanovaite@fao.org</i> <i>In collaboration with FAO Research and Extension Unit (AGDR) and FAO South-South Cooperation</i> <i>Mr. Moses Waswa</i>