



The Sixth African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference,

Date: 22th October, 2018

14th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting

Concept Note

Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a consortium of 85 universities in 36 African 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’. The processes and actions that RUFORUM with partners will take to achieve the Vision are clearly articulated in the first RUFORUM Operational Plan 2018-2022 which advances the business case and rationale for investment in Africa’s higher agricultural education and training. The Vision consolidates and builds upon continent-wide policy frameworks including the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), the aspiration of African Heads of State and Government defined in the Malabo Declaration on sustaining CAADP; Higher Education, Science and Technology (HEST) strategies of development partners and multilateral agencies; the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A); the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA); the Agricultural Education and Skills Improvement Framework (AESIF); and, the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA). RUFORUM has therefore grown radically over the years from its founding in 2004 by 10 university Vice Chancellors¹, and was established to promote the integration of member universities into Africa’s development processes, particularly within the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP); provide a platform for networking, resource mobilization and advocacy to transform universities for relevance towards inclusive sustainable development; and to rationalize resource use and enhance economies of scale and scope.

¹ The constituent universities included Africa University (Zimbabwe), Eduardo Mondale (Mozambique), Makerere University (Uganda), Moi University (Kenya), Kenyatta University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Kenya), Egerton University (Kenya), University of Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe), University of Nairobi (Kenya).

CO-ORGANISERS:





RUFORUM, as a vibrant network stimulates coordinated efforts amongst member universities and stakeholders in higher education and agricultural sectors through several engagements including the convening of the Annual General Meeting (AGM), planned and hosted on an alternating arrangement amongst member countries. The AGM is the utmost decision making organ of the RUFORUM Network which masterminds Network interventions; performs functions as reckoned relevant for the achievement of RUFORUM objectives; and, serves as a catalyst for leveraging resources and mutually beneficial partnerships between and among universities in and outside the Network.

The 14th AGM coincides with the development of the RUFORUM Charter and the RUFORUM Vision 2030 strategy as well as the development of the medium-term operational plan 2018-2022 of the RUFORUM Network. This AGM is therefore a special convening for RUFORUM to showcase the renewed commitment to strengthening higher agricultural education in Africa. This year’s AGM will provide opportunity for mobilizing participation of African Universities in several opportunities of the network including the endorsement of the RUFORUM Charter and the World Bank Initiative on Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education in Africa (SHAEA).

Purpose and Objectives of the Side Event

The 14th RUFORUM AGM shall:

- i. Review and approve minutes of the 13th AGM, held 27th October 2017 in Lilongwe-Malawi;
- ii. Receive and approve Reports for the Activity Year July 2017 – June 2018 and Annual Work plan and Budget for the Activity Year July 2018 – June 2019;
- iii. Consider requests for membership from universities that wish to be part of the RUFORUM network;
- iv. Recognize Young African Entrepreneurs;
- v. Explore the various actions taken against issues raised in the last AGM; and,
- vi. Provide input into the proposed World Bank initiative-SHAEA.

Approach and Methodology

The AGM will be held on 22nd October 2018 at **xxx under the Chair of xxx**. The AGM will be hosted by the University of Nairobi in conjunction with

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RUFORUM member universities in Kenya. The meeting will be officially opened by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of Kenya. The meeting will follow the procedures below as outlined in the RUFORUM Constitution

- i. Record of members present, absent and apologies received
- ii. Review and correction of minutes of the last Annual General meeting;
- iii. Matters arising from previous minute;
- iv. The Executive Secretary's report;
- v. Chairperson of the Board remarks;
- vi. Consideration of the Annual Report including the financial report;
- vii. Receive and consider Work plan, Programme and Budget for the subsequent year;
- viii. Consideration of External Auditor's report
- ix. Elections of the Board, Chair and Vice Chair of the Board; and
- x. Appointment of external auditors.

Venue and Participants

The 14th RUFORUM AGM will be held on xxx at xxx. Approximately xxx participants are expected to attend the AGM 2018. Participants will include Vice-Chancellors/ Presidents/ Rectors and University Principals/ Deans (from both full member universities and associate member universities) and other key invited stakeholders.

Side Event Organizers and Contact

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