



The Sixth African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference 2018

Plenary Session 4

Venue: Kenyatta International Conventional Centre (KICC)

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Session Name: Unravelling University, Community and Private Sector Engagement for agricultural transformation in Africa

Date: Wednesday 24 October, 2018

Time: 10:30-13:00

Room: Tsavo C

Venue: Nairobi, Kenya

Background

University, Community and Private Sector Engagement has been recognized as an important factor in the successful introduction and adoption of new technologies. But despite a growing appreciation of its importance, what makes this engagement effective remains poorly understood. Universities have frequently been regarded as key institutions in processes of agricultural development. The most explicit role they have been allocated is the production of highly skilled labour and research output to meet perceived economic needs. But to this role may be added, especially during periods of more radical change, roles in the building of new institutions of civil society, in encouraging and facilitating new cultural values, and in training and socialising members of new social elites. Much of the recent perspectives on the roles of universities in processes of agricultural transformation and modernization has tended to be normative: focusing on what universities *ought* to be doing and what is planned for them to be doing.

Over the last forty years, governments around the world have stimulated linkages between academia, private sector and communities. In recent years this trend has gained ground. Stimulating technical advance in industry is viewed as a necessity to promote agricultural transformation. Policy makers across continents seek to stimulate universities to become more entrepreneurial, engaging more actively with the productive sector. As universities become more involved in promoting economic development, there is a push from various governments for more relevant research and training. There is also an increased call for relevance by encouraging more linkages between higher education institutions, the business sector and the community. Such linkages are particularly relevant in Africa as the majority of universities were created with a mission to contribute to agricultural development.





Session Aim:

The overall objective of this session is to provide a platform for deliberations on understanding how universities could better engage with the community and private sector for agri-food system transformation in Africa for Africa to feed itself, both now and in the future, and to improve the socioeconomic well-being of its people.

More specifically, the objectives are to:

1. Understand the role of universities in agri-food system transformation through technology and knowledge transfer throughout the agri-food system value chain;
2. Examine the implications of university, community and Private Sector Engagement in agricultural production systems and related infrastructure;
3. Identify challenges and opportunities for university, community and Private Sector Engagement in value chains development;
4. Provide guidance on needed actions to strengthen University-Community-Private sector Engagement.

Mode of session contributions:

Moderator: Dr Eusebius J. Mukhwana, E.J., Director General, Kenya National Qualification Authority (KNQA)

Oral contributions will be the main part of the sessions in Parallel Plenary 4. This session will engage five speakers. Speakers will present different aspects, perspectives or thoughts on this particular topic. The lead speaker will give an overview of University, Community and Private Sector Engagement for 10-15 minutes. Each Panel speaker will then have opportunity to present his/her perspective and when all the speakers have talked, there will be time for plenary input through short question and answers and discussion. Speakers are encouraged to present verbally but may use up to a maximum of 7 slides.

Panel speakers are encouraged to be considerate to fellow presenters and ensure they do not go over the presentation time limit. The question and discussion time will be scheduled after all the speakers have presented but the Moderator may pose guided questions after each Panel speaker's talk. .

How will the moderator then move forward?

- Engage the audience.
- Make the audience want more because the conversation is lively, the content is informative, and they're a part of the conversation.





- Give approximately 30 percent of the panelists' total time to the discussions.
- Prepare short questions to ask the panelists and have extras to jump-start the plenary discussions.
- End on time.

Proposed session line up

Time	Activity and possible topics
11.00-11.05	Moderator introduces session by highlighting key issues related to University community and private sector engagement and to frame the plenary presentations and discussions
11.05-11.20	Lead Speaker; Prof Anil Gupta (India): <i>Overview of the current University, Community and Private Sector Engagement: Selected examples and key issues moving forward</i>
11:20- 11:30	Dr. Doroba Hendrina Chalve, Head of Division, AfDB: <i>The envisaged role of universities in agricultural transformation: Perspective from African Development Bank</i>
11:30-11:40	Hon. Justice Yien Oral Lam Tut, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, South Sudan <i>Implications of university, community and Private Sector Engagement in agricultural production systems and related infrastructure</i>
11:40-11:50	Mr. Stephen Muchiri, CEO East African Farmers Federation: <i>Challenges and opportunities for university, community and Private Sector Engagement in Africa from farmer organizations perspective</i>
11:50-12:00	Dr. Mario A. Piedra, CATIE, Costa Rica: <i>Strategies for university, community and Private Sector Engagement in agriculture: Experience and lessons from Central America</i>
12:00-12:10	Prof. Yun Seon Kim, Handong Global University, Korea <i>Strategies for university, community and Private Sector Engagement in agriculture: Experience and lessons from The Republic of Korea</i>
12:10-12:20	Prof. Chuanhong Diana Zhang, China Agricultural University <i>Strategies for university, community and Private Sector Engagement in agriculture: Experience and lessons from China</i>
12:20-12:35	Q&A from Participants and Panelists





12:35-12:50

Final Statements from Panelists.

12:50-13:00

Final take home messages from the moderator

Expected session output

- A detailed session report on unravelling University, Community and Private Sector Engagement for agricultural transformation in Africa

Expected take away messages:

- Each stakeholder plays multiple and complementary roles in agricultural transformation
- Encourage strong participation for all, agricultural transformation is multi-faceted
- Supporting community transformation requires flexible, adaptable, and participatory approaches suited to each context
- Agricultural transformation is a complex, multi-stakeholder, non-linear, usually lengthy, messy process strongly influenced by the environment.
- A major aim should be to strengthen University, Community and Private Sector stakeholders' system's capacity to innovate over the long-term, rather than simply developing a specific type of innovation.

