



## Summary of Day 2: Higher Education in Africa Partners Consultative Forum

The following pilot projects were presented and discussed

- The Young Africa Works Strategy of the Mastercard Foundation
- Accelerating Youth Innovativeness, Entrepreneurship and Financial Inclusion for Africa's Development (AYIF-Africa) Programme
- Strengthening use of digital technology for learning and sharing in African universities
- Building Africa's Science, Technology and Innovation Capacity Project (BASTIC) Project

Group discussions to reflect on core issues emerging and make propositions to move the African transformation agenda suggested the following key issues:

- Move from emphasis in piloting to scaling as technologies and best practices such as those in digital learning, entrepreneurship and youth engagement already exist
- Create a graduate with core competencies for the changing world through shift in focus from knowledge transfer to creating a life-long learner
- Establish core competencies that are needed to inform training curricula
- Identify and address policy constraints to advancing science and technology in Africa
- Engage the private sector and governments in articulating skills gaps, facilitating learning and participating in research at the universities
- Leverage partnerships to enhancing capacity for Agenda 2063
- Identify sustainable resource mobilisation strategies to achieve long-term strategic plans of the network

There were several areas of common interest between priorities of the RUFORUM and those of Development Partners who made specific commitments to supporting RUFORUM as below:

- The Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development committed to advocate for RUFORUM in the Arab Region and to support a follow up meeting that was agreed upon to further bilateral discussions
- Carnegie Corporation of New York, represented by Andrea Johnson, hoped to provide another grant in 2020 to RUFORUM to support graduate capacity building
- The World Bank indicated that it will continue to support RUFORUM's AHESI's Initiative and had invited the Network and other partners to participate in the Food Security leadership dialogue to be held in Rome 3-4 April 2019 aimed at developing an agenda for food security
- OCP/UM6P are already in discussion with RUFORUM to develop a new programme for digital learning and agriculture
- The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa re-iterated its commitment to co-design and co-finance a pilot intervention in Higher Agriculture Education in the areas of innovations, youth entrepreneurship, and women empowerment. It also offered to discuss the deliberations from the meeting with a consortium of Arab funders such as the



Kuwait Foundation Fund, Arabian Fund, Qatar Foundation, Islamic Development Bank, OCP, amongst others

- The Development Partners agreed to convene a follow-up meeting that would include those who were not present during the 20-21 March 2019 consultations to jointly develop a pilot programme around RUFORUM's AHESI which they would consider to jointly fund
- Participants agreed to mobilize support for BASTIC and to reach out to BADEA, IsDB, Qatar Foundation, African Development Bank and others to support the initiative
- Participants agreed and tasked RUFORUM to develop a regional initiative to strengthen staff capacities in African Universities and to increase the pool of women scientists in Africa

### **Key Recommendations**

1. World Bank to consider including the Strengthening Agricultural Higher Education in Africa (SHAEA) initiative as one of its Key deliverable programmes in the Food Security Programme being designed and to incorporate aspects of Digital Technology for Agriculture and Policy in the SHAEA initiative
2. Mastercard Foundation to consider supporting the scaling out of the TAGDEV to more universities and countries in Africa and to consider working with RUFORUM to increase the pool of Women scholars and scientists in Africa
3. OCP, World Bank and other Development Partners to support the AGRIDAP initiative being championed by UM6P and RUFORUM and to mobilize other partners to support the initiative. Further it was recommended that AGRIDAP initiative to include as one of its Pillars the Higher Agricultural Education Indicator Platform
4. OCP, African Development Bank and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development to work with RUFORUM to mobilize participation of private sector and other High Net Worth persons to engage with African Heads of State during the Summit on BASTIC