



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 157 member universities in 40 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

**\$310.3m**

Mobilized by RUFORUM on behalf of member universities

**449**

Research grants awarded

**2173**

MSc graduates trained

**580**

Networking events held

**716**

PhD graduates trained

**229**

Undergraduates trained

**1040**

TVET students supported

80 PhDs, 94 MSc & 29 BSc supported through 39 Post-Doc Fellowships

**812**

Students supported under the RUFORUM Entrepreneurship Challenge Program (RECAP)

**45.8%**

Female Representation

**1472**

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

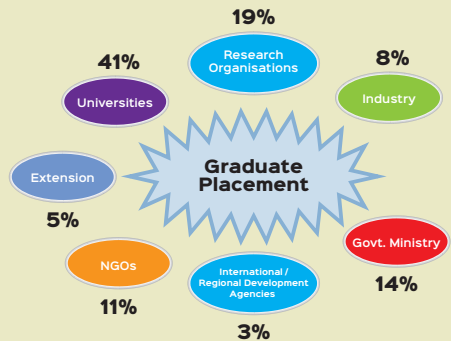
- Harnessing 4IR technologies to strengthen institutions and collaborations
- Integrating higher agricultural education with farmers' associations, National Agricultural Research Institutes, extension and development agencies, and the private sector.
- Investing further in regional MSc and PhD programs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

