



19TH RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

ACCELERATING AND SCALING-UP AFRICA'S CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION ACTIONS: EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS

Date: 1st November 2023 (08:30-16:00 GMT+1)

Venue: The Tripartite Room, Palais de Congrès, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/45mrKUQ>

Side Event Concept Note

Contact:

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BACKGROUND

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) will hold its 19th Annual General Meeting on 28th October-2nd November 2023 at Palais des Congres in Yaounde, Cameroon. The theme of the conference is **“Transforming Higher Education to Sustainably Feed and Create Prosperity for Africa”**. The AGM will be hosted by the Government of Cameroon and RUFORUM member Universities in Cameroon namely; University of Bamenda, University of Buea, University of Dschang, University of Maroua, and University of Ngaoundere. Between 500 and 700 participants representing higher education leaders, researchers, policy makers, development partners, private sector actors, students, farmers, among other actors will come together to discuss key challenges and opportunities to transform agricultural higher education to contribute to Africa’s development.

One of the thematic areas of the AGM will focus on accelerating and scaling-up Africa’s climate change adaptation and mitigation actions. The continent is vulnerable to climate change impacts because of over reliance on rain-fed agriculture. Predictions show that global warming of 1.5°C or 2.0°C, a now more than likely scenario, will shorten crop growth duration, aggravate droughts, and consequently reduce yield for major staple cereals. Climate change adaptation is necessary to reduce the likely impacts on agricultural productivity. Mitigation actions are required to reduce on greenhouse gas emissions and enhance carbon sequestration.

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RUFORUM is engaged in several climate change initiatives, including Accelerating Impacts of [CGIAR](#) Climate Research for Africa project ([AICCRA](#)), Graduate Research Training on measurement and management of greenhouse gas emissions through the Global Research Alliance for Agricultural Greenhouse Gases ([GRA](#)) and Responsible Artificial Intelligence for Climate Action in Africa (RAINCA). To share experiences and lessons learned from these initiatives, RUFORUM in partnership with AICCRA and GRA will convene a side event on Accelerating and scaling up Africa’s climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.

The side event will focus on the following thematic areas:

1. Climate information services
2. Climate change mitigation research (including estimates of carbon emissions)
3. Climate change governance
4. Climate-adaptive agriculture

Under the AICCRA programme, RUFORUM has developed curricula for enhancing the use of validated climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and/or the climate information services (CIS) knowledge products developed by the CGIAR Centres and other research institutions. The modules and other technologies, practices and innovations developed under the AICCRA programme will be showcased in the side event. The event will also explore avenues for mainstreaming CSA/CIS into university activities including university curricula, research and outreach.

The Global Research Alliance in Agricultural Greenhouse Gases has been supporting RUFORUM Member universities to carry out participatory research on measurement and management of greenhouse gas emissions and removals in pastoral and agro-pastoral livestock farming systems in Sub-Saharan Africa. The initiative aims to build the capability of graduate and post-graduate level students in Africa to conduct applied research on agricultural greenhouse gases. This initiative's skilled and trained graduate students will share and showcase their lessons and experiences during this side event.

Objectives of the Side Event

The overall objective of the side event is to share lessons and experiences as well as address challenges in accelerating and scaling up Africa’s climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.

Specifically, the side event aims to;

1. Lessons learn from climate change mitigation research on the continent;
2. Increase awareness of CSA/CIS technologies, practices and innovations developed by the AICCRA Project among university stakeholders;

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3. Disseminate completed training modules developed by RUFORUM and WASCAL for integration into university curricula;
4. Showcase the GRA initiatives and identify possible collaboration on climate change research and mitigation across Africa.

Expected outcomes:

- University stakeholders to appreciate the curricular developed under the AICCRA project.
- University stakeholders commit to integrate CSA/CIS curricula in their university training programmes
- Further research and collaboration on climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Stakeholders appreciating the impact of climate change and its implications to Agri-food Systems Development.

Approach of the Side Event

The side event will be delivered through keynote presentations, panel discussions and Q&A. in addition

Target participants

The side event targets deans, students,

Draft Programme:

Session Chair:

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS
Session 1: Opening Session		
Chair: Dr. Alice Mutiti Mweetwa, University of Zambia, Zambia		
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	RUFORUM/WASCAL
9:00-9:15	Introductory Remarks (i) RUFORUM (ii) AICCRA (iii) GRA	Session Chair
9:15-9:25	Official Opening Address	Dr. Namanga Ngongi, Former Vice-President of the World Food Programme

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9:25 –9:45	Keynote Address on <i>Accelerating and scaling-up Africa’s climate change adaptation and mitigation actions: Experiences and lessons learned from AICCRA</i>	Dr. Robert Zougmore, AICCRA West Africa Cluster Lead
9:45-10:00	Discussant 1: Prof. Daouda Kone, WASCAL, Ghana Discussant 2: Prof. Zelalem Bekeko, Haramaya University, Ethiopia Q&A	Session Chair
10:00-10:20	Keynote Address on Championing a transformative mode of <i>Climate Change</i> Action in Africa	Dr. Ackim Mwape, GRA
10:20-10:30	Q&A	
HEALTH BREAK		
Session 2: Harmonisation of CSA/CIS curricula Session Chair: Dr. Alice Mutiti Mweetwa, University of Zambia, Zambia		
11:00-13:00	Progress of AICCRA Modules 1. Policy 2. CIS/CSA Modules 3. WASCAL Module (Prof Daouda Kone, WASCAL) 4. Climate Information Services	Session Chair
LUNCH BREAK		
Sessions 3: Experiences and Lessons from Green-house and climate change Research Session Chair: Prof Cromwel Lukorito, University of Nairobi, Kenya		
14:00-15:45	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate Information Services: Costs and benefits associated with implementation of CIS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panelist 1: Prof. James Hansen, IRI-Columbia University, USA 2. Greenhouse Gas Emissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panelist 2: Fortunate Kemgyisha, Makerere University, Uganda • Panelist 3: Amani Justin, Universite Evangelique en Afrique, DRC 3. Climate change governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panelist 4: Dr. David Awolala, Director Climate Policy Centre, AGNES 4. Climate-adaptive agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panelist 5: Prof Bobe Bedadi, Haramaya University, Ethiopia 	



15:45-15:55	Discussions	All
15:55-16:00	Closing remarks	TBC (Vice Chancellor)

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