

## **Briefing on the RUFORUM Graduate Research Grants (GRGs)**

### **Background**

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is an umbrella organization of universities in Africa. The RUFORUM Network was founded in 2004 by the Vice Chancellors of ten (10) universities in Eastern and Southern Africa and registered in Uganda as an International Non-Governmental Organization. RUFORUM's Vision is "**vibrant, transformative universities catalysing sustainable, inclusive agricultural development to feed and create prosperity for Africa**". To achieve its vision, RUFORUM aims to transform African universities through the transformation of the mode of leadership, training, research and outreach. Currently, RUFORUM has 163 members in 40 African countries (see [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org)). The Government of Uganda hosts RUFORUM Secretariat at Makerere University's main Campus in Kampala.

In championing the rejuvenation of training and capacity building in higher education, RUFORUM runs a Competitive Grants Scheme (CGS) that entails five different grant types: Graduate Research Grants (GRG), the Community Action Research Programme (CARP), Field Attachment Programme Awards (FAPA) and Institutional Strengthening Grants (ISG) and the Doctoral Research Grants (DRG). The CGS is one of the strategies utilized by the RUFORUM Secretariat to advance research, training, and capacity building of scientists at higher institutions of learning and is rooted in the evolution of RUFORUM as a Network of Universities.

The GRGs implemented through competitive awards are given to senior faculty of a member university for two years to support the research and training of at least two graduate students at the Master's level. To increase the participation of women in STI, at least one student is required to be a female. The grant requires collaboration, joint supervision and interdisciplinary research.

Since founding the RUFORUM Network in 2004, nine GRG calls have been undertaken, with 162 Projects awarded, resulting in the training of 349 MSc students, as indicated in Table 1. Out of the 162 Projects, 61 Projects were awarded to Ugandan researchers.

<b>GRG Call</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Funder</b>	<b>Priority Area</b>	<b># of Projects</b>	<b># of Students</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	2009	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Innovation for sustainable crop-livestock systems within value chains that improve smallholder incomes	15	33
2 <sup>nd</sup>	2010	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Innovation for sustainable crop-livestock systems within value chains that improve smallholder incomes	25	53
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2011	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Innovation for sustainable crop-livestock systems within value chains that improve smallholder incomes	24	51
4 <sup>th</sup>	2012	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Innovation for sustainable crop-livestock systems within value chains that improve smallholder incomes	16	32
5 <sup>th</sup>	2014	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Innovation for sustainable crop-livestock systems within value chains that improve smallholder incomes	26	54
6 <sup>th</sup>	2015	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Innovation for sustainable crop systems and/or livestock systems within value chains that improve smallholder incomes	29	58

7 <sup>th</sup>	2020	Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) for New Zealand and the Netherlands through the Global Research Alliance for Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA)	Participatory action research and training on topics related to the measurement and management of greenhouse gas emissions and removals in pastoral and agro-pastoral ruminant livestock farming systems in Sub-Saharan Africa.	8	26
8 <sup>th</sup>	2023	Infectious Diseases Research Collaboration (IDRC)	AI for climate action Innovation Research projects	11	22
9 <sup>th</sup>	2023	Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) for New Zealand and the Netherlands through the Global Research Alliance for Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA)	Participatory action research and training on topics related to the measurement and management of greenhouse gas emissions and removals in pastoral and agro-pastoral ruminant livestock farming systems in Sub-Saharan Africa.	8	20
Total				162	349

**Table 1. Summary of the RUFORUM Graduate Research Grants**