



19TH RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CAMEROON HIGHER EDUCATION DAY

Date and Time: 25th October 2023 (08:30-16:30 GMT+1)

Venue: Pedagogic Complex, Faculty of Medicine, University of Yaoundé 1
Yaoundé, Cameroon

Concept Note

Theme: Harnessing and intensifying University and partner efforts and opportunities for Agricultural and National Development

Contacts

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Background

Cameroon is committed to harnessing nationally available resources and regional partnerships to achieve aspirations of the country's [National Development Strategy](#) (NDS30). Agriculture is highlighted in NDS30 as a strategic sector for moving rural communities out of poverty. The NDS30 also identifies development of skilled human capital, creating employment opportunities, and deployment of science, technology and innovation in agriculture and other sectors as critical for achievement of development outcomes. This highlights the necessity of universities working

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with other organizations that are mandated to produce technically qualified human resources as well as generate knowledge products through research and outreach through social transformation and economic development.

The RUFORUM Network of Universities in Cameroon recognise their pivotal role in development, especially the need to work with other education ecosystem actors to train, conduct research, influence policy and in general underpin development. Accordingly, the higher education day is being held during this AGM to engage the ecosystem actors. The universities are also conscious of the challenges they face in fully contributing to national development, including but not limited to:

1. How to effectively and regularly reform curricula and pedagogical approaches to adapt to the dynamic knowledge, competencies and skills requirements of the labour market;
2. How to enhance the quality and responsiveness of research to stakeholder needs;
3. How to effectively contribute evidence to guide policy making and monitoring, and
4. How to mobilize and rationalise human, financial and infrastructural resources within universities and from other stakeholders for impactful training, research and outreach.

To address these challenges, new partnerships and active engagement of university clientele and other development partners is required. Financial, infrastructure and human resources from universities and other partners are needed to enhance economies of scale, scope and impact.

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), a network of 163 universities in 40 African countries including Cameroon was established in 2004 to facilitate universities to be relevant to their clientele by directly engaging with them. RUFORUM facilitates universities to integrate into national agriculture innovation systems through multi-stakeholder platforms which include among others, National Agriculture Research and Innovation System stakeholders, policy makers, private sector, farmers and other users of university products.

Cameroon Higher Education Day is organized as the inaugural multi-stakeholder forum that will lead to the establishment of Cameroon’s multi-stakeholder platform for relevant training and research. It will be held as a pre-conference event during the 19th Annual General Meeting (AGM) from the 28th of October, 2023 to November 2nd 2023 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The Cameroon Higher Education Day takes place on Wednesday 25th October 2023. It is organised by RUFORUM member Universities in Cameroon, i.e. The University of Bamenda, The University of Buea, The University of Dschang, The University of Maroua, and The University of Ngaoundere.

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Objectives of the Cameroon Higher Education Day:

- (i) Explore ways on how to strengthen and improve thrust and relevance of university and other higher education training programmes to meet current and future capacity needs of Cameroon; and,
- (ii) Review and identify opportunities especially entry and convergence points for universities and their allied partners to engage in the implementation of national development agenda with a specific focus on the agri-food system in Cameroon.

Date and Venue

The Cameroon Higher Education Day will take place at **Pedagogic Complex, Faculty of Medicine, University of Yaoundé 1** on 25th October 2023

Programme

Time	Activity	Responsible
8:30- 9:00 AM	Arrival and registration of participants	Cameroon
9.00-9:10 AM	Welcome remarks and introductions	Master of Ceremony Prof Wilfred Gabsa Nyongbet, Secretary General, Ministry of Higher Education (MINESUP)
9:10-9:30 AM	Opening remarks	Minister of State, Minister of Higher Education, Cameroon
Session Chair: Vice Chancellor of the University of Bamenda		
Rapporteurs: Local Organising Committee		
9.30- 10:40AM	Panel Discussion I Lead Paper 1: The place of Universities in agri-food systems transformation and national development Panellist I: (Chamber of Agriculture) Panellist II: (University of Buea) Panellist III: (A designated PHEI President) Panellist IV: (University of Dschang)	Mr. Louis Ndjie, Promoteur d’ISAGO, Obala

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10:40-11:00	Viewing of Exhibitions by universities and their stakeholders	Master of Ceremony Prof Wilfred Gabsa Nyongbet, Secretary General, Ministry of Higher Education (MINESUP)
11:00-11:30AM	Health Break	
Session Chair: Head of Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD) Rapporteurs: Researchers from IRAD		
11:30- 1:00PM	Panel Discussion II Lead Paper 2 : Aligning training and research agenda to national development agenda (NDS30) Panellist I: (University of Ngaoundéré) Panellist II: (Agricultural Policy options- MINADER) Panellist III: (Private sector-GICAM)	Mr. Zoutene Doufene, DG de la Planification et de L'Aménagement du Territoire (MINEPAT)
1:00-2:00 PM	Lunch Break	
Session Chair: Rector, University of Dschang Rapporteurs: University Professor		
2:00- 3:30PM	Panel Discussion III Lead Paper 3: Engaging multi-stakeholders to support training, research and wealth creation for young people and the nation Panellist I: Private sector / NGO Panellist II: Farmer organisation (NWCA) Panellist III: Research Organization Panellist IV: The University of Bamenda	Prof Emmanuel Tanyi, University of Buea
3:30-4:00 PM	Plenary discussion and takeaway messages	Prof. Idrissou Alioum, Vice Chancellor, University of Maroua
4:00 – 4:30	Closing remarks	Prof Theresia Nkuo-Akenji, Vice Chancellor, University

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		of Bamenda and RUFORUM Board Chair
4:30 -	Tea and departures	LOC

Expected Outcomes

At the end of the Higher Education Day:

1. Stakeholders in the national agriculture and innovation system will have a better understanding of the mandate and role of universities in contributing to national development,
2. Mechanisms for effective integration of Cameroonian universities into national innovations systems and national development processes agreed upon, and
3. Functional mechanism for multi-stakeholder engagement for enhanced university contribution to national development agreed upon.

Expected participants

The Cameroon Higher Education Day will bring together a diverse group of actors operating in the space of agri-food systems, higher education and scientific research. They will include:

- Policy makers from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER),
 - Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT),
 - Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA),
 - Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI),
 - Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF),
 - Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED),
 - Ministry of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts (MINPMEESA),
 - Ministry of Mines, Industry, and Technological Development (MINMIDT).

Other participants include higher education leaders and professors from state and private institutions, development partners, private sector leaders, researchers, the Chamber of Agriculture, Presidents of Regional Assemblies, innovators, students from state and private universities, and the National Union of Farmers.

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