



19th RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

23RD TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND 7TH TAGDEV STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date and Time: Saturday October 28, 2023 (08:30-13:00 GMT+1)

Venue: Meeting Room A, Palais des Congrès, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Concept Note

Contact: Prof Anthony Egeru (a.egeru@ruforum.org)

Background

Globally, the world is undergoing a period of dramatic change with the transition from an industrial-based to a knowledge-based economy, as well as technological advances, fiscal challenges of higher education, and cultural shifts in society as a whole. Increasing collaborations between communities and universities in order to influence the public good becomes paramount during this time of dramatic change. As frustratingly slow as the movement to strengthen the relationship between higher education and society sometimes seems to be, few social institutions are better situated than colleges and universities to stimulate significant community improvement. Individually and collectively, institutions of higher education possess considerable resources—human, fiscal, organizational, and intellectual—which are critical to addressing significant social issues¹.

Despite having enormous capacities and resources, higher education institutions individually cannot singularly realise development impacts but require operating in a connected world with unprecedented collaborations within and across the spectrum. As a result, the importance of cross-border, inter-institutional collaborations has grown because of the expansion of global higher education teaching and research capacity as well as the emergence of more strategic and comprehensive forms of higher education internationalisation and the increased need for universities to deliver development outcomes².

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), a consortium of 163 universities from across Africa is a dynamic network of universities that has been central to strengthening collaborations and partnerships among universities and universities with education and agricultural ecosystem stakeholders. RUFORUM offers opportunity for both agricultural and education ecosystem stakeholders to develop a cost effective way to enhance capacity in the higher education marketplace as well as to extend institutional reach and stature nationally and regionally. Through, network universities are in position to increase their stature including internationalisation and quality academic programs.

¹ Pasque, P. A., Smerek, R. E., Dwyer, B., Bowman, N., & Mallory, B. L. (2005). Higher Education Collaboratives for Community Engagement and Improvement. In National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good (NJ1). National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good. 2239 School of Education Building, 610 East University Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

² De Wit, H. (2015). Partnerships for the future: Trends, challenges and opportunities. Higher education partnerships for the future, 95-101.



Increasing scale and intensity of RUFORUM’s programming has required that the Secretariat reimagines the implementation and delivery arrangements. Accordingly, a new Operational Plan 2023-2027 has been developed to reposition RUFORUM as an intentional network of higher agricultural education. This 23rd Technical Committee TAGDev Steering Committee meeting will be hosted under the auspices of the new operational plan.

Purpose and Objectives

International, regional and national collaboration has become integral to higher education in the 21st century, and perhaps nowhere is this more apparent than in the recent proliferation of international partnerships among colleges and universities. RUFORUM represents that dynamic network of partners that brings convergence of agricultural higher education institutions from across Africa. The overarching goal of this 23rd Technical Committee and TAGDev Steering Committee meeting is to deliberate the reformed future of RUFORUM programming for efficiency, and effectiveness. The specific objectives are:

1. Re-define a futuristic RUFORUM programming architecture that delivers for impact with efficiency and effectiveness.
2. Receive, review and provide technical guidance to RUFORUM’s operational programs to ensure alignment to establish norms and principles.
3. Receive and provide technical guidance to programs under design.

Meeting approach

The meeting will be conducted as a formal business meeting and will be presided by the Chairperson. The RUFORUM Secretariat will facilitate smooth implementation of the meeting by providing all necessary reference documents. The Secretariat will serve to document the meeting minutes.

Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Responsible person
08:30-08:35	Record of Attendance	Moses Waswa
08:35-08:40	Adoption of the Agenda and Introductions	Prof. Emmanuel Tanyi
08:40-08:45	Welcome remarks from RUFORUM Secretariat	Dr. Florence Nakayiwa
08:45-08:50	Communication from the TC Chair	Prof. Emmanuel Tanyi
08:50-08:55	Communication from the TAGDev Steering Committee Chair	Prof. Peter Mbatia
08:55-09:10	Reactions	All TC & TSC members
09:10-09:20	Review and approval of Minutes of the 22 nd Technical and TAGDev Steering Committee Meeting	Prof. Emmanuel Tanyi
09:20-09:40	RUFORUM 2023-2027 Operational Plan	Dr. Florence Nakayiwa
09:40-10:00	Discussions	All
10:00-10:20	Graduate Training and Research: Strategy and Intervention alignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GTR Strategy • GTA progress • GRA greenhouse gas emissions Progress 	Prof. Majaliwa Mwanjalolo



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carnegie progress • AICCRA progress • ACE-AF II progress 	
10:20-10:30	Discussions	TC & TSC members
10:30-11:00	Health Break	
11:00-11:30	<p>Training and Community Development: Strategy and Implementation alignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate Strategy • TAGDev 101 progress • PBL-Bio Africa progress • AgrEngage progress • AgrGROW progress • Africa BlendEd Progress <p>New efforts for resourcing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAGDev 2.0 Collaborative • SIYEP Collaborative • CARI initiative • OCP Africa initiative 	<p>Chairperson: Prof. Peter Mbati</p> <p>Presentation: Prof. Anthony Egeru</p>
11:30-11:40	Discussion	TC & TSC members
11:40-12:00	<p>South north and South-South Collaboration and Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentials of Agroecological practices in East Africa with a focus on Circular water-energy-nutrient systems • Consortium Europe Africa on Research and Innovation for Food Systems Transformation (CEA-FIRST) • Strengthening Evidence-Based Policy Practice for Sustainable Food Systems under the EU-AU Partnership • Improving Africa Food Systems, Nutrition, and livelihoods through enhanced soil health, environmental monitoring, and agri food policy formulation and implementation • FAO Climate Smart Agriculture Network <p>New projects under development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FARA-RUFORUM (Soil health, environmental monitoring, and agri food policy) • Action Plan for operationalisation of Abidjan II Communiqué on Africa-CGIAR Partnership 	Mr. Emmanuel Okalany



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• APAARI-RUFORUM Partnership	
12:00-12:20	Partnerships and evolving regional role of RUFORUM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Institutional policies and strategies developed for institutional strengthening• Regional nodes; implications for RUFORUM's future	Dr. Sokona Dagnoko
12:20-13:40	Re-imagine the role of the Technical Committee in the Futuristic RUFORUM Network Operations	Prof. Emmanuel Tanyi and Prof. Peter Mbat
12:40-13:00	Closing Remarks	All

Expected outputs

- a. Enhanced appreciation of the 2023-2027 Operational Plan with insights towards its strategic implementation
- b. Re-articulated role of the Technical Committee in RUFORUM network operations that will be used for a Constitutional amendment
- c. Technical Committee's input into the developed policy and strategy documents
- d. Enhanced review of the implementation arrangements for the programs/projects under implementation.

Participants

This meeting will have the following participants

1. Technical Committee members
2. TAGDev Steering Committee members
3. RUFORUM Secretariat Staff