



## Biennial Plenary session

### CONCEPT NOTE ON SESSION 10

**Venue:** Kenyatta International Conventional Centre (KICC)

**Contact person:** David Martin Amitu

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**Session Name:** Harnessing the digital potential to drive agricultural higher education transformation in Africa

**Date:** 26 Oct 2018

**Time:** 11.00-13.00

**Room:** Lenana

**Venue:** KICC

#### Background

It has been suggested in literature that digital technologies can play a significant role in agricultural higher education. Indeed, a number of efforts (such as Owiny et al., 2014, Mtebe, 2015, Pimmer et al., 2014, Clouder et al., 2018) have been made towards the transformation of higher education in Africa. So far, these efforts have not realized the transformation that the agricultural higher education in Africa needs. As we discuss aligning African Universities to accelerate attainment of Africa's Agenda 2063, this session will focus mainly on how digital technologies might be of help to the attainment of the Africa's Agenda 2063.

It has been argued that for digital technologies to cause a significant transformation to higher education, approaches to the implementation of digital technologies in higher education must be given sufficient attention involving a level of change in practice. This should normally include understanding the relationships between digital technologies, knowledge and pedagogy.

Developing the kind of outputs in terms of graduates and citizens required in an information era, agricultural higher education players in Africa must therefore understand what kind of skills and knowledge can be delivered using which technology. To arrive at a consensus on the optimal approach of improving educational outcomes, and enhancing and improving the quality of teaching and learning, requires contributions and expertise from different fields (especially agriculture, education, technology and development).

*How can the agricultural higher education institutions in Africa harness digital potential to drive their*





**transformation?** This remains an important and a relevant question, which requires in-depth analysis of the affordances modern digital technologies offer, what pedagogy must be adopted and what knowledge and skills are required in order to cause the much needed transformation of agricultural higher education in Africa.

**Session Aim:** To provide a platform to discuss the advances and opportunities of digital technologies on African Higher Agricultural Education. The session will also assess the current and potential challenges in the digital technology adoption in agricultural higher education. Specifically, the session will address the following objectives:

1. Establish what digital technologies are currently influencing agricultural higher education in Africa
2. Discuss the ways in which e-learning can be integrated in agricultural higher education in Africa
3. Outline the potential drivers of transformation in agricultural higher education within Africa
4. Examine the policies and other reforms needed to cause level of change in practice in agricultural higher education in Africa
5. Explore the relationship between skills, pedagogy and digital technologies within the development perspective

#### Session contributions:

**Moderator:** *Eng. Isaac Kasana*, CEO, Research and Educational Network of Uganda (RENU) will introduce the topic for the session, outlining the aim and objectives of session. He will also introduce each of the panelists who will discuss based on the suggested sub-themes.

#### Panelists:

1. Prof Jude Lubega- DVC, Uganda Technology Management University (UTAMU)
2. Prof. Muliaro Wafula, Director ICEOD, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya
3. Dr. Florent Okry, Regional Coordinator, West and Central Africa, Access Agriculture
4. Dr. Pascal Hoba, CEO, UbuntuNet Alliance
5. Dr. Francis Otto, Manager, Knowledge Hub, RUFORUM Secretariat

**Lead speaker:** Dr. Suchith Anand, University of Nottingham, UK

**Dr. Anand** will make a lead presentation on the session topic, highlighting how agricultural higher education institutions in Africa can harness digital potential to drive their transformation

#### Plenary discussions:





This is a Q&A with the audience during which, participants in the audience will be allowed to ask questions or make comments on issues within the scope of the session themes.

### Rapporteur :

1. Dr. Peter Ochieng' (Post-doc RUFORUM Fellow)

The rapporteurs will work with the moderator to capture key points/recommendations for inclusion in the report of the session.

### Mode of session contributions :

The session will be kick-started by the lead speaker, followed by panel discussion. The lead speaker may choose to use or not use a power point presentation (for 45 minutes). However, each of the panel speakers will be given 10 minutes to make (without power point) their discussions. The 10-minute discussions by the panel speakers will be based on the main session theme, guided by the 'proposed sub-themes'. Participants expect to benefit from the panelist through clear take away messages, which will be summarized by the moderator and compiled in a report by the session rapporteurs. Following the 10-minute contributions by the panelists, the moderator may choose to pursue a discussion in form of a follow up question per speaker (5 minutes)

### Proposed session line up:

Time	Activity
11.00-11.15:	<b>Eng. Isaac Kasana</b> introduces topic for the session and the panelists
11.15-11.30:	Lead Speaker- <b>Dr. Suchith Anand</b> presents on how agricultural higher education institutions in Africa can harness digital potential to drive their transformation
11.30-11.40:	Discussion by <b>Dr Francis Otto</b> focusing on Digital technology landscape
11.40-11.50:	Discussion by <b>Prof Jude Lubega</b> focusing on e-learning integration
11.50-12.00:	Discussion by <b>Dr Pascal Hoba</b> focusing on digital technology drivers
12.10-12.20:	Discussion by <b>Dr. Florent Okry</b> focusing on policies for digital technology in Agriculture
12.20-12.30:	Discussion by <b>Prof. Muliaro Wafula</b> focusing on Skills, pedagogy and digital technologies
12.30-12.50:	General discussion and reflections





12.50-13.00: **Eng. Isaac Kasana** summarizes the key take away messages from presentations and discussions

#### Proposed sub-themes for discussion:

The following are the five proposed sub-themes with questions for discussion in this session:

1. **Sub-theme 1** (Digital technology landscape): What is digital technology landscape agricultural higher education in Africa?
2. **Sub-theme 2** (E-learning): How can integration of e-learning be effective in agricultural higher education in Africa?
3. **Sub-theme 3** (Digital technology drivers): What are the key drivers of transformation in higher education in relation to digital technologies?
4. **Sub-theme 4** (Digital policies): What policies and other reforms are needed to cause level of change in practice in agricultural higher education in Africa?
5. **Sub-theme 5** (Skills, pedagogy and digital technologies): Explain the relationships between skills, pedagogy and digital technologies?

#### Expected take away messages:

1. Key digital technology trends influencing agricultural higher education in Africa
2. E-learning footprint in Africa
3. Digital technology affordances for agricultural higher education in Africa
4. Development gap and solutions required to cause transformation in agricultural higher education in Africa

#### REFERENCES:

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CO-ORGANISERS:

