



02<sup>ND</sup> RUFORUM  
Triennial Conference  
12-16 August 2024  
Namibia



## 2<sup>nd</sup> RUFORUM TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### SYMPOSIUM I:

### EDUCATING AFRICA: IMPLEMENTING TRANSFORMATIVE HIGHER AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION TO MEET AFRICA'S HUMAN CAPITAL NEEDS

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024 **Time:** 08.30-10.00 Southern African Time (SAT)

**Venue:** Plenary Hall, Mercure Hotel, Windhoek, Namibia

**Registration Link:** <https://bit.ly/4dLpV8P>

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#### BACKGROUND

The African Union in February 2024 launched the second ten-year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 titled, "*The Decade of Acceleration (2024-2033)*"<sup>1</sup>. The Implementation Plan is a bold endeavour by Africa to shape and fulfil its destiny. The Plan recognizes several critical development challenges that the continent must earnestly address during this decade such as: (a) Social and economic inequalities; (b) Failure to harness the demographic dividend; (c) Climate risks and natural disasters as well as (d) Economic externalities caused by among others global market forces that affect the economic growth trajectory of the continent. The plan also recognizes the social and economic diversity of the continent, that if unattended to will impede development. Africa's capacity to develop its human capital to implement its own development agenda is crucial to stem the impacts of these threats by providing the relevant human resources and development solutions. Disruptive technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), coupled with improvement in broadband coverage across Africa and the need to harness digital innovations to shrink value chains segments is becoming more widely recognized worldwide. The increasing AI's adoption globally is predicted to alter how we manage our economies, leading to a 40% loss of jobs according to the International Monetary Fund<sup>2</sup>. The African Development Bank estimates that Africa produces annually, between 12 million new job entrants<sup>3</sup>, but can only provide jobs to one third of the new job candidates. Moreover, the African Union Commission (AUC) is urging African

<sup>1</sup> <https://au.int/en/newsevents/20240217/agenda-2063-launch-2nd-decade-acceleration>

<sup>2</sup> [www.cnn.com/2024/01/15/imf-warns-ai-to-hit-almost-40percent-of-global-employment-worsen-inequality.html](https://www.cnn.com/2024/01/15/imf-warns-ai-to-hit-almost-40percent-of-global-employment-worsen-inequality.html).

<sup>3</sup> [www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/2019AEO/AEO\\_2019-EN-CHAP2.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/2019AEO/AEO_2019-EN-CHAP2.pdf).

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Universities to produce 100,000 PhD graduates over the next 10 years, of whom 20% should be in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, (STEM), to support the continent's development agenda<sup>4</sup>. Additionally, the AUC aspires to see a 60% increase in TVET education to rebalance the human capital pyramid, while creating jobs and complementing Africa's job and wealth creation capacity. Overall, there is high demand on Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of Africa and their partners, to rethink how they train and skill the human capital. While the potential exists, new economic realities demand transformative processes in how Africa's HEIs conduct their business.

RUFORUM, and partners, collectively specialized on Agricultural Higher and Tertiary Education, recognize this call to contributing to Africa's development and have organized a symposium on *"Educating Africa: Implementing Transformative Higher Agricultural Education to Meet Africa's Human Capital needs."* This symposium is part of the RUFORUM's Second Triennial Conference aimed at generating new knowledge, technology, and innovation to innovatively produce skilled and competent human capital to drive Africa's growth and development. The symposium will be held in three sub-themes listed below.

***Sub-theme 1(a). Supplying Africa's 2<sup>nd</sup> decade (2024-2034) work force:***

- i. Transforming Graduate Training and Research: The gaps, experiences, and lessons learnt.
- ii. Entrepreneurial education: The practice, and scalable lessons.
- iii. Rebalancing the human resource pyramid: The gaps, and linkage between Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVETs) and university education.
- iv. Closing the gender and diversity gap in agricultural education: The gaps, lessons learnt and opportunities.
- v. Leaving no one behind: Out of school skilling and education programmes: Practice and lessons learnt.

***Sub-theme 1(b). Emergent Issues-Digitizing education:***

- i. Leveraging digital tool to increase access to education while maintaining quality and relevance.
- ii. Machine learning and Artificial Intelligence and its impact on education.

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<sup>4</sup> Technical and Vocational Education and Training.



### ***Sub-theme 1©. Emergent issues: Building human capital for Africa's climate change and resilience programmes.***

- i. Climate risks and mitigation: The gaps, experiences, and lessons learnt in training programmes.
- ii. Low carbon services and renewables: The gaps, experiences, and lessons learnt in training and research programmes.
- iii. Climate and carbon finance, and resilience investments: The gaps, experiences and lessons learnt.

### **OBJECTIVES**

The aim of this session is to consolidate emerging knowledge and technologies required to produce quality 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce to drive economic growth in Africa.

Specifically, this session will:

- a. Facilitate exchange of emerging knowledge on how to deliver inclusive quality education across the educational value chain from out of school to post-doctoral level.
- b. Facilitate exchange of emerging knowledge on utilization of digital tools such as artificial intelligence to deliver inclusive quality education.
- c. Facilitate exchange of emerging knowledge on educational approaches required to produce quality human resources to mitigate and adapt to climate change in Africa.
- d. Foster networking opportunities, bringing together researchers, professionals, and practitioners from diverse backgrounds and institutions.

### **APPROACH**

The event will start with a keynote presentation from RUFORUM on “*Educating Africa for the 21st century, lessons learned over the years, and implications for Africa's Higher Education sector.*” One discussant will provide a response to some of the issues raised by the keynote presenter and thereafter experiences will be shared by European Alliance for Agricultural Research for Development (AGRINATURA), Association of African Universities (AAU), and CGIAR. This symposium will set the tone for the different sessions which will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

### **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

- a) Training models, partnerships, success stories, challenges, and scaling opportunities for delivering inclusive quality education across the educational value chain (from out of school to post-doctoral level).
- b) Mechanisms for effectively harnessing, success stories, regulatory and other challenges, and opportunities for scaling the deployment of digital tools such as artificial intelligence to deliver inclusive quality education.



- c) Training models, partnerships, success stories, challenges, and scaling opportunities to produce quality human resources to mitigate and adapt to climate change in Africa.
- d) Policy implications, societal impact, and ethical considerations for producing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills for delivering quality human resources to drive Africa's development.

## PARTICIPANTS

Participants will include researchers, scientists, academics, development partners, policy makers and Government Officials, industry representatives, Non-Profit Organizations, professionals, and graduate students.

## ORGANIZERS

The event is organized by RUFORUM, with support from the Government of Namibia and RUFORUM member universities in Namibia.

## PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 12 <sup>th</sup> August, 2024	
<b>PLENARY SESSION 1</b>	
<b>Venue:</b> Plenary Hall, Mercure Hotel	
<b>Registration Link:</b> <a href="https://bit.ly/4dLpV8P">https://bit.ly/4dLpV8P</a>	
<b>Session Chair:</b> Dr. Beatrice Muganda Inyangala, Principal Secretary, State Department of Higher Education, Kenya	
<b>Rapporteurs:</b> Waswa Moses, Emmanuel Okalany and Selma Ndapewa Nghituwamhata	
Time	
08.30-08:35	<b>Welcome Remarks from the Chair</b>
08:35-09:00	<b>Keynote Address</b> <b>Title:</b> <i>Educating Africa for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, lessons learned over the years, implications for Africa's Higher Education sector.</i> Prof. Patrick Okori, RUFORUM
09:00-09:15	<b>Discussant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Fannuel Tagwira/ PS Ministry of Education Zimbabwe (TBC)</li> <li>• Dr. Molapo Qhobela, Deputy Vice-Chancellor - Institutional Change, Strategic Partnerships and Societal Impact (TBC)</li> </ul>
09:15-09:25	AGRINATURA
09:25-09:35	AAU
09:35-09:45	CGIAR
09.45-10.00	<b>Discussions</b>
09.55-10.00	<b>Closing remarks</b>

