



02ND RUFORUM
Triennial Conference
12-16 August 2024
Namibia



2nd RUFORUM TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

CONCEPT NOTE

PRINCIPALS AND DEANS MEETING TO DEVELOP THE RUFORUM NETWORK'S TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AGENDA

Date: 11th August 2024 **Time:** 08.30 –12.30 Southern African Time (SAT)

Venue: The International University of Management (IUM), Windhoek, Namibia

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/4dZoHXl>

Contact: Prof Majaliwa Mwanjalolo (m.majaliwa@ruforum.org)

BACKGROUND

Agriculture remains the backbone of many African economies, employing much of the population and contributing significantly to GDP. However, the sector is beset by numerous challenges, including climate change, limited access to modern technology, low productivity, and inadequate policies and institutional support. Addressing these challenges requires evidence-based solutions generated through robust research and innovation.

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) stands at the forefront of agricultural development in Africa, nurturing the next generation of agricultural leaders, and driving innovation in the sector. Agricultural education and research are central to RUFORUM's mission of promoting sustainable agricultural development in Africa. However, traditional approaches to education and research may no longer suffice in the face of evolving challenges such as climate change, food insecurity, and rapid technological advancements. Transformative approaches are therefore needed to equip students and researchers with the skills, knowledge, and mindset required to tackle these challenges and drive positive change in African agriculture.

As the challenges facing African agriculture become increasingly complex, there is an urgent need for a research and transformative education agenda to empower RUFORUM member universities to address these challenges effectively. A Research Agenda is key for the network to provide a strategic framework in terms of research activities by identifying priority thematic areas of focus. This will allow RUFORUM Secretariat to allocate resources more effectively, ensuring that research efforts are aligned with the most pressing needs of African agriculture. It will also facilitate collaboration and networking among RUFORUM member universities, research institutions, and other stakeholders. By establishing common research priorities, RUFORUM Secretariat can foster partnerships that leverage diverse expertise and resources to tackle complex agricultural challenges more comprehensively, enhance its capacity to influence policy and build the necessary capacity to implement the agenda.

Co-organisers





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RUFORUM Principals and Deans Committee being the technical advisory Committee and key implementers of RUFORUM's interventions at national and university level, engaging them to co-create the network's transformative education and research and innovation Agenda is a prerequisite. The first consultative meeting with the Principals and Deans will be held on 11th August in Windhoek, Namibia.

OBJECTIVES

1. Collaboratively develop a higher education agenda that reshapes agricultural education and prepares students to become effective leaders, innovators, and change-makers in a rapidly evolving global development landscape.
2. Jointly develop a research and innovation agenda that facilitates universities to be at the forefront of addressing the most critical challenges facing agriculture and natural resources while ensuring relevance, impact, and sustainability.

APPROACH

The event will start with keynote presentations on the draft Transformative Education Agenda and Research and Innovation Agenda. This will be followed by short discussions and then group work. The participants will come back to the plenary to make presentations on the group work. The participants will be invited to the general discussion planned immediately after the group work presentations. The event will provide key recommendations on the two agenda and provide actions for their smooth implementation.

OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES OF MEETING

Two key outputs are envisioned; i) RUFORUM's Transformative Education Agenda; and ii) RUFORUM's Research and Innovation Agenda. These two should reflect a collective agreement on the higher/tertiary agricultural education needs, and agricultural and natural resource management challenges and opportunities that can be addressed and how they will be addressed by quality education, science, technology, and innovation. The two outputs will be presented in the forms of;

1. White papers on;
 - a. RUFORUM's Transformative Education Agenda,
 - b. RUFORUM's Research and Innovation Agenda.
2. Recommendation for improving the two draft Agenda.
3. Action plan outlining specific activities, timelines, and responsibilities for implementing the Transformative Education and Research Agenda.
4. Partnerships leveraging diverse expertise, resources, and networks to support the implementation of the agenda and promote collective impact.

PARTICIPANTS

Co-organisers





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Principals and Deans of 170 member universities and the RUFORUM Secretariat.

ORGANIZERS

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

PROGRAMME

SUNDAY 11th August, 2024

Venue: **IUM TBC**

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/4dZoHXl>

Chair: Prof Mathias Fonteh, Chair of the Principals and Deans Committee

Rapporteur: Waswa Moses, Emmanuel Okalany, Selma Ndapewa Nghituwamhata, Yamungu

Time	
09:30-09:40	Welcome Remarks from the Chair Prof Mathias Fonteh, Chair of the Principals and Deans Committee
09:40-10:00	Key Presentation Title: <i>Transformative Education Agenda (draft)</i> Prof Anthony Egeru, RUFORUM
10:00-10:30	Discussion
10:30-11:00	Health Break
11:00-11:20	Key Presentation Title: <i>Research Agenda (Draft)</i> <i>Prof. Majaliwa JGM, RUFORUM</i>
11:20-11:50	Discussions
11:50-12:20	Group work
12:20-12:30	Way Forward and Closing
12:30-	Lunch and departures