



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

### CONCEPT NOTE

### TAGDEV 2.0 PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024 **Time:** 8:30-13:40 CAT

**Venue:** XXXX

**Registration Link:** XXXX

**Contact:** Prof. Patrick Okori

### BACKGROUND

Africa's agriculture sector, while potent with opportunity of moving millions out of poverty, is having modest growth and must be intensified to create jobs, feed and secure the continent's future. A recent study shows that growth in Africa's agriculture sector total factor productivity (TFP<sup>1</sup>), between the period 2000 and 2016, was 0.73%, a modest growth of nearly 10.3% above pre-Maputo declaration levels. Growth during the period was due to adoption of new technologies, but was constrained by technological inefficiencies<sup>2</sup>. Drivers of the weak technical efficiency include weak extension and advisory systems, dysfunctional value chain segments, non-commercialisation of the sector through value addition, as well as intermittent effects of climate variability and change that are on the rise. Accordingly, a steady focus on investment in research, innovation and development processes, training/skilling and education is needed. Further reform of the agriculture sector to adopt climate-smart agricultural practices that enhance resilience capacity of communities including among others; cultivars and breed/variety improvement, changing management practices, switching crops, breeds and farming systems, water management, diversification of agricultural systems, and supply chains options are implemented<sup>3</sup>.

However, achieving those transformations in the agricultural sector requires skilled man power that is capable of driving the desired change. This can be achieved through educating and placing young people at the forefront of the charge to transform the agricultural. This because education remains a key cornerstone of opportunity for both; individuals, as they develop valuable knowledge and skills, and for society, as present and future generations push new boundaries of innovation and productivity<sup>4</sup>. The Mastercard Foundation through its Young Africa Works Strategy, has put emphasis on education and skills development as an enabler to democratizing access to economic opportunities and pathways to attaining dignified and fulfilling livelihood for at least 30 million young Africans. Building on the lessons from the first phase of implementing the "Transforming African Agricultural Universities (TAGDev 1.0)" program, the Mastercard

<sup>1</sup>TFP refers to the ratio of the total output of an economic system relative to the real input of all factors in production used to produce them. TFP reveals the joint effects of many factors including new technologies, efficiency gains, economies of scale, managerial skill, and changes in the organization of production. It therefore a good measure of sources and driver forces of economic growth.

<sup>2</sup>Myeki LW, Bahta YT, Matthews N. 2022. Exploring the growth of agricultural productivity in Africa: A Fare-Primont Index Approach. Agriculture 12(8):1236. <https://doi.org/10.3390/agriculture12081236>.

<sup>3</sup> FAO, 2023. Climate change impacts and adaptation options in the agrifood system. <https://www.fao.org/3/cc5921en/cc5921en.pdf>

<sup>4</sup>



Foundation renewed its partnership with RUFORUM to scale this collaboration to 12 universities in 10 African countries.

The renewed partnership under TAGDev 2.0 brings together 12 African universities and the Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences (GCHERA). The main objective is to strengthen universities and TVET institutions to better serve communities by skilling and empowering Africa's young people and their institutions to drive inclusive, equitable and climate resilient transformation of agriculture and agrifood systems. This goal will contribute to three strategic outcomes:

1. Expanded equal work opportunities for young women and men in the agricultural sector;
2. Improved climate adaptive agricultural production and productivity; and
3. Strengthened quality of higher agricultural education outcomes in training, research and innovation.

These outcomes address barriers that influence how agricultural education can impact the broader agriculture ecosystem growth and functions including among others; the traditional educational models at universities and TVETs that inadequately equip young people with requisite knowledge and skills, policies, systems and practices in universities and TVETs that constrain institutional transformation, limited university and TVET capacity for entrepreneurship education and commercialization of innovations, and weak collaboration between education ecosystems actors.

TAGDev 2.0 will support transformational agricultural and entrepreneurial education, vibrant agri-input and output market systems to produce well adapted graduates and young people committed to Africa's development. Owing to the fact that the program builds on the successes and lessons from TAGDev 1.0; TAGDev 2.0 has set out an ambitious scaling out agenda that encompasses; 1) scale the transformative agricultural education and development model. This includes adaptive teaching and learning, experiential entrepreneurship, soft skills training, as well as research and innovation activities to meet community and university transformation needs and enhance relevance and work transitions of young people; 2) scale job creation through multi-partnerships focusing on post-harvest food handling and processing, value addition and agri-preneurship involving young women and men (out of school youth, TVET and, bachelor's degree graduates); and 3) expand the zone of influence in Western, Central, Southern and Eastern Africa from 2 primary countries and 9 secondary (scale-out) countries under TAGDev 1, to 10 primary countries and 15 secondary countries in TAGDev 2.0. It will reach 60 universities (including those in Mastercard Foundation focus countries) compared to 26 universities under TAGDev 1.0 period.

## PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The Partnership Council is one of the top decision making organs of the TAGDev 2.0 Program. The purpose of this second Partnership Council meeting is to officially commence TAGDev 2.0 business advisory processes and the fully constitute the Partnership Council. The specific Objectives are:

1. Ratify the roles and responsibilities of the Partnership Council
2. Commence official business of the Partnership Council



3. Approve the Program Implementation Manual
4. Agree on the performance indicators, measures of measurement and learning agenda

### DATE AND VENUE

This event will take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2024 starting at 08:30 am in Namibia.

### EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS

This participants in this event will include Vice Chancellors from TAGDev 2.0 implementing universities, apex bodies that are part of the education and agricultural ecosystem and strategic agencies aligned to the focus of the program. The following specifically have been invited:

1. Gulu University
2. Egerton University
3. University pf Eldoret
4. Uganda Martyrs University
5. Malawi University of Science and Technology
6. Africa University
7. University of Free State
8. University of Bamenda
9. University of Cape Coast
10. University of Port Harcourt
11. National University of Agriculture
12. Mohammed VI Polytechnic University
13. Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences
14. Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
15. African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
16. CGIAR-Africa Director
17. African Women in Agricultural Research and Development
18. WUCS for Refugees, Displaced Persons & Under Represented Persons
19. Greenhouse Capital and Ventures

### PROGRAMME

**Rapporteurs:** Prof. Anthony Egeru and Dr. Abigael Otinga

Time	Activity	Responsible Institution
<b>Session One: Official Opening Ceremony</b>		
<b>Session Chair:</b> Prof. Patrick Okori (Interim)		
10:30 - 10:40 AM	Arrival and registration of participants	
10:40 – 11:00 AM	Welcome remarks: <b>Prof. Patrick Okori, Executive Secretary, RUFORUM</b> Opening Remarks: <b>Dr. Tina Muparadzi, Executive Director, Mastercard Foundation.</b>	

Co-organisers





11:00-11:20	Introductions: Partnership Council.	Facilitator
11:20-11:15	TAGDev 2.0 Overview. <b>Prof. Anthony Egeru, Skilling and Engagement Manager, RUFORUM Secretariat.</b>	
11:15-11:35	Plenary: Reactions to the presentation	
<b>Session Two: TAGDev 2.0 Governance</b>		
11:35-11:50	Structure of TAGDev 2.0 Governance, Governance Organs and Roles. <b>Ms. Pauline Gangla, Lead Higher Education, Mastercard Foundation.</b>	
11:50 –12:30	<b>Plenary:</b> Discussion on Governance Structure and Roles and Creation of Sub-Committees	Facilitator
12:30-12:50	Economy and Institutional Ecosystem for TAGDev 2.0 Delivery by Implementing Universities. <b>Prof. Patrick Okori, RUFORUM Executive Secretary</b>	
12:50-13:00	<b>Plenary:</b> Discussion on economy and institutional ecosystem for delivery	
13:00-13:15	Institutional realities; systems, processes, policies and people for transformative change and delivery. <b>Joyce Muchena, Mastercard Foundation.</b>	
13:15-13:30	<b>Plenary:</b> Discussion on institutional realities for change to happen.	Facilitator
13:30:13:40	<b>Closing</b>	
<b>13:40-14:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

At the end of the Higher Education Regulators Dialogue:

1. Understanding of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Partnership Council
2. Constitution of the Partnership Council-Working Groups (PaC-WG) to enhance program implementation.
3. Selection of the first Chairperson of the Partnership Council from among the Implementing Universities.