RUFORUM'S SECOND TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA, MERCURE HOTEL

Preconference Events: August 5 – 9, 2024, Main Conference events: August 12 – 16, 2024
Conference Registration: https://www.ruforum.org/Triennial2024/

Theme "Operationalising Higher Agricultural Education and Research Ecosystems for Innovation, Industrialisation and Economic Development in Africa: A Call for Action"

CALL FOR EXHIBITIONS FOR THE TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), a Network of 170 universities from 40 African countries, is organising its second triennial conference to be held in Windhoek - Namibia, from 12th - 16th August 2024. The theme for the second RUFORUM Triennial Conference is *"Operationalising Higher Agricultural Education and Research Ecosystems for Innovation, Industrialisation and Economic Development in Africa: A Call for Action".* Over 1,000 participants representing Policymakers, African Governments, African Union Commission, Universities and universities' networks, Higher Education Leaders, Students and Alumni, Researchers, Regional Research Organisations (SROs), Private Sector Leaders, Agricultural Knowledge, and Innovation Systems (AKIS) Stakeholders, Development Partners, ICT stakeholders, Farmers and Farmer Organisations, Innovators and RUFORUM Staff are expected.

Events of the 2nd RUFORUM Triennial Conference

The second RUFORUM Triennial conference will involve pre-conference events (from August 5th to 9th) and main conference events (from August 12th to 16th). The pre-conference events mainly involve side meetings and most importantly, various capacity-building sessions on topics that are relevant to the main theme of the conference. The main conference events include among others, scientific conferences, poster sessions, and exhibitions by RUFORUM member universities, researchers, private sector, farmers, and industry players to showcase their expertise, knowledge, technologies, and innovations and broaden the scope of their partnerships.

Objectives of the exhibitions

The main objective of the RUFORUM's exhibitions is to create a space for Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) stakeholders (researchers, innovators, private sector and industry players, training and capacity building actors, producers, consumers, policymakers, and development partners) to come together to dialogue, lesson-share, network to broaden their scope of partnerships and market opportunities to find solutions to common problems.

Co-organisers

The specific objectives are:

1. Identify the latest technologies available at the level of various stakeholders within the AKIS in the host country Namibia, the SADC region and elsewhere in Africa.
2. Appreciate the extent of supply and demand for the technologies displayed at the conference.
3. Increase visibility and promote exhibitors, their businesses and technologies displayed.
4. Identify key challenges to the production and commercialisation of these technologies in the host country, SADC region and elsewhere in the continent.

Call for Expression of Interest to set up exhibition booths

As part of the main conference events RUFORUM invites stakeholders of the agriculture knowledge and innovation systems in Namibia, the SADC region and elsewhere in Africa to set-up exhibition booths to showcase their latest expertise, research, training, development activities, technologies, innovations, products and services. The stakeholders are encouraged to present research and innovative ideas that may contribute to the development and sustainability of the continent economy. RUFORUM therefore, invites interested institutions including universities, research institutions, development actors, private sector and industry, ICT stakeholders, civil society, individuals, and the general public including farmer groups to respond to this call for exhibitions to showcase and display their products and services.

Exhibition Booth

Each exhibitor will be provided with an exhibition booth measuring 3 x 3 meters, 1 table, 2 chairs, 1 power outlet, and a label with the organisation's name and logo (to be provided by the exhibitor). Arrangements and costs for any extra requirements will be the responsibility of the respective exhibitors (e.g. display screen, decoration).

Exhibition Broadcasting

To facilitate vibrant interactions between the exhibitors and the on and off site delegates, the triennial organisers will, to the extent possible, integrate social media reporting within the exhibition to enhance visibility and sharing of key messages beyond the on-site conference. The exhibition will run throughout the conference and special time will be allocated in the conference programme for delegates to visit the stands. Additional conference activities will be carried out in the exhibition area to attract the delegates to visit the exhibitions. A catalogue containing profiles of all the exhibitors will also be published and shared with delegates.

Exhibition Costs

The cost of each exhibition booth is US$ 250 (4500 NAD), which exclude meals and drinks (for provision of meals and drinks an additional conference registration is required at US$250 per person). Other costs pertaining to travel, accommodation and out-of-pocket-allowances will be covered by the exhibitor. (Each organisation may have more than one exhibitor as long as the organisation pays for their registration and other costs).

Co-organisers

How to participate to the exhibition

To reserve an exhibition booth and confirm participation, please complete the exhibition profile form using the following link. Deadline of submitting the Application Form is 30th June 2024. For further information, please contact us using the following emails: m.nada@ruforum.org; f.artur@ruforum.org; afernandes@unam.na. Once your profile form is received, RUFORUM will provide you feedback on your participation.

Expected outputs from the exhibitions

1. Latest technologies available at the level of various stakeholders within the AKIS in the host country Namibia, the SADC region and elsewhere in Africa identified.
2. The supply and demand for the technologies displayed at the conference appreciated.
3. Visibility of exhibitors, their businesses and technologies increased and promoted.
4. Key challenges to the production and commercialisation of the technologies in the host country, SADC region and elsewhere in the continent identified.

Co-organisers