



RUFORUM SECOND TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Venue: Mercure Hotel, Windhoek, Namibia

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

Pre-conference events: August 5th – 9th 2024,

Main conference events: August 12th – 16th 2024

Register here for the Conference: <https://www.ruforum.org/Triennial2024/>

Call for Expression of Interest to hold Pre-Conference and Side Meetings

1. Introduction

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), a network of 170 Universities in 40 African Countries, will hold its second Triennial Conference from 12th to 16th August 2024 at Mercure Hotel, Windhoek, Namibia. The theme for the second Triennial Conference is ***“Operationalising Higher Agricultural Education and Research Ecosystems for Innovation, Industrialisation and Economic Development in Africa: A Call for Action”***. This important event will be hosted by the Government of Namibia and RUFORUM member universities in Namibia (University of Namibia – UNAM, and the International University of Management - IUM). Among other events, there will be scientific sessions, poster sessions, policy meetings, side events, and exhibitions by RUFORUM member universities, researchers, private sector, farmers, and industry players to showcase their expertise, knowledge, technologies, and innovations.

2. Objectives of the 2nd Triennial Conference

The objectives of the 2nd Triennial Conference are:

- a) Enable education and agricultural ecosystem actors to showcase and present their key findings, share lessons, and inform each other on key actions required to make science work for Africa’s development;
- b) Engage lead actors in policy and practice to identify action areas for further investments in agriculture and higher education;
- c) Promote international linkages and partnerships for excellence in Higher Education;
- d) Provide a platform for discussions, and lesson learning among diverse actors about creating employment for Africa’s young population, and
- e) Deliberate on the macro and micro needs to adapt smart operations in terms of changing connectivity, education, business practices, sustainable agricultural and value chain transitions, and advancement.

3. Key events of the 2nd Triennial Conference

The 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 involve side meetings and capacity-building sessions on topics that are relevant to the main theme of the conference. As part of the main conference events, there will be scientific conferences, poster sessions, policy meetings, side events, and exhibitions by RUFORUM member universities, researchers, private sector, farmers, industry players etc. to showcase their expertise, knowledge, technologies, and innovations to broaden the scope of their partnerships.

Co-organisers:





The scientific conference sessions will be held around four thematic areas; i) Educating Africa: Implementing Transformative Higher Agricultural Education to meet Africa's Human Capital Needs; ii) Sustainably Growing the Economy and Feeding Africa; iii) Unlocking Inclusive and Broad-Based Economic Opportunity; and iv) Economic Trends, Best-Practices, Policy-Practice and Futures. For detailed descriptions of the scientific sessions, please view the call for papers [here](#).

4. Expected participants.

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.

For details about the 2nd Triennial Conference, please visit the meeting website [here](#).

5. Call for Expression of Interest to hold Pre-Conference or Side Meetings

RUFORUM invites interested institutions/organisations and individuals to hold pre-conference or side events¹ aligned to the overall conference theme and directly contributing to the achievement of the conference objectives. The pre-conference or side events should be contributing new knowledge or equipping Africans with new skills to address the challenges and seize opportunities in one or more sub-themes scientific sessions to contribute to Africa's development. Each event should therefore showcase or equip African agriculture and research ecosystem actors with novel knowledge and skills to innovate for Africa's development.

6. How to express interest to hold a Pre-conference and/or Side Event

Interested organisations/institutions/individual should provide 1–3-page Concept Note of the proposed event. The Concept Note should include the following sections.

- a) Title of the event.
- b) Brief background including rationale and objectives.
- c) Event delivery approach and draft programme.
- d) Expected outcomes specifying new knowledge or competency that will be delivered to enable a specified actor in the higher agriculture and research ecosystem to address challenges and seize opportunities in one or more sub-themes scientific sessions to contribute to Africa's development.
- e) Target group of the pre-conference or side event.
- f) Number of participants.
- g) Sitting arrangements. See examples [here](#)
- h) Equipment required to hold the event (projectors, video conferencing equipment, Public Address System, Video coverage etc. required to hold a quality events)
- i) Branding and publicity materials to be brought and those required (flyers, pull-up stands, tear drops, LED Screens, Videos etc.)

¹ A side event is a meeting, training, dialogue, or any other event that is not part of the RUFORUM Governance and mainstream scientific Conference by either members or non-members of the RUFORUM Network.



- j) Dissemination plan including live media coverage platforms social media, live streaming on e.g., Facebook; twitter and YouTube if applicable, and
- k) Number and category of participants who will be funded by the side event organisers (excluding the organisers). The Program Committee requires that for an event to be accepted, the organisers should cover the travel, registration, and accommodation costs of at least five (5) participants to the meeting excluding the event organisers.

7. Side event dates and duration

The preconference events will take place between 5th and 10th August 2024. Events taking place in this period can run for a period of one to five days between 8:30am and 4:30pm.

During the conference, side events may be organised on a day that will be specified in the programme. The day allocated for side events will be shared with organisations which will have expressed interest to host side events. Events taking place during this day must take place for only one day between 8:30am and 4:30pm.

8. Reporting of Pre-Conference or Side Events

To ensure coherence in reporting of the overall conference, all pre-conference or side events organisers will prepare a summary report of their events as a contribution to the broader conference report, a day after holding the session. A report of a maximum three (3) pages should specify the following.

- a) Objectives of the Pre-Conference/Side Event.
- b) The sub-theme that the Pre-Conference or Side Event contributed to.
- c) The success stories/best practices shared/new skills or competency delivered.
- d) Challenges and opportunities identified.
- e) Practical recommendations and
- f) Action plan to implement the recommendations specifying the role of different stakeholders.

9. Side events funding arrangements

The side event conveners/ organisers will pay for all costs related to the holding of the side event. The cost of holding side events include:

- a) Venue hire, which varies with the number of participants;
- b) Registration fees for the expected number of participants in the side event, and
- c) Video conferencing facilities (for blended events).

In addition, the organisers will also pay for travel, registration, accommodation, and subsistence of at least five (5) RUFORUM Principals and Deans from outside Namibia.

Please submit the concept note by email to Mr. Emmanuel Okalany at e.okalany@ruforum.org with a copy to; s.dagnoko@ruforum.org; triennial@ruforum.org; and ruforum@unam.na by **30th May 2024**. All submissions will be responded, specifying the availability of space and conditions for holding the events.

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