**Graduate Research Grant Application Form**

***The complete proposals must be a maximum of 10 typed A4 pages, 1.5 spacing, Times New Roman, font size 12 unless otherwise specified in the Call. PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAMES NOR THE NAMES OF YOUR RESEARCH TEAM***

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| **Title of the proposal** |  |
| **Call ID** |  |
| **Reference Number –** *to be included by the RUFORUM Grants Team* |  |

**ABSTRACT**

*Indicate exactly what you will do in the project and why (do not provide general problem statements or over-ambitious expected outcomes) Please don’t exceed 100 words*

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**THE PROBLEM**

*Provide background information that leads you to identify the problem your research will address. What is the problem that this research specifically addresses and why is it important? (Hint: do not provide very general background – ensure that what you cover directly links to what will be researched). Include the focus, rationale and expected contribution of your proposed research to resolving the problem identified. Demonstrate the demand for, or importance of, the issue to a specific group of farmers or poor or vulnerable communities/ households and indicate how they will be involved in the research. What is the relevance to RUFORUM strategic thrusts? How do the issues and concerns you have targeted relate to the African, sub-regional and local development context? See* [*http://www.ruforum.org/sites/default/files/GEAR/chapters/GEAR\_1.3.pdf*](http://www.ruforum.org/sites/default/files/GEAR/chapters/GEAR_1.3.pdf) *and also see* [*http://www.ruforum.org/sites/default/files/GEAR/chapters/GEAR\_2.1.pdf*](http://www.ruforum.org/sites/default/files/GEAR/chapters/GEAR_2.1.pdf)

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**ASSOCIATED PROJECT**

*Where relevant, provide details of any project this research will be closely associated with, that it complements, or that it develops from. Indicate very clearly how your student research project fits into the broader research programme, showing the value added by this project. RUFORUM competitive grants process is in favour of complementing related projects and research. Ensure that you describe the programme or project you are working with, or that your research follows from. Be sure to show how your project will complement the existing research.*

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**THE LITERATURE REVIEW**

*Show, using relevant literature, how your research relates to existing knowledge, research and development needs to address the problem highlighted. In particular outline earlier research that underpins what your project will be doing; and why it should be done. The literature review needs to be focused to the specific research addressed in this proposal and provide evidence of understanding of the main issues to be researched, and of the current literature on the topic.* [*http://www.ruforum.org/sites/default/files/GEAR/chapters/GEAR\_2.2.pdf*](http://www.ruforum.org/sites/default/files/GEAR/chapters/GEAR_2.2.pdf)

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**RESEARCH APPROACH AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

*Outline how you will approach the problem, where the students, the farmers and partner agencies are involved and in particular identify the main concepts that underpin your approach to carrying out the research, relating this to the literature review.* [*http://www.ruforum.org/sites/default/files/GEAR/chapters/GEAR\_2.3.pdf*](http://www.ruforum.org/sites/default/files/GEAR/chapters/GEAR_2.3.pdf) *You need to specifically outline which part of the research problem framework each student will address. This is especially important for the GRG. In the following sections, you can specify the hypotheses, objectives and methods separately for each student – or you can specify them all for the project and then indicate which student will carry out which aspect, leaving the students to develop their own hypotheses. In most cases all team members are involved in support of the two students, but in some instances, team members may also intend to directly undertake some of the research or dissemination. Indicate where this is applicable.*

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**OBJECTIVES**

*What are the overall and specific objectives of your proposed research against which success or failure can be assessed? Each specific objective should be described in one sentence.*

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**HYPOTHESES TO BE TESTED**

*It is important, where applicable, to include an underlying hypothesis that drives the research and then to provide some general hypotheses to be tested, even if the students and other researchers will later refine these and make them more specific.* [*http://www.ruforum.org/sites/default/files/GEAR/chapters/GEAR\_2.3.pdf*](http://www.ruforum.org/sites/default/files/GEAR/chapters/GEAR_2.3.pdf)

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**METHODOLOGY**

*This section should focus on how the research of each student will be carried out to test the hypotheses and achieve the research objectives. You need to indicate to reviewers and selectors a good grasp of available methodologies but do not necessarily need to select the exact methods to be used. In addition if not clearly articulated above indicate how will you engage and involve stakeholders in the research. What multi-disciplinary approaches will be adopted? Where in the value chain does this project add value? It is important to state how gender and other cross cutting issues will be addressed?*

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**DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION**

*Indicate how the results of your research will be disseminated to the various stakeholders. Where you are involved in action research with communities, any ongoing workshops or After Action Reviews to discuss research management and results from on-farm trials need to be included in the budget. You need to indicate here the expected academic publications as well as meetings, policy briefs, pamphlets, radio broadcasts etc. Be realistic and not overambitious and show that the dissemination strategy is linked in with the available budget or other support sources. A succinct achievable description of what you will do is favoured by reviewers.* [*http://www.ruforum.org/sites/default/files/GEAR/chapters/GEAR\_5.2.pdf*](http://www.ruforum.org/sites/default/files/GEAR/chapters/GEAR_5.2.pdf)

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**PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

*How will the project’s achievements be monitored and evaluated to ensure proper management and enable early corrective action where necessary? Indicate clear milestones that will demonstrate progress. It is important that you provide a simple but clear outline of the feedback loops. Again you need to be realistic. The reviewers are concerned to see that there are steps you will take to assess and where necessary revise; that the supervisors and implementing partners will be required to review and visit student projects and that the students will regularly report on their progress. It needs to be clear how problems or delays will be reported and dealt with. Please refer to the RUFORUM M&E Strategy (visit www.ruforum.org) for further information.*

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**RESULTS FRAMEWORK**

(To be uploaded separately - please download the template from the online system)

**TEAM ORGANIZATION AND QUALIFICATION**

*How do you propose to organize your team in order to achieve your project objectives? The role of each team member must be clearly demonstrated. In particular show what each student is doing and how the other team members relate to them.* PLEASE DON’T INCLUDE THE NAMES OF THE TEAM MEMBERS.

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**REFERENCES**

*Include only references that you have quoted in the proposal and this should be within the ten page limit. Any referencing system can be employed provided it is consistent with the requirements of your own university. RUFORUM would prefer that you use the standard slightly adapted version of the Harvard system which is the one used in GEAR and that follows the style of the African Crop Science Society Journal.* [*http://www.ruforum.org/sites/default/files/GEAR/chapters/GEAR\_2.2.pdf*](http://www.ruforum.org/sites/default/files/GEAR/chapters/GEAR_2.2.pdf)

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**PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

1. This full proposal together with supporting documents should be submitted online as attachments via the RUFORUM Information Management System (RIMS): <http://rims2.ruforum.org>
2. You must create an account in order to submit your application. The online system allows you to start your application, save and come back to continue working on it until you are ready to submit it.
3. The support letters from partner institutions will be required if your proposal is selected and before grants are disbursed but they are not essential at the time of proposal submission.
4. If you face problems with the online application system please email Selma Ndapewa Nghituwamhata on s.nghituwamhata@ruforum.org and ensure that you copy cgs@ruforum.org