

Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture Secretariat Quarterly Report

1st October-31st December 2021

Summary

This report highlights key achievements and progress made during the period 1st October-31st December 2021 (the second quarter of the Financial Year 2021/2022, the fourth year of implementing the [Operational Plan-2018-2022](#) of RUFORUM [Vision 2030](#)). The Operational Plan is designed around four (4) flagship programmes underpinned by activities to support regional collective action and learning. The flagship programmes drive the achievement of the RUFORUM vision for *vibrant transformative universities catalysing inclusive agricultural development to feed and create prosperity for Africa*. The four flagship programmes are:

- Transforming African Agricultural Universities to meaningfully contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev) seeks to transform African agricultural universities and their graduates to better respond to developmental challenges through enhanced application of science, technology, business and innovation for rural agricultural transformation. This flagship programme is largely supported by the Mastercard Foundation.
- Cultivating Research and Teaching Excellence (CREATE) seeks to realign universities' research and teaching functions into a more integrated model with a focus on problem solving and enhancing the capacity of the entire university academic practice and outreach system mainly.
- Regional Anchor Universities for Higher Agricultural Education (RANCH) seeks to escalate the setting up of a network of linked universities as African anchor universities/African centres of excellence and academic leadership in agricultural higher education and learning.
- Knowledge Hub for University Networking, Partnership and Advocacy (K-Hub) builds on RUFORUM's convening power and facilitates the creation, capture, organising, sharing and refining of information and content across teams and geographic locations – thus increasing access to latest evidence based information and knowledge.

Key highlights for the Quarter were in light of the [Seventh Africa Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference held 6th-10th December, 2021](#), namely:

1. The Conference attracted a total of 2401 participants from 46 countries with 901 physical (40% female) and 1,500 virtual participants. The event further involved 23 pre-Conference meetings and side events. It was officially opened by the Hon. Abdoulaye Bio Tchane, Minister of State in charge of Development and Coordination of Government Action, Benin. Her Excellence Madame Chabi Talata, Vice President, Republic of Benin was the Chief Guest for the session on Promoting Inclusivity in Research and Development. Invited keynote speakers included Her Excellency, Prof Ameenah Gurib, former President of Mauritius.
2. RUFORUM facilitated dialogue of Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Education, Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa to review progress and map out a pathway for the operationalisation of the [Cape Coast Ministerial Communiqué](#) and other continental initiatives for universities to contribute to the regional and global agendas.

The meeting approved the Action Plan developed by Technical Experts from the Countries of Benin, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Togo and Uganda.

3. The 17th Annual General Meeting held on 10 December 2021 (a) elected a new RUFORUM Board Chair – Prof Theresia Nkuo-Akenji, Vice Chancellor-University of Bamenda, Cameroon and will be deputized by Vice Board Chair Prof Avlessi Felicien, Vice Chancellor, University d'Abomey Calavi, Benin; (b) admitted 17 new member universities bringing the network membership to 147 member universities in 38 African countries; and, (c) appointed Ernst & Young Uganda as RUFORUM External Auditor for the period 2021/2022.
4. In collaboration with the African Development Bank and Mastercard Foundation, dialogue on academia-policy partnership for transformative institutional leadership, skills development and youth employability was held on 6th December 2021. The Global Dialogue provided an opportunity for joint learning and sharing of successful models such as the university-research institutes-industry linkages model of Korea and EARTH University of Costa Rica and, the Science and Technology Backyard (STB) and RUFORUM TAGDev Model.
5. Convened a session on 9th December 2021 on Promoting inclusivity in research and development which brought together a high-level panel of female leaders in policy and agricultural higher education. The session highlighted strategies to enable policy makers at university and public sector level promote inclusive participation in research and development.
6. Seventeen (17) senior policy, higher education leaders and researchers were recognised for their distinguished contribution to agriculture, education and science development in Africa. Additionally, five (5) young scientists and three (3) farmers from the Republic of Benin and twenty two (22) young innovators from across the continent were recognised for excellence.

INTRODUCTION:

The narrative below elaborates the achievements made during the period 1st October-31st December 2021, the second quarter of the financial year 2021/2022. The report is arranged by Flagship Programmes of the RUFORUM [Vision 2030](#).

Flagship programme: TAGDev-Transforming African Agricultural Universities for Africa's Growth and Development

a) Retool academic staff and students in facilitating teaching and learning

RUFORUM facilitated training of 157 University Staff in e-Learning content development to strengthen collaborative action for digital learning across RUFORUM network universities. The training focused on developing evaluation and assessment skills, and integration of artificial intelligence in research for development. Under the [AgriEngage Consortium](#), 25 staff from University of



Abomey Calavi and National University of Agriculture (Benin); Egerton University & Pwani University (Kenya); Mohammed VI Polytechnic University and Hassan II (Morocco); and, Gulu University & Uganda Martyrs University (Uganda) were trained in curriculum development and review. Further, in collaboration with Häme University of Applied Sciences (Finland) through the [PBL-BioAfrica project](#), 110 university academics from 17 countries were trained in Problem-Based Learning (PBL) focusing on how universities can change their pedagogy to incorporate Problem-Based Learning. This discussion was further extended to 66 Principals and Deans during the Triennial Conference in Benin.

a) Recruit students to complete graduate studies in agricultural sciences in Gulu University, Uganda and Egerton University, Kenya

During the Quarter, 10 additional Masters students completed studies at the University of Gezira in Sudan, bringing the total to 107 students that have completed their studies with 401 students (196 male, 205 female) continuing to undertake studies under their respective career paths. Of the students who have completed studies, three (3) have transitioned to pursue PhD studies, and two (2) have been appointed to key positions as Students' Support Specialists at EARTH University (Costa Rica) and as the Industrial Policy and Agro-Value Chain Analyst at the Department of Trade and Industry of the African Union (Ethiopia).

b) Support community action research teams at each university to engage with communities and strengthen commodity value chains for smallholder farmers

RUFORUM convened a lesson learning dialogue involving Principal Investigators implementing Community Action Research Programme PLUS (CARP+). Key lessons that emerged included the emergence of centres of leadership across the continent anchored on engagement in various areas of focus including blue economy, technology access and business incubation, seed systems for root and tuber crops, and wild, indigenous and under-invested crop seed systems. The missing link identified was the inadequate support for Post-doctoral fellowships in the TAGDev programme, a growth pathway for young scientists. Post-doctoral fellowships are fundamental in supporting the graduate training ecosystem and enabling timely completion of both Masters and PhD students in most contemporary universities.

Further, two CARP+ projects received additional financing through a collaborative arrangement with other research agencies in Africa: the Cassava CARP+ from University of Nairobi received additional funding support of Euro 300,000 from Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) for three years. This extends the CARP+ model to Rwanda bringing on board a total of 21 civil society, public and private sector institutions to collaboratively work together to strengthen cassava innovation ecosystem and knowledge transfer for inclusive rural livelihoods development in Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda. The Potato CARP+ in Uganda received additional funding of UGX 169.7 (US\$48,500) to scale-up the delivery of clean seed and community incubation for value addition in south western Uganda. This additional funding is proof that the CARP+ model is an investment that provides a unique approach that is responsive to the development needs of the communities.

c) Support the development, scaling-up and documentation of commercialisable innovations emerging from agribusiness incubation centres for greater impact

RUFORUM awarded 20 Innovations, Products to Market Field Attachment Programme Awards (IPM-FAPAs) to students from Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Liberia, Namibia, South Africa, Sudan and Uganda to advance their experiential

learning by translating their research results into products and services. Through this, RUFORUM is ensuring that university-led research does not remain archived in the shelves of university libraries but provides jobs and livelihood opportunities to the students themselves and the communities they engage with. The student enterprises have created 160 jobs bringing the total to 852 jobs created by TAGDev-supported student-led enterprises. In order to increase visibility and brand identity, all student-led enterprises were supported to develop online enabled transactions websites. Examples of profiles of student enterprises include: www.falpoultry.com; www.ikrishapoultryfarm.com; www.provendekivu.com; and, www.teamvolailedor.com.

To strengthen the capacity of university academic staff in entrepreneurship experiential training, RUFORUM trained 38 incubation leaders and staff in entrepreneurship and business development in universities. The training provided an opportunity to validate the RECAP Incubator Manual and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), the Entrepreneurial Mindset Handbook and the Entrepreneurial Mindset Toolkit. These will standardize the entrepreneurship experiential learning processes in the supported incubators within the RUFORUM member universities.



d) Document emerging lessons from the cohort I, II, III, and IV supported students

During the quarter, RUFORUM undertook video documentation of the TAGDev interventions to profile stories of impact at individual, institutional and community levels. These included the [potato CARP+](#) demonstrating how knowledge is a powerful tool for transforming smallholder farmers livelihoods; Transformation story of [Egerton University](#) and [Gulu University](#) highlighting aspects of e-learning, curriculum development, community engagement institutionalisation, and vibrancy of scholarship in the University; and, [Gabriel Kwendo](#), a story of student enterprise success and resilience in the dairy sector despite COVID 19 impacts on young start-ups. Additional profiled stories of impact and personal reflections from the TAGDev students included:

1. [I Bought a Motorcycle to Earn a Living](#)
2. [I Can Transform Agriculture in Africa Through the MasterCard Scholarship](#)
3. [I make UGX 100,000 per Day from Running a Restaurant](#)
4. [Carbon – the connection between the atmosphere, soil, and plants](#)
5. [I Work Closely with the Youth to Promote Agriculture](#)
6. [AGROVIE: The Best Young Entrepreneurs in South Kivu](#)
7. [Blended Agribusiness Powered Entrepreneurship \(BAPE\)](#)
8. [Amazing Grace Agro Centre \(AGAC\) Bamenda](#)
9. [Comrade Dairy and Food Enterprises](#)
10. [Blackand Consultancy](#)
11. [Eco-Farms Liberia Limited](#)
12. [FAMILY STORE Produce Enterprises Participation at the AU Youth Start-Ups Exhibition in Durban, KwaZulu Natal South Africa](#)

Key emerging lessons and issues

1. Experiential learning provides opportunity for universities to create meaningful transitions for students through products and services development from student-led enterprises. Through this, student-led startups are able to create jobs and contribute to the economy.

2. University academic staff still require nurturing. Universities need to put in place systems and processes to support problem-based and practical oriented learning for entrepreneurship to thrive.
3. Community Action Research Programmes (CARP) provide a platform for increasing university-community engagement and the relevance of universities to the communities they serve. The CARP model as piloted has demonstrated potential for scale-up and out.
4. The Post-Doctoral fellowships provide an essential growth path for young scientist within the university system. Opportunities have to be explored that will ensure that young scientists are supported to advance in research and teaching.

Flagship programme: RANCH: Regional Anchor Universities for Higher Agricultural Education

a) Reactivate Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education in Africa (SHAEA) programme

During the quarter, RUFORUM worked with the World Bank to initiate the process of reactivating the SHAEA initiative. The World Bank reconfirmed the strengthening higher agricultural education will now be funded as “Additional Financing” under the African Centres of Excellence coordinated by the Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA). Two countries, Malawi, and Mozambique have confirmed their full participation in the project. IUCEA is the Regional Facilitating Unit with RUFORUM providing the technical support in the programme implementation. To this end, RUFORUM and IUCEA signed an overarching Memorandum of Understanding.

- #### **b) Facilitate Establishment of Joint Regional Degree Training Programmes.**
- During the Quarter RUFORUM worked with key Stakeholders in DR Congo and in Sudan to support development of two PhD Programmes to be implemented collaboratively by universities in the two countries while drawing in experts from other countries. Accordingly, PhD Programme in Agroecology and Climate Science, hosted at Université Evangélique en Afrique and PhD in Natural Resource Management and Environment Studies hosted at Peace University were established. The first cohort of students are to start their studies during the first half of 2022.

Key emerging lessons and issues

National Governments are instrumental for the success of the World Bank supported SHAEA initiative. Member universities should engage their Governments in order to participate in and benefit from the initiative, and in other similar initiatives.

Flagship programme: CREATE-Cultivating Research and Teaching Excellence

a) Facilitate Academic Staff Development (ASD) through the Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) program

During the quarter, under the Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) programme, six students were placed, and one Doctoral student from Université Evangélique en Afrique, Bukavu graduated from University of Abomey Calavi. RUFORUM has to-date supported placement of 190 GTAs (47 female, 143 male) in 29 host universities across the African Continent. Out of these, 25 have completed studies and returned to their respective institutions. To fast-track timely completion by the students, RUFORUM organized virtual progress review meetings.

- #### **b) Support Regional Academic Mobility for academic and administrative Staff in Africa to promote access to quality academic programmes, strengthen inter-regional, inter-**

cultural exchange and collaboration in the field of higher agricultural education and research

RUFORUM as an Associate partner of the project “[The Mobility to Train Agribusiness and Food Systems Scientists for African Agriculture \(TAFSA\)](#)” supported partners to establish a mechanism for mobility of students and staff in the project. The TAFSA project will support 39 fellowships (28 Masters and 11 PhD students). Of these, 13 (10 MSc, 3 PhD) are short-term credit seeking mobilities, while 26 (18 MSc, and 8 PhDs) are degree seeking mobilities in the areas of agribusiness, consumer science, food security, nutrition, agricultural economics and agricultural policy. This programme will run from 1st February 2022 until 15th November 2024 (MSc) and up to November 2025 (PhD).

During the quarter, RUFORUM designed the mobility framework and further developed the [Call](#) for applications for degree seeking mobilities, credit seeking mobilities and staff mobilities.

c) Support participation of women in science and technology-related training and research activities in all institutions benefiting from RUFORUM schemes

During the quarter, RUFORUM organized a session on [promoting inclusivity in research and development](#) as part of the 2021 RUFORUM Triennial Conference in Benin with a focus on promoting inclusive agricultural development and, addressing challenges that limit females from pursuing science, technology and innovation and research and development goals. The session involving participants from policy at the highest level and academia recommended processes and enablers for increasing the number of women accessing advanced degrees.

d) Provide opportunities for Doctoral training to increase the pool of science, technology and innovation (ST&I) leaders in Africa

During the quarter, as part of escalating doctoral training on the Africa Continent, 10 (9 Females and 1 male) doctoral scholarships were awarded to students at Nkumba University in Uganda, and six Graduate Teaching Assistantships. This brings to total 373 PhD students still undertaking studies and a pipeline of 410 Masters students as indicated in Figure 1 below. The Secretariat further issued a pre-call [announcement](#) for additional 40 Doctoral research grants for support under the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

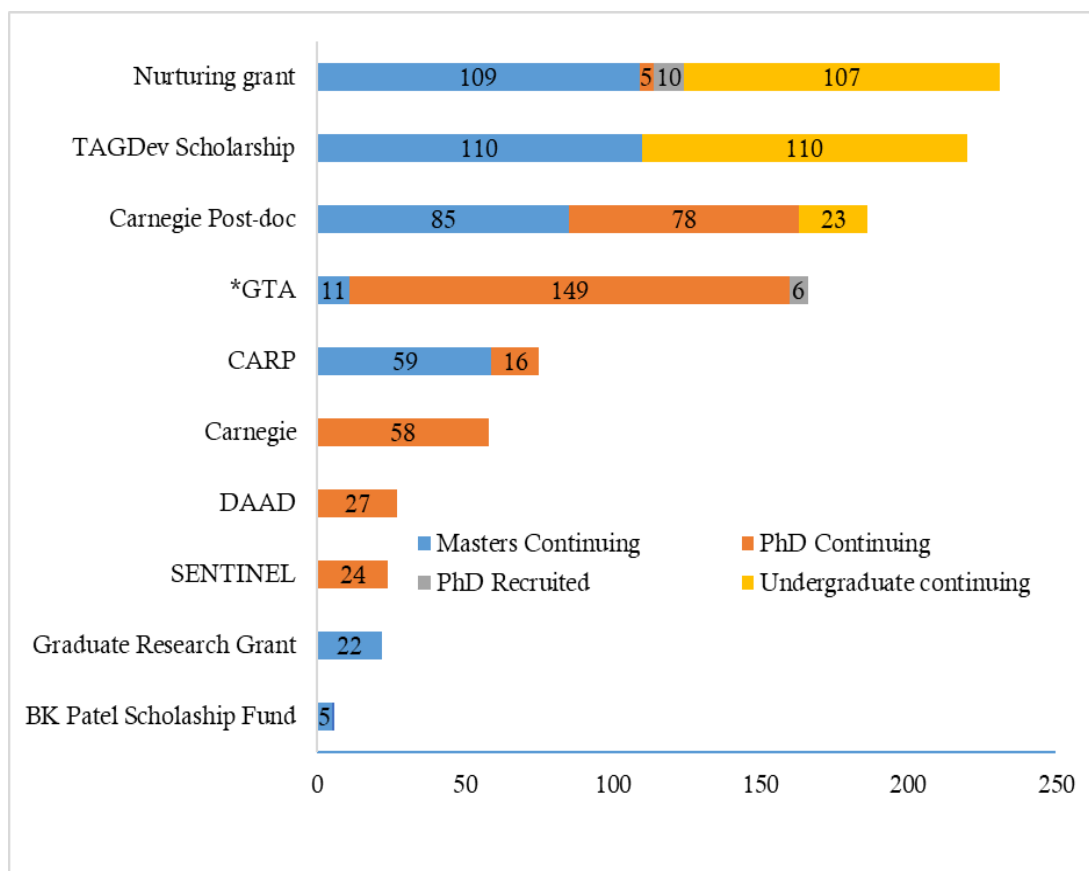


Figure 1: Number of continuing students under the different granting portfolios of RUFORUM
*Some GTA students are supported by the other granting portfolios of RUFORUM

e) Support post graduate training and research for small and fragile States

During the quarter, RUFORUM continued to support 269 students (96 PhD, 157 MSc, 16 BSc) from 12 [fragile and small States](#) of Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

f) Support students share research findings, obtain mentorship support and skills enhancement

During the quarter, the Secretariat coordinated several network-level online and face-to-face skills enhancement trainings focusing on scientific data management using R-Programming; biodiversity surveys and data analysis using R Programming; research project management and development of interdisciplinary skills; foresight and scenarios training; and, scientific writing and presentation. Several students further delivered presentations during the [scientific sessions](#) at the December 2021 RUFORUM Triennial conference in Benin.

g) Support RUFORUM Post-doctoral Fellows undertake thematic research to strengthen agri-food systems, inclusivity and environmental sustainability

RUFORUM issued a pre-call announcement for ten (10) [Post-doctoral Fellowships](#) with support from the Carnegie Cooperation of New York. RUFORUM further organized virtual progress review meetings for RUFORUM Post-doctoral Fellowships. The meeting established some of the knowledge products generated by the Fellows that include: [Allelopathic Potential of Green Manure Cover Crops on Germination and Early Seedling Development of Goose Grass \[*Eleusine indica* \(L.\) Gaertn\]](#) and [Blackjack \(*Bidens pilosa* L.\)](#);

and, [Smallholder Farmers' Resource Allocation Decisions in a Maize-Farming System under Climate Risks in Malawi](#)

h) Support thematic research to strengthen agri-food systems, inclusivity and environmental sustainability

RUFORUM in partnership with the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases organized a session on [Delivering Research and Innovations in Agricultural Greenhouse Gases](#) to share experiences and explore opportunities, areas of interest, and initiatives to support research and innovation in agricultural greenhouse gas emissions. The session was an opportunity for sharing knowledge on models for agricultural greenhouse gas emissions research and collaboration. An assessment of the effects of COVID 19 on the research teams established that universities used the opportunity of decreased face-to-face teaching to increase research output.

i) Expand and scale out the partnership with CGIAR for joint capacity building and research in agriculture and related sciences

As part of the implementation of the Accelerating the Impact of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) project, Researchers from RUFORUM Member universities in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe held a consultative meeting during the Triennial Conference in Benin. The capacity needs assessment meeting explored the status of Climate Smart Agriculture and identified existing policies on Climate Smart Agriculture in each country.

Further RUFORUM continued to engage with WASCAL (West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use) and signed an MoU for the joint implementation of various activities including training and research in Climate Smart Agriculture under AICCRA.

Key emerging lessons and issues

Engaging the Graduate Teaching Assistants Fellows, the Post Doc Fellows and other Graduate students through review meetings is important for monitoring academic progress.

Flagship programme: K-HUB-Knowledge hub for university networking, partnership and advocacy

a) Foster dialogues on emerging global issues and other thematic dialogues of Communities of Practice/Interest for collective action together with specific focus groups for a needs-oriented network

RUFORUM in partnership with the Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences (GCHERA), American University of Beirut, and EARTH University organised a dialogue on “transforming higher education: orientation, role of higher education, and vision for change for agriculture and life sciences education”. The dialogue recommended the need to focus on economically disadvantaged agricultural communities; shifting from Professor to student-focused pedagogical approaches; and, training critical thinkers and ethical leaders who will drive change in the future while conserving natural resources.

In collaboration with the African Development Bank, RUFORUM facilitated a dialogue on global academia-policy partnership for transformative institutional leadership, skills

development and youth employability. The Global Dialogue provided an opportunity for joint learning and sharing of successful models from different parts of the world.

b) Strengthen knowledge use through development and dissemination of knowledge products and services, providing easy-to-access on-time information and using specific feedback mechanisms to gauge client satisfaction

As part of keeping Network members informed of developments and opportunities relevant to agricultural higher education in Africa, the Secretariat published nine editions of [RUFORUM Weekly digest](#); [media monitoring reports](#); and, [press releases](#). As part of show-casing the visibility of RUFORUMs' interventions, Facebook likes of the RUFORUM platform have grown from 22,424 to 22,513; Twitter followers increased to 8325 from 8160; LinkedIn followers increased to 921 from 891; and, the RUFORUM blog currently has 2568 followers mainly from United States of America (USA), Uganda, Kenya, Benin, Nigeria, Ethiopia and South Africa. For the #AfricaHEWeek, the reach was up to 15 million with impressions of more than 16 million.

c) Convene the RUFORUM Triennial Conference to showcase research and training outputs, discuss strategies to enhance the use of university-generated research and evidence, influence public policies, support stakeholders' feedback mechanisms, and enhance demand for HAE products and services

The Seventh African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference was held 6-10 December, 2021 at Centre International de Conférences et Palais des Congres de Cotonou, Benin. Under the theme '*Operationalising higher education for innovation, industrialisation, inclusion and sustainable economic development in Africa: A Call for Action*'. The overall objective of the Conference was to catalyse investment in Higher Education for human capital development in Africa; promote international linkages and partnerships for excellence in higher education; strengthen collaboration and mutual learning to spur innovation and industrialisation for economic transformation in Africa; promote youth employment and skills acquisition for development; and, strengthen University-Private sector business linkages.

The Conference attracted a total of 2401 participants from 46 countries with 901 physical and 1,500 virtual participants in a blended mode. The event further involved 23 pre-Conference meetings and side events.

d) Facilitate engagement with RUFORUM Alumni

RUFORUM co-organised with the Uganda Country Chapter of the Mastercard Foundation Alumni, an event "Thriving amidst COVID 19 for beneficiaries of the Young Africa Works Strategy/Market for Youth Program'. Two TAGDev Alumni (Robine Okello and Lamech Amwine) participated as co-facilitators of the event and also shared their experiences. Further, Mr. Robine Okello, a TAGDev Alumni was invited to exhibit his business which was started while at Gulu University during the AU Youth Start-Ups Exhibition in Durban, KwaZulu Natal South Africa. Full story can be accessed [here](#)

Key emerging lessons and issues

Online technologies continue to be fundamental in facilitating RUFORUM engagement with diverse audiences. Blended engagements have potential to increase reach and the diversity of RUFORUM partnerships.

Flagship programme: PROGRAM SUPPORT – Technical, administrative and logistical support

a) Convene Governance meetings to guide the network in designing operating models to ensure that the network effectively meets the strategic objectives of Vision 2030

During the reporting period, RUFORUM held eight governance meetings as stipulated in the RUFORUM Constitution;

- The 17th Annual General meeting
- The 20th Board of Trustees meeting
- The 29th Finance and Administration Committee of the Board
- 14th International Advisory Panel meeting
- 21st Technical Committee meeting
- 18th Principals and Deans Committee meeting
- 2nd Audit Committee meeting
- 22nd Board Executive Committee Meeting

b) Broker alliances and partnerships to assist universities establish delivery networks for scaling-up research outputs, knowledge products and innovations

RUFORUM signed Memoranda of Understanding with two organisations: The Inter-University Council for East Africa for collaboration in the advancement of research and quality postgraduate studies in Eastern Africa; and, West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) to strengthen the capacity of the West African and RUFORUM stakeholders in climate and environment services, research and innovation and policy.

c) Facilitate the growth of organisations to deliver products and services to end users by attracting new member universities

During the year, RUFORUM admitted 17 new member universities, bringing the network membership to 147 universities in 38 countries spanning the African Continent. Emerging from the expansion of the RUFORUM Network was the decision to establish two RUFORUM regional nodes, one for Southern Africa and the other for West Africa. The RUFORUM Secretariat based in Kampala, Uganda will continue to provide continental-wide coordination, in addition to specifically handling Central, Eastern and North Africa regions.

d) Convene dialogues to advocate for political commitment to support and increase investment in higher agricultural education, science, technology and innovation

During the quarter, RUFORUM and the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) trained Ugandan policy makers on the policy cycles for family farming in Uganda. A total of 34 technical personnel from the government ministries, departments and agencies, farmer organisations and private companies participated in the training. Key recommendations included recognising the cross-cutting nature of policy issues in family farming and the need for research-based guidance on the policy development processes. To operationalise these, participants agreed to establish a Policy Forum and initiate discussion on identification of specific policies for which a Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) process could be undertaken.

In partnership with FAO, RUFORUM organised a high level event on Promoting inclusive rural transformation in Africa: Evidence in favour of improved coherence between social protection and rural development policy. The dialogue concluded that

combining social protection and rural development programmes contributes to the resilience of rural economies; Social protection programmes should be inclusive, simple and flexible; and should provide more economic opportunities to females. Maximizing synergies between social protection and agriculture will increase agricultural productivity and production which is key for long term poverty reduction.

RUFORUM facilitated dialogue of Ministers responsible for Agriculture, Education, Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa to review progress and map out a pathway for the operationalisation of the [Cape Coast Ministerial Communiqué](#) and other continental initiatives for universities to contribute to the regional and global agendas. The meeting approved the Action Plan developed by Technical Experts from the Countries of Benin, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Togo and Uganda. The Ministers endorsed the Action Plan and committed respective countries to follow through the actions and report progress during the 18th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting in Harare Zimbabwe in December 2022.

Key emerging lessons and issues

Policy support, especially by African Governments, is key for furtherance of RUFORUM operations as well for delivery of Africa Universities Agenda for Higher Agricultural Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESTI).

Planned activities for the period January-March 2022

1. Undertake a functional analysis of the RUFORUM Secretariat in line with the requirement to establish RUFORUM Regional Nodes
2. Recruitment of a Systems Accountant for RUFORUM Secretariat
3. Outcome Evaluation of the implementation of the 1st Operational Plan under RUFORUM Vision 2030
4. Plan for the 18th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting to be held in Harare, Zimbabwe
5. Profile RUFORUM Activities
6. Mobilise resources/partnerships to support the implementation of flagship programmes