RUFORUM Member Universities Produce High Performing Graduates

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a Network of universities in sub-Saharan Africa that have is engaging in collective action towards establishment of “a vibrant agricultural sector linked to African Universities producing high-performing graduates, quality research responsive to the demands of end-users (including farmers)”.  

Catherine Mloza-Banda sponsored by RUFORUM for her Masters Training and Research under the Graduate Research Grants (GRGs) is a testimony to RUFORUM’s efforts and mileage towards attainment of this vision. Catherine is a former student of the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) in Malawi. LUANAR is a member of the RUFORUM Network.

Ms. Mloza-Banda was recently invited to participate in the European Development Days 2015 in Brussel, Belgium under the theme: “Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future”. The event
attracted 5,000 high profile development experts. Catherine was among the 15 young people selected under the Future Leaders Programme which sought to amplify the voice and participation of young people during the event.

She participated in a debate with Hon. Sam Kutesa, the President of the 69th United Nations General Assembly and Federica Mogherini, the High Representative of the Europe Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission.

On 28 May 2015 the Joint Research Centre hosted the 15 Future Leaders for a workshop titled "Visions for the World in 2035". The workshop took place in the EU Policy Lab that operates with a multidisciplinary team drawing on expertise in future oriented thinking, behavioral insights and design for policy approaches.

She is passionate to change the face of African agriculture and she sees herself being the Commissioner for Rural Economy within the African Union in 2025. She would also like to see farmers who are resilient, food nutrient and income secure, and young people actively participating in the agriculture value chain. With the right polices, innovations and governance, Catherine believes this is possible.