

Press Release



For immediate release | 12, December, 2016

Six staff appointed at the RUFORUM Secretariat

The RUFORUM Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of six staff at the RUFORUM Secretariat: Mrs. Sylvia Chindime Mkandawire is the Programme Manager for Training and Quality Assurance and Dr. Solange Uwituze is the Programme Manager for Partnerships and Business Management. Under The MCF@RUFORUM project, Dr. Anthony Egeru is the Manager of MCF@RUFORUM, Dr. Rukarwa Runyararo Jolyn is the Research and Grants Officer, Dr. Sylvanus Mensah is the Recruitment and Training Officer and Ms. Angoku Loyce, is the Senior Finance Officer. Brief biodata for each one of them is presented below;



the RUFORUM member universities, scholarship management systems, curriculum reviews and development. Sylvia has publications in the field of agriculture rural innovations and capacity building initiatives in Africa and is a RUFORUM alumni.

Mrs. Sylvia Chindime Mkandawire, a Malawian, is the recently appointed Programme Manager for Training and Quality Assurance at the RUFORUM Secretariat. Sylvia has over 11 years of work experience in Higher Education and capacity building related initiatives. She has previously served as Training Officer at the RUFORUM Secretariat, Lecturer at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), and an independent consultant for dairy promotion programmes in Malawi. Sylvia has managed 11 multi donor capacity building projects in Africa, has vast experience in coordination of intra African academic mobility for students and staff, spearheaded postgraduate quality assurance among



Dr. Solange Uwituze, a Rwandese is the new Programme Manager for Partnerships and Business Management at the RUFORUM Secretariat. She previously served as the Programme Manager for Training and Quality Assurance at the same Organisation. Prior to joining RUFORUM, she served as a Lecturer and Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture – National University of Rwanda. Dr. Uwituze is well published in the area of beef cattle nutrition and to a lesser extent the dairy sector. She has successfully led development of multimillion US Dollar projects and has extensive experience in leadership and management of various multilateral Capacity Building projects. Dr Uwituze is a Founding Fellow of the Rwanda Academy of Science.



Dr. Egeru Anthony, a Ugandan is the Manager of The MCF@RUFORUM project, an eight year project funded by The MasterCard Foundation to strengthen the effectiveness of university contribution to development through skills development particularly entrepreneurship of talented, motivated and disadvantaged youth in Africa. He previously served as Assistant Grants Manager at RUFORUM Secretariat, Lecturer at Makerere University and a secondary school teacher at Merryland High School, Entebbe. Anthony is a distinguished academic with a Research Gate Score of 10.34 and h-index of 4 and 13,710 reads and reviews in Academia. Anthony has multi-faceted experience in research including in

systems ecology with a focus on management of dryland ecosystems, early warning system, rangeland health monitoring, land use planning, pastoral livelihoods, agro-forestry systems, climate change, adaptation and resilience programming and analysis, development processes-especially participatory analysis and curriculum design and development.



Dr. Rukarwa Runyararo Jolyn, a Zimbabwean, is the Research and Grants Officer for The MCF@RUFORUM project at the RUFORUM Secretariat. She holds a PhD in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology (Makerere University, 2014), Post graduate Diploma-Biosafety in Plant Biotechnology (Ghent University, Belgium, 2010), MSc. Crop Science majoring in Biotechnology (Makerere University, 2008) and BSc. in Agriculture (Hons) (University of Zimbabwe, 2005). Runyararo started her career as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Zimbabwe (2007) before joining the International Potato Centre in Uganda in 2013 and later served as a part time Lecturer at Kyambogo University (2015) and a visiting Lecturer at the Makerere University Centre for Crop Improvement in the College of Agricultural and

Environmental Sciences (CAES). She also served as a Programme Management Assistant for an international programme entitled Agricultural Investors as Development Actors (AIDA). Runyararo has extensive experience in research in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology, but has also obtained a wealth of experience in administration and coordination of research projects. Runyararo is a dedicated and technically skilled professional with a versatile administrative support skill set developed through experience as an intern student at the RUFORUM Secretariat.



Dr. Sylvanus Mensah, a Beninese is the Recruitment and Training Officer for The MCF@RUFORUM project. He holds a PhD in Forestry (University of Stellenbosch, 2016); MSc. in Natural Resources Management (2013) and BSc. in Agricultural Sciences (2010) at University of Abomey-Calavi. Dr Sylvanus Mensah started his career as Research Assistant at the Laboratory of Applied Ecology at the University of Abomey-Calavi. He later joined the Laboratory of Biomathematics and Forest Estimations of the University of Abomey-Calavi as the Assistant-Head of the research unit. Dr. Mensah is an agricultural engineer who shifted a bit to study natural resources management and forestry where most of his research studies were conducted. For the past four years, he was involved in research projects in Benin and South Africa on several

aspects of natural forest ecosystems, including forest ecology and management, forest estimations and precision, biology conservation, ethnoecology, ecosystem services, biomass modelling and

climate change, functional ecology and forest productivity. He has authored a number of publications in international peer-review journals.



Ms. Angoku Loyce, a Ugandan, is the Senior Finance Officer for The MCF@RUFORUM project and is a member of the Chartered Public Accountants of Uganda (CPA). She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration (Accounting option) obtained in 2004 from Makerere University Business School. Loyce Angoku has twelve years of experience in broad areas of general banking operations having built a career in the sector while working at Centenary Bank in Uganda. While she started as a banking officer in 2005, her zeal, professionalism and positive attitude saw her rise through the ladder to the level of Assistant Manager in 2016. At RUFORUM Secretariat she is responsible for managing the financial issues of The MCF@RUFORUM project.

Notes to Editors:

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a Network of 66 African Universities with mission to 'strengthen the capacities of Universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of small-holder farmers through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact oriented research and the maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, national agricultural research institutions'. RUFORUM was established in 2004, with Secretariat hosted by Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. RUFORUM signed MoU with the African Union and has mandate to support capacity building for science, research and technology development in Africa. RUFORUM has supported the training of over 1500 postgraduate students, the generation of over 300 agricultural technologies and mobilized over US\$98 million for strengthening postgraduate education in Africa. Please visit www.ruforum.org for more information.

For additional information, photos and interviews with key delegates, contact Miss. Joan Apio, below.

Contacts:

Name: Joan Apio

Program Officer -
Communications, Publicity
& Marketing

Email: communications@ruforum.org

Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)

Plot 151/155 Garden Hill, Makerere University Main Campus
P.O. Box 16811 Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256-417-713-300 (office) | Direct Line: +256-417-713-317
Twitter: [@RUFORUM](https://twitter.com/RUFORUM) | [@ruforumsec](https://twitter.com/ruforumsec)
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ruforumnetwork>
Blog: <http://blog.ruforum.org/>
Website: www.ruforum.org