

Press Release



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RUFORUM 15th Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana



Kampala 01 March 2019: The 15th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) will be held at the University of Cape Coast (UCC) in Ghana from 2-6 December, 2019. It will be the first AGM to be hosted in West Africa following RUFORUM's strategic geographical expansion in 2014 to include Universities in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Togo, Sierra Leone and Senegal.

The 15th AGM will run under the theme: *Delivering on Africa's Universities Agenda for Higher Agricultural Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESTI): What will it take?*

Africa's efforts to attain sustainable and inclusive economic growth and development as enshrined in the Agenda 2063 and the global Agenda 2063 is at heightened levels. Accordingly, Universities in Africa have immense responsibility to translate these aspirations into products, services and competitive innovations. Higher education institutions are therefore at the centre of these processes in science, technology and innovation. The Africa's Universities Agenda for Higher Agricultural Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESTI) provides an operational framework for delivering espoused contributions of higher education to Africa's transformation. Universities in Africa that will convene in Ghana will have the opportunity to deliberate on what it will take to translate the AHESTI framework into reality as part of unlocking the innate potential of Africa's higher education institutions.

This 15th AGM coincides with RUFORUM's 15th anniversary celebration, a year after the ratification of the RUFORUM [Vision 2030 Strategy](#) and its [Five year Operational Plan](#) (2018-2022). During this AGM, RUFORUM will reflect and learn from its programmes implementation, and concretize on the directions and strategies for the realisation of RUFORUM Vision 2030 Strategy.

This AGM is anticipated will be attended by about 400 delegates including Ministers of Agriculture and Education and their respective Permanent Secretaries, Vice Chancellors, Principals and Deans, partners and Heads of development institutions, private sector leaders, farmers and farmer representatives, emerging and early career researchers and young entrepreneurs from especially Ghana and other West African countries. Universities, private sector actors and young entrepreneurs shall have the opportunity to showcase their innovations, products and services, network and broker partnerships with one another.

RUFORUM shall recognise farmers that have made significant contribution to agricultural transformation in Ghana as part of supporting national efforts for the advancement and transformation of agriculture. RUFORUM shall also recognise scientists and other actors that have made significant contribution and supported the advancement of excellence in research and higher education for the development of Africa. This recognition will be undertaken under the IMPRESSA Awards. Young Innovators and Entrepreneurs from West Africa will be recognised as part of promoting the contribution of youth to economic growth and development of Africa and the need to provide youth with a platform to demonstrate their potential.

A number of Pre-AGM Side events will take place and will include; Post-Doctoral fellows training, targeted skill enhancement training for University Principals and Deans, Leadership and management training for the Forum for Women Vice Chancellors in Africa (40 Vice Chancellors), Social media training for students from RUFORUM member universities in Ghana, a learning event on indigenous chicken production in Africa and a business and entrepreneurship training by the Institute of Business at University of Cape Coast for Young Innovators and entrepreneurs.

For updates please visit www.ruforum.org/AGM2019 website or Contact Ms. Agena Maureen m.agena@ruforum.org Dr Francis Otto at f.otto@ruforum.org and Prof. L. K. Sam Amoah lsam-amoah@ucc.edu.gh

Notes to Editors:

Established by 10 African university Vice Chancellors in 2004, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a consortium of 105 African universities operating in 37 countries on the continent with a vision to create “*vibrant transformative universities to catalyse sustainable inclusive agricultural development to feed and create prosperity for Africa*”. RUFORUM Secretariat is hosted by the Ministry of Education and Sports in Uganda with Secretariat at Makerere University in Kampala. In 2014, RUFORUM signed a MoU with the African Union Commission to support implementation of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024) Priority One on reducing poverty and ensuring food and nutrition security. As of August 2017, RUFORUM has supported the training of 60 Under graduates, 1,883 MSc and 503 PhD graduates of whom, 94% work in their home countries or region, generated over 300 agricultural technologies and mobilized over US\$201 million for strengthening postgraduate education in Africa. Please visit www.ruforum.org for more information.

For additional information, photos and interviews, contact the RUFORUM Corporate Communications & Advocacy Officer below;

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