Kampala 20 May 2019 The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with the European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development (AGRINATURA). The signing of the MoU took place during the AGRINATURA Annual General Meeting held at the Agro- Biotech Centre at Gembloux, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, University of Liege, Belgium which took place 15th- 16th May 2019. Present at the signing were AGRINATURA Member university representatives. The MoU was signed by the President, Prof Carolyn Glynn and the Vice President Prof Tim Chancellor on behalf of AGRINATURA. RUFORUM was represented by Dr Florence Nakayiwa the RUFORUM Deputy Executive Secretary responsible for Planning, Resource Mobilisation and Management.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Professor Glynn noted that AGRINATURA was proud to be associated with RUFORUM. The partnership with RUFORUM is one that brings value to AGRINATURA for meaningful development to both Africa and Europe. AGRINATURA seeks to nurture scientific excellence through joint research, educational and training programmes and projects and advocates for greater support for agricultural research and educational programmes that contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and there is no better partner than RUFORUM.
Collectively, the MoU will enhance collaboration between the 118 RUFORUM Member Universities in Africa and Universities in Europe. AGRINATURA is a grouping of 38 European universities and research organizations with a common interest in supporting agricultural development in a sustainable manner in order to improve people’s lives. The partnership builds on the shared strength of Universities in Africa and Europe. The two networks recognise that agricultural research and education will underpin the innovations needed to increase production and productivity to feed the rapidly expanding populations, protect the natural resource base for future generations, and catalyse wider economic growth, poverty reduction and food security.

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 “a vibrant agricultural sector linked to African universities which produce high-performing graduates and high-quality research responsive to the demands of Africa’s farmers for innovations and able to generate sustainable livelihoods and national economic development”. RUFORUM Secretariat is hosted by the Ministry of Education and Sports in Uganda with Secretariat at Makerere University in Kampala. In 2014, RUFORUM signed an 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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