

# Press Release



For immediate release | 15 July, 2020

## 2021 RUFORUM Young African Entrepreneurs Competition

### Pre-Call Announcement

Kampala, Uganda

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), a consortium of [128 Universities](#) in 38 African Countries, is pleased to notify the prospective applicants of the upcoming call for 2021 RUFORUM Young African Entrepreneurs Competition (RUYAEC). The overall purpose of the RUFORUM Young African Entrepreneurs Competition (RUYAEC) is to catalyse entrepreneurship through promotion of business innovation and provision of seed funding to young entrepreneurs with creative and innovative business ideas among African youth. RUYAEC will target young African entrepreneurs and incubates below 35 years of age to compete for **20 awards** that show case their innovations, enterprises, business concepts and propositions.

This fourth round (see previous rounds [here](#)) of the RUFORUM Young Innovators Competition will be an Africa-wide competition and hence it will target all African countries. The awards will be made in Cotonou, Benin during the RUFORUM Triennial Conference in December, 2021.

RUFORUM targets to provide 20 awards to young innovators and entrepreneurs in the following fields: Food and agribusiness, Incubations, ICTs, Health, Engineering, Natural resources, and Meteorology, among others. All the 2016, 2018, and 2019 RUFORUM Young Innovators Awardees are **NOT eligible to apply**.

The RUYAEC operates within one of RUFORUM's values and principles of creativity seeking to offer opportunities to develop innovative solutions both in addressing the problems faced by smallholder farmers, and in managing research projects in remote areas.

We shall officially launch the call for RUFORUM Young African Entrepreneurs Competition 2021 on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 with a deadline of submissions on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and hence this serves as a pre-call announcement.

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### Notes to Editors:

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), is a consortium of 128 African universities operating in 38 countries on the continent with a mission to ‘strengthen the capacities of Universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of smallholder 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 by Vice Chancellors in 2004 with a Secretariat hosted at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. 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. RUFORUM has supported the training of 1919 MSc and 525 PhD graduates, of whom 94% work in their countries or region, the generation of over 300 agricultural technologies and mobilized over US\$208 million for strengthening postgraduate education in Africa. Please visit [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org) for more information.

For additional information, photos and interviews, contact Ms Maureen Agena, Corporate Communications, & Advocacy officer below.

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