

# Press Release



25<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

## **RUFORUM Executive Secretary holds dialogue with His Excellency the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador to Uganda**



Prof Adipala Ekwamu, the RUFORUM Executive Secretary, met with His Excellency Abdalla Hassan AlShamsi, the UAE Ambassador to Uganda, to explore opportunities for strengthening partnership between African and UAE Universities and development agencies in UAE. The two explored partnership in the areas of strengthening agri-food systems in Africa to serve both Africa and the Arab world, and indeed the global community. The other areas discussed included partnership to strengthen use of renewable energy and digital technology.

The UAE Ambassador urged for greater collaboration between Arab and African institutions to harness their natural resource base for sustainable development. The Ambassador also expressed interest to explore support for basic education in Uganda. His Excellency also offered to explore possibility of joint online teaching and learning between Africa and UAE institutions.

This meeting is part of RUFORUM efforts to promote Afro-Arab partnership in the field of higher education, science, technology and innovation.

**Notes to Editors:**

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**About RUFORUM:**

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), is a consortium of 148 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 2053 MSc, 627 PhD graduates and 229 BSc, of whom 98% work in their countries or region, the generation of over 300 agricultural technologies and mobilized over US\$236.3 million for strengthening postgraduate education in Africa. Please visit [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org) for more information. For additional information see contact below.

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