

## **Honorable Monica Musenero applauds Universities for engaging with Communities to deliver demand-driven Innovations and Technologies**



*Image 1: Hon. Monica Musenero Masana, Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation (Uganda) attended a meeting at the RUFORUM Secretariat this morning.*

The Ugandan Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation, Honorable Monica Musenero commended universities for linking and working with farming communities to generate knowledge and innovations that best serve community needs countrywide. Honorable Musenero, an epidemiologist who is recognized for her leading role in African countries' fight against Ebola is passionate about making innovations work for the good of the communities.

During her visit to the RUFORUM Secretariat this morning, Hon. Musenero emphasized the need for universities to ensure that science benefits the communities. She recognized the need for a mindset change on how universities engage with communities, a cause she is zealous about during her tenure.

Several universities, farming communities, and students from Uganda who are supported by the Mastercard Foundation showcased their innovations and agribusiness products during a two-day exhibition held at the RUFORUM Secretariat this week. Through its partnerships and interventions, RUFORUM has mobilized over \$236.3M in resources, trained 2,680 students, reached 1.62 Million farmers, and developed 300+ technologies working with Universities and Communities.

Honorable Musenero noted that the education curriculum in Uganda needs to be mainstreamed to ensure that the right training skills are delivered to meet the current market

demand. She observed an existing disjoint in the knowledge generated by Higher Education Institutions and the communities that they are serving. *“We need to stop demanding high-level knowledge which is disconnected from the community needs.”* She reiterated.

“Education is as relevant as its impact on society” she reaffirmed. Honorable Musenero noted that the road to industrialization is still unclear and needs to be mapped out to ensure it addresses some of the business challenges such as intellectual property.



*Image 2: Hon. Musenero speaks to one of the exhibitors during her tour at the RUFORUM Secretariat today*

She challenged the universities to further find viable solutions in transforming small seed projects into scalable industrial companies noting that Uganda is moving towards export substitution as an incentive to scale up and support locally grown solutions.

Hon. Musenero thanked RUFORUM for mobilizing resources and fostering various partnerships that are igniting a mindset change in how African universities position themselves to be solution-driven to community needs as they generate and share knowledge.

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## Note to Editors

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### About RUFORUM:

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a consortium of 150 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 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. 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

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