



RUFORUM 4TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE – 2014

Strengthening Partnership in Research and Higher Education



Concept Note for Side event 8.4 and 9.4 During the 4th RUFORUM Biennial Conference

Background

The Higher Education sector has registered tremendous progress in the last four decades in Sub-Saharan Africa. From the few public Institutions of Higher Education of 1970s a thousand of them have been created, both public and private, recruiting many students every year and engaging several thousand of staff. The private higher education is fastest-growing segment of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in most of the countries. Despite the aforementioned progress the sector faces several challenges. The number of the students is still the lowest compared to other continents and present disparity by country, gender, economic status, discipline and ethnical group. Some countries have less than 2% of the population enrolled. Most of the countries have to cope with the increased demand for access to HEIs. The latter is linked to low standard reported in some institutions, lack of transparency, and inappropriate financial strategy that consider institutional benefits to the expense of quality and standards; particularly for private institutions. Structured national-level quality assurance processes are a recent phenomenon and most countries face major capacity constraints. Without an adequate financial strategy and government support to some of these institutions relevant research will not be conducted

Partnership building and strengthening is one of the options for uplifting HEIs and solve some of the aforementioned challenges suffocating a proper development of the HEIs in SSA region. Other advantages of an effective partnership include:

- tapping available expertise in the national and international higher education sector
- Development and revitalisation of centres of excellences,
- Facilitation of networking among universities and with universities



outside the region;

- Provide a forum for discussion on a wide range of academic and other matters relating to higher education in SSA;
- Facilitation and maintenance of internationally comparable education standards in SSA so as to promote the region's competitiveness in higher education
- Enhance degree comparability, graduate mobility and employability
- Advancement of high quality research, capacity building and advocacy on internationalization of higher education with prime focus on Africa thus enabling the regional higher education sector to meaningfully respond to the developmental challenges facing the region

**Partnership initiative
in the RUFORUM
network and Post-
conflict countries**

Partnership was a response to trends of democratization, public policy reform, and the increasing participation of civil society organizations in a growing number of African countries. Countering the conventional wisdom that prevailed among funding organizations and governments, several donors argued that Africa's future rests with the development of its intellectual capital through strong higher education systems, not just with the development of basic education. Several donor institutions invested in facilitating the process. South-south and south-north staffs and institutions linkages were established. In the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM; see www.ruforum.org) network several partnership initiatives have taken place with the assistance from ACP-EU programmes (EDULINK, Intra-ACP mobility, S&T) and several donor organisation such as the Rockefeller Foundation, Bill Melinda Gates Foundation, etc) and African and Regional organisation such as Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA). The Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and Agrinatura have brokered several of the partnerships, and Agrinatura works closely with RUFORUM to forge partnerships between Africa and European Institutions through various mechanisms, including ACP-EU programmes and EU funded PAEPERD programme.. The vast majority of the investment sought university transformation via the development and improvement of academic programs, human capacity development, institutional systems, physical infrastructure, and university connectivity. The Strengthening Capacity for Agricultural Research and Development (SCARDA) project for example capacity strengthening approach built on institutional analysis and strengthening institutions rather than individuals, which has had remarkable impact in Rwanda and the Gambia. The SCARDA project provides field based experience in building capacity for post conflict countries of Eastern Central and Southern Africa (ECSA), a launch platform for the proposed FARA and ASARECA initiative to build



capacity for weaker Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) in the targeted countries. Experiences and lessons learnt from the different initiatives are being used by RUFORUM to develop strategic partnership with non-RUFORUM members' institutions it has not worked before, scale up its activities and bridge the gap between Anglophone and French speaking universities.

Aims and Objectives of the side Event

The side event is designed to share lessons learnt from different partnership projects and programmes in Africa and other parts of the world. Further, the event will explore collaboration opportunities that could be exploited in the coming years, such as in the EU Horizon 2020 programme.

Outputs

The side event will generate the following outputs:

1. Summary of lessons from different HEIs partnerships and including EDULINK II and Intra-ACP Academic Mobility projects
2. Agenda for future cooperation among participants and partners' institutions

Approach and Methodology

The side event will be organised as a series of presentations of experts and panel discussants. The side event will be moderated by a professional facilitator. At the end of the side event a synthesis report will be produced.

Venue and Participants

The side event will be convened at the main venue of the RUFORUM 4th Biennial Conference, Maputo at the VIP Grand Maputo Hotel. This side event will take place in Zambezi Hall, on 22nd July 2014, from 10.30 AM to 5.00 PM.

This event is co-funded by RUFORUM and ADECEA Project, and hosted by Agrinatura, Makerere University and RUFORUM

Side Event Organizer and Contact

This session will be facilitated jointly by Makerere University, AGRINATURA & RUFORUM

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Programme

SECTION 8.4: Tuesday 22 July 2014 Zambezi Hall		
MAIN THEME	Strengthening Partnerships in Research and Higher Education	
Time	Sub Theme	Responsible
10.30 -10.40	Welcoming remarks	Michael Hauser (AGRINATURA)/Majaliwa J.G.M (Makerere University)
10.40 -10.55	Guest address: Reforming agricultural higher education for greater impact in ACP region	Judith Ann Francis (CTA)
Session I: Regional Approach for capacity development (Chair: Prof. Ratsirarson, Vice Rector, University of Antananarivo)		
11.00 -11.15	Strengthening capacity in tertiary education and training institutions: the case of iAGRI	Isaac Minde (iAGRI)
11.15 -11.30	Assessment of capacity gap in ASARECA region	Joseph Methu (ASARECA)
11.30 -11.45	Strengthening research capacity for agricultural development in post-conflict and post-crisis countries in Africa: FARA perspectives	Ojjo , N., Olangó K. and Ammor-Frempong, I (FARA)
11.45-12.00	Enhancing the capacity of research-users to participate in the African-European ARD multi-stakeholder innovation partnerships: case of PAEPARD project	Mugabe, J.M., Nampala, P. and Hawkins, R.
12.00 -12.15	Discussion	
Session II: Sustaining innovative partnerships (Chair: Dr. Paul Banderembako, Vice Rector, University of Burundi)		
12.20 -12.35	Partnerships in research and higher education: Towards initiating and sustaining innovative institutional linkages	Marie Rariera & Bashir Juma (AGRA)
12.35 -12.40	SKAN platform: Sharing knowledge on agrofood networks	Luis Mira de Silva, Anna Theresa Vas & Calia Ribeiro (Instituto Superior de Agronomia)
12.40 -12.55	Introducing STIAS: A creative space for the mind in Africa	Christoff Pauw (Stellenbosch University, SA)
12.55 -13.10	Two heads are better than one: Strengthening partnerships in research and higher education	Shashi Sharma, David Doepl, Mark MacHenry (Murdoch University, Australia)
13.10 -13.25	Exploring European-African partnerships under Horizon 2020: what are the opportunities?	Didier Pillot (AGREENIUM)
13.25 - 13.40	Discussion	
13.40 - 14.30	LUNCH	
Session III : Sharing lessons from EDULINK and INTRA ACP Academic Mobility (Chair: Prof. Patrick Rubaihayo, Makerere University)		
14.40 - 14.55	Developing a home-grown Intra-African mobility support scheme	Christoff Pauw (Stellenbosch University, SA)



14.55 - 15.10	Sharing capacity to build capacity for quality graduate training in agriculture in African Universities (SHARE)	Mr. Richard Batte (Makerere University)
15.10 - 15.25	Discussion	
15.25 - 15.40	Deploying interactive on-line networking platform for improving quality and relevance of African University graduates to labour markets	Prof. Bebe Bockline (Egerton University)
15.40 - 15.55	Establishing and piloting postgraduate programmes for supporting agricultural development in post conflict countries of central and eastern Africa	Prof. Luc D'Haese (University of Ghent)
15.55 - 16.10	Regional collaboration to integrate entrepreneurship in agricultural science curriculum in Nigeria	Adesope M. Olufemi, Mshenga P.M. Mugonola B., Maujur K., and Carsten N.
16.10 - 16.25		Prof. Nzula Kitaka (Egerton University)
16.25 - 16.40	Discussion	
Session IV: Group work to explore opportunities for collaboration (Moderator: Didier Pilot, AGREENIUM)		
16.40 - 17.40	Group work	
17.40 - 18.20	Group presentations	Prof. Didier Pilot (AGREENIUM)
18.20- 18.30	Closing address	Dr. Paul Kadundu, Rector Catholic University of Bukavu, DRC

