



PROGRESS REPORT

on the Implementation of C10
Commitments Assigned to RUFORUM



OCTOBER 2022



Our Motivation

“Transforming agriculture in Africa requires innovative scientific research, education and outreach approaches. The education sector needs to be more connected to the new challenges facing rural communities and needs to build capacity of young people to be part of the transformation of the agricultural sector”.

Our Vision

Vibrant, transformative universities catalysing sustainable, inclusive agricultural development to feed and create prosperity for Africa

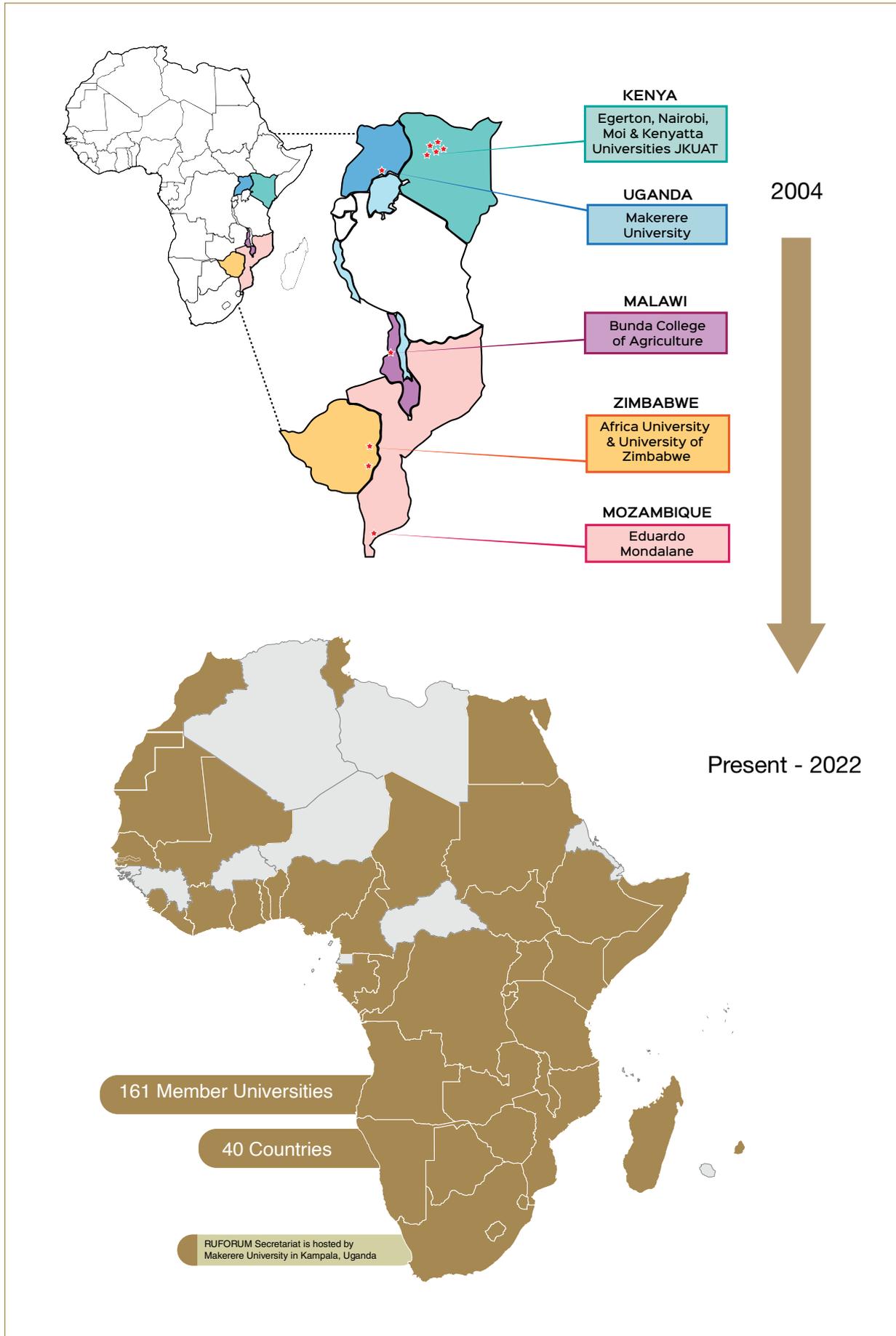
Our Mission

To strengthen the capacities of Universities to foster innovations responsive to the demands of smallholder farmers and value chains through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact-oriented research, and the maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, market actors, national agricultural research and advocacy institutions, and governments.

Our Coverage

Expansion has been in Scope, Countries and within Countries

Phased Expansion 2004 - 2022





Introduction

The Committee of Ten African Heads of State and Government (C10) Championing Education, Science and Technology development in Africa endorsed by the African Union Assembly of January 2018 held its [first Extra-Ordinary Summit](#) hosted by the Government of the Republic of Malawi, 2-3 November 2018 in Lilongwe, Malawi. The summit adopted the [C10 Declaration](#) and [Action Plan](#) with three major commitments including; 1) investing in education, science and technology; 2) promoting education in Africa; and, 3) engaging the private sector.

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) in collaboration with other partners was mandated to oversee the implementation of specific activities as enshrined in the [Action Plan](#). These activities, as assigned to RUFORUM, either in leading or as a partner fall under Four Priority Areas, i.e., Priority area 1: Operationalize Education, Science and Technology Funds in Africa; Priority Area 4: Strengthen teacher development and retention; Priority Area 5: Enhancing TVET and skill development for employment; and, Priority area 7: Strengthen higher education, science, technology and innovation.

RUFORUM as a leading or key implementing partner, is a consortium of 161 universities in 40 countries in Africa with a vision to create 'vibrant, transformative universities to catalyze sustainable, inclusive agricultural development to feed and create prosperity for Africa'. RUFORUM was established to provide a platform for networking, resource mobilization and advocacy; rationalize resource use; and, promote the integration of member universities into Africa's development processes including the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa (S3A), Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), the African Union Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024) and the Continental TVET Strategy. In 2014, RUFORUM signed a MoU with the African Union Commission to support implementation of the African Union Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA -2024) Priority One on Reducing Poverty and Strengthening Food and Nutrition Security. This MoU needs to be renewed.

Below is a summary of achievements against each of the C10 commitments and tasks assigned to RUFORUM.

Table 1: Key results achieved against each task assigned to RUFORUM by the C10

Strategic Action	Key results by October 2022
C10 Commitment 1: Investing in Education, Science and Technology	
Priority area 1: Operationalize Education, Science and Technology Funds in Africa	
<p>Strategic Action 1.1: Commit a special fund to facilitate the training of female university members of staff and women in general to PhD level to support Agenda 2063 vision of quality education and gender equality</p>	<p>This action was assigned to the C10 as the responsible partner to create the Special Fund with The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), African Development Bank (AfDB) and The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as other key partners.</p> <p>RUFORUM as a key partner has contributed to increasing the participation of females in higher education at all levels across programs. During the period 2021/2022, 55% female students out of the 209 (120 Masters and 89 PhD) were recruited. To-date, RUFORUM has supported the training of 2,173 Masters and 716 PhDs of whom 45.8 % are females. The RUFORUM target is at least 50% in all programmes by December 2030 as advised by the October 2018 Nairobi Meeting of African Ministers of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation during the Sixth Africa Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference.</p> <p>RUFORUM is further exploring opportunities to launch the Women in Food Security Series that will promote greater participation of women in agriculture and education. The Plan is to establish a special fund to increase women recruitment into postgraduate programmes, strengthen women leadership capacities and promote inclusivity including building capacity in post conflict countries.</p>
C10 Commitment 2: Promoting Education in Africa	
Priority area 4: Strengthen teacher development and retention	
<p>Strategic Action 4.1: Increase the number of qualified teachers in Member States at all levels with special attention to STEM, ICT skills and digital technologies</p>	<p>This action was assigned to C10 and Member States as responsible entities, with RUFORUM and International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA) assigned as other key partners.</p> <p>RUFORUM under the Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTA) Programme (See GTA LINK) has facilitated placements of 212 staff (26 % female) in universities to pursue graduate training at Masters and PhD levels. This is a home-grown programme where receiving universities waive tuition fees and sending universities support with other costs (The program is estimated at US\$ 59,400 per GTA-US \$45,050 for sending Universities and a waiver of US\$14,350 from receiving Universities). The Programme aims at increasing the number of PhD trained staff in African universities under a partnership arrangement among RUFORUM member universities. This has not only reduced cost of PhD training but increased retention of trained staff in the continent. To-date, 212 students have benefitted from the GTA arrangement reflecting a contribution of US\$ US\$ 12.5 millions by African Universities. The target is to train 325 PhDs holders by 2022 reflecting a contribution of US\$ 19.3 millions by African universities.</p> <p>As part of strengthening the use of digital technologies for teaching, learning and experience sharing, RUFORUM in collaboration with the Arab Bank</p>

Strategic Action	Key results by October 2022
	<p>for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) developed and is hosting the Regional E-learning Platform for open online teaching and learning for students and staff in RUFORUM member universities. This is expected to increase access, sharing of teaching resources and the quality of teaching for underserved institutions in Africa.</p>

Priority area 5: Enhancing TVET and skill development for employment

<p>Strategic Action 5.1: Promote dissemination and implementation of the Continental TVET Strategy</p>	<p>The C10 Summit assigned the African Union Commission (AUC), The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) as the key implementing entities for this action, with RUFORUM, International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Association of Technical Universities and Polytechnics in Africa (ATUPA), Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) and African Development Bank (AfDB) as other key partners.</p> <p>As part of strengthening the provision of Technical Vocational Education And Training (TVET) in the informal economy, RUFORUM under the Transforming African Agricultural Universities to meaningfully contribute to Africa’s growth and development (TAGDev) Flagship continued to support University – TVET collaboration. This has strengthened the education value chain for skills development and provides an opportunity for collaborative agripreneurship and enterprise development by university and TVET institutions. Additional activities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training of community based agriculture advisors (CBAA) at Baraka Agricultural College- Kenya in entrepreneurship, sustainable agriculture and agricultural extension to support agricultural transformation and income generation of smallholder farmers. 2. Organizing a webinar under the theme “Accelerating youth employment through the TVET Sector” to share lessons and experiences based on the implementation of the TAGDev activities and other partner’s programming (See Report). The webinar resulted into consensus about the pivotal role of the TVET sector in addressing the middle-level skills and creating more jobs and further recommended to strengthen the TVET sector by developing short courses; and, establishing an apex body across the continent to bring them together to share lessons, build consensus, co-create and co-innovate programmes to strengthen the role and place of the TVET sector in development. <p>Further, implementation of the RUFORUM Out of School Youth Programme that aims at supporting effective transitions for youth in practical agripreneurship has continued as a pathway to promote youth employment in the agricultural sector. To-date, 1472 Out Of School Youth have been engaged in market oriented vegetable production including but not limited to: technical and entrepreneurial skills enhancement specifically on building competences in agronomic practices, post-harvest handling, resource mobilization, farm business planning, market linkages and networking.</p>
<p>Strategic Action 5.2: Provide practical attachment programmes and strengthen incubation of business and entrepreneurship training</p>	<p>This action area was assigned to African Union Commission (AUC), The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and RUFORUM as key implementing entities.</p> <p>RUFORUM, under the Entrepreneurship Challenge Program (RECAP) has promoted the concept of business incubation at member universities. Seventeen (17) agribusiness incubation hubs established to strengthen agri-enterprise and business development in 17 universities in 11 African countries (Benin, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, eSwatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, South Sudan and Uganda) continued to operate. A</p>

Strategic Action

Key results by October 2022

total of 812 Youth have been engaged in generating ideas and innovations for incubation and out of these, 527 continue with business incubation that has so far generated 1328 jobs from 225 students enterprises. Support to this has been through the Mastercard Foundation and the Sharing innovations and experiences from Korea for Higher Education Transformation in Africa (SIKET) project from the African Development Bank. Examples include: [agricultural services provision](#) and manufacture of [egg incubators based on locally available materials](#), and, [high quality skin care and other products](#) have been developed by incubatees.

Practical attachment has been through the Innovations, Products to Markets Field Attachment and Mentorship Programme (IPM-FAPA) of RUFORUM aimed at enabling students translate research findings into businesses through product development and commercialization. Forty three (43) students were supported to develop brand identity and scale-out their enterprises. The enterprises focused on [processing poultry](#) into a diversity of products and developing [mobile apps](#). These successes enabled them mobilize additional funding to secure the necessary infrastructure to meet certification requirements, for instance, Family Store enterprise secured 53 millions (US\$ 14,500) from ImpactHER; and, Active Living Uganda secured US\$ 2800 from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Pharambiotechnology and Traditional Medicine African Center of Excellence (PHARMBIOTRAC) hosted at Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Uganda.

Priority area 7: Strengthen higher education, science, technology and innovation

Strategic Action 7.1: Strengthen foresight capacity at African Universities and other partners and support capacity building in this important area to support planning and future implementation of key programs

Strategic Action 7.2: Develop programs to establish Research Chairs in African Universities, increase academic mobility schemes and improve infrastructure and increase staff capacity development

Implementing agencies for this action are African Union Commission (AUC), RUFORUM, NRF (National Research Foundation) and OCP Morocco.

As part of the Cultivating Research and Teaching Excellence (CREATE) flagship, RUFORUM built capacity for member universities' communities and stakeholders. During the year, RUFORUM trained 157 participants in Foresight and Scenario Analysis to enhance food systems approach for sustainable development.

Key implementing partners for this action include African Union Commission (AUC), RUFORUM, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and NRF (National Research Foundation).

RUFORUM continues with her quest to promote university contribution to ST&I research and development on the continent. RUFORUM has been designated as the technical partner for The World Bank funded, African Higher Education Centres of Excellence II Additional Funding Project ([ACE II AF](#)). This USD 70 million program will establish six African Higher Education Centres of Excellence in [Malawi and Mozambique](#). The Inter-University Council of East Africa is the Regional Facilitation [Unit](#) for this programme that builds on the African Centres of Excellence and the Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education in Africa programmes. This programme under the Regional Anchor framework will promote mobility across the region, improve infrastructure and increase staff capacity in the participating countries. RUFORUM role is to provide technical support in project implementation.

Further with respect to mobility, RUFORUM is an Associate partner under the project "[The Mobility to Train Agribusiness and Food Systems Scientists for African Agriculture \(TAFSA\)](#)" that will support 39 fellowships (28 Masters and 11 PhD students). Of these, 13 (10 MSc, 3 PhD) are short-term credit seeking mobilities, while 26 (18 MSc, and 8 PhDs) are degree seeking mobilities in the areas of agribusiness, consumer science, food security, nutrition, agricultural economics and agricultural policy.

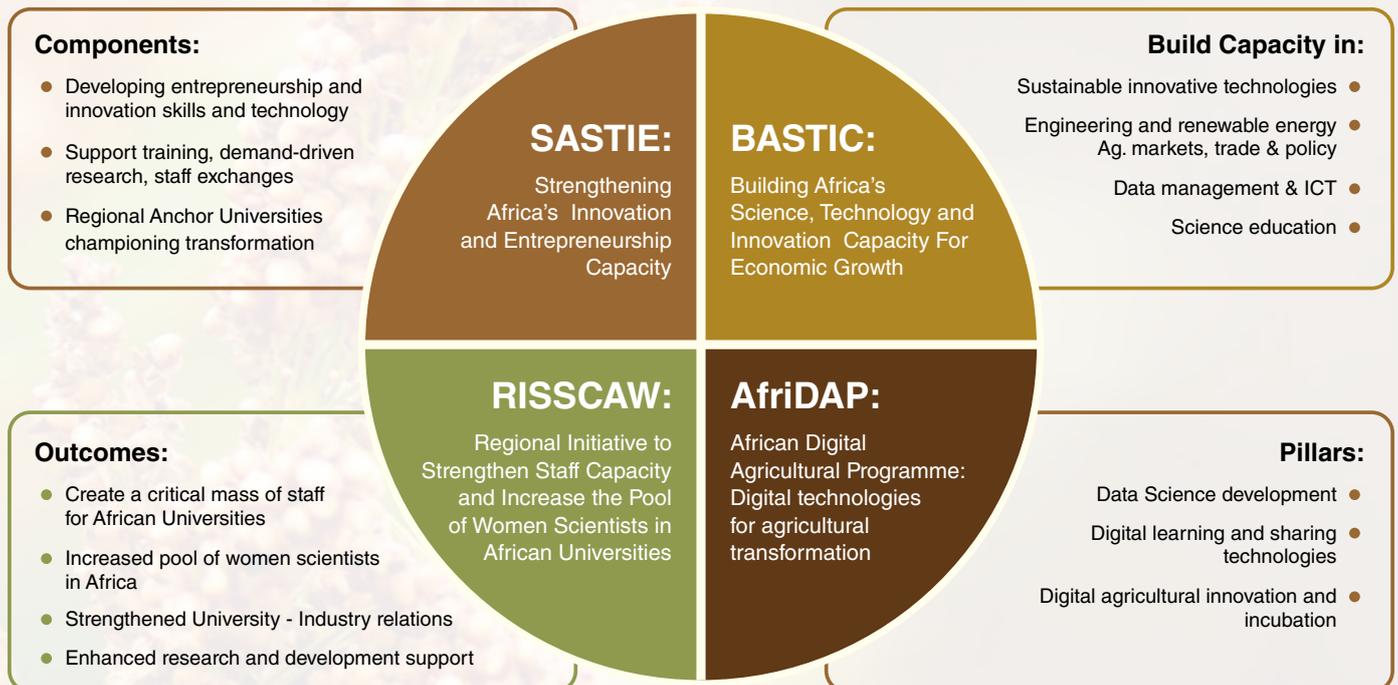
Looking ahead

The previous COVID-19 threat, emerging zoonoses including Ebola Virus Disease, and the global inflation exposed the vulnerability of humans to uncertainties. Universities have the most diverse and skilled scientists who collectively could contribute to addressing such threats. Building prediction capacities (foresight) to anticipate future trends and crises is thus important, as well as investing in frontier sciences including training molecular scientists, epidemiologists and plant pathologists. RUFORUM will continue to work with African Universities and other global partners to realize this aspiration.



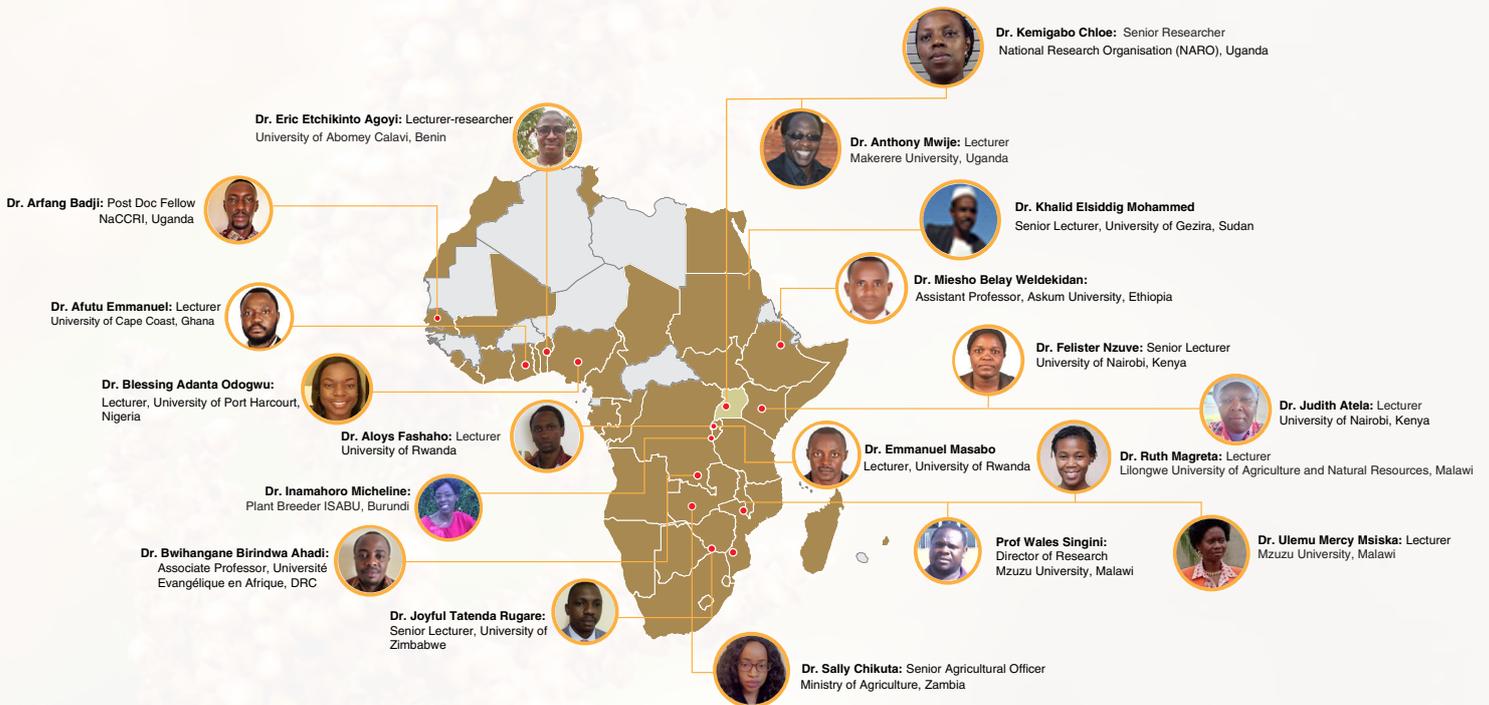
Our New Thrusts

Four Continental initiatives for strengthening higher education and ST&I in Africa





RUFORUM Graduates Resourcing Universities and Research Institutions RUFORUM Alumni- Continental Impact



RUFORUM Network Partners

Our work is supported by:

- 1. Philanthropic Agencies**
- 2. International Agencies**
- 3. Continental and Regional Agencies**
- 4. Local Agencies**
- 5. Governments of the member Universities**



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