



2017/2018 Annual Report

Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAU	Association of African Universities
ACBF	Africa Capacity Building Foundation
AfDB	African Development Bank
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AHEF	Africa Higher Education Fund
AHESTI	Agriculture Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
AICM	Agricultural Information Communication Management
AR4D	Agricultural Research for Development
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AWARD	African Women in Agricultural Research and Development
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme
CARP	Community Action Research Programme
CCARDESA	Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development in Southern Africa
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CGS	Competitive Grants Scheme
CORAF	Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricoles
CREATE	Cultivating Research and Teaching Excellence
C10	Committee of Ten (Heads of State)
DAAD	German Academic Exchange Service
FAPA	Field Attachment Programme Awards
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FY	Financial Year
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFAR	Global Forum for Agricultural Research
GRG	Graduate Research Grant
GTA	Graduate Teaching Assistant
IARC	International Agricultural Research Centre
IDRC	International Development Research Council
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IT	Information Technology
IUCEA	Inter-University Council for East Africa
JKUAT	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology
K-Hub	Knowledge Hub
LUANAR	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
MCF	Mastercard Foundation
MSc	Master of Science

M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NEPAD	New Economic Partnership for Africa’s Development
NRF	National Research Foundation (of South Africa)
PASGR	Partnership for African Social and Governance Research
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
RANCH	Regional Anchor Universities for Higher Education
RAU	Regional Anchor University
REC	Regional Economic Community
RECAP	RUFORUM Entrepreneurship Challenge Programme
RTP	Regional Training Programme
RUFORUM	Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture
R&D	Research and Development
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAIC	Strengthening Agricultural Innovations Capacities
SBP	Strategic and Business Plan
SHAEA	Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education in Africa
STI	Science, Technology and Innovation
STISA	Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa
SUA	Sokoine University of Agriculture
TAGDev	Transforming Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa’s Growth and Development
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UK	United Kingdom
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WECARD	West African Council on Agricultural Research and Development

Message from the Executive Secretary

I am pleased to share the RUFORUM 2017/18 Annual Report with our friends and partners. Thanks to the remarkable dedication of our partners, funders and member universities, RUFORUM is helping transform the lives of agricultural professionals and farmers in Africa.

This was the year we recast our strategic plan to accelerate progress toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa and Africa Union Agenda 2063. We collaborated with governments and non-state actors to advance the cause for renewed interest in building Africa's human capital base. We joined public and private sector partners to help farmers cope with the devastating effects of production and productivity limiting factors.

While we are deeply proud of the progress that has been achieved thus far, we remain mindful of the great challenges that lie ahead. To meet those challenges, we know we must be responsible stewards of the financial resources with which we have been entrusted. For that reason, I share with you here the RUFORUM 2017/18 Annual Report. Our complete audited financial statements can be accessed from the RUFORUM Institutional Repository and summarised in the last section of the report, they are intended to give you a clear and accurate picture of our ongoing efforts to carry out that stewardship.

The reason why this is so important to us is that we know where we want our investments to go:

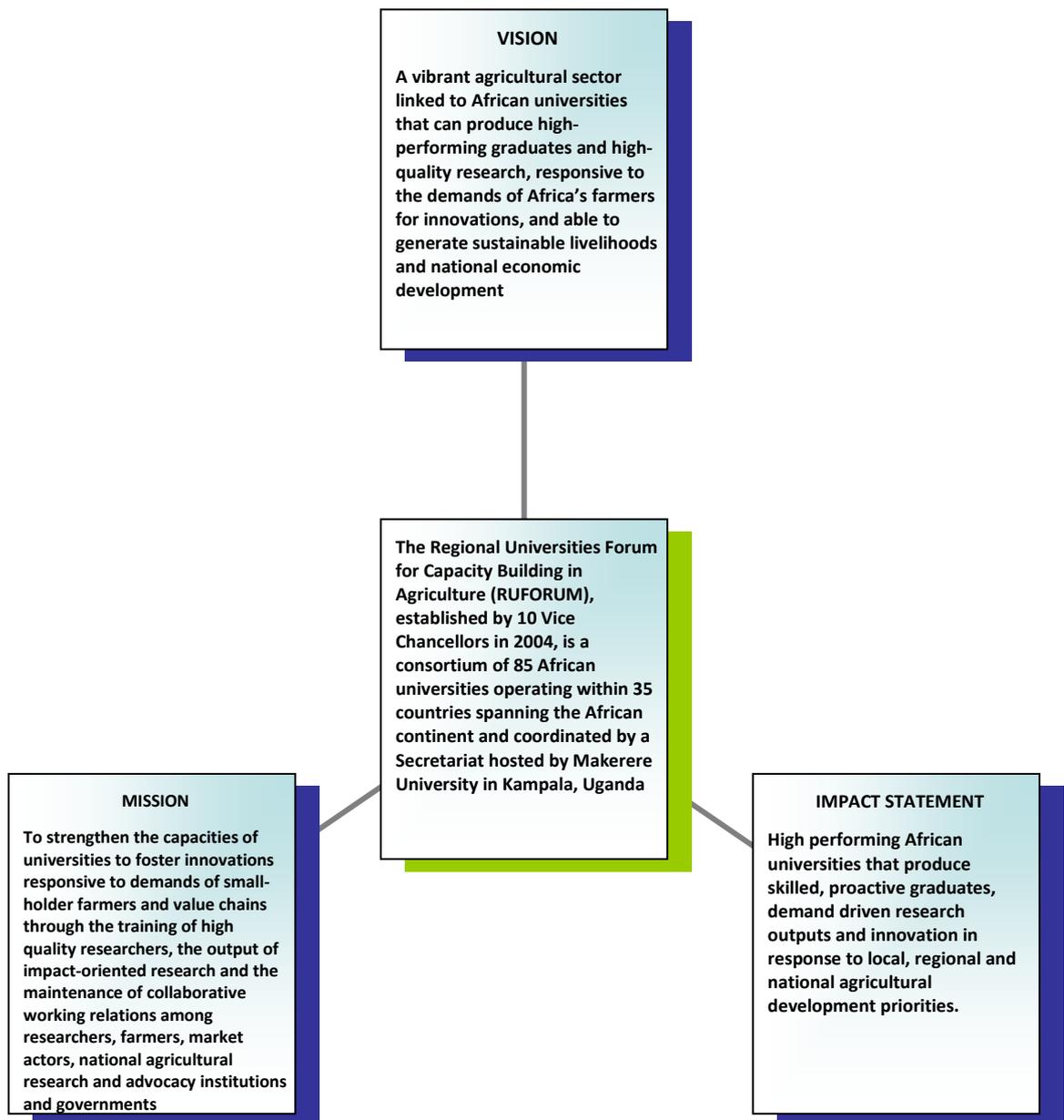
- Developing quality human resources and capacity required to intensify and increase Africa's agricultural productivity;
- Ensuring the products, processes and knowledge developed through university research reach down to value chain actors in the agri-food system to catalyse transformation; and,
- Facilitating universities in Africa to transform into viable institutional entities responsive to national aspirations and conditions through intensive knowledge-sharing and collective action.

By taking good care of the money given to us, we can ensure that as much of it as possible goes toward these missions, and ultimately toward fulfilling our shared vision of harnessing the discovery, engagement and learning of ***“vibrant transformative universities to catalyse sustainable inclusive agricultural development to feed and create prosperity for Africa.***

It is an honour to join forces in this cause with our outstanding partners across Africa and around the world. To all of you, I extend my deepest thanks.

Adipala Ekwamu
Executive Secretary

RUFORUM - Inspiring the Next Generation of African Scientists



RUFORUM's Core Focus

<p>Strategic Objective 1: Building synergy from networks of specialisation to develop quality human resources and capacity required to intensify and increase Africa's agricultural productivity and competitiveness.</p>		<p>Strategic Objective 2: Ensuring the products, processes and knowledge developed through university research reach down to value chain actors in the agri-food system to catalyse transformation.</p>			<p>Strategic Objective 3: Marshalling resources and strategically allocating them for transformative growth of member universities responsive to national aspirations and conditions through intensive knowledge-sharing and collective action.</p>						
<p>Student Attitude, Teaching, Learning & Empowering Women</p>	<p>Member universities provide the opportunity for transformative student learning by preparing students and developing their skills for the graduate labour market through work-integrated learning schemes that impart skills and attitudes, amongst graduates, related to critical thinking, ability to apply theoretical concepts to solve real world problems, working effectively in teams, good communication skills and business acumen.</p> <p>RUFORUM is also committed to increasing the pool of women scientists and professionals, strengthening gender responsive research for development, and enhancing participation and voices of women in education, training, research, and production and marketing of knowledge</p>	<p>Research and Innovation Excellence</p>	<p>Member universities create and advance knowledge to improve the quality of life through the discovery, dissemination, and application of gender responsive research within and across disciplines by grounding agricultural research in the hands of a well-informed critical mass of locally based professionals; and scaling out products and services through joint programmes, networks and partnerships</p>	<p>Community and Industry Engagement</p>	<p>Member universities serve and engage society to enhance economic, social, and cultural well-being by making research, training and related services responsive to farmer, community and industry needs and innovation opportunities; providing opportunities for students to put the competences achieved in their educational programme into practice and to further develop them through lifelong and experiential learning.</p>	<p>Unlocking Skills & Enhancing Innovation</p>	<p>Member universities create opportunities promoting links and cooperative action among the public, private, and civil sectors to leverage resources to stimulate innovation integrating universities into national research, technology and policy institutions to ensure that the full potential of their human resources are made available to development</p>	<p>Knowledge Generation and Sharing</p>	<p>Enhancing knowledge exchange to policy dialogue and reform to drive positive change in Africa's food and agriculture and higher agricultural education systems. The establishment of <i>knowledge alliances</i> between higher agricultural education institutions and enterprises is fundamental to fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity, employability and knowledge exchange. RUFORUM takes special interest in alternative modes of spreading information through open communities and virtual networks built around common-use rights.</p>	<p>Supporting Policy Dialogue</p>	<p>RUFORUM seeks to drive positive change in Africa's HESTI by connecting and challenging leaders from diverse communities to catalyse action and elevate HESTI policies as national priorities, and support policy innovation that addresses critical challenges in a comprehensive and integrated way to overcome the barriers that have traditionally inhibited transformative change.</p>

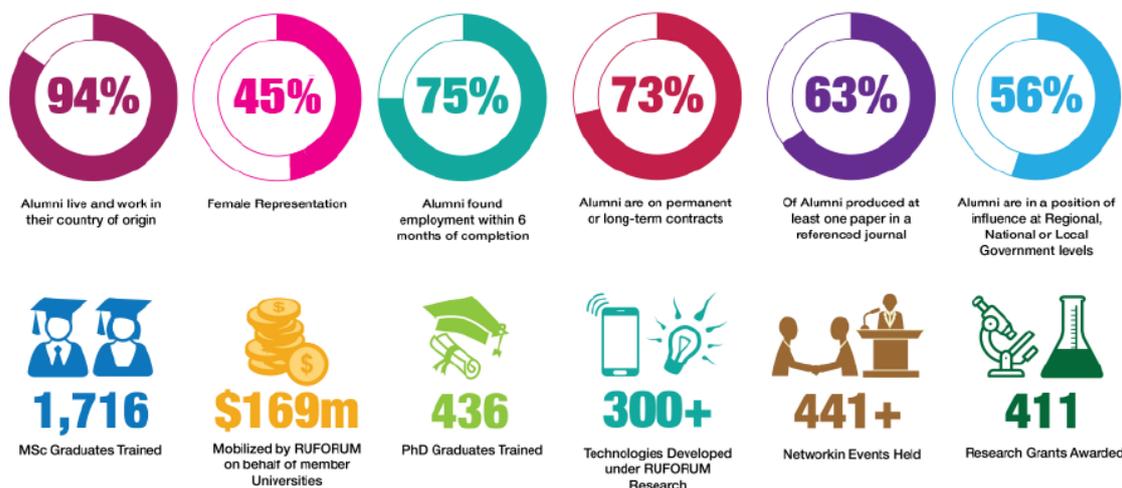
RUFORUM's Focus on Training, Research and Vocationalisation

CARP	GRG	FAPA	RECAP	GTA	RTP & Post-Docs
<p>CARP - Community Action Research Programme</p> <p>Framework to strengthen university partnerships with relevant actors in the agri-food system, where faculty and students collaborate with communities to identify critical societal needs and jointly develop long term action plans to address them through projects that innovatively enhance university-led community action research on important commodity value chains. 45 institutions including TVETs, private sector, CBOs, NGOs, research institutes were collaboratively engaged in an inclusive project implementation framework to implement CARP projects awarded to 5 member universities of Abomey-Calavi, Makerere, Bindura, Nairobi and Cape Coast. 35 (23 Males:12 Females) graduate students were recruited to be educated at MSc and PhD level to support universities and national research organizations and to build capacity for agricultural systems across countries</p>	<p>GRG – Graduate Research Grants</p> <p>Close out actions initiated for 50 GRGs and 3 CARPs granted to member universities in 26 countries. These projects have had impact in terms of unlocking key production constraints along important commodity value chains; strengthening the capacity of university research teams to manage multi-disciplinary action research; increased universities' visibility and relevance in Africa's agriculture space; increased adoption of university-led innovations; and spearheading translation of new agricultural knowledge into practice.</p>	<p>FAPA – Field Attachment Programme Awards</p> <p>Strengthening and reinforcing the dissemination of research findings by students to end users, the field attachments support fresh graduates strengthen their commitment and accountability to professionalism; improve communication and problem-solving skills; hone technical agricultural skills; and, increase their potential to give back to the community.</p>	<p>RECAP – Entrepreneurship Challenge Programme</p> <p>Grants competitively awarded to nine universities to establish agri-business incubation hubs, facilitate students to test their business ideas as part of entrepreneurship experiential learning leading to enhanced entrepreneurship training at universities in a collaborative engagement involving 35 institutions.</p>	<p>GTA – Graduate Teaching Assistantships</p> <p>Member universities committed to support improved faculty qualifications and skills within the network under the Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) fellowship scheme. The estimated value of the GTA is US\$ 13.7 million to support 325 PhDs by 2021 - with the fees waived by the receiving host university, travel and stipends funded by the sending university and RUFORUM committing to solicit external funding to help support the research component. 47 staff were enrolled in 2017/18 bringing the total to 68.</p>	<p>Regional Training Programmes & Post-Doctoral Fellowships</p> <p>RUFORUM supports the implementation of 7 PhD and 4 MSc RTPs that are responsive to the market demands and opportunities and provide practical changes in training programmes; enhances staff and students skills through provision of specific skills enhancement courses and greater networking and collaboration through staff and students exchanges; and facilitates strengthening and harmonizing the quality assurance of the postgraduate training programmes in the region. The Post-Doc programme aims to increase and ensure retention of qualified and skilled graduates (especially those trained under RTPs) in Africa to support the strengthening of African universities and research institutions to meet the growing demand for creating knowledge and prosperity in the continent.</p>

FY 2017/18 Achievements and Highlights

RUFORUM AT A GLANCE

Regional Universities Forum for
Capacity Building in Agriculture



RUFORUM had cumulatively mobilised US\$ 169 million on behalf of member universities and trained 1,716 MSc and 436 PhD graduates, awarded 411 research grants, and generated over 300 technologies between 2004 and 2018.

Government of Malawi hosted 386 participants from over 40 countries to the 13th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting held in Lilongwe, 25 – 28 October 2017, one of over 400 networking events organised by RUFORUM since its establishment.

RUFORUM Vision 2030 Strategy - the *African Universities' Agenda for Agricultural Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESTI)* in Africa was adopted. A five-year Operational Plan for the period 2018-2022 and a new structure following a functional analysis in view of aligning the Secretariat functions to Vision 2030 aspirations was approved.

Strengthening Higher Agricultural Education in Africa (SHAEA), a new regional initiative was developed in partnership with the World Bank Group to strengthen linkages between selected countries to develop the required human resources to accelerate agri-food system transformation in Africa, with RUFORUM Secretariat designated as the Regional Facilitating Unit.

RUFORUM-University Community Engagement strategy was developed facilitating the design and subsequent award of Community Action Research Programme (CARP+) grants to five member universities - Abomey-Calavi

(Benin), Makerere (Uganda), Nairobi (Kenya), Bindura (Zimbabwe) and Cape Coast (Ghana).

Nine member universities were awarded the RUFORUM Entrepreneurship Challenge Programme (RECAP) grants to strengthen entrepreneurship training and establish incubation hubs where agro-start-ups, innovations and disruptive ideas are tested for their commercial viability.

Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) programme enrolled 47 university staff for PhD training, bringing the total to 68 out of the target 325 earmarked for placement by the year 2021. RUFORUM further supported the African Centres of Excellence to internationalise their programmes through supporting the placement of international students using the GTA's intra-African mobility mechanism.

Undergraduate and postgraduate agri-entrepreneurship programmes at Gulu and Egerton universities were reviewed and University of Juba awarded a nurturing grant to revise the curriculum of the Master programs in Crop Science and in Exploration Geology and Mining.

Three planning meetings for the planned Summit of the Committee of Ten (C10) Heads of State championing Education, Science and Technology in Africa were convened.

Round table policy dialogue involving Ministers of Education, Science and Technology from Liberia, Malawi, Uganda and Mozambique was held during the Lilongwe AGM to provide broad direction to the RUFORUM initiatives and further guidance on the Vision 2030 Strategy.

RUFORUM institutional repository for storing and accessing documents was transformed into an interactive knowledge portal.

First issue of RUFORUM impact stories highlighting research outcomes of 13 alumni whose work has positively impacted communities or industry was released, in addition to thought pieces highlighting issues of youth unemployment, entrepreneurship, funding higher education, university engagement with policy, and STI and agricultural transformation in Africa.

During FY 2017/18, RUFORUM embarked on a journey to steer the network towards being the most preferred partner for advancing agricultural higher education, science, technology and innovation in Africa. We have developed a new strategy and operational plan in line with this ambition. We are now executing a new business model and processes to achieve our ambition over the next twelve years to 2030.

This reorganization has been themed 'Inspiring the Next Generation of African Scientists to Feed and Create Prosperity for Africa' and provides for new integrated flagship programmes and revamped organizational capabilities, RUFORUM corporate culture and change management for success.

Firstly, we will continue to be focused on catalysing the agricultural transformation of Africa by harnessing the discovery, engagement and learning of vibrant transformative universities. That is our lifeblood; it is the reason we exist.

Secondly, we aim to be the partner of choice, the go-to-partner for our technical and innovative approaches to transformation by governments, private sector and influencers on the continent and beyond.

This means that we are living the "Forum" component of RUFORUM. We are building strong and reliable partnerships with a diverse constituency of donors, governments, regional & continental institutions, member universities and grantees.

Changes in Pursuit of a Constant Goal: From SBP 2016 to Vision 2030 Strategy

The FY 2017/18 programming and workplan was guided by the Strategic Business Plan for the period 2016 – 2020 (SBP 2016) with an overall objective of *supporting improved agricultural productivity and wealth creation by developing effective agricultural universities with graduates dedicated to improving rural livelihoods and by promoting research relevant to smallholder farmers in Africa*. RUFORUM revised the SBP 2016 into a new *Vision 2030 Strategy: the African Universities Agenda for Agricultural Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (AHESTI)* in Africa.

AHESTI was formulated following a broadly informed and systematically conducted consultation process, and the imagination and commitment on the part of hundreds of people involved. The strategy represents the expertise, insight, and input of many individuals, including university faculty, staff and administrators, scientists and researchers, public officers and policy makers, the civic and private sector, and community members.

The strategy presents the orienting problems of higher agricultural education and agricultural transformation in Africa, a vision for Africa's agricultural sector, the RUFORUM mission as a significant contributor to this transformation, and most importantly, four strategic flagship initiatives at the heart of RUFORUM's strategy for harnessing the discovery, engagement and

learning of *vibrant transformative universities to catalyse sustainable inclusive agricultural development to feed and create prosperity for Africa.*

The RUFORUM transformative agenda for Africa's agriculture under Vision 2030 Strategy integrates social, business and technological advances with knowledge generation and capacity development in an interface between community and industry engagement, community action research, community-based and student enterprises, and business incubation to provide the framework for community transformation. Together with partners, RUFORUM is putting the smallholder farmer at the centre of the continent's growing economy by transforming agriculture from a solitary struggle fate and survival into farming as a business that thrives.

RUFORUM by design has the largest collection of highly trained agricultural technical experts on the continent, with areas of specialization extending the full length of the value chain, from developing and delivering improved varieties and agronomic best practices to informed advisory service on how best to connect farmers with markets. The collective expertise and experience of member universities gives RUFORUM an unparalleled familiarity with conditions on the ground across the continent, including an understanding of farmers' needs and the potential offered by Africa's young people. RUFORUM has collected all these assets under one roof along with the flexibility to bring any of them to bear on smallholders' problems and advancing higher education, science, technology and innovation in Africa.

RUFORUM acts as a *“dynamic regional platform that fosters collaboration, coordination and learning amongst member universities”* through programmes that: (a) promote transformative teaching, training and learning; (b) institutionalise impact-oriented research, innovation and community engagement; (c) enhance agribusiness acumen and entrepreneurship amongst students, faculty, staff and communities; and, (d) enable RUFORUM and universities to take leadership and be more influential in national and continental agri-food systems and higher agricultural education policy debate and regulatory reform.

The strategy reconfigured RUFORUM initiatives that were being implemented under the SBP into four flagship high-impact scalable programmes to deepen its efforts and achieve transformative results, *vis*:

- ***TAGDev - Transforming Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development:*** TAGDev seeks to transform African agricultural universities and their graduates to better

respond to developmental challenges through enhanced application of science, technology, business and innovation for rural agricultural transformation. The flagship is focussed on attracting and supporting youth into agricultural education to acquire skills for employability and entrepreneurship – using new agricultural education models that connect tertiary agricultural education to communities through “*student-centred agricultural extension approaches and community action research*” and strengthening agribusiness and entrepreneurship through “*student and community enterprise schemes*”.

- ***RANCH - The Regional Anchor Universities for Higher Agricultural Education:*** RANCH aims to facilitate and escalate the setting up networks of linked universities, around Regional Anchor Universities (RAUs) supported as hubs of excellence and academic leadership in AHESTI. This model presents a sustainable instrument and fruitful path for developing relevant professional skills while strengthening integration between agricultural higher education, research, entrepreneurship, and extension services for knowledge generation and innovation. The RAUs will typically be geographically concentrated, but they may also be virtually distributed, and focused on high potential growth areas in agricultural science and industry.
- ***CREATE - Cultivating Research and Teaching Excellence:*** CREATE aims to realign universities’ research and teaching functions into a more integrated model with a focus on problem solving and enhancing the capacity of the entire university academic practice and outreach system to contribute to inclusive, sustainable development by: i) fostering a culture of research excellence; ii) galvanising member university to institute processes for ensuring continued upward trajectory of faculty with respect to research output and impact; iii) increasing university research impact; iv) engaging universities and partners to create and reconfigure physical and virtual spaces; and, v) increasing doctoral student enrolment. CREATE is about creating connections and synergies that provide mutually-beneficial funding partnerships to otherwise disparate groups, creating win-win-win strategies for RUFORUM, the funder, and the higher agricultural education sector.
- ***K-Hub – The Knowledge and Support Centre for University Networking, Partnerships and Advocacy:*** The K-Hub, at the core of Secretariat functions, will be a dynamic and adaptive platform for accelerating the acquisition of knowledge (information, facts, principles, skills and

understanding acquired through education and experience) by RUFORUM members and partners. The K-Hub will support mechanisms and platforms for convening members and partners to develop innovative ideas, and demonstrate the power of university-generated analytics and knowledge to provide decision-support tools, policy advice, systems that enable universities improve their operations, and influence communities as users of knowledge. A strong focus on IT architecture will form the backbone of the K-Hub as an essential ingredient in RUFORUM's knowledge-based dynamism.

Capacity Development: Educating the Next Generation of African Scientists

Africa had an estimated shortage of 1.6 million agricultural scientists and researchers needed to implement the Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA-2024) in 2016. Many jobs today, and many more in the near future, will require specific skills - a combination of technological know-how, problem-solving, and critical thinking as well as soft skills. Furthermore, the days of staying in one job, or with one employer, for decades are waning. Graduates will likely have many gigs over the course of their careers, which means they will have to be lifelong learners.

Africa must have a combination of capacities: the combination of “technological capabilities” required for generating knowledge and developing technology and innovation; the “social capabilities” required for acquiring knowledge and technology, and for bringing about diffusion, exploitation, and utilization for socioeconomic benefits; and the common capabilities that shape these technological and social capabilities.

Since 2008, RUFORUM has launched seven regional coursework based PhD programmes and four MSc programmes which are hosted at different member universities – PhD in Dryland Resource Management hosted by University of Nairobi, Soil and Water Management at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Food Science and Nutrition at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Plant Breeding and Biotechnology at Makerere University, Agricultural and Rural Innovation at Egerton University, Makerere University and SUA, Agricultural Resource Economics and Aquaculture and Fisheries Science at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR). The MSc programmes are Plant Breeding and Seed Systems hosted at Makerere; Research Methods at JKUAT; Agricultural Information and Communication Management (AICM) at Egerton, Nairobi and Haramaya; and Agribusiness/Agri-Enterprises Development at Gulu and Egerton.

Tackling Africa’s agricultural development problems requires crossing the boundaries of individual disciplines. Therefore, the regional training programmes (RTPs), and the associated research put emphasis on integrative thinking among approaches derived from a variety of disciplines. The programmes bridge and combine interdisciplinary skills as well as expertise. The interdisciplinary training prepares graduates to work in other multi-faceted teams and cooperate with partners from various professional

backgrounds in partnership efforts to create long-lasting change and impact. This enables RUFORUM graduates to explore new academic fields and be competitive on the job market.

By June 2017, a total of 372 PhDs and 461 MSc had been trained through the RTPs. An additional 48 PhD and 34 MSc students were recruited during FY 2017/18 bringing the total number to 420 PhD (137 females) and 495 MSc (163 females).

Another 47 university staff enrolled for PhD training through the Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) program, bringing the total to 68 out of the target 325 GTAs earmarked for placement by the year 2021.

Nine MSc students were supported from other grant funds and eighteen (18) field attachment programme awards (FAPA) provided for dissemination of research findings by fresh graduates to end users.

With support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, RUFORUM officially commenced the implementation of its Post-Doctoral Fellowship programme, which attracted 42 applicants from nine African countries, by awarding 19 fellowships in February 2018. The aim of the programme is to increase and ensure retention of qualified and skilled graduates in Africa to support the strengthening of African universities and research institutions to meet the growing demand for creating knowledge and prosperity in the continent. By end of June 2018, the program was supporting 67 MSc, 41 PhD and 25 BSc students under the mentorship of the postdocs. A total of 19 review papers documenting the state of knowledge in selected areas by the post-doc fellows had been submitted for publication.

RUFORUM, with support from Mastercard Foundation, facilitated a review of Masters' degree programs at Egerton and Gulu Universities. The reviewed programmes at Gulu University were: MSc. Agri- Enterprises Development, MSc. Food Security and Community Nutrition, MSc. Animal Production and Marketing, MSc. Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management and BSc. Education (Agriculture). At Egerton University, the review focused on Entrepreneurship courses taught at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Further, RUFORUM through a nurturing grant facilitated curriculum revision of two Master programs in Crop science and Exploration Geology and Mining at the University of Juba

As part of piloting University-TVET partnership, two TVETs - Northern Uganda Youth Development Centre (Uganda) and Baraka Agricultural College (Kenya) -

partnered with Gulu and Egerton Universities to design and deliver entrepreneurial training at TVET level. Egerton supported Baraka Agricultural College to develop the National Piggery Occupational Standards for Kenya.

Intensive trainings were also provided to various research teams to strengthen their capacities to undertake impactful research and to enhance supervision of graduate students. Through dialogues organised by National Forums, universities were encouraged to develop practical courses geared towards producing marketable graduates; extension officers were challenged to develop proactive extension service delivery channels to reach and interest the youth into agriculture; farmers were encouraged to embrace new technologies and climate-smart agriculture to manage the effects of climate change and be proactive in seeking for opportunities; and the youth were challenged to be innovative in seeking for solutions in agriculture.

RUFORUM in collaboration with African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) conducted training on gender and enhancing the enrolment of women in the fields of agriculture, Science, Technology and Mathematics for 68 participants. In collaboration with the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) 84 Principals and Deans, and 31 Vice Chancellors received training on transformational leadership and management; and 48 Deputy Vice chancellors and other senior University management leaders (Academic registrars and Directors) in leadership and management on goal setting, negotiation, effective delegation both vertically upwards and downwards, and, approaches for attracting, recruiting and retaining quality staff.

Research for Development: University Researchers focus on Smallholders and Entrepreneurship

RUFORUM supports graduate training and research at member universities to contribute to the world of agricultural science and bring innovations into the community and industry, which in turn assures that the universities attain and maintain competitiveness. The core research areas are based on the identified needs and disciplinary strengths of the academia and researchers at member universities and their partners. In addition, RUFORUM insists on ensuring multi- and transdisciplinary stakeholder involvement across all research activities – in the definition of research topics and the perception of scientific findings at different levels with a view to their technical and societal implementation and usage.

The RUFORUM **Competitive Grants Schemes (CGS)** constitute the main instrument for influencing the strategic orientation of research to work closely with all stakeholders along the value chains to strengthen uptake and influence policy; and to increase Africa's contribution to global, national and local knowledge through scientific publications, R&D collaboration, technology transfer, and knowledge diffusion. The CGS is made up of the following different granting mechanisms:

- **Graduate Research Grants (GRGs)** are designed to train 2 MSc students with 4 undergraduate interns or one PhD student and 4 undergraduate students supported as research assistants. A GRG budget varies according to the specific Call between US\$ 60,000 to 80,000. A range of other scholarships and grants, in various amounts depending on the donor, may also be awarded for both MSc and PhD study
- **Community Action Research Programme (CARP)** are designed to establish platforms to link with communities and other stakeholders in action research with 1 PhD and 2 MSc students being trained, together with 8 undergraduate students supported as research assistants. A CARP budget is normally between US\$ 350,000 to 450,000.
- **Field Attachment Programme Awards (FAPA)** support post-graduate students to intern with prospective employers and/or work with the clients of their research on uptake, after handing in their theses. A FAPA grant is usually US\$4,000 to 8,000 depending on the length and requirements of the specific call.

Community Action Research

The **Community Action Research Programme (CARP)** builds on an engagement framework that was developed to facilitate member universities to become

regional models of university-community engagement for development impact. Through this mechanism, faculty and students are collaborating with communities to identify critical societal needs and jointly develop long term action plans to address them. The expanded “CARP Plus” (CARP+), builds on this concept with mandatory partnership with Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions and other key actors to support projects that innovatively enhance university-led community action research on important commodity value chains.

The three CARP projects initiated in 2014 in Ethiopia and Uganda were in their final year of implementation. The wheat CARP in Ethiopia, released two new Durum wheat varieties with 14% protein content and bio-fortification of two other high yielding varieties which were found to be low in protein, zinc and iron was on-going. The cassava CARP in Uganda mobilized farmers and local artisans to fabricate machines for producing high quality cassava flour used to produce confectionaries and composite porridge flours for infants and breast feeding mothers. Cassava varieties suitable for bio-ethanol and industrial starch production were selected and tested. The team was also working with Uganda Breweries Limited in testing production of “Engule” beer from cassava. The team also developed a Mobile Web Application to profile registered cassava farmers, input dealers, traders and translators, and experts to enable cassava farmers make inquiries, monitor production challenges, aggregate production and demand, and enhance value chain actor interactions.

The dairy cattle CARP awarded in 2015 had established a functional dairy innovation platform integrating all actors in the value chain across Tanzania. Improved dairy cattle feeding practices had been adopted by at least 300 smallholder dairy farmers in Lushoto District, in addition to silage production technology using local materials, bio-gas production, animal health management practices and a dairy marketing platform. The three projects had so far reached 7,200 farmers in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Uganda. The Seed Potato Value Chain CARP awarded to Egerton University in 2017 had produced 30 tonnes of clean potato seed for local farmers in Nakuru county, Kenya.

Project name and title	Value chain	Lead Partner	Start Date
Enhancing wheat value chain through participatory action research in northern Ethiopia	Wheat	Mekelle University	2014
Developing a community-based cassava seed system for increased productivity and market linkages in Uganda	Cassava	Makerere University	2014
Testing and scaling-up application of innovative animal feeding and health management technologies for improved dairy productivity among smallholder farmers in Tanzania	Dairy/Milk	Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology	2015
Enhancing access to high quality seed potato for improved productivity and income of smallholder farmers in Nakuru county	Solanum Potato	Egerton University	2017
Cassava value chain upgrading for secure food, nutrition, income and resilience of smallholder farmers in Nakuru County	Cassava	Egerton University	2017
Enhancing Pig Production and Marketing for Smallholder Farmers' Livelihood Improvement in Northern Uganda	Piggery	Gulu University	2017
Enhancing agribusiness rice clusters and market linkages for food security and incomes in northern Uganda	Rice	Gulu University	2018
Scaling up African baobab food products valuation through enhancement of their safety and value chains for food and nutritional security in Benin	Baobab	University of Abomey-Calavi	2018
Making potato value chain enhance productivity and incomes in Uganda	Solanum potato	Makerere University	2018
Capacity building for micro propagation and certification of cassava planting materials to enhance productivity, incomes and food security and nutrition for small holder farmers in coastal Kenya	Cassava	University of Nairobi	2018
Use of tied contour rain water harvesting (TC-RWH) system in small grain and legume production for improved household food security, nutrition and income in semi-arid smallholder farming systems of Zimbabwe	Grain legumes	Bindura University of Science Education	2018
Development of sustainable commercial pineapple value chain system for increased yield and income, and improved livelihood of smallholder farmers in central region of Ghana	Pineapple	University of Cape Coast	2018

During FY 2017/18, RUFORUM awarded five new 4-year CARP+ grants to research consortia led by: Makerere University (Uganda), University of Abomey Calavi (Benin), University of Nairobi (Kenya), Bindura University of Science Education (Zimbabwe), and University of Cape Coast (Ghana). As part of the implementation of the projects, **45** institutions including TVETs, private sector, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and public research institutes are collaboratively engaged in an inclusive project implementation framework to: strengthen university partnerships with relevant actors in the agri-food system; identify and stimulate technological and institutional innovations; and engage with agriculture and higher education policy making to enhance approaches for innovation that improves food and nutrition security, farmer and farming system resilience and environmental sustainability.

Entrepreneurship and Agribusiness

RUFORUM in collaboration with Enterprise Uganda developed an Entrepreneurship Training Manual as a Trainer’s Guide comprising 7 modules to equip staff and students with entrepreneurial mindset and financial literacy skills. Nine RUFORUM Entrepreneurship Challenge Program (RECAP) projects were awarded to nine universities to establish agri-business incubation hubs to pilot and/or strengthen innovation and incubation of student enterprises. The projects involve 35 institutions from the private sector, community based organizations, research institutes and non-governmental organizations.

Project	Value chain	Lead Partner	Location
Youth business incubation hub for innovative and diversified employment opportunities for young graduates	Commercial crops	Bishop Stuart University	Mbarara, Uganda
Leveraging the Makerere University Agricultural Research Institute Kabanyolo dairy value chain for dairy business incubation and skill development (Dairy Lever) among students and smallholder farmers in Uganda	Dairy/Milk	Makerere University	Kampala, Uganda
Venture hub project: V-hub project	Commercial crops	Uganda Christian University	Mukono, Uganda
Enhancing the students enterprise training at Gulu University	Commercial crops	Gulu University	Gulu, Uganda
Agribusiness innovations for inclusive soybean and honey value chain development in eastern Uganda	Grain legumes and Honey	Busitema University	Tororo, Uganda

Project	Value chain	Lead Partner	Location
Empowering Kenyan youth through Agri-enterprise incubation for improved livelihoods and economic development	Cereals	Egerton University	Njolo, Kenya
Start-up villa	Commercial crops	University of Cape Coast	Cape Coast, Ghana
Building the capacities of agricultural students in entrepreneurship and leadership to improve their professional insertion	Commercial crops	University of Abomey-Calavi	Cotonou, Benin
Bukavu agribusiness incubation centre	Cereals	Université Catholique de Bukavu	Bukavu, DR-Congo

Partnerships, Advocacy and Networking

The RUFORUM network is built on three interrelated components that are at the core of network sustainability: (a) Value creation in response to stakeholder needs that establishes a clear orientation that fosters the offering of services based on stakeholder demand which is dynamic over time, (b) Network fundamentals (i.e. mandate, vision, network structure, relationships and clear role separation with member organizations, management) as the foundation for network development and growth, and (c) Financial strategy - the ability to efficiently align funding sources with network operational and strategic aims.

Charting the path for a new line of business

Beginning FY 2017/18, RUFORUM started the process of reinventing its line of business. Building on its vast expertise and knowledge of the higher agricultural education sector, RUFORUM reaffirmed its resolve to support member universities and governments to strengthen capacities to deliver on agricultural transformation for the continent.

The process of developing the Vision 2030 Strategy was deliberate and inclusive, over the course of 20 planned consultative meetings. The impetus came from the RUFORUM Annual General Meeting (AGM) of 2016 and the recommendations from the RUFORUM Midterm review of April 2017. In May 2017, RUFORUM met several Development Partners in Seattle, under the auspices of the Bill and Merinda Gates Foundation, who appreciated the achievements of RUFORUM so far but challenged the forum to develop a “Big Picture” programme for its involvement and impact in transforming African

Agriculture. Subsequently a select team of experts was convened in Nairobi in June 2017 to initiate the process, including values identification, horizon scan and visioning processes, and the vision/strategic goal development. A number of consultative meetings were also held in Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda.

Subsequently, a reflection meeting was held at the Botswana University of Agriculture 28-29 July, 2017 with key stakeholders including the African Union Commission (AUC), Association of African Universities (AAU), Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Secretariat, Deans, Principals and Vice Chancellors of Universities, and Development Partners.

The Plan benefitted from input from umbrella research organisations including the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR), the Forum on Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA); the Centre for Coordinating Research in Southern Africa (CCARDESA); the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (ASARECA), Conseil ouest et centre africain pour la recherche et le développement agricoles/West African Council on Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD/), and International Agricultural Research Centres (IARCs) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

Strategic direction was provided by the African Union Commission (AUC), African Ministers of Agriculture, Education, Science and Technology, the AU Committee of Ten (C10) Heads of State and Government champions on higher education, and RUFORUM stakeholders during the October 2017 Annual General Assembly held in Lilongwe, Malawi.

The new Vision 2030 Strategy adopted during the Lilongwe AGM will help put in place the right vision, leadership, policies, and implementation capacities. RUFORUM will use its continental presence to move what works from one university and country to another. In doing this, RUFORUM will support countries to strengthen dialogue and engagement within and across the AHESI ecosystem to improve coordination and resource allocation while building sector wide delivery and accountability mechanisms.

That's another kind of integration: integrating a large and diverse set of partners around a shared goal. For individual smallholder farmers, that goal is a better life for themselves and their children. For the member university, it is increased relevance, visibility and impact. For the continent, it is an Africa transformed.

Keeping Africa and the world informed about AHESTI in Africa

The RUFORUM Weekly news bulleting provides updates on news and events in agriculture, higher education and related sectors in Africa. The Secretariat further scans media each week for news about relevant areas of higher education and shares selected articles with membership and stakeholders. The RUFORUM mailing list has grown to 14,230 with an increment of 4,405 subscribers during the year.

The number of online followers continued to increase: Twitter - from 5,191 to 5,655 and Facebook - from 21,835 to 21,929. The subscribers to the Blog news portal grew from 8,190 to 8,577, with top subscriber locations being Uganda (40%), USA (16%) and Kenya (9%). Countries that lead in accessing the news portal include Uganda, United States, Ghana, Sudan, Nigeria, Tanzania, South Africa, Japan and Benin.

The process for transforming the RUFORUM institutional repository from a hub for storing and accessing documents from RUFORUM-funded research into an interactive knowledge portal was initiated. The repository was further indexed by Google Scholar to enhance the visibility of the content therein, and currently has a collection of over 2,000 publications.

Eighteen (18) thought pieces highlighting issues on youth unemployment, entrepreneurship, funding higher education, policy, STI and agricultural transformation were published during the 13th AGM in Lilongwe and can be accessed at <https://blog.ruforum.org/category/annual-general-meeting-2017/>. The first issue of the RUFORUM Impact stories entitled "[*Bringing Science to Communities: Voices from the Field*](#)" highlighting stories from 13 RUFORUM Alumni whose work has positively impacted communities or industry, and Part 2 of Volume 14 the [*RUFORUM Working Document Series*](#) composed of 147 extended abstracts with an editorial summarizing research that was shared during the 5th higher Education Week held in Cape Town in October 2016, were published. Several documentaries aimed at highlighting RUFORUM's impact and increasing the organization's visibility and accountability and 13 story lines related to the 2017 Annual General meeting were also published.

RUFORUM supported the publication of two volumes of the African Journal of Rural Development to increase the visibility of Africa's research and document best practices. Volume 2 had 48 papers and Volume 3 had 36 papers under different themes: Strengthening Research Capacity of African Agricultural

Higher Education Institutions; Tracing the evolution of higher education institutions and linkage to rural development in Africa; “Research on” vs “Research with” Communities; Enhancing human resources and organizational capacity of higher education institutions to catalyse innovations in agriculture and rural development; Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for enhancing agricultural research for development (AR4D) to impact process; Catalysing research for development to bolster food security; First 1000 Days: Evidence of efforts to ensure the African Journal of Rural Development thrives; and, Embracing disciplinary scholarship in research pursuit.

Renewing old partnerships and creating new ones

The relationships and support from RUFORUM’s two main funders – the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and Mastercard Foundation (MCF) continued to be consolidated. RUFORUM further developed and submitted concept notes and proposals to various agencies including to the African Development Bank (AfDB); Carnegie Cooperation of New York; the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa; the OCP Foundation in Morocco; the International Development Research Council (IDRC) of Canada; the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD); the NIPPON Foundation; the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB); and USAID Strengthening Agricultural Innovations Capacities (SAIC) in collaboration with Ohio State University.

Through these efforts, RUFORUM secured a US\$ 1.5m grant from the Carnegie Cooperation of New York to provide post-doctoral fellowships; and, Pounds Sterling 606,467 for PhD training, staff retooling and convening networking events for scientists and students from African universities. The latter 5-year grant (2017-2021) is part of a £6.2m grant from the Global Research Challenge Programme of UK to a consortium of UK and African partners led by International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) to develop the knowledge, relationships and research capacities needed to address food shortages while conserving agro-ecosystems in Africa (SENTINEL Project). The Project Preparatory Advance document for SHAEA Project was also developed and submitted to the World Bank.

Engaging with and influencing the African policy space

RUFORUM in collaboration with the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the Government of Malawi co-convened three planning meetings for the Summit of the 10 African Heads of State (C10) championing Education,

At the 2017 Annual General Meeting, the 13th since RUFORUM's establishment, hosted in Lilongwe by the Government of Malawi, RUFORUM and its partners, delivered a commitment to farmers and agriculture businesses to transform African agricultural universities and their graduates to better respond to developmental challenges through enhanced application of science, technology, business and innovation for rural agricultural transformation.

The Forum attracted more than 400 delegates from 40 countries, including the President of Malawi, Ministers of Education, Science and Technology from Liberia, Malawi, Uganda and Mozambique, academia and scientists, as well as international development and technical partners.

The partners concluded the meeting by embracing a detailed call to action based on strategies for strengthening the quality and relevance of higher agricultural education, and science, technology and innovation development in Africa, and mobilising partnerships for supporting agricultural transformation on the continent; investing in universities to expand their scientific research and innovation capacity to train quality students, create research career pathways for young and mid-career researchers, increase diversity and achieve equity; and resourcing the RUFORUM Vision 2030 strategy as a powerful vehicle for strengthening higher agricultural education, and science, technology and innovation development in Africa.

Science and Technology development: the Second planning meeting (26 July 2017) to review the status of preparations; the third planning meeting (23-24 October 2017) to review available case studies on HESTI in selected African countries and agree on key documents required for the C10 and the private sector dialogue; and, the fourth planning meeting (26-27 March 2018) to capture the wide experience and expertise of African STI stakeholders to inform the dialogue and to support the Government of Malawi in its organization of the first C10 meeting. RUFORUM was also invited and participated in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) conference of Ministers of Basic and Higher Education and Science and Technology that was held in Durban from 17-23 June 2018.

RUFORUM AGM13 Lilongwe declaration of critical commitments for AHESI

At the 13th Annual General Meeting held in Lilongwe, Malawi in October 2017, important commitments and declarations of intent were ratified to act as medium-term objectives to realize the ambitious goal of “Strengthening Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation for Achieving Africa Union Agenda 2063”. They are captured in the following declaration:

Preamble: We, the Vice Chancellors, Rectors, Principals and Deans of 85 Universities from 35 African Countries, together with partners from within and outside Africa, met at the 13th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting from 25th - 27th October 2017 with the

objectives to (a) provide a platform for the higher education stakeholders in Africa to discuss how to strengthen higher agricultural education, science, technology and innovation development in the continent; (b) deliberate on a strategy for greater university contribution towards the attainment of the AU Agenda 2063, as well as the UN Agenda 2030, and (c) explore strategies for strengthening the quality and relevance of higher agricultural education, and science, technology and innovation development in Africa, and mobilising partnerships for supporting agricultural transformation on the continent.

Noting that: (i) African universities are currently faced with many critical challenges of increasing social demand for university education without the concomitant resources, including PhD qualified staff, investments and research facilities; (ii) Higher education has an important role to play by building the human and other capacities required to support the placing of science at the heart of development strategies, particularly for the transformation of African agriculture into a globally competitive, inclusive and business-oriented sector that creates wealth, generates gainful employment and improves quality of life, with high potential to transform Africa's rural areas; (iii) AU Agenda 2063 recognises the important place of higher education as a critical component of its strategy for achieving the 'Africa We Want'; (iv) Africa's agriculture employs close to 70% of Africa's population and the sector will continue to play a key role in national economic development for most of African countries in the foreseeable future. Agriculture's large economic growth potential needs to be harnessed by making available the necessary skills for it to be fully leveraged.

Cognisant that: (i) Africa will, by 2050, be a continent with the largest population – projected to reach 2 billion as a result of the fast population growth rate. Feeding this population while conserving the eco-systems and ensuring inclusive growth will require significant innovations leading to higher-yielding and more resilient crops and animals; (ii) African Heads of State and Governments approved the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA, 2024), which confirms the African Union's intention to place science-led strategies at the heart of development efforts; and, (iii) The Malabo Declaration commits to promoting and achieving accelerated African agricultural growth and transformation for a shared prosperity and improved livelihoods.

To support the achievement of the STISA 2024, Universities in Africa need to expand their scientific research and innovation capacity to train quality students, create research career pathways for young and mid-career researchers, increase diversity and achieve equity. In order to be competitive

globally and to meet skills demands, higher education enrolments will need to increase to 50% of the 18-24 year old cohort by 2063. Africa's current participation in global science remains on average at 8%, against a global average of 32%.

The African Union has put in motion the processes to establish a Committee of 10 Heads of State to champion Education, Science, Technology and Innovation development in the continent with His Excellence, Macky Sall, the President of the Republic of Senegal, as its Coordinator, and Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika President of the Republic of Malawi as a member of the Committee. This Committee provides an important opportunity for harnessing high level support to strengthening higher education in Africa. The 10 Heads of State are President Macky Sall (Senegal), President Ernest Bai Karoma (Sierra Leone), President Abdel Fattah El Sisi (Egypt), President Beji Caid Essebsi (Tunisia), President Arthur Peter Mutharika (Malawi), President Hage Geingob (Namibia), President Uhuru Kenyatta (Kenya), President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim (Mauritius), President Idriss Deby Itno (Chad), and President Bongo Ondimba (Gabon).

Call for Action: The Vice Chancellors, Principals and Deans, and their Partners, therefore call on:

- *RUFORUM to:* (i) Strengthen the roles of universities to support the achievement of Agenda 2063, including through the RUFORUM Vision 2030 Strategy; (ii) Strengthen the engagement of universities in Africa with policy makers at the highest level including through the C10; (iii) Work with other partner institutions to set up 'Think Tanks' to support policy formulation and implementation; (iv) Intensify its efforts to increase the pool of women graduate students, scientists and leaders in Higher Education institutions; and, (v) Work with African Universities and other actors to promote the integration of universities and TVET institutions, and to develop programmes to promote youth innovativeness and strengthen youth entrepreneurial skill development.
- *National governments to:* (i) Increase investments in higher education institutions, including through committing at least 10% of GDP to agriculture as declared in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and at least 1% of GDP to Science, Technology and Innovation development (pledged in 2007) to strengthen higher education and promote the wider African development agenda; (ii) Support the establishment of an African Higher

Education Fund (AHEF) and commit to channelling at least 1% of the committed funds noted above to the AHEF; (iii) Strengthen infrastructure development in African universities and other tertiary education institutions;

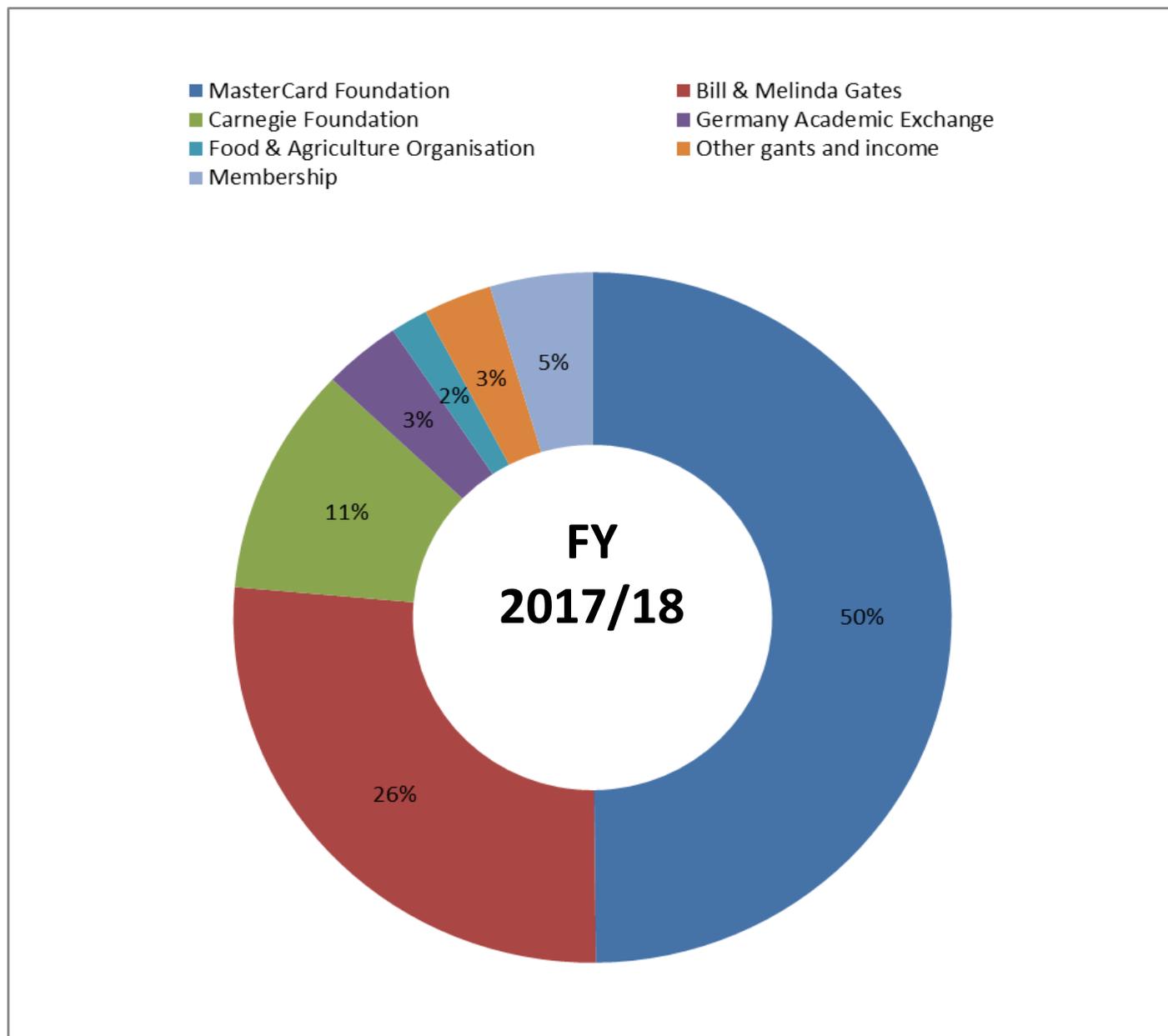
- (iv) Establish anchor universities that will champion and take leadership in transforming teaching, research and engagement for greater relevance, and the stimulation of agriculture and inclusive sustainable rural development serving both their countries, regions and the continent; (v) Remove policy barriers that limit access to and use of information and communication technology to stimulate creation of knowledge assets and barriers that limit exchange across geographical boundaries, in order to improve the overall performance of and collaboration between higher education institutions and industry while increasing both information “findability” and accessibility; (vi) Support local and international partnerships that address critical capacity needs for sustainable agricultural development. This includes partnerships amongst universities and engagement with communities, private sector and the African Diaspora to put the research generated into practice.
- *Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to:* (i) Facilitate staff and student mobility programs to increase access to quality academic programs and enhance regional collaboration, knowledge exchange and academic integration in the field of higher education in agriculture, science, technology and innovation development in Africa; (ii) Ensure strong policies regionally to create an enabling higher education environment; and, (iii) Establish a platform for regular dialogue with higher education institutions.
- *African Union to:* (i) Ratify and facilitate the convening of the Meeting of the C10 so as to strengthen the high-level continental support for higher education to strengthen the sector and put in place a mechanism to further concrete actions for implementing a science-led development agenda for Africa; (ii) Create a Core Working Group to serve as the linking mechanism between the AUC, AU recognised RECs, governments and higher education institutions to support the work of the Committee of 10; (iii) Create an M&E mechanism to track implementation of 1% of GDP investment to Science, Technology and Innovation, with the required accountability, and work towards the broader NEPAD science indicator goals.

- *Development Partners to:* support RUFORUM and other regional efforts to strengthen higher agricultural education, and science, technology and innovation development in Africa.

Financial Report

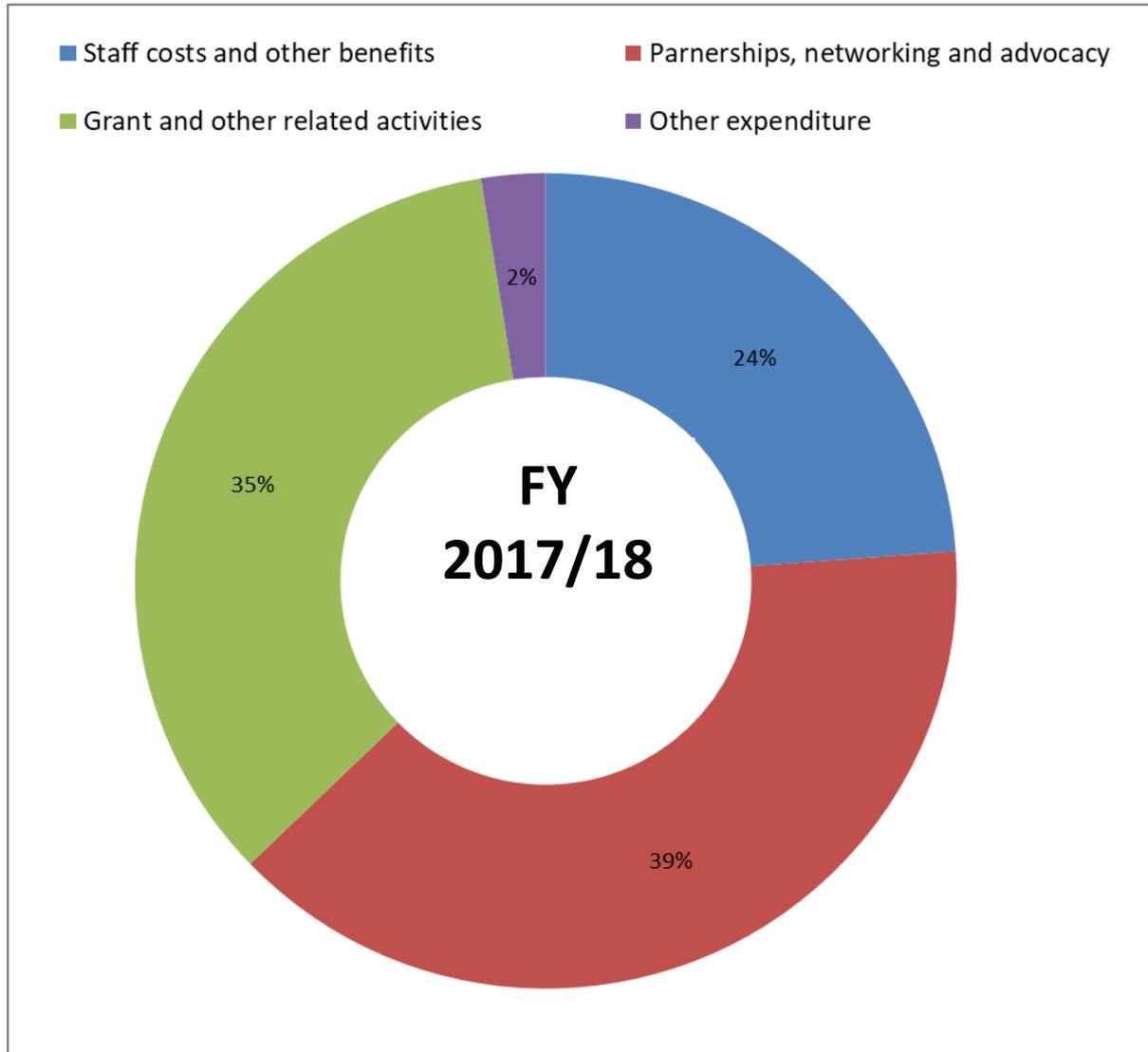
Income for FY 2017/18

Total income for FY 2017/18 was US\$ 8,240,185 up from US\$ 5,440,971 in FY 2016/17.



Funding areas during FY 2017/18

For the Year Ended 30 June 2018, total expenditure amounted to US\$ 6,743,736 up from US\$ 4,871,997 in FY 2016/17.



Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2018

	2018 US\$	2017 US\$
Assets		
Non-current Assets		
Equipment	71,824	53,507
	-----	-----
Current Assets		
Advances to member universities	4,711,460	3,577,412
Receivable - member subscription	463,893	503,868
Other receivables	303,311	255,650
Cash and bank	4,453,202	3,952,852
	-----	-----
	9,931,866	8,289,782
	-----	-----
Total assets	10,003,690	8,343,289
	=====	=====
Accumulated fund and liabilities		
Accumulated fund	9,501,873	7,978,820
	-----	-----
Current liabilities		
Payables and accruals	501,817	364,469
	-----	-----
Total accumulated fund and liabilities	10,003,690	8,343,289
	=====	=====

People: RUFORUM in June 2018

Members of the Board

Name	Title and Affiliation
Vice Chancellors	All Vice Chancellors of the 85 Member Universities (see list)
Dr. Mary Shawa	Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee and Chief Director, Ministry of Transport and Public Works, Government of Malawi, Lilongwe.
Professor Richard Mkandawire	Non-University Board Member
Ms.Njobe Nomandi Bongiwe	Non-University Board Member and Consultant
Dr. Kirolo Philip	Non-University Board Member and President, East African Farmers Federation
Dr. Kristin Elisabeth Davis	Non-University Board Member
Prof. Adipala Ekwamu	Executive Secretary

Board Executive Committee

Name	Title and Affiliation
Prof. George Kanyama-Phiri	Board Vice Chair and Vice Chancellor, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, P. O. Box 219, Lilongwe, Malawi.
Dr. Mary Shawa	Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee and Chief Director, Ministry of Transport and Public Works, Government of Malawi, Lilongwe.
Prof. Amadou Tidiane Guiro	Representative from West Africa and Rector, Université Sine Saloum El Hadj Ibrahima NDIASS, Dakar, Senegal
Prof. Luke Evuta Mumba	Representative of Southern Africa and Vice Chancellor, University of Zambia, BOX 32379 Lusaka, Zambia
Prof. Mary J.N Okwakol	Representative of East Africa and Vice Chancellor, Busitema University, P. O. Box 236, Tororo, Uganda
Prof. John Maviiri	Member of the Finance and Administration Committee and Vice Chancellor, Uganda Martyrs University, P.O. Box 5458, Nkozi, Uganda
Prof. Eriabu Lugujjo	Member of the Finance and Administration Committee and Vice Chancellor, Ndejje University, P. O. Box 7088, Kampala, Uganda
Prof. John Apuruot Akec	Member of the Finance and Administration Committee and Vice Chancellor, University of Juba, P. O. Box 82, Juba, Southern Sudan
Ms.Njobe Nomandi Bongiwe	Non-University Board Member and Consultant

International Advisory Panel

Name	Address
Dr. Katherine Namuddu	Independent Consultant, & Deputy Chairperson Makerere University Council
Prof. Leresche Kay	Education consultant, 136 Rocklands Road Rooi Els Cape, PO Box 343 Betty's Bay, Cape 7141 South Africa
Prof. Diddier Pillot	Montpellier SupAgro, BP 5098, 34093 MONTPELLIER CEDEX 05, France
Prof. Daniel Sherrard	Earth University, Costa Rica
Prof. Brice Sinsin	Natural Resource Conservation, University of Abomey-Calavi, Republique of Benin, 01 BP 526 Cotonou, Bénin
Dr. Jennie van der Mheen	Wageningen International, Netherlands
Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda	FANRPAN
Dr. David Nielson	Agricultural Specialist

Technical Committee

Name	Address
Dr Sokona Dagnoko Sissoko	Ministry of Agriculture, Bamako, Mali
Prof. Frans Swanepoel	University of Pretoria, South Africa, fransswanepoel82@gmail.com
Prof. Pinkie Zwane	Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration), University of Eswatini, Private Bag No.4, Kwaluseni, Eswatini, Tel: +268-25170101/104
Prof. Emmanuel Tanyi	Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, University of Buea, Cameroon, emmantanyi@gmail.com
Prof. Luisa Santos	Mozambique, luisasantos47@gmail.com Telephone: +258 - 823079310
Dr. Joseph Methu	Kenya, jmethethu@gmail.com ; joseph.methu@yahoo.com
Prof. Livingstone Sam-Amoah Kobina	University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana, lk_samamoah@yahoo.com

Staff of the Secretariat

Full Name	Nationality	Job Title
Adipala Ekwamu	Uganda	Executive Secretary
Moses Osiru	Uganda	Deputy Executive Secretary
Paul Nampala	Uganda	Manager, Grants
Sylvia Chindime	Malawi	Manager, Training & Quality Assurance
Judith Nakyobe	Uganda	Manager, Finance & Administration
Solange Uwituze	Rwanda	Manager – Partnership & Business Management
Anthony Egeru	Uganda	Manager, MCF@RUFORUM
Charles Owuor	Uganda	Manager, Monitoring Learning & Evaluation
Joan Apio	Uganda	Program Officer, Communications, Marketing & Publicity
Emmanuel Okalany	Uganda	Program Officer, Resource Mobilization
Henry M. Massa	Uganda	Program Officer, Grants
Jaqueline Nnam	Uganda	Program Officer, Knowledge Management
Akello Molly	Kenya	Program Officer, Training & Quality Assurance
Sylvanus Mensah	Benin	Program Officer, Recruitment and Training
Jolyne Rukarwa Runyararo	Zimbabwe	Program Officer, Research & Grants
Juliet Aweko	Uganda	Program Officer, Human Resource & Procurement
Mathews Madola	Malawi	Technical Assistant, Executive Secretary Office
Jacob Kato	Uganda	Technical Assistant, Information technology
Moses Waswa	Uganda	Technical Assistant, Planning Monitoring Evaluation & Learning
Angoku Loyce	Uganda	Senior Finance Officer
Evelyn Aguti	Uganda	Finance Officer
Wycliff Ssewankambo	Uganda	Management Accountant
Elizabeth Nambi	Uganda	Systems Accountant
Rebecca Mwima	Uganda	Administrative Assistant
Esther Awori	Uganda	Office Assistant
Sarah Nagitta	Uganda	Office Assistant
Denis Aguda	Uganda	Security Officer
Dennish Odongo	Uganda	Security Officer
Francis Latigo	Uganda	Driver
Jackson Lubega	Uganda	Driver
James Lwoita	Uganda	Gardener
Atanansio Ssekyondwa	Uganda	Gardener

Member Universities

Region	Country	University	Vice Chancellor	Location	Year of Joining	Year of Establishment	
Central	Burundi	University of Burundi	Prof. Havyarimana Francois	Bujumbura	2009	1964	
	Cameroon	University of Beua	Prof. Horace Manga Ngomo	Buea	2017	1993	
	Chad	Université de N'Djamena	Prof. Hagggar, Ali Abdel-Rhamane	N'Djamena	2017	1971	
	Congo Brazzaville	Université Marien Ngouabi	Professor Jean-Rosaire Ibara	Brazzaville	2017	1971	
	DR Congo		Université Catholique de Bukavu	Prof. Abbé Paul Karhamikire Kadundu	Bukavu	2009	1989
			Université Evangelique en Afrique	Prof. Gustave Nachigera Mushagalusa	Bukavu	2014	1991
	Gabon	Masuku University of Science and Technology	Pr Ella Missang Crepin	Franceville	2017	1986	
Eastern	Ethiopia	Haramaya University	Prof. Chemedha Fininsa Gurmessa	Alemaya	2009	1954	
		Jimma University	Prof. Fikre Lemessa Ocho	Jimma	2015	1999	
		Mekelle University	Prof. Gebrehiwet Kindeya	Mekelle	2009	1991	
	Kenya	Egerton University	Prof. Rose A. Mwonya	Nakuru	2004	1987	
		Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology	Prof. Stephen G. Agong	Bondo	2017	2013	
		Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology	Prof. Mabel Imbuga	Nairobi	2004	1981	
		Karatina University	Prof. Mucai Muchiri	Karatina	2017	2013	
		Kenyatta University	Prof. Paul Wainaina	Nairobi	2004	1985	
		Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology	Prof. Fredrick A. Ochieng Otieno	Kakamega	2015	1977	
		Moi University	Prof. Laban Ayiro	Eldoret	2004	1984	
		South Eastern Kenya University	Prof. Geoffrey Muluvi	Kitui	2017	2013	
		University of Eldoret	Prof. Teresa Akenga	Eldoret	2013	1946	

Region	Country	University	Vice Chancellor	Location	Year of Joining	Year of Establishment
		University of Nairobi	Prof. Peter Mbithi	Nairobi	2004	1970
	Rwanda	University of Kibungo	Prof. Karuranga Gahima Egide	Ngoma	2016	2003
		University of Rwanda	Prof. Phillip Cotton	Kigali	2009	1963
	South Sudan	John Garang University	Prof. Julia Aker Dunay	Bor, Jonglei State	2014	2006
		University of Juba	Prof. John Akec Apuruot	Juba	2010	1977
	Sudan	Peace University	Dr. Makeen A. Makeen	West Kordofan	2015	2008
		University of Gezira	Prof. Mohammed Elsanousi Mohammed Elsanousi	Wad Medani	2009	1975
		University of Khartoum	Prof. Mustafa Mohamed	Khartoum	2015	1902
		University of Kordofan	Prof. Mohamedelnour Taha	Al Ubayjid	2009	1990
	Tanzania	Nelson Mandela Africa Institute of Science and Technology	Prof. Karoli N. Njau	Arusha	2014	2012
		Sokoine University of Agriculture	Prof. Raphael Tihelwa Chibunda	Morogoro	2006	1984
	Uganda	Bishop Stuart University	Prof. Maud Kamatenesi-Mugisha	Mbarara	2016	2002
		Busitema University	Prof. Mary Okwakol	Tororo	2014	2007
		Gulu University	Prof. J.H. Pen-Mogi Nyeko	Gulu	2009	2002
		Kyambogo University	Prof. Eli Katunguka	Kampala	2009	2003
		Makerere University	Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe	Kampala	2004	1922
		Mbarara University of Science and Technology	Prof. Celestino Obua	Mbarara	2015	1989
		Muni University	Prof. Christine Dranzoa	Arua	2016	2012
		Ndejje University	Prof. Eriabu Lugujo	Luwero	2014	1992
		Uganda Christian University	Rev. Canon Dr. John Senyonyi	Mukono	2014	1997
		Uganda Martyrs University	Prof. John Maviiri	Nkozi	2009	1993
	Uganda Technology and Management University	Prof. Benon Basheka	Kampala	2015	2012	

Region	Country	University	Vice Chancellor	Location	Year of Joining	Year of Establishment
Southern	Angola	University José Eduardo dos Santos		Huambo	2017	2009
	Botswana	Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Prof. Khumoetsile Mmolawa	Gaborone	2009	1991
	Lesotho	National University of Lesotho	Prof. Nqosa Mahao	Roma	2009	1945
	Madagascar	University of Antananarivo	Prof. Panja Ramanoelina	Antananarivo	2014	1955
	Malawi	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Prof. George Kanyama-Phiri	Lilongwe-Bunda	2012	2012
		Malawi University of Science and Technology	Prof. Address Mauakowa Malata	Thyolo	2015	2012
		Mzuzu University	Prof. Robert G. Ridley	Luwinga-Mzuzu	2010	1997
		Nkhoma University	DVC Dr. Elias Kaphesi	Nkhoma-Lilongwe	2017	2016
		University of Malawi	Prof. John Kalenga Saka	Zomba	2016	1966
	Mauritius	University of Mauritius	Prof. Dhanjay Jhurry	Reduit, Moka	2016	1965
	Mozambique	Eduardo Mondlane University	Prof. Dr. Orlando Antonio Quilambo	Maputo	2004	1962
		Universida de Catolica de Mozambique	Prof. Pe. Alberto Ferreira	Reitoria	2010	1996
	Namibia	University of Namibia	Prof. Dr. Kenneth Kamwi Matengu	Windhoek	2010	1992
	South Africa	Stellenbosch University	Prof. Wim de Villiers	Stellenbosch	2013	1866
		Tshwane University of Technology	Prof. Lourens R. Van Staden	Pretoria	2017	2004
		University of Fort Hare	Prof. S.M Buhlungu	Alice	2015	1997
		University of Free State	Prof. Francis Petersen	Bloemfontein	2014	1904
		University of KwaZulu-Natal	Prof. Albert Van Jaarsveld	Pietermaritzburg	2015	2004
		University of Limpopo	Prof. Nehemia Mashomanye Mahlo Mokgalong	Limpopo	2016	2005
		University of Pretoria	Prof. Frans Swanepoel	Pretoria	2014	1908
University of South Africa		Prof. S. Mandla Makhanya	Pretoria	2016	1873	
	University of Venda	Prof. Peter Mbati	Thohoyandou	2014	1982	

Region	Country	University	Vice Chancellor	Location	Year of Joining	Year of Establishment
	Swaziland	University of Swaziland	Prof. Cisco Meshack Magagula	Luyengo	2009	1964
	Zambia	Copperbelt University	Prof. Naison Ngoma	Kitwe	2014	1987
		University of Zambia	Prof. Luke Evuta Mumba	Lusaka	2006	1966
	Zimbabwe	Africa University	Prof. Munashe Furusa	Mutare	2004	1988
		Bindura University of Science Education	Prof. Eddie Mwenje	Bindura	2017	1996
		Lupane State University	Prof. Pardon Kuipa	Bulawayo	2014	2005
		University of Zimbabwe	Prof. Levi M. Nyagura	Harare	2004	1952
North	Egypt	Cairo University	Prof. Mohamed Osman Elkhosht	Cairo	2016	1908
	Morocco	Mohammed VI Polytechnic University	Prof. M. Hicham El Habti	Benguerir	2017	2013
		University of Hassan II Casablanca	Professor Ali Hammani	Casablanca	2017	1975
	Benin	Université d'Abomey Calavi	Prof. Brice Sinsin	Cotonou	2014	1970
	Cote d'Ivoire	Institut National Polytechnique	Prof. Koffi N'Guessan	Yamoussoukro	2017	1996
		Universite Felix Houphouet-Boigny	Prof. Abou Karamako	Abidjan	2017	1964
	Ghana	University of Cape Coast	Prof. Joseph Ghartey Ampiah	Cape Coast	2014	1962
	Liberia	University of Liberia	Dr Julius S. Nelson	Monrovia	2017	1862
West	Mali	Institut Polytechnique Rural de Formation et de Recherche Appliquée	Prof. Mahamoudou Famanta	Bamako	2016	1897
		Bayero University of Kano	Prof. Muhammad Yahuza Bello	Kano	2017	1962
	Nigeria	Federal University of Technology Owerri	Prof. F. C. Eze	Owerri	2016	1980
		University of Port Harcourt	Prof. Lale Ndowa Ekoate Sunday	Port Harcourt	2014	1975
	Senegal	Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar	Prof. Ibrahima Thioub	Dakar	2017	1957
		Université Sine Saloum El Hadj Ibrahima NIASS	Prof. Amadou Tidiane Guiro	Dakar	2016	2013
	Sierra Leone	Njala University	Prof. Ernest Ndomahina	Bo and Njala	2017	1964