



## The 5th African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference, 17-21 October, 2016

Academic visit by RUFORUM graduate students to the Faculty of AgriSciences, Stellenbosch University to promote scholarly interaction and research orientation

### Concept Note

#### Background & Introduction

RUFORUM is a dynamic regional network with a membership of 60 African universities operating in 25 African countries has over the years trained over 1300 Masters and 315 students who are currently engaged within research and development institutions to solve Africa’s food security challenges. RUFORUM’s training model focus on current challenges and to ensure impact through focused and responsive research. The RUFORUM Strategic Business Plan 2020 emphasises the commitment to facilitate collaborative networks and the strengthening of communication between member institutions in relation to education and research. The inclusion of graduates in these processes and initiative remains a core objective.

The 2016 RUFORUM Biennial Conference to be held in Cape Town from 17-21 October, coinciding with the African Higher Education Week, provides an excellent opportunity for academic engagement between students participating in the Conference and post graduate students from the AgriSciences Faculty at Stellenbosch University, who is co-hosting the event.

The Faculty of AgriSciences is nearing its centenary in 2018 and is rated as a leading research institution in agriculture and forestry in Africa and abroad. Faculty accommodates approximately 1 500 undergraduate and 500 postgraduate students over a range research and education programmes including the sectors Animal Science, Agronomy, Forestry, Horticulture and Viticulture & Oenology, together with the fields of Agriculture Economics, Conservation Ecology & Entomology, Food Science, Genetics & Biotechnology, Plant Pathology & protection and Soil & Water Science. The Faculty further hosts three institutes in the form of Plant Biotechnology, Wine Biotechnology and Wine & Grape Sciences.

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Similarly, students participating in the RUFORUM Conference, comes from a range of countries, institutions and fields of study representative of the African higher education sector. This provide a unique opportunity for engagement, orientation, interaction and exchange of ideas between the future educators and researchers in Africa within the domain of Agriculture and related fields. The students will be exposed to complex issues and challenges, alternative approaches and viewpoint, innovative ideas and creative thinking.

### Purpose of the Side Event

The purpose of this side event is to expose graduate students from a diverse background to the AgriSciences Faculty at Stellenbosch University to promote student mobility and future collaboration and networking amongst the next generation of agricultural researchers in Africa.

### Objectives of the side Event

1. To introduce the visiting graduate students to the educational and research programs of the Faculty of AgriSciences at Stellenbosch University.
2. To provide an opportunity for graduate students to share information on their research activities.
3. To provide a platform for in depth conversation and debate amongst the graduate students on matters related to the development of agriculture in Africa through education and research.

### Approach and Methodology

The event will consist of a visit to the Stellenbosch University campus where the program of activities will include:

- General orientation on the Faculty of AgriSciences
- Breaking up into nine research themes of interest, followed by:
  - A series of short presentations and discussions by RUFORUM and Stellenbosch students on research related topics
  - An interactive thematic discussion forum
  - A visit of research facilities and projects
- A campus orientation tour with recreational components

### Outputs and outcomes of the training

The expected outputs and outcomes include:

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- At least 200 graduate students introduced to the Agricultural research and educational programmes, facilities and focus areas of Stellenbosch University
- Graduate students provided an opportunity to present and discuss their research work in a peer group context
- Graduate students provided an opportunity to discuss and debate topics related to the development of agriculture in Africa through education and research.
- Graduate students provided an opportunity to form early career networks and collaboration.

**Venue and Participants**

The side event will take place at the Faculty of AgriSciences on the main campus of Stellenbosch University. It will focus on students from the RUFORUM Network.

**Date & Time:** Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2016, 0830-1730hrs

**Side Event Organizers and Contact**

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## Side Event Programme

### Day One

SESSION:		
MAIN THEME		
Time	Sub Theme	Responsible
08.00 - 08.45	Welcoming remarks	Prof. Danie Brink
09.00 - 09.30	Introduction to the Faculty of AgriSciences, Stellenbosch University	Prof. Danie Brink
09.30 - 09.45	Divide into thematic groups and depart according	Prof Pieter Gouws
09:45 - 10.00	Arrival at the respective research environments: 1. Agriculture Economics 2. Animal production 3. Crop production 4. Crop protection 5. Conservation and Resource management 6. Food Science 7. Forestry and Wood Science 8. Genetics and Biotechnology 9. Horticulture,	Hosting departments
10.00 - 11.30	Workshop: - Short presentations on research topics	Hosting departments
11.30 - 13.00	Interactive thematic discussion forum	Hosting departments
13.00 - 14.00	<b>Lunch</b>	
14.00 - 15.30	Campus orientation tour: Library, Business incubator, Student center, etc.	Carin Bruce
15.30 - 16.00	Depart for Cape Town	Prof. Danie Brink

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