



The Fifth African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Biennial Conference 2016

Closing Ceremony of the 5th African Higher Education Week

Concept Note

Background

After 12 years of successful and steady capacity building in Tertiary Agricultural Education (TAE) in Africa, the Regional Universities forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), has become a dynamic continental platform that fosters collaboration, coordination and learning amongst not only a consortium of 60 African universities in 25 countries but also its various stakeholders and champions. RUFORUM strives to ensure that all its interventions align with major continental policy frameworks such as the African Union Agenda 2063, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), the African Union Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024), Africa Continental Education Strategy and the Sub regional Multi–Country Agricultural Productivity Programmes, to ensure that Africa has the required capacity for global competitiveness.

In order to stay the course and remain relevant to its diverse constituency including smallholder farmers, RUFORUM focuses on bringing innovation (vibrant graduates, new products, new processes, and new forms of organization) into use in the areas of TAE and agricultural research for development (AR4D) and the wider AgriSTI landscape, together with the institutions and policies that improve agricultural performance in Africa.

Biennial conferences have become a flagship convening event of RUFORUM where stakeholders gather together to deliberate on current and future trends in the TAE sector and agree on the priority activities by member universities and other RUFORUM constitutional bodies.

CO-ORGANISERS:





Objectives of the 5th Biennial closing ceremony

1. To take stock of highlights from the Conference in terms of issues, lessons learned, challenges, opportunities and needed action
2. To receive reflective statements from key partners
3. To recognize outstanding young African innovators and best presenters.
4. Recommission all segments of the RUFORUM network to deliver towards RUFORUM’S Vision and mandate in the coming years.

Approach and Methodology

The session will be presided over by Ms. Bongiwe Njobe, RUFORUM Board Member. The event will take a retrospective format teasing out highlights of the conference in terms of lessons learned, challenges, opportunities, and way forward. Key messages will be delivered by African Ministers of Education, Science and Technology.

Venue and Participants

The event will take place in the afternoon of Friday 21st October 2016 at the Century City Conference Centre, Cape Town, South Africa. Approximately 500 participants are expected to attend the closing event. Participants will include Vice-Chancellors/Presidents/Rectors, University Principals/ Deans, graduate students and other key stakeholders.

Side Event Organizers and Contact

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