



TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS FOR AFRICA

RUFORUM IS TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE IN EASTERN, CENTRAL, WESTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Who we are

Founded as a network in 2004, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a consortium of 60 member universities located in 25 Eastern, Central, Western and Southern African countries.

Why RUFORUM exists

- ◆ To foster regional centers of excellence and academic exchanges to train the next generation of agricultural scientists.
- ◆ To connect universities to national agricultural research systems, the private sector and rural communities.
- ◆ To champion national and regional policies supporting postgraduate agricultural training and research.

Our operational environment

- ◆ Serious lack of the skilled human resources needed to reach 6% agricultural growth and fulfil CAADP goals; 1 of 4 scientists are female.
- ◆ Universities need to be better linked with National Agricultural Research Systems and national policy.
- ◆ Graduates need to be better adapted to employment opportunities.
- ◆ Research needs to more actively engage with smallholder farmers and the rural poor.
- ◆ Inadequate investment in higher education: poor remuneration, inadequate facilities, lack of funds for field research and few incentives for outreach and uptake of research.
- ◆ Lack of regional integration, with limited interactions – most universities have closer relationships with Europe and the USA than with those in other countries in Africa.

As of August, 2016

94%

alumni live and work in their country of origin

\$98m

mobilized by RUFORUM on behalf of member universities

73%

alumni are on permanent or long-term contracts

75%

alumni found employment within 6 months of completion

1,433

MSc graduates trained

356

PhD graduates trained

348

Research grants awarded

400+

networking events held



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Contact Us:

E-mail: secretariat@ruforum.org

Website: www.ruforum.org

Changes we want

- ◆ Proactive graduates who are innovative and with the skills and commitment to improving livelihoods in rural areas and able to lead the transformation of agriculture in their countries.
- ◆ Universities working closely with all stakeholders along the value chain to address the problems identified by small farmers.
- ◆ A closely integrated network of universities, faculty and students, sharing experiences, new technologies, approaches and resources.
- ◆ Greater visibility of the network throughout Africa and beyond.
- ◆ More investment in higher agricultural education from governments, regional bodies and partners.

Our partnership strategy

We focus on mutually reinforcing partnerships with a network of research institutions comprised of over 30,000 faculty and non-academic experts, non-governmental organizations, regional research and development agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors and a burgeoning private sector.

How we see the future

Building national capacity through networks and economies of scale

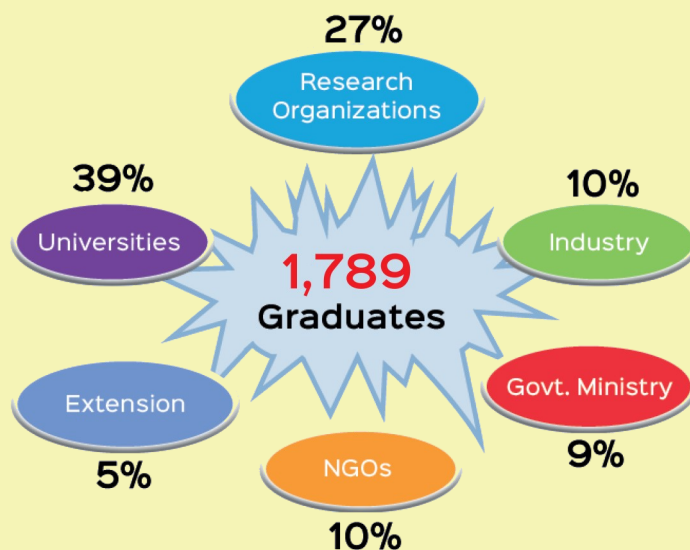
- ◆ Integrating higher agricultural education with farmers' associations, National Agricultural Research Institutes, extension and development agencies, and the private sector.
- ◆ Investing further in regional MSc and PhD programs and scaling up research outputs and operational uptake.

Enhancing regional collaboration and other science partnerships

- ◆ Forming scientific partnerships globally with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, universities and research institutes in emerging and industrialized economies.
- ◆ Facilitating increased intra-African access to quality education across the continent.
- ◆ Supporting post-graduate higher education and establishing post-doctoral programs.

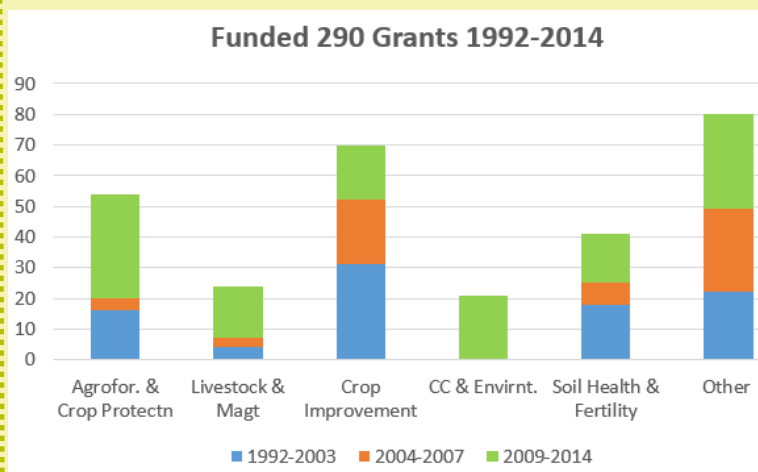
Placement: Graduates fill a diverse set of national human capital needs

Note: Includes all MSc. graduates from 2004 to present with all sources of funding



Funding across a range of agricultural disciplines

Note: Includes all grants (CGS and NG)



63%

of alumni produced at least one paper in a referenced journal

56%

alumni are in a position of influence at regional, national or local government levels

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