

## RUFORUM Achievements on Target Milestones for the Financial Year 2015/2016

2015/16 Targets <sup>1</sup>	Achievements
Consolidate RUFORUM CGS System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided oversight, guidance and mentorship to 108 university-led agricultural research projects/teams and 96 student field attachments</li> <li>• Collated and disseminated outcomes of RUFORUM supported research (94 project summaries, 58 Principal Investigator's Biodata, 58 Project Summaries, 156 student biodata). Details can be found in the RUFORUM repository <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• Strengthened integration of gender into research including increased female participation in RUFORUM CGS and gender awareness for staff and students</li> </ul>
Strengthen at least three Communities of Practice for better research and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established three Communities of practice on cassava, livestock and wheat value chains in Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia, respectively;</li> <li>• Strengthened value chains with a focus on smallholder agriculture, with each value chain approach reaching over 5000 smallholder farmers.</li> </ul>
Scale-up Community Action Research and Outreach Platforms for Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scaled-up Community Action Research activities in Kenya (farmer organizations and soil fertility), Uganda (ICT for legume/cereal based cropping system) and Malawi (aquaculture) as part of institutionalizing university outreach platforms.</li> </ul>
Support Academic Mobility (Staff & Students)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported cross continent academic staff exchange between East and West Africa;</li> <li>• Engaged expert on EU mobility program (EU Erasmus +) and the AU Intra-Africa mobility program to support staff capacity building to respond to calls for proposals and enhance staff, student and post-doctoral exchanges</li> </ul>
Scale-up RUFORUM Graduate Teaching Assistant Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitated and placed 30 PhD students through the RUFORUM GTA<sup>2</sup> program representing an investment by member universities of USD 1.8 million for doctoral training and university staff development.</li> <li>• Supported engagement of new member universities into the GTA program</li> </ul>
Develop Demand-driven Post graduate programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported the development of <b>10</b> new PhD and <b>4</b> MSc. programs based on stakeholders' demand.</li> </ul>
Support Regional programmes students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supported 41 new<sup>3</sup> PhD student students and 60 new Master students to enroll in regional collaborative MSc and PhD programs</li> <li>• Awarded <b>91 doctoral</b> scholarships to support a mix of research, tuition and thesis write-up.</li> </ul>
Tracking Investments in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertook review of the just concluded RUFORUM Business Plan (2011-2016)</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Targets as approved by the August 2015 RUFORUM Annual General Meeting held in Windhoek, Namibia.

<sup>2</sup> The RUFORUM Graduate Teaching Assistantship Program was initiated in 2014 to enhance staff development at member universities. In the Program the 'sending' university identifies staff who require PhD training and match with existing quality programs in the program. They support research costs, travel and up-keep costs, while the 'receiving' university waives tuition fees, provides office space and provides mentorship for the student.

<sup>3</sup> Additional to GTA and existing students being supported from previous year

Higher Education at University level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed platform (in partnership with IFPRI/ASTI) for tracking university performance (research investments, training programs, staff capacity)</li> <li>• Established a framework for monitoring human capacity, training and research outputs, and investments in Member Universities</li> <li>• Cumulatively trained <b>1433</b> Master and <b>356</b> PhD students over the 10-year period</li> </ul>
Tracking Returns to RUFORUM Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conceptual framework for research and training investments developed – to be further strengthened in the coming period.</li> </ul>
Strengthening RUFORUM Information Management System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced ICT infrastructure (Local Area Network; licensed software; finance and administration management and grants management systems) to improve business efficiency through automation</li> <li>• Strengthened in-house Information and Communication Technology capacities and significantly reduced outsourcing for Information Technology services leading to cost cutting</li> </ul>
Develop and Implement Knowledge Management Strategy for the RUFORUM Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In consultation with Deans, university staff and stakeholders, developed the RUFORUM Knowledge Management strategy</li> </ul>
Strengthening Branding of RUFORUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiated implementation of the RUFORUM Communication Strategy including branding of Secretariat operations and activities.</li> </ul>
Documenting and Disseminating Impact of RUFORUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed <b>7</b> video documentaries, Published <b>24</b> news digests, <b>4</b> Quarterly and 2015/16 Annual reports</li> </ul>
Consolidate Network functions of the Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalized and launched RUFORUM 5 year Strategic Business Plan (2015-2020)</li> <li>• Expanded membership of the network from 46 to 55 Universities in 22 countries</li> </ul>
Facilitate Functionality of RUFORUM Governance Organs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held statutory Annual General Meeting (August 2015) that put in place a new Board leadership and elected RUFORUM's first female Board Chair and strengthened constitutional mechanisms to support evolution and growth;</li> <li>• Bi- annual Board Executive Committee and Finance and Administration Committee convened to provide strategic oversight to the Secretariat</li> <li>• Held online grant and scholarship review and approvals (6) with Technical Committee</li> </ul>
Enhance Resource Mobilization effort to secure sustainability of RUFORUM Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthened Secretariat and Network capacity for resource Mobilization (<b>4</b> Write-shops, <b>150</b> university staff trained, <b>73</b> proposals submitted to funding agencies)</li> <li>• Won <b>13</b> Grants of approximately US\$90 Million of which <b>10</b> Grants (\$63 Million) were for universities and US\$ <b>27.3</b> Million for Secretariat</li> <li>• Organized a resource mobilization missions including to the African Development Bank and Nordic countries leading to emerging relationships with development agencies such as NORAD and SIDA, and AfDB</li> </ul>
Sustain momentum on Advocacy for Higher Education in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted country studies (Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Uganda) on the status of the higher education sectors to draw evidence-based recommendations for policy engagement</li> <li>• Held side meeting at the UN General Assembly in September 2015 in partnership with His Excellency the President of Malawi to raise awareness on the role of higher education to development in Africa</li> <li>• Held meeting of Ministers of higher education, science and technology in Malawi</li> </ul>

	<p>in October 2015 and the meeting Communique presented to the meeting of African Union Specialized Committee on Education, Science and Technology at the AUC to enhance higher education policy in Africa and link to the African Union Committee of 10 Heads of State on education, science, and technology.</p>
<p>Deliver on MoU with African Union Commission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaged with continent-wide stakeholders to develop the STISA (2024) Priority One (Enhancing Food Security and Eradication of Hunger) Implementation Plan and developed a flexible reporting framework.</li> <li>• Developed and submitted annual report on contribution of RUFORUM and its Member universities on each of the Strategic objectives and Action Areas of the STISA 2014 Priority 1 Implementation to the AUC.</li> </ul>