



## RUFORUM 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

### CONCEPT NOTE

**Innovation Transfer Partners: transformers and  
scalars of opportunities for TVETs and out-of-  
school youth**



## THEME

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**Positioning Africa's Universities and the Higher Education Sector to effectively impact development processes on the continent**

**Hosts:**

The Government of Botswana and  
RUFORUM member Universities in Botswana led by Botswana University of  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

**Venue:**

Tsodilo B1 & B2

**Date:** 30th November

**Time:** 08.00-17:00 Central African Time (CAT)

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## Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, is implementing the Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev 2.0) program. This program strengthens universities and TVET institutions to empower African youth and their institutions to drive inclusive, equitable, and climate-resilient transformation of agriculture and agri-food systems. The initiative adopts an ecosystem-based approach involving diverse stakeholders, including universities, TVETs, technology innovators, policy agencies, and accelerator organizations. A key component is the Innovations Transfer Partners (ITPs) initiative, which leverages ventures led by RUFORUM program alumni to act as last-mile agents for scaling agricultural innovations. ITPs utilize an accelerated delivery framework of bundled services (e.g., improved seeds, digital tools, training, microfinance) to overcome adoption barriers, swiftly scale agricultural innovations, and drive rural transformation, youth employment, and inclusive economic growth.

## Objectives

The overall purpose of this pre-AGM event is to share lessons, best practices and refine scaling delivery models by the innovation transfer partners supported by TAGDev 2.0 program.

### Specific Objectives

1. Convene the ITPs consortium for cross-learning scaling, sustainability and growth
2. Co-create innovative approaches for deepening engagement and opportunity creation for TVETs and out of school youth
3. Receive mentorship support for accelerating scaling, fundraising and brokering strategic partnerships

### Approach

The event will adopt a highly interactive and collaborative format to facilitate rich exchange and co-creation. Key methods will include dedicated

1. sessions for ITPs to present their scaling models, share challenges, and discuss best practices;
2. focused working groups to co-create actionable,

innovative models for engagement and opportunity creation targeting TVET students and out-of-school youth.

3. structured sessions with experts and potential strategic partners to provide guidance on accelerating business growth, securing funding, and forming strategic alliances.

### Expected outcomes

1. A functional ITPs consortium
2. Curated innovative models for uptake by different partners/stakeholders
3. Actionable Strategies: Processes, practices and strategies for scaling, fundraising and partnerships to accelerate the ITPs' impact.

**SUNDAY 30TH November, 2025**

**Venue: Moremi Suite**

**Session Chair: Dr. Arfang Badji**

**Rapporteurs: Dr. Milo**

Time	Activity	Session Moderators
08:00-08:15	Arrival and Registration	Winston
08:15-08:30	Yoko Nagashima, Mastercard Foundation: Opening Remarks and Strategic Interest on TVETs and Out of School Youth; why opportunities at scale are critical.	Lilian and Kyamrimpa
08:30-09:30 2	Pilot ITPs: Design to implementation. 1. Winnie Wambugu, Nakuru Tubers, Kenya 2. Gordon Akejo, Gordon Agricultural Organisation, Uganda	Lilian and Kyamrimpa
09:30-09:45	Moderated Discussions: Lessons and Solutions	Lilian and Kyamrimpa
09:45-10:30	Scale-out ITPs 1. Anthony Emaru, 4Pillar Action Initiative, Uganda 2. Never Zekeya, Plant Biodefenders, Tanzania 3. Simon Mwaura, Trendy Animal Feeds, Kenya	Winnie and Gordon
10:30-11:00	Health Break	
11:00-11:45	ITPs in Special Focus Demographies (RDPs and DAPs 4. Grace Aipa, Green Agri-hub Initiative Organisation-RDPs facing, Kenya 5. Zena Saliru, Juma Farms, DAPs facing, Uganda 6. Kato Omia, Omia Agribusiness Development Organisation, RDPs, Uganda	Winnie and Gordon
11:45-12:00	Moderated Discussions	Winnie and Gordon

12:00-13:00	<p>Co-creation of solutions for expanding opportunities at scale for TVETs and Out of School Youth.</p> <p><b>Group 1:</b> Distil Barriers and Strategic Actions for TVETs and OOSYs in Agriculture.</p> <p><b>Participants:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Winnie Wambugu, Kenya</li> <li>2. Gordon Akejo, Uganda</li> <li>3. Grace Yakubu, Ghana</li> <li>4. Never Zekeya, Tanzania</li> <li>5. Joseph Kawooya, Uganda</li> </ol> <p><b>Group 2:</b> Distil Barriers and Strategic Actions for TVETs and OOSYs in Technology and Innovation.</p> <p><b>Participants</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Grace Kyarimpa, Uganda</li> <li>2. Nelson Papi Kolliesuah, Liberia</li> <li>3. Simon Mwaura, Kenya</li> <li>4. Anthony Emaru, Uganda</li> </ol> <p><b>Group 3:</b> Distil Barriers and Strategic Actions for TVETs and OOSYs in Business Outsourcing Processing (BOPs).</p> <p><b>Participants</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gabriel Mahindu, Kenya</li> <li>2. Sheku Nyumah Gbollie, Liberia</li> <li>3. Nimrod Muhanguzi, Uganda</li> <li>4. Yoko Nagashima, Japan</li> </ol> <p><b>Group 4:</b> Distil Barriers and Strategic Actions for RDPs, DAPs and Women.</p> <p><b>Participants</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Zena Saliru, Uganda</li> <li>2. Grace Aipa, Kenya</li> <li>3. Kato Omia, Uganda</li> <li>4. Olivier Nihimbazwe, Burundi</li> </ol>	Winston, Yoko & Nimrod
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	Winston
14:00-15:30	Group Presentations and Feedback	Group Leaders
15:30-16:00	Consolidated Solutions Presentations	Arfang Badji
16:00-16:15	Wrap-up and Way forward	Yoko Nagashima