



RUFORUM AGM 2025

PROGRAMME

24 NOVEMBER - 5 DECEMBER



MEETING VENUE 

GABORONE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER, BOTSWANA





**THE RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HOSTED BY THE GOVERNMENT
OF BOTSWANA AND RUFORUM MEMBER UNIVERSITIES IN BOTSWANA**



President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko
President of Botswana



Honorable Prince Maele
Minister of Higher Education, Botswana

Organisers



PROFESSOR KETLHATLOGILE MOSEPELE
Vice Chancellor, Botswana University of
Agriculture and Natural Resources, Botswana



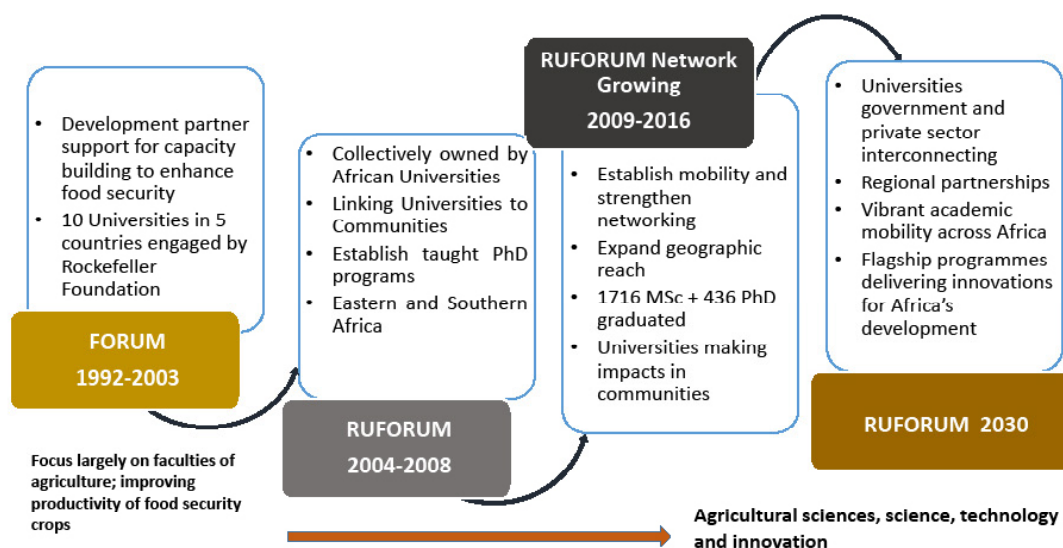
PROFESSOR THERESIA NKUO-AKENJI
RUFORUM Board Chair

ABOUT RUFORUM

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), established by ten Vice Chancellors in 2004, is a consortium of 175 African universities operating within 40 countries spanning the African continent. RUFORUM is coordinated by a Secretariat hosted by Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. The organisation evolved from its predecessor, the Forum on Agricultural Resource Husbandry (FORUM) program of the Rockefeller Foundation. RUFORUM is registered as an International Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) and has mandate to oversee graduate training. In July, 2014, RUFORUM signed a cooperation agreement with the African Union to support the implementation of the new African Union for Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa, 2024 (STISA 2024).

RUFORUM Growth Pathway/ Journey and Focus

RUFORUM growth arose out of the recognition by ten universities in Eastern and Southern Africa that there were considerable gains to be made by continuing with the formalization of the relationships established out of a donor programme-Forum for Agricultural Resource Husbandry, “The Forum” which had been established by the Rockefeller Foundation (1992-2003). The project had been a success and the universities wanted to be able to continue to collaborate and support education and research that served small-scale farmers and society. Thus, RUFORUM establishment was catalyzed by the institutional Reform at the Rockefeller Foundation that resulted into reorientation of the agricultural strategy away from “The Forum” objectives of strengthening higher agricultural education. RUFORUM was thus based on adapting “The Forum” strategy of linking university faculty and students with other African institutions as well as with smallholder farmers and other national innovation system actors.



AGM OVERVIEW

This year, 2025, Botswana will host the 21st AGM in Gaborone, hosted by the Government and RUFORUM member universities in this country. This AGM, provides Botswana, Africa and partners, an opportunity to spotlight the continent's contemporary development challenges and opportunities, and to co-create roadmaps for solution delivery. The strategic engagement of member universities across the continent; the African Union Commission; The Southern Africa Development community (SADC) and its agencies; The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Development partners; as well as academic and science networks from the global south and north, highlights the significance of this annual convening. The AGM preparations and hosting is led by Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (BUAN), in partnership with Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BUIST), and University of Botswana (UB). Government institutions as well as the private sector have partnered with the organising committee for this conference.

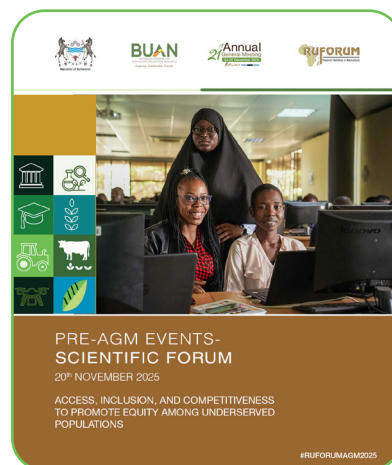


PRE-AGM SCIENTIFIC FORUM

17th-21st NOVEMBER 2025

ONLINE PRESENTATIONS

THEMATIC AREAS PRESENTED



PRE-AGM IN-PERSON EVENTS - BOTSWANA

MONDAY - SUNDAY 24-30 NOVEMBER 2025





PRE-AGM EVENTS

MONDAY - SUNDAY 24TH-30TH NOVEMBER 2025

FOR DETAILS DOWNLOAD THE CONCEPT NOTE FROM THE AGM WEBSITE <https://agm.ruforum.org/>

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
24 th -30 th	8:30-17:00	Climate Hackathon Meet Naledi, a 33-year-old farmer from Serowe who manages cattle, goats, and crops on communal land. Like thousands of Botswana's women farmers, she faces unfair pricing, limited credit, water scarcity, and delayed disease alerts. The RUFORUM Agricultural Innovation Hackathon Initiative showcases the solutions she needs. Since mid-October, university innovators across Botswana have been building and beta-testing deep-tech MVPs across four themes: market access and supply chains, digital finance and risk management, precision farming and climate resilience, and knowledge extension systems. Each solution has been validated with real farmers and enterprises, proving both demand and pricing. On 29 November, witness 11 finalist teams pitch live to investors and corporates, demonstrating AI-powered market platforms, blockchain traceability tools, IoT irrigation advisors, and mobile extension systems. The top three innovators will be inducted into the RUFORUM Go-to-Market (GTM) studio, gaining tailored business development services to accelerate their innovation's journey to market, alongside access to tranche funding based on milestone achievement. Join us to celebrate innovations that empower women farmers, strengthen food security, and launch scalable climate-smart models across Africa.. This is organised in partnership with BUAN.	BUAN ICT LAB-BLOCK 305/DO1
24 th -28 th	8:30-17:00	Competitive Grants Development Training As part of its mission to strengthen higher education in Africa, RUFORUM continues to build institutional and individual capacity through targeted skills enhancement workshops. Between 2013 and 2019, RUFORUM mobilised African universities to successfully secure seven Erasmus+ CBHE projects, enabling academic mobility for 253 Master's students, 110 PhD candidates, and 45 academic staff. Building on this success, two more projects were funded under the 2024 Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Call. To sustain this momentum, RUFORUM is convening a training workshop to prepare universities for the anticipated 2026 Erasmus+ CBHE Call, focusing on developing competitive proposals and strengthening institutional capacity for managing academic mobility programmes. The workshop will harness lessons from ongoing initiatives to enhance proposal quality, resource mobilisation, and implementation efficiency—advancing RUFORUM's vision of a vibrant, interconnected African higher education community. This is organised in partnership with universities, CCARDESA and NARDI.	BUAN BLOCK 311/CLH 0

24 th -28 th	8:30-17:00	Scholarly writing for research and systematic reviews This workshop aims to build capacity of young researchers to share their knowledge with different publics. It offers a structured, immersive experience that empowers participants with the tools, techniques, and confidence to produce impactful scholarly work. Through interactive sessions, hands-on exercises, and expert-led discussions, attendees will explore the full spectrum of academic writing—from conceptualization to publication. The seminar responds to a growing need within academic institutions to strengthen research capacity and promote a culture of excellence in scholarly communication. Whether participants are preparing for thesis writing, journal publication, or policy-influence, this workshop provides a solid foundation in both the theory and practice of scholarly writing. This is organised in partnership with universities, CCARDESA and NARDI.	BUAN BLOCK 311/1
24 th -28 th	8:30-17:00	Bioinformatics, Data Science and Management This training programme is designed for postgraduate students and early-career scientists seeking to deepen their knowledge and practical competencies in bioinformatics, data analytics, and research data management. It will provide participants with a comprehensive grounding in the theoretical foundations and hands-on application of modern computational tools for biological and agricultural data. Through guided sessions, participants will learn how to plan and execute experiments, collect and preprocess data, perform statistical and genomic analyses, visualize results, and manage datasets for reproducibility and long-term usability. This is organised in partnership with universities, CCARDESA and NARDI.	BUAN BLOCK 306/1

25TH-26TH NOVEMBER 2025

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
25 th -26 th	8:30-17:00	Leadership Development for Mid-and Senior University Managers Registration Link	Tsodilo A
25 th -28 th	8:30-17:00	MEL Impact and Communication Training	Okavango 1
26 th	11:00-13:00	Organising Committee Meeting (Local plus Regional)	BUAN New Block/ Conference Room 1
	08:30-16:30	Food Systems Resilience in Protracted Food Crises Registration Link	Moremi 1&2

27TH-29TH NOVEMBER 2025

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
27 th -28 th	8:30-17:00	Finance and Finance Management for Higher Education Collaboratives	Okavango 2
	8:30-17:00	Development of Engineering Masters and Engineering Doctorate Programme Registration Link	Santawani B/ Room
	8:30-17:00	Data Science Programme	Executive B/ Room
	8:30-17:00	Gender, Inclusion and Safeguarding- Targeting Principals and Deans especially of TAGDev 2.0 Implementing Universities	Glass Marquee
	8:30-17:00	Innovation Transfer Partners: Closing the Gap from “ <i>Grantpreneur</i> ” to Entrepreneur (Scalable Enterprise)	BUAN IT LAB
27 th -29 th	8:30-17:00	Climate Finance and Green Economy	Operations B/ Room
28 th	14:00-17:00	International Advisory Panel Meeting Registration Link	Standard room
28 th -29 th	8:30-17:00	Transforming Africa Higher Education Systems, Processes, Practices and People- Targeting Higher Education Regulators and University Registrars	Moremi 2&3
28 th -30 th	8:30-17:00	AICCRA E-Course Material Development Workshop	BUAN Block 311/3

29TH-30TH NOVEMBER 2025

DATE	TIME		VENUE
29 th	8:30-17:00	Innovation Transfer Partners: Transformers and Scalors of Opportunities for TVETs and Out-of-School Youth	Moremi Suite
	8:30-17:00	Impact of University Research and Technology Transfer (Field visits to BUAN farm plus excursions to Safflower farmers and tree planting (Metsimotlhabe))	Field visit
		Green Transitions and Circular Economy (Solar farm, Tree Planting and Waste Water Management for Agriculture- BUAN)	
		Visit to BUAN plus Commercial Cattle Breeding Center (Mamashia)	
		Visit to Alumni Enterprises (Gaborone)	
RUFORUM STATUTORY MEETING — BY INVITATION ONLY			
29 th	8:30-12:30	Principals and Deans Committee Meeting Registration Link	Glass Marquee
	14:00-17:00	Audit Committee Meeting Registration Link	Business Centre B/R
	18:00-20:00	Technical Committee Meeting Registration Link	Santawani B/ Room
30 th	08:30-11:00	Finance and Administration Committee Meeting	Santawani B/ Room
	14:00-17:00	Board Executive Committee Meeting	Santawani B/ Room
	08:30-16:30	Climate Hackathon Pitching for Investment	BUAN BLOCK 306/1
29 th	8:30-17:00	Technical Vocational Education and Training Transformation and Scaling	Serondela
	8:30-17:00	Leadership and Mentorship Training for Early Career Carrier Scientists	BUAN Block 311/1
30 th	8:30-17:00	Venture Capital and Angel Investors (Start-ups Pitching Day for investment)	Okavango Suite
	10:00-13:00	Field Visit By TVET Specialists (By Inivitation Only)	Within Gaborone

WELCOME TO THE RUFORUM AGM 2025



MAIN CONFERENCE

1ST 5TH DECEMBER 2025

FOR DETAILS DOWNLOAD THE CONCEPT NOTE FROM THE AGM WEBSITE <https://agm.ruforum.org/>

DAY ONE

MONDAY, 1ST DECEMBER 2025

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
08:00-10:00	Transformative Education and Ecosystem Engagement- Registration Link	Tsodilo Suite
11:00-13:00	Official Opening of the AGM - Registration Link	Tsodilo Suite
14:00-15:00	Viewing of Posters and Exhibitions	GICC Hallway and Exhibition Marquee
15:00-16:30	Africa-Europe High Level Dialogue on Higher Agricultural Education, Science and Technology (By Invitation)	Okavango Suite
15:00-16:30	Transformative Education and Ecosystem Engagement (Continues)	Tsodilo Suite
19:00-21:00	Official Conference Gala Dinner and Book Launch Ceremony (All participants)	Tsodilo Suite

DAY TWO

TUESDAY, 2ND DECEMBER 2025

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
8:30-10:30	Africa Region: Strengthening Sub-Regional Operations — Intra and Inter Regional Actions via Nodes - Registration Link	Tsodilo Suite
8:30-10:30	High Level Dialogue; Unlocking Higher Education for Africa's Young Refugees and Displaced Persons (Closed Meeting)- Registration Link	Okavango Suite
11:00-13:00	High Level Dialogue: Africa-North America dialogue on Higher Agricultural Education, Science and Technology (By Invitation Only)- Registration Link	Okavango Suite
11:00-13:00	Climate Finance and Green Economy	Moremi 1&2 Suite
11:00-13:00	Transformative Education Models for Success	Tsodilo Suite
11:00-13:00	Elephant Conservation	Moremi 3
14:00-16:30	Academic Alliances for Centers of Leadership— Blue Economy, Crop Improvement, Climate Science, Policy, Futures and Economy, and Digital Economy (Closed Meeting)	Executive Office (Standard Room)
14:00-16:30	High Level Meeting: The role of Africa's Universities in Transforming Food Systems Towards Resilience and Peace (Closed Meeting)- Registration Link	Serondela Suite
14:00-17:00	Vice Chancellors Forum (Closed Meeting)- Registration Link	Okavango Suite
14:00-17:00	Cross Learning among Higher Education Collaboratives- Registration Link	Moremi Suite
18:30-20:00	Nurturing Women Talent for Development (Female Leaders— VCs, DVCs, Principals and Deans, Heads of Departments, as well as Female Policy and Development Partners Leaders)	Botswana Craft

DAY THREE

WEDNESDAY, 3RD DECEMBER 2025

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
08:00-9:50	FORUM I: Resilient Agrifood Systems Transformation - Registration Link	Tsodilo Suite
09:50-11:00	FORUM II: Energy Transitions for Productive and Sustainable Agri-Food Systems- Registration Link	Tsodilo Suite
11:30-13:00	FORUM III: Artificial intelligence, Data Science, and Emerging Technologies- Registration Link	Tsodilo Suite
14:00-15:30	FORUM IV: Access, Inclusion, and Competitiveness to Promote Equity among Underserved Populations- Registration Link	Tsodilo Suite
15:30-17:00	FORUM V: Nurturing Talent- Registration Link	Tsodilo Suite
0900-16: 30	Book Workshop (By Invitation Only)	Executive Boardroom
14:00-16:30	TAGDev Partnership Council (Closed Meeting)- Registration Link	Okavango 1
14:00-16:30	AICCRA Side Event	Serondela
14:00-16:30	Communicating for Impact (By Invitation Only)	Moremi 1&2
14:00-16:30	Strategic High Level Policy Meeting Addressing University TVET-Education Challenges	Okavango 2
15:30-18:30	Community Engagement and Climate resilience— visit to BUAN (By Invitation— Leaders and Executives who did not go to the field on 29th)	Boitumelo Primary School and BUAN
19:00-21:00	Vice Chancellors' Dinner	BUAN

DAY FOUR

THURSDAY, 4TH DECEMBER 2025

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
08:00-10:30	Board Meeting (Closed Meeting)	Okavango Suite
8:30-13:00	TAGDev 2.0 Annual Planning, Review and Committee Meetings	Moremi Suite
11:00-13:00	AGM Business Meeting - Registration Link	Tsodilo Suite
14:00-16:30	Closing Ceremony- Registration Link	Tsodilo Suite

DAY FIVE

FRIDAY, 5TH DECEMBER 2025

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
	Open Day for Tourism	OPEN
08:30-13:00	Quality Assurance and Accreditation	Okavango Suite
11:00-13:00	Outgoing Organising Committee and Zambia Committee Meeting	BUAN New Block/Conference Room 1
08:30-13:00	Quality Assurance and Accreditation	Okavango Suite
08:30-10:30	High Level Meeting: Operationalizing the Abidjan II Communique Action Plan to support the CAADP Kampala declaration: AARIEIs strategic framework (By Invitation Only) Registration Link	Moremi 1&2
09:00-15:00	Field Visit to Botswana Meat Commission	OPEN



**Thank you for participating in the
RUFORUM Annual General Meeting**