



RUFORUM 21ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

CONCEPT NOTE

TAGDev 2.0 Program Annual Review and Learning



THEME

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:

Glass Marquee

Date: 29- 30 November, 2025

Time: 8:30-17:00 Central African Time (CAT)

Contact: Prof. Anthony Egeru (a.egeru@ruforum.org)

Background

In order to improve the quality of its research, education and development program, RUFORUM conducts review and learning events together with its implementing partners. The Transforming Africa's Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev 2.0), is one of RUFORUM's flagship implemented in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation. TAGDev 2.0 Program works through partnerships with selected universities across Africa to foster transformative education, entrepreneurship and employability of young women and men, innovation and research uptake, and inclusive development. It also focuses on underserved demographics such as young people, women, refugees and displaced persons (RDPs), and persons abled differently (PADs). It is designed for implementation across 54 universities in Africa, with opportunity to scale out across the RUFORUM network. Currently it is being implemented by 48 universities in 12 countries.

As the TAGDev 2.0 Program implementation enters year three (3), there is need to conduct review in order to inform and redesign the operationalization. Lessons learnt from the program provide ground for scaling and reprogramming. The 2025 Partner Annual Review and Learning meeting therefore comes at a pivotal moment to consolidate learning from early results, refine implementation approaches, and accelerate delivery. It will also serve as a forum to engage the Technical Partners and Strategic Partners especially the advanced institutions such as the CGIAR and accelerator organizations such as the SROs especially FARA.

Objectives

The overall objective of the meeting is to provide a platform for TAGDev implementing universities to undertake annual review and performance appraisal against contracted targets as well as demonstrate overall institutional accountability.

specific objectives:

1. Provide feedback to implementation teams on improvement areas specific to the challenges and opportunities;
2. Provide implementing consortia with cross-learning opportunities within the project and build alliances for better delivery.
3. Provide feedback to the RUFORUM Secretariat on strategy, coordination and implementation of TAGDev going forward; and,
4. Provide the Governance organ members opportunity to receive, review and guide performance improvement of implementation;

Expected Outcomes

1. Implementing consortia receive guidance to remedy challenges and improve implementation. These includes strategies for strengthening partnerships, financial compliance, MEL, and accountability;
2. RUFORUM Secretariat and the TAGDev 2.0 management team receive guidance to remedy major challenges, improve implementation, cost efficiency, and governance, among others; and,

Venue: Glass Marquee

Session Chair: Dr. Nakayiwa Florence

Rapporteur(s): Dr. Mkandawire Petros

DAY 1: Saturday 29, November, 2025

08:15– 08:30	Arrival and Registration Abigael Otinga
08:30-08:40	Welcome and Introductions Moderator: Dr. Patrick Byakagaba, Makerere University
08:40-09:10	Opening Remarks: 1. Dr. Florence Nakayiwa, Deputy Executive Secretary, RUFORUM 2. Ms. Pauline Gangla, Head Higher Education, Mastercard Foundation
09:10-09:40	TAGDev 2.0 Journey to Impact Oriented Programming Dr. Petros Mkwandawire & Charles Mugoowa, Mastercard Foundation -includes a brief discussion
1. University Based Delivery and Performance against Targets	
09:40-10:30	Prof. Duncan Ongeng, Gulu University (Uganda) Prof. Julius Ochuodho, University of Eldoret (Kenya)
10:30-11:00	Health Break
11:00-11:40	1. Prof. Emmanuel Suh, University of Bamenda (Cameroon) 2. Prof. Flora Chadare, National University of Agriculture (Benin)
11:40-12:30	1. Prof. Annor Festus, University of Cape Coast (Ghana) 2. Mr. Adnane Soulimani, Mohamed VI Polytechnique University (Morocco)
12:30-13:00	Open Discussion and feedback to the implementing Partners
13:00-14:00	LUNCH Break
14:00-14:40	1. Prof. Jan Swanepoel, University of Free State (South Africa) 2. Dr. Petros Chigwechokha, Malawi University of Science and Technology (Malawi)
14:40-15:20	1. Dr. Walter Manyangariwa, Africa University (Zimbabwe) 2. Prof. Etela Ibisime, University of Port Harcourt (Nigeria)
15:20-15:40	1. Prof. Nancy Mungai, Egerton University (Kenya) 2. Dr. Robinah Nakabo, Uganda Martyrs University (Uganda)
15:40-16:20	General Discussions
16:20-16:40	General Summary of Key areas requiring rethink Dr. Petros Nakayiwa Mr. Eric Tuyisenge
16:40-17:00	Closing Remarks for Day One Florence
DAY 2: Sunday, 30th Nov, 2025	

08:00- 08:30	Reflections from day 1 and Agenda for the day Dr. Jolyn Runyararo, RUFORUM Secretariat (Uganda)
08:30-09:10	Dr. Getachew Shambel Endris, Haramaya University (Ethiopia) Dr. Tindwa Hamis, Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania)
09:10-10:00	Innovation Transfer Partners: From training, transitioning to scaling operations Mr. Emmanuel Okalany -includes discussions
10:00-10:30	Health Break
10:30-11:30	Fireside Chat: Evidence from ITPs scaling operations: Lessons from the field (Moderated by Pauline Gangla, Mastercard Foundation) 1. Ms. Winnie Wambugu, Nakuru Tubers 2. Mr. Gordon Akejo, GAO-Uganda Limited 3. Mr. Kato Omia, Omia Agribusiness Development Group Ltd 4. Ms. Zena Saliru, Juma Farms Ltd
11:30-12:30	Fireside Chat: Reflections from Ecosystem Partners: Accelerator Organisations, Advanced Research Institutions, Business Development and Policy-Regulators (Moderated by George Osure, Mastercard Foundation) 1. Dr. Joyce Maru, Regional Director for Africa, International Potato Center, CGIAR, Kenya 2. Dr. Aggrey Agumya, Executive Director, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), Ghana 3. Dr. Lilian Kidula Lihasi, Executive Director, African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), Uganda 4. Ms. Ifeanyi Monyei, Head of Strategy, Green House Capital, United Arab Emirates 5. Dr Ambumulire Nellie Phiri, Chief Executive Officer, National Council for Higher Education, Malawi
12:30-12:50	From Annual Review to Acceleration Action: TAGDev 2.0 Road Map Dr. Petros Mkandawire (RUFORUM) and Charles Mugoowa (Mastercard Foundation)
12:50-13:00	Closing Remarks 1. Pauline Gangla, Head Higher Education, Mastercard Foundation 2. Dr. Florence Nakayiwa, Deputy Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
13:00-14:00	LUNCH
14:00-18:00	Visit to the Safflower Farmers Visit-Learning from the field & from farmers