



RUFORUM 21ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

CONCEPT NOTE

**TVET transformation and scaling: Growing Agri-food
Systems, Jobs and Work in Africa**



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:

Serondela

Date: 29th November 2025

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

Contact Persons: Winston Abanaitwe (w.abanaitwe@ruforum.org)

Background

Africa faces a critical challenge as an estimated 72.6 million young people are projected to enter the labour market between 2023 and 2050, compounding existing deficits in productive and decent work opportunities. Addressing this requires structural transformation pathways across multiple sectors. The agri-food system is recognized as a key area for investment and job creation, with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) 2026-2035 strategy emphasizing the need to invest in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to empower youth and women farmers, and prepare actors for robust agri-food systems. Despite this potential, the TVET sector is often unprepared and inadequately equipped to meet the growing demand for skills, risking a perpetual skills mismatch. The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and the Mastercard Foundation (since 2016) have piloted university-TVET engagements, generating evidence that TVETs can be catalytic in scaling agri-food systems and creating jobs but require urgent, diverse transformation. This Pre-AGM event seeks to drive that necessary transformation.

Objectives

The event aims to strategically engage TVET practitioners on mechanisms for transformation and scaling. The specific objectives are to:

1. Convene TVET sector practitioners to deliberate on TVET transformation pathways.
2. Co-create TVET scaling models and practices for growing agri-food systems, scaling technologies, and expanding jobs and work opportunities.
3. Share lessons and best practices in skilling, engagement, and work creation.

Approach

The event will adopt a deliberative and co-creative methodology, bringing together TVET principals and stakeholders engaged in TAGDev 2.0. The format will involve structured discussions, presentations, and interactive sessions focused on:

- Identifying key barriers and opportunities for TVET transformation within the agri-food sector context.
- Presenting evidence and lessons learned from pilot interventions (e.g., CARPs, TESDEP, OOSYI) regarding TVET's active role in agri-food systems.
- Facilitating collaborative sessions to design testable and replicable models for scaling innovations and creating work opportunities.
- Documenting actionable insights and best practices shared by practitioners.

Expected outputs

1. The engagement is designed to yield tangible outputs that will drive TVET transformation and scaling for job creation:
2. Consortium of TVET practitioners and institutions dedicated to transformation and scaling of innovations in agri-food systems for youth employment.
3. Co-designed models and practices that can be testable and replicable by TVET practitioners in different parts of Africa.
4. Compilation of lessons and best practices that TVET practitioners and institutions can adapt to enhance their skilling, engagement, and work creation efforts.

Participants

TVET practitioners.

SATURDAY 29TH November, 2025**Venue:** GICC, Serondela**Session Chair:** John Ochira**Rapporteurs:** Abanaitwe Winston

Time	Activity	Persons in-charge
08:00-08:30	Arrival and Registration	Winston Abanaitwe
08:30-08:40	Opening Remarks	Yoko Nagashima
08:40-08:50	Opening Remarks	Anthony Egeru
08:50-09:20	Transformative Education for Jobs and Work Creation	Ms. Yoko Nagashima
09:20-09:50	TAGDev 2.0 Program Imperatives for engagement	Anthony Egeru
09:50-10:30	Science of Scaling Delivery	Prof. Patrick Okori
10:30-11:00	Health Break	Winston
11:00-12:00	Break-Out Groups: 1. Barriers Analysis for Transformative Education 2. Barriers Analysis for Innovations, technologies and management practices scaling 3. Barriers Analysis for Entrepreneurship and Business Development 4. Barriers Analysis for Institutional Change and people development	Anthony Egeru and Yoko Nagashima
12:00-13:00	Group Presentations and feedback (Gallery Arrangement)	All Group Leaders
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	Winston
14:00-15:00	Lesson Sharing on Best Practices 1. Research Partnership and Entrepreneurship Development: Baraka Agricultural College, Kenya 2. Skilling and Enterprise Development: Northern Uganda Youth Development Center. 3. Intentional Entrepreneurship Models for Innovations Scaling: University of Free State	Ms. Pamela Nasimiyu. Mr. Ocaka Gabriel. Prof. Jan Swanepoel.
15:00-16:00	Co-creating Solutions. 1. Solutions for Transformative Education 2. Solutions for Innovations, technologies and management practices scaling 3. Solutions for Entrepreneurship, Business Development, jobs and work creation 4. Solutions for Institutional Change and people development	All Groups
16:00-17:00	Group Presentations	All Group Leaders
17:00-17:10	Closing Remarks and Way forward	Yoko

