

RUFORUM: BUILDING AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES' CAPACITY THROUGHOUT AFRICA

Locations	Sub-Saharan Africa
Dates	01/01/2013 - 30/12/2020

Summary

Universities play an important and largely unfulfilled role in the well-being of small-scale farmers and the economic development of countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa. The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) supports universities to address this important role. Established in 2004, RUFORUM is a consortium of 46 African universities operating within 22 countries spanning the African continent.

The problem

Universities play an important and largely unfulfilled role in the well-being of small-scale farmers and the economic development of countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

What we are doing

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) supports universities to address this important role.

Established by 10 Vice Chancellors in 2004, RUFORUM is a consortium of 46 African universities operating within 22 countries spanning the African continent. It is coordinated by a Secretariat hosted by Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda.

Why the collaboration?

Supporting the ability of Africa's tertiary agricultural education to produce high calibre graduates is essential to solve major agricultural and environmental problems and improve farmer livelihoods. CABI and the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) are working collaboratively to achieve this by:

- improving access to agricultural scientific information
- underpinning the training of quality graduate students
- supporting production of quality research responsive to the demands of smallholder farmers

Summary of the collaboration

CABI and RUFORUM are working jointly to support the fast-tracking of development in Africa. Respectively, they bring expertise to improve access to agricultural science information and the platform for training high performing agricultural graduates. This combined effort will enhance graduates' capabilities while leading to the application and generation of agricultural knowledge.

Key objectives of the collaboration

To support both RUFORUM and CABI missions through:

- enhancing access to agricultural knowledge discovery tools
- capacity building in agricultural knowledge management through training
- improving access to agricultural and environmental scientific knowledge

Results so far

RUFORUM member universities are benefitting from this collaboration through:

- privileged access to the CAB Abstract bibliographic database (via the CAB Direct platform). Member universities have access to 10 million records comprising 200,000 full text documents of which 56% are journal articles, 42% conference papers and 2% other grey literature
- privileged access to CABI Compendia: the Crop Protection Compendium, Animal Health and Production Compendium, Aquaculture Compendium, Forestry Compendium and the Invasive Species Compendium
- training and awareness in Agricultural Knowledge Management

This project ended in 2020, however, engagement with member universities has continued with a view to expanding collaborations by writing joint project proposals.

Donors

CABI Development Fund (CDF)

Partners

Consortium of African universities





https://www.cabi.org/what-we-do/cabi-projects/