

Press Release



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Development of African Tailored Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

Announcement of the eight courses to be developed into MOOCs

Kampala 08, April 2020 The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) in partnership with Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) is implementing a Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) capacity building initiative targeting the members of the RUFORUM network. RUFORUM is a network of 126 universities in 38 African countries mandated to strengthen the quality and relevance of undergraduate and postgraduate training and research in African higher educational institutions in agriculture, science, technology and innovation fields. UM6P, a RUFORUM member university, was setup by OCP Group, a world leader in Phosphate based fertilizers. It is oriented towards applied research and innovation with a deep focus towards Africa.

The aim of the RUFORUM-UM6P MOOCs initiative is to build the capacity of African universities to develop massive open online courses (MOOCs) and encourage adoption of online learning and new educational technologies in member universities academic programs.

We recently administered a survey which was intended to gather views from the experts within the network in order to identify relevant courses responsive to Africa's most critical challenges in Agriculture domain. We analysed the survey feedback and published an [analytical report](#) (available online [here](#)) which was then used for selecting the following initial eight (8) Masters Programmes for delivery as MOOCs.

1. Masters in Agribusiness Management
2. Masters in Agricultural Innovations and Entrepreneurship
3. Masters in Fertilizer Science and Technology
4. Masters in Climate Change Smart Agriculture
5. Masters in Food Systems and Policy Analysis
6. Masters in Research Methods
7. Masters in Monitoring and Evaluation
8. Masters in Agro-informatics

The next step will be to engage experts in the above fields to develop content that can be digitized. Each University will adopt according to its own needs.

For more information regarding this initiative, please contact f.otto@ruforum.org or Sara.AOUAD@um6p.ma

Notes to Editors:

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), is a consortium of 126 African universities operating in 38 countries on the continent with a mission to ‘strengthen the capacities of Universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of smallholder farmers through the training of high quality researchers, the output of impact oriented research and the maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, national agricultural research institutions’. RUFORUM was established by Vice Chancellors in 2004 with a Secretariat hosted at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. In 2014 RUFORUM signed an MoU with the African Union Commission to support implementation of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024) Priority One on reducing poverty and ensuring food and nutrition security. RUFORUM has supported the training of 1919 MSc and 525 PhD graduates, of whom 94% work in their countries or region, the generation of over 300 agricultural technologies and mobilized over US\$208 million for strengthening postgraduate education in Africa. Please visit www.ruforum.org for more information.

For additional information, photos and interviews, contact Ms Maureen Akena, Corporate Communications, & Advocacy officer below.

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