

**Priority Area One:  
Eradicating Hunger and  
Achieving Food and  
Nutrition Security**



**1<sup>st</sup> RUFORUM REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF STISA 2024**

Submitted: October, 2015

**Summary Report from RUFORUM on Implementation of Strategic Objectives and Actions for STISA 2024 Priority Area  
One - Eradicating Hunger and Achieving Food and Nutrition Security September 2015**

Key results by September 2015	
<b>Strategic objective 1: Enhance effectiveness of STI in addressing/ implementing priority areas [for STISA-P1 by aligning with and implementation to advance the CAADP targets and the 3AGT agenda</b>	
<i>Strategic Action 1.1: Set priorities, develop and implement prioritised multidisciplinary flagship programmes supported by efficient management to meet the needs of society within context of the Science Agenda for Agriculture in Africa</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stakeholders engaged and developed the STISA Priority One Implementation Plan and associated milestones with a 2024 time horizon</li> <li>2. Developed a Strategic Business Plan for RUFORUM Member Universities that ensures alignment with CAADP, S3A, STISA and Malabo Declaration</li> <li>3. RUFORUM mobilised African governments to fund, through the World Bank, establishment of African Higher Education Centres of Excellence (ACEII)</li> <li>4. A knowledge repository developed to facilitate access and use of research outputs to support policy and enhance agricultural output</li> </ol>
<b>Strategic objective 2: Improve technical competencies and institutional capacity for STI development [for STISA-P1 – build and improve systemic capabilities at national level to a sufficient critical mass - human capital, technical competencies, infrastructure, enabling environment, innovation and entrepreneurial mindset and institutional capacity]</b>	
<i>Strategic Action 2.1: Support building, upgrading and/or enhancing quality of agricultural R&amp;D and AET infrastructural assets core for scientific and technological developments to support Africa’s agricultural growth and transformation, including access to their use by researchers</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expanded the geographical coverage of RUFORUM operations to cover the entire continent</li> <li>2. Established a RUFORUM Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) exchange programme to upgrade and improve on the pool of PhD trained staff in African Universities</li> <li>3. Established flagship regional PhD and MSc. Programs to support skill development in strategic areas required for implementation of CAADP, S3A and STISA.</li> <li>4. Developed MoU among African Universities to facilitate the academic and administrative staff and students’ mobility</li> <li>5. Trained 1,373 MSc field based graduates to support the implementation of agricultural development programmes</li> <li>6. Trained 315 PhD graduates for strengthening research and training capacities in Africa</li> <li>7. Increased enrollment of women in agricultural sciences at postgraduate level from 8% in 2004 to 42% in 2015</li> </ol>
<i>Strategic Action 2.2: Develop and connect human and institutional capacities – enhancing technical and professional competencies, response capacities and</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Developed a RUFORUM Capacity Development Strategy to guide postgraduate training and research in African universities</li> <li>2. Commissioned case studies on the status of higher education sector in six (6) selected countries representing sub-Saharan Africa to inform policy interventions.</li> </ol>

	<b>Key results by September 2015</b>
capabilities to manage and govern the advancement of STI, integrate and co-create new knowledge to drive Africa's agricultural transformative agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Convened 6 regional events for fostering university, private sector and civil society collaboration and partnerships to enhance delivery of university AR4D</li> <li>4. Supported the development of curricula to equip youths with skills in agribusiness, entrepreneurship and agricultural value chains in member universities</li> <li>5. Developed demand driven curricula in response to emerging and gap areas to support implementation of CAADP. Postgraduate Programs have been developed in the following areas; Research Methods, Monitoring and Evaluation, Agro-meteorology, Climate Change and Dryland Resource Management, Agricultural Information and Communication Management, Aquaculture and Fisheries, Soil and Water Management, Agriculture and Rural Innovation systems, Food System and Ecosystem Management, Gender and Agricultural Policy Analysis</li> <li>6. Established a vibrant agricultural R&amp;D community of practice with over 18,000 members</li> </ol>
<i>Strategic Action 2.3:</i> Build systems for data collection and analysis, as well as sharing of information on progress towards major goals and implementation of activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initiated the collection of indicators to track research investments and human capacity development in African universities</li> <li>2. Supported regional and national convenings of academic and administrative leaders to improve academic performance including completion rates in African universities</li> <li>3. Facilitated academic staff and stakeholders to participate in national and international exchanges through online platforms (social media and D-groups)</li> <li>4. Promoted the use of ICTs for teaching, learning, research and outreach, through the development of online education resources and initiated processes of piloting Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)</li> </ol>
<b>Strategic objective 3: Promote economic competitiveness through fostering innovation, value addition, industrial/ agribusiness development and entrepreneurship in synergy with other instruments</b>	
<i>Strategic Action 3.1:</i> Develop National and Regional innovation and knowledge systems that add value to and ensure optimal returns from investments in STI	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Commissioned nine (9) Community Action Research Programs (CARPs) with focus on commodity value chains and deploying multi-disciplinary research teams with additional emphasis on systems approach and regional learning; with each CARP reaching on average, 5000 smallholder households</li> <li>2. Engaged 306 Junior and Senior researchers from African Universities working on agricultural research that is designed to have a potential reach of 30,000 households</li> </ol>
<i>Strategic Action 3.2:</i> Foster value addition, agribusiness and entrepreneurship to address and respond to African socio-economic challenges	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Member universities mobilised to engage in agribusiness incubation and entrepreneurship oriented training at Makerere University, Kyambogo University, Kenyatta University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Moi University and University of Zambia</li> <li>4. Facilitated university-industry partnerships to strengthen agri- entrepreneurship such as at Stellenbosch University (South Africa) with Standard Bank, Gulu University with Centenary Bank and Egerton University with</li> </ol>

<b>Key results by September 2015</b>	
	<p>Equity Bank.</p> <p>5. Engaged international partnership to share best practices such as with EARTH (Costa Rica), Wageningen University and Research Centre (Netherlands), SUPAGRO (France), University of Copenhagen (Denmark), Norwegian Agricultural University, Swedish Agricultural University, Fresh Water Fish Research Centre (China).</p>
<b>Strategic objective 4: Protect knowledge production (including inventions, and indigenous knowledge) by strengthening IPR and regulatory regimes at all levels</b>	
<i>Strategic Action 4.1:</i> Transform and strengthen Africa's agricultural STI environment into an effective innovation system to meet Africa's socio-economic needs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Established 9 National Forums to strengthen university engagement with policy actors, to get feedback to enhance demand orientation of university research and training and improve advocacy for quality training and investment</li> <li>2. Developed a regional Intellectual Property Rights policy for member universities to improve use of research outputs</li> <li>3. Piloted use of regional programmes to test and validate joint implementation of academic programmes</li> <li>4. Developed a regional quality assurance mechanism and credit transfer system for post graduate training in agriculture and related sciences</li> </ol>
<b>Strategic objective 5: Facilitate STI policy reforms, harmonization, science diplomacy and resource mobilization</b>	
<i>Strategic Action 5.1:</i> Through effective policy practice provide an enabling policy and institutional environment for the sustainable application and performance of science - integrating STI in strategies, plans and programs at national and regional levels	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Held continental biennial convening in 2014 on Africa Higher Education Week to strengthen/foster effective partnerships and multi-stakeholder platforms for coordination. The next event is due 19-23 September 2016 in Stellenbosch, South Africa with focus on engaging the private sector and Civil Society</li> <li>2. Worked with the President of Malawi to host a side event at the United Nations' General Assembly on 26 September 2015 at the UN headquarters in New York to mobilise partnerships and support for Higher Education in Africa</li> <li>3. Developed a crowd funding model for financing agricultural higher education in Africa</li> </ol>
<i>Strategic Action 5.2:</i> Establish funds and financing mechanisms that promote national, regional and continental solidarity in agricultural STI.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Facilitated Universities in Eastern and Southern Africa to source for funding under the World Bank's African Higher Education Centers of Excellence</li> <li>5. RUFORUM in liaison with the Government of Malawi initiated arrangements to identify and engage African philanthropies and private sector to fund postgraduate training in Africa</li> </ol>