

TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OF ONLINE COURSES FOR DELIVERY AS MOOCs: A JOINT RUFORUM-UM6P PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

Prioritized Masters Programmes and Courses for review/development into MOOCs

RUFORUM Secretariat (see www.ruforum.org) and UM6P (see www.um6p.ma/en) ran an online survey to establish key Masters programmes for enhancing agricultural sector performance/productivity in the African continent, in line with the CAADP aspirations. Several programmes were proposed. Further consultations with key stakeholders resulted in identification of eight cross-cutting Masters Programmes to be refined or developed across African universities as common programmes. These programmes and others need to be refined or developed and contextualized for delivery in the different RUFORUM universities, with selected courses to be refined/developed and delivered as MOOCs. Below are some of the key programmes identified.

Table 1: List of Prioritized Masters Programmes for review/development

No.	Programme
1.	Masters in Research Methods
2.	Masters in Agricultural Innovations and Entrepreneurship
3.	Masters in Fertilizer Science and Technology
4.	Masters in Food Systems and Policy Analysis
5.	Masters in Agribusiness
6.	Masters in Climate Smart Agriculture
7.	Masters in Agro Informatics
8.	Masters in Monitoring and Evaluation

Based on the above, action is needed to move towards refinement and where needed, development of the Masters programmes in the above areas. This thus requires identifying the next steps for each of the eight Masters programme, identifying possible lead Universities and individuals to move the refinement/development of the Masters programmes forward, while keeping room for other universities and individuals and programmes to be engaged to enrich the programmes and hopefully, for some of these partners to contextualize the programmes for their own countries and universities. Provision for this is provided below, with some tentative suggestions of possible lead institutions and individuals to lead or champion the review or development of the Masters programmes. We have since received request for review of the PhD in Agricultural and Rural Innovations Programme, that is jointly run by three African Universities (Makerere University in Uganda, Egerton University in Kenya and Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania) with participation of European Universities in Denmark, France and

Netherlands, and for development of course based PhD training in Food Science and Technology/Updating the PhD in Food Science and Nutrition hosted at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya. We propose to include these two programmes as part of next action points (see Table 2 below).

Table 2: List and Actions needed on Prioritized Programmes for review/development

Programme	Actions needed	Proposed responsible institutions and persons	Other institutions and individuals to be engaged
1. Masters in Research Methods	A regional training programme on Research Methods already exists and is hosted at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and has operated for more than 5 years. Three actions are needed: a) review and refinement of the programme; b) identification of one module to be integrated in various Masters programmes, and c) development of modules/course (s) to be developed and delivered as MOOCs	JKUAT: Prof Losenge	Invite for interest to participate; Prof Kay Muir and Thomas Odong to assist
2. Masters in Agricultural Innovations and Entrepreneurship	Masters curriculum needs to be developed; integrate agricultural value chain analysis into the curriculum and identify module(s) for online content development and delivery	JKUAT has a programme on Innovations and Entrepreneurship and Makerere has stand-alone programmes on rural innovations and Entrepreneurship. Dr Nelson	Invite others to contribute

		Turyamuhabwe and Dr Elepu (Makerere) and ... (JKUAT)	
3. Masters in Fertilizer Science and Technology	University of Mohammed the 6 th Polytechnique (UM6P) has a Master programme on the subject. UM6P needs to share the curriculum for review and enriching, and needs to identify 1-2 course modules for online delivery as MOOCs	UM6P with Prof Aziz as the focal person	To enlist participation of other experts in and out of the continent
4. Masters in Food Systems and Policy Analysis	Full curriculum needs to be developed. Check for related online courses from FAO	Professor Joseph HOUNHOUIGAN from University of Abomey Calavi, Prof Duncan Ongeng from Gulu University, Prof John Muyonga/John Mugisha/Abel Atukwase from Makerere.	Dr Florence Mayega and Dr Alice Mweetwa from RUFORUM Secretariat to liaise with FAO for relevant courses. Engage other experts
5. Masters in Agribusiness	Refine existing programmes such as the one at Makerere University and identify cross cutting module for online delivery as a MOOC	Dr Jonny Mugisha at Makerere University	Interest others to input
6. Masters in Climate Smart Agriculture	Haramaya University has a complete Masters programme under its ACE Programme. Subject to review and identify 1-2 modules for online delivery as MOOCs	Prof Yousuf Jemal and Haramaya ACE team	Engage Egerton University and others to participate in the review and refinement
7. Masters in Agro Informatics	This is a new proposed Masters Programme and therefore requires	Dr Drake P Mirembe from Makerere, Prof Jude Lubega from Nkumba University	Invite other experts to input

	development of a complete curriculum and identification of one module for online course delivery	and Prof Aziz from UM6P	
8. Masters in Monitoring and Evaluation	Two Masters programmes exist at Uganda Technology and Management University and Uganda Martyrs University. These programmes need to be reviewed and updated, and 1-2 courses developed further for online delivery as MOOCs	To be identified	Invite experts to participate in the review and refinement
9. PhD in Agricultural and Rural Innovations	The programme has been implemented for 5 years at Makerere, Egerton and Sokoine and needs to be reviewed and updated	Prof Nelson Karuhanga (Makerere University); focal persons at Egerton and Sokoine	To invite others including European Partners such as Didier Pillot (SupAGRO France); Conny from WUR to review the Programme
10. PhD in Food Science and Technology (course based)	Needs to be developed through wide stakeholder consultations building on the JKUAT regional course based PhD programme in Food Science and Nutrition; consider also reviewing the JKUAT	Makerere (Dr Abel Atukwase), Prof Marena (Stellenbosch University), UCC in Ghana	Invite others to participate; check for FAO related courses

Table 3: Proposed list of Courses for development for delivery as MOOCs

No.	Course	Possible lead persons/Institutions	Other experts to be engaged
1	One cross cutting course on Research Methods (to be identified and developed)	Prof Losenge (JKUAT) and Dr Thomas Odong (Makerere)	To be identified
2	Agricultural Value Chain Analysis: to be developed	To be identified	To be identified
3	Fertilizer Science and Technology: 1-2 course modules to be developed for online delivery as MOOCs	UM6P: Prof Aziz with support from Sarah and Rafiq	Other experts to be engaged
4	One module to be identified from Masters in Agribusiness	Makerere	Other experts to be engaged
5	One module to be identified from Masters in Agricultural Innovations and Entrepreneurship	JKUAT & Makerere	Other experts to be engaged
6	1-2 module to be identified from Masters in Food Systems and Policy Analysis	LUANAR, UAC, SU	Alice Mweetwa, Florence Nakayiwa to consult FAO and others
6	One module to be identified from Masters in Climate Smart Agriculture	Haramaya and Egerton	Others to be engaged
7	One module to be identified from Agri Informatics	Institutions and experts to be identified; Drake Mirembe and Jude Lubega with support from UM6P	Experts to be identified
8	One module to be defined from Masters in Monitoring and Evaluation	Institutions and experts to be identified	Experts to be identified

The purpose of this communication is to outline current thoughts and to invite for input for moving the process forward. We welcome suggestions for institutions and experts to be engaged. Send your suggestions to d.amitu@ruforum.org and or f.otto@ruforum.org