



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

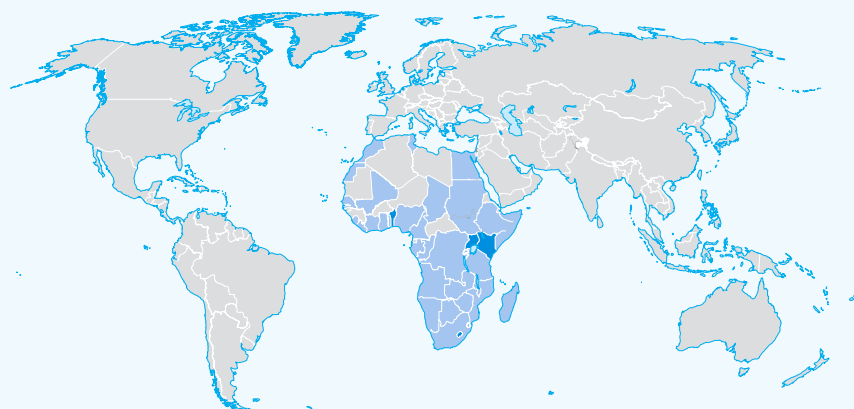
Linking academia and local communities for enhancing sustainable agriculture and reducing rural poverty in Africa

The partnership between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)

MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITIES:

- Increase students' and researchers' access to FAO's e-learning resources and scientific publications on food and agriculture;
- Increase youth skills through involvement in community-based field projects and FAO's regional and country level initiatives;
- Develop joint initiatives to strengthen capacities of RUFORUM member universities in the areas critical to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation;
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder dialogue to advocate for the best policies and practices to achieve food security and the SDGs in Africa.

■ Countries where CFAPA program was implemented
■ Countries with RUFORUM member universities



Source: United Nations Map No. 4170 Rev. 18.1, February 2020

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

COMMUNITY-BASED FIELD ATTACHMENT (CFAPA) PROGRAM

In 2018 RUFORUM in collaboration with FAO implemented a CFAPA program. The program aimed to promote youth support for the SDGs and in particular, SDG2.

CFAPA program was designed as graduate student placement in rural community to apply, scale-out and disseminate students' research findings, which can contribute to the increasing of sustainability and resilience of small-scale agriculture, improving livelihoods and reducing rural poverty.

Ten field projects of six months duration were implemented by students from RUFORUM member universities in rural communities in **Benin, Kenya, Lesotho and Uganda**

CONTRIBUTING TO



KEY RESULTS

01

Increased knowledge and uptake of the innovative approaches and methods for improved food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and livestock production in target rural communities

02

Enhanced transferable skills of students, such as networking, advocacy communication, leadership, teamwork and entrepreneurship skills. In particular, students noted that the field attachment helped them to build networks with various stakeholders in rural areas for potential future exchanges, dissemination or employment opportunities.

03

Enhanced students' knowledge on traditional agricultural practices in rural areas and identified themes for potential future research reflecting rural community needs.

04

Strengthened students' capacities to develop practical solutions applicable in the field to address local issues related to food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, rural poverty reduction.

05

Enhanced visibility and relevance of Universities and academic community and strengthened knowledge exchanges on approaches for improving sustainable rural livelihoods between academia, farmers and other stakeholders, including local farmer organizations, traders, veterinary services and extension workers, rural community leaders.

LOOKING
FORWARD

In the context of achieving the SDGs, these field placements can be a part of solution to strengthen agricultural innovation and knowledge transfer to farmers and rural communities' and also to contribute to developing high-level skills necessary to service the sustainable agricultural transformation. There are many opportunities to upscale CFPA program:

- Such trainings should be a part of established University curricula to allow students of agricultural sciences gain practical experience with field projects
- The trainings should be extended with sufficient funding to allow practical methods of dissemination of

technologies and innovations with communities

- In collaboration with other academia partners, the community-based field-projects could be implemented in Africa and up-scaled in other regions to increase the uptake of innovative solutions to address local challenges linked to food security and sustainable agriculture
- Through supporting such community-based placements FAO can contribute to both developing capacity of agricultural professionals and rural communities in the context of improving food security, rural livelihoods and achieving the SDGs.

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AREAS OF COLLABORATION

FAO and RUFORUM have been collaborating to strengthen the capacities of RUFORUM member universities to better contribute to food security and nutrition, sustainable agricultural and food systems, reduction of rural poverty and achievement of the SDGs in Africa.

ABOUT RUFORUM

RUFORUM is FAO's partner since 2017.

Founded in 2004, RUFORUM is a consortium of 126 universities operating within 38 countries in Africa. RUFORUM works to strengthen the capacities of African universities to foster innovation, train agricultural professionals, produce impact-oriented research and enhance collaboration between academia and farmers, national agricultural research institutions and governments.