

# Press Release



1<sup>st</sup> September 2023

## Government of Uganda Signs Historic Charter with RUFORUM



*The Acting Minister of State for Education and Sports (Higher Education), Hon. John Chrysostom Muyingo, signing the Charter*

Kampala, Uganda – In a momentous development for the agricultural sector in Uganda, the Government of Uganda has formally signed the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) Charter. This historic event marks a significant commitment to advancing agricultural education, research, and innovation in the nation.

RUFORUM, a consortium of 163 universities across 40 African countries, has been at the forefront of fostering higher education and research in agriculture. The signing of the charter solidifies Uganda's dedication to enhancing its agricultural capabilities and promoting sustainable food security.

Representatives from RUFORUM and leaders from the Ministry of education attended the ceremony, held at the Ministry of Education and Sports. The Acting Minister of State for Education and Sports (Higher Education), Hon. Dr John Chrysostom Muyingo, presided over the signing ceremony, stating, "This is a momentous occasion for Uganda. The signing of the RUFORUM Charter reflects our commitment to transforming agriculture into a vibrant, innovative, and knowledge-driven sector." The Honorable Minister commended RUFORUM for

championing agricultural research and innovation in Africa and for linking universities and TVET institutions.

The RUFORUM Executive Secretary, Prof. Patrick Okori, expressed gratitude for Uganda's commitment to higher agricultural and tertiary education, stating, "This is a remarkable step forward for Uganda and for RUFORUM. We look forward to a fruitful partnership that will contribute to agricultural transformation in the region." The signing of the charter is important because 1) Uganda's signing of the charter holds immense significance to RUFORUM as Network of Universities with membership in 40 countries across the African continent, 2) It reaffirms Uganda's commitment to fostering pan-African cooperation in higher and tertiary agricultural education and 3); it underscores Uganda Governments' dedication to working with international organizations and partners 4), It creates opportunities for increased support, knowledge sharing, and collaboration in the realm of agriculture and related science disciplines and higher education.

The signing of the RUFORUM Charter represents a significant milestone in Uganda's journey towards agricultural excellence. By collaborating with RUFORUM, the government aims to harness the potential of its youth and academic institutions to drive agricultural innovation and sustainable development.

#### **Notes to Editors:**

---

#### **About RUFORUM:**

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), is a consortium of 163 African universities operating in 40 countries on the continent. RUFORUM's mission is 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'. Vice Chancellors established RUFORUM in 2004 with a Secretariat hosted at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. In 2014, RUFORUM signed a 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. Please visit [www.ruforum.org](http://www.ruforum.org) for more information.

For additional information, see contact below.

---

#### **Contacts:**

**Name:** Evaline Acan      Corporate Communications  
and Advocacy Officer

**Email:**  
[communications@ruforum.org](mailto:communications@ruforum.org)

---