

Strengthening Collaborative Forces: FARA-AFAAS Leaders Visit RUFORUM to Strengthen African Agricultural Development

Kampala, Uganda - In a bid to tackle the pressing challenges in Africa's Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) system, the [FARA](#) Executive Director, Dr. Aggrey Agumya and Dr Silim Nahdy, Executive Secretary of [AFAAS](#) paid a courtesy visit to the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture ([RUFORUM](#)). The meeting aimed at strengthening the relationship between FARA-AFAAS and RUFORUM in strengthening Africa's Agricultural value chains.



The meeting highlighted the pivotal role that collaborative efforts among these apex bodies - FARA, AFAAS, and RUFORUM - play in shaping agricultural policies, resource allocation, technology delivery and mobilizing the youth to grow the agricultural sector across the continent. The leaders agreed in their call for enhanced coordination and cooperation, envisioning a synergistic approach that capitalizes on the unique strengths of each organization.

Dr. Sokona, RUFORUM's Executive Assistant in charge of Partnerships, stressed the importance of multi-stakeholder collaborations to meet the different challenges that face Africa's agriculture sector. As RUFORUM maintains its unwavering commitment to nurturing emerging talent, facilitating agricultural research, and driving innovation for a transformative impact on Africa's agricultural landscape, FARA's strategic focus lies in coordinating and advocating for agricultural research for development (AR4D), while AFAAS channels its efforts into bolstering national Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services.

The concerted efforts of these organizations aim to address some of the most pressing challenges impeding the progress of the African agricultural sector including:

The scarcity of scientific expertise across different regions of Africa has been a persistent obstacle. The leaders of the three organizations emphasized the urgency of investing in capacity building for researchers and scientists, tailored to the unique agricultural context of the continent. The meeting explored strategies to foster closer collaboration between universities, research institutions, and other agricultural stakeholders to strengthen the knowledge generation and its practical application capacity.

Acknowledging the current under-resourced state of agricultural extension and advisory services, the meeting highlighted the need for increased investment in these critical areas. Ensuring that farmers have access to the guidance and support necessary to adopt innovative agricultural practices, sourced from higher learning institutions, emerged as one of the priorities. Additionally, discussions centered on rectifying the deficiencies in the input market system, emphasizing the importance of addressing issues related to quality, quantity, and timely accessibility of agricultural inputs and extension services.

The meeting acknowledged the existence of dysfunctional value chains in critical segments, hindering the growth of the Agricultural sector. Consequently, the FARA, AFAAS and RUFORUM leaders stressed the need to prioritize research that strengthens the connections between startups and larger businesses, boosting innovation and translating agricultural innovations into tangible products and services.

The meeting concluded on a forward-looking note, with Prof. Patrick Okori, RUFORUM's Executive Secretary, extending a warm invitation to Dr. Aggrey Agumya and Dr. Silim Nahdy to the 19th RUFORUM Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled to take place in Yaoundé, Cameroon from October 28th - November 2nd, 2023. For additional details about the upcoming AGM, visit the official website: <https://www.ruforum.org/AGM2023/>