

Press Release



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American University of Beirut (AUB) signs memorandum of understanding with RUFORUM

Kampala, 26th February 2021. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on 24th February 2021 between the American University of Beirut (AUB) through its Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS) and The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM, a consortium of 129 African universities in 38 African countries). The purpose of the MoU is to provide a framework for collaboration and partnership between RUFORUM and AUB in areas including but not limited to staff exchanges, research, teaching, training and academic dialogue on issues related to relevant and quality higher education, agriculture, food systems, poverty reduction and global development.

The two institutions will therefore cooperate in areas including but not limited to; exchange of information and knowledge, students, faculty and research scholars. They will also collaborate in development and implementation of joint research projects and programmes of mutual interest, organization of events, seminars, workshops and conferences in the thematic areas of interest, hold dialogues and consultations to develop new strategic directions and develop and implement new educational programmes and projects in the thematic areas of cooperation.

The two institutions believe that this cooperation will improve the contribution of their partner institutions in training quality human resources to address agricultural, environmental and global development challenges.

Note to Editors

About RUFORUM:

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), is a consortium of 129 African universities operating in 38 countries on the continent with a mission 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’. RUFORUM was established by Vice Chancellors 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. RUFORUM has supported the training of 1958 MSc and 536 PhD graduates, of whom 98% work in their countries or region, the generation of over 300 agricultural technologies and mobilized over US\$214.9 million for strengthening postgraduate education in Africa. Please visit www.ruforum.org for more information.

About the American University of Beirut (AUB)

The American University of Beirut (AUB), founded in 1866, is a private teaching-centered research university which is governed by an autonomous secular Board of Trustees, and is recognized as one of leading universities in the Near East. AUB offers more than 120 programs leading to the bachelor, master and PhD degrees and has fostered careers in diplomacy, business, education, science, medicine, and in cultural spheres for the benefit of the region and the world.

AUB also aims to contribute to the development of society through generation and dissemination of knowledge and advancement of research that can be applied to many sectors for the achievement of food security and sustainable development with a view to contribute to the improvement of livelihoods in the Near East and beyond. And whereas the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences has been a pioneering center in Agricultural Research in the Middle East region in general and Lebanon in particular since its establishment in 1952.

For additional information, photos and interviews, contact the Corporate Communications, and Specialist officer below.

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