



MOOCs4D: Potential at the Bottom of the Pyramid



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Information, Communication & Knowledge Management: Review of Progress

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Role of Information, Communication & Knowledge Management

- ❑ **A Program for the Member Universities:** OER; eLearning; MOOC feasibility study; institutional repository & website
- ❑ **Communication Management:** Communication strategy; developing various communication products
- ❑ **Knowledge Management:** Managing the RUFORUM knowledge platforms – website, Institutional Repository, social media platforms and other e-platforms
- ❑ **Digitization at the Secretariat:** Management Information Systems design; the Intranet;

The Rationale for the ICT Program

- ❑ Tapping global, ICT innovations in university education
- ❑ eLearning to improve access to RUFORUM core programs
- ❑ Projecting RUFORUM through the website
- ❑ Managing agricultural knowledge in the region
- ❑ A targeted communications strategy

Phase I - ICT Program Achievements

Milestones	Achievements
Groundwork for effective ICT implementation at RUFORUM universities	Situation analysis of ICT capability & infrastructure ; Review meetings; ICT Policy Briefs
Technology-mediated learning, teaching and research	30 e-courses as OER; 26 universities have access to TEEAL; IL and Web2.0 Training; 5 universities developed e-learning policies and strategies
Better dissemination of agricultural research	+5000 community mailing list; +400 FB alumni group; Institutional Repository; Newsletters, case studies +50000 website hits
Secretariat capacity to manage information needs of RUFORUM	General ICT related support; Secretariat-wide MIS requirements; MIS Phase I completed – Network databases and online reporting by PIs

Phase II – ICT Program Components & Progress

Milestones	Progress
Additional RUFORUM MIS Modules developed and implemented	Online scholarship Application Module completed Online Grants Application Module ongoing
RUFORUM Finance System implemented by month 9	Completed
RUFORUM local area network installed by month 6	
RUFORUM Communication Strategy in place by month 6	Ongoing <i>with technology sometimes everything takes longer than originally envisaged</i>
RUFORUM Institutional Repository populated with 80% of the available RUFORUM publications and related e-resources by end of first year	
Website improvements implemented by month 12	
Publications produced 6 newsletters, 10 research briefs / case studies and 50 extended research abstracts by month 9	
MOOC proposal for funding submitted to the Gates Foundation by month 6	Planning meeting held in Kampala Stakeholders meeting in May 2014

Evidence that the ICT Program has delivered (I)

- ❑ 5 out of 7 universities that we interacted with have designed e-learning policies
- ❑ 16/26 universities have updated to the latest TEEAL version
 - CABI RUFORUM collaboration
- ❑ Universities renewed Genstat after the 3-year license ended in March 2013
- ❑ Website page requests: 198 in August 2009
 - In Dec 2013 page requests increased to 51,075
- ❑ Virtual Community of Alumni did not exist in 2009.
 - In April 2014: 437 members
- ❑ Over 1000 resources being uploaded onto the Institutional Repository

Evidence that the ICT Program has delivered (II)

- ❑ +5,000 profiles in the web-based RUFORUM community database
- ❑ 50 online reports submitted by Principal Investigators
- ❑ 70 submitted scholarship applications online in response to the currently open research methods call
 - 300 created accounts in response to the call
- ❑ RUFORUM IR featured by the Agricultural Information Management Standards (<http://aims.fao.org/community/agridrupal/blogs/ruforum-adopted-agridrupal-solution-their-institutional-repository>)

Gaps and lessons

- ❑ To a large extent, gaps identified in the situation analysis of member universities remain today
- ❑ Demand for ICT related support is high
 - We cannot address all problems
- ❑ Sustainability of ICT interventions remains a challenge
- ❑ We need to organize ourselves better to support universities integrate ICT for teaching learning and research
 - Use of champions and ICT working group

ICT Program Value proposition: to Member Universities

- High expectations from new member universities
- New methods to meet these expectations
- Use ICT as a tool for outreach
- Established member universities
- Use ICT to create visibility of programs and research

ICT Program Value proposition: for the Secretariat

- ❑ A strong ICT platform at the secretariat and a program to support outreach to member universities
- ❑ A way of keeping the business plan balanced and focused

Value Proposition: ICT Community of Practice

- ❑ Convert ICT Working Group into a community of practice / cluster
 - Members must see it as attractive to be part of the RUFORUM ICT Working Group
 - Provide oversight to the implementation of ICT Program
 - Needs management support
 - Facilitate meetings and networking
- ❑ Sustain the CoPs – through use of ICT tools

Modeling Best Practices - Opportunities

RUFORUM ICT Program: a Signature Program

- ❑ Pilot Innovations (support capacities of member universities) in:
 - E-learning/OER - build on work done with e-learning champions
 - Track alumni, e-mentoring, research support and e-profiling
 - Virtual Communities of Practice
 - Systems for monitoring, evaluating, accountability and learning
- ❑ MOOC feasibility study

ICT Assessment: Issues and Lessons

Lynam et al (July 2013)

- ❑ Matching a small unit to a broad mandate
- ❑ Step-wise building of connectivity and systems
- ❑ Continuing assessment of member ICT capacities
- ❑ An ICT Community of Practice
- ❑ Continued improvement of website
- ❑ Communications and eLearning need to be prioritized

Future Directions

- ❑ Timing is appropriate to expand eLearning capacity
- ❑ Develop more regional grounding in OERs and e-based course materials – MOOCs feasibility
- ❑ Knowledge management in core thematic areas
- ❑ A communications strategy for a differentiated set of stakeholders
- ❑ Continue to improve MIS at the Secretariat

Thank
you



The RUFORUM Network Celebrates 10 years as a network of Universities and 22 years of addressing Higher Agricultural Education issues in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa.

