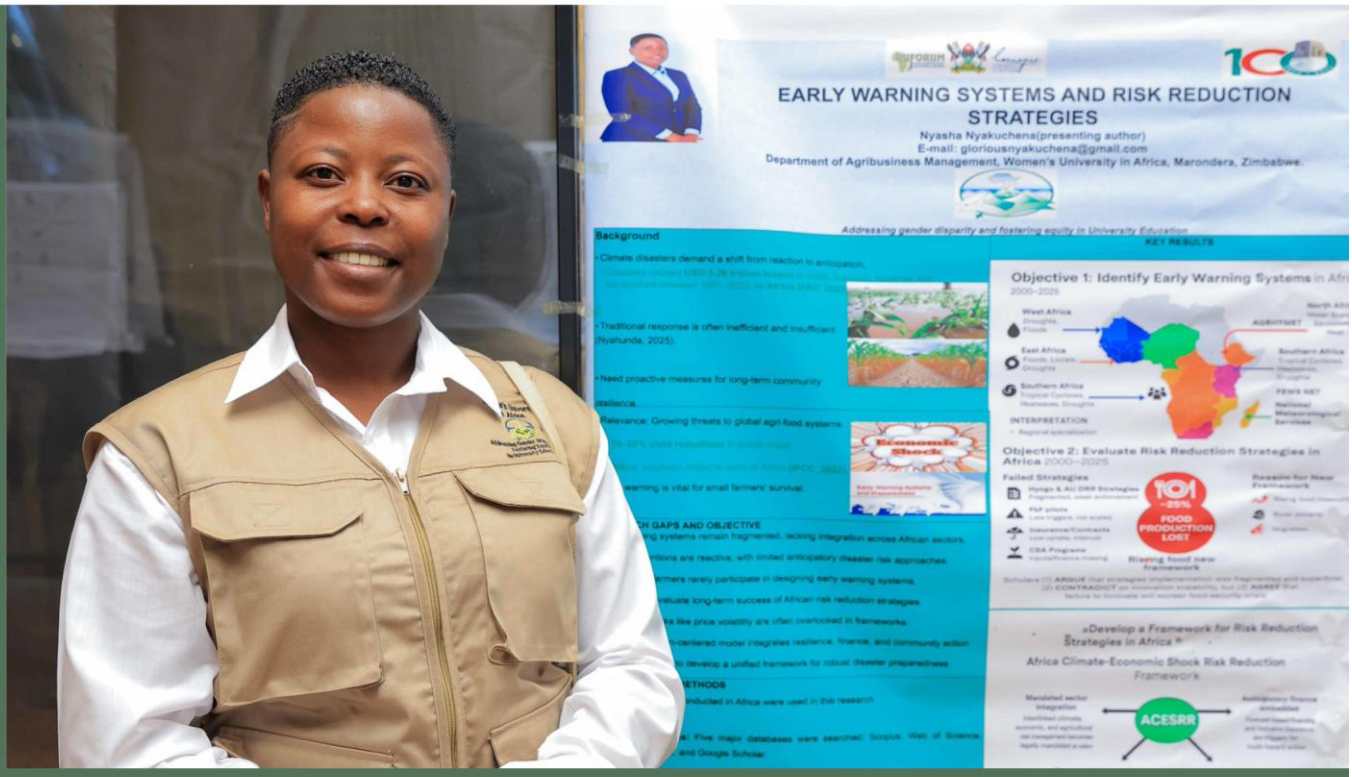
22ND RUFORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ZAMBIA2026
30 Nov-04 Dec.

RUFORUM
Capacity Building in Agriculture



ONLINE REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE: SCIENCE EXPOSURE AND MENTORING EMERGING SCIENTISTS ACROSS AFRICA

POSTER PRESENTATION PROGRAMME

Webinar C

Registration link: https://bit.ly/4yFiXLR

23-27 November 2026 | 10:00–12:30 CAT

OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME AND ITS LINKS TO THE AGM THEMATIC AREAS

The poster webinar of the Online Regional Scientific Conference brings together 41 poster presentations by postgraduate students and early-career researchers from across the RUFORUM network over five days (23–27 November 2026, 10:00–12:30 CAT). The posters are organised in five sessions, one per day, and each session is supported by a co-opted member of the Poster Evaluation Committee. Each poster has a 10-minute slot, followed by blocks of questions, answers and poster evaluation feedback led by the Webinar Chair and the Poster Evaluation Committee. The sessions align with the four thematic areas of the 22nd RUFORUM AGM as follows:

AGM thematic area	Programme sessions
Theme 1: Enhance Africa's human capital to drive the continent's development	**Session 5 (Poster):** Human Capital, Education and Capacity Sharing
Theme 2: Building a resilient and productive economy	**Sessions 1–4 (Poster)**
Theme 3: Harnessing African universities and partner opportunities for mission delivery	**All sessions (Poster)**
Theme 4: Capacity sharing to train the next generation	**Session 5 (Poster):** Human Capital, Education and Capacity Sharing

The conference gives emerging scientists from across the continent a platform to present their work, receive mentoring and connect with peers. Its strong focus on Theme 2 is complemented by dedicated sessions on human capital, universities and capacity sharing, preparing the next generation to contribute to the AGM deliberations.

POSTER EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The Poster Evaluation Committee consists of the two Co-Chairs, the two Rapporteurs and the Co-opted Member of the day. The committee scores each poster and gives one strength and one improvement during the Questions, Answers and Poster Evaluation Feedback blocks.

Co-Chairs: Professor Gillian Kabwe, Copperbelt University, Zambia; Dr. Ssemakula Joseph, Uganda Martyrs University, Uganda
Dr. Ssemakula Joseph, Uganda Martyrs University, Uganda

Rapporteurs: Mr. Ahmed B. O. Abdelmajid, Makerere University, Uganda / Agricultural Research Corporation, Sudan; Mr. Artur Fernando, Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), Uganda
Co-opted Member: one per day, as listed under each session.

PROGRAMME OF POSTER PRESENTATIONS

DAY ONE:

MONDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2026 (10:00–12:20 CAT)

Session 1: Soils, Crop Production and Plant Protection

Co-opted Member: Dr. Patrick Musinguzi, Makerere University, Uganda

Time (CAT)	Session / Presentation	Presenter / Responsible
10:00–10:10	Welcome Remarks and Introduction of the Webinar	Webinar Chair
10:10–10:20	Abstract 001-PP: Evaluation of Alternative Amendments to Soil Acidity and their Effects on Wheat Yield	Belstie Lulie Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia
10:20–10:30	Abstract 002-PP: Geospatial Assessment of Soil Physical Characteristics for Climate-Resilient Agrifood Systems in the Shire River Basin, Malawi	Daniel Hussein Mzuzu University, Malawi
10:30–10:40	Abstract 003-PP: Soil Physicochemical Drivers of Stress Tolerance in Indigenous Bambara Groundnut Rhizobia	Keletso C. Mohale University of South Africa, South Africa
10:40–10:50	Abstract 004-PP: Assessment of Variability among Striga hermonthica Populations in Sudan Using SSR Markers	Babiker M. E. Abderhman Agricultural Research Corporation, Sudan
10:50–11:05	Questions, Answers and Poster Evaluation Feedback	Webinar Chair and Poster Evaluation Committee
11:05–11:15	Break	
11:15–11:25	Abstract 005-PP: Effect of Intra-Row Spacing on Onion Yield and Quality of “Baftiam S” under Khartoum State Conditions	Aisha A. Mohammedali Agricultural Research Corporation, Sudan

11:25–11:35	Abstract 006-PP: Optimizing Growing Media for Sustainable Turfgrass Sod Production under Arid Conditions in Sudan	Mariam A. M. Elmahdi Sudan University of Science and Technology, Sudan
11:35–11:45	Abstract 007-PP: Effect of Humidity on Watermelon (Citrullus lanatus)	Jima Biel Nguen Dr. John Garang Memorial University of Science and Technology, South Sudan
11:45–11:55	Abstract 008-PP: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Potato Tuber Cracking	Charachimwe Reason R. Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique
11:55–12:10	Questions, Answers and Poster Evaluation Feedback	Webinar Chair and Poster Evaluation Committee
12:10–12:20	Closing Remarks and Key Messages of the Day	Webinar Chair

DAY TWO:

TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2026 (10:00–12:20 CAT)

Session 2: Climate Resilience, Adaptation and Food Security

Co-opted Member: Professor Muna M. Elhag, University of Gezira, Sudan

Time (CAT)	Session / Presentation	Presenter / Responsible
10:00–10:10	Welcome Remarks and Introduction of the Webinar	Webinar Chair
10:10–10:20	Abstract 009-PP: Food Security Impact of Climate Change Responses in the Rural Areas of Tigray, Ethiopia	Zenebe Abraha Mekelle University, Ethiopia
10:20–10:30	Abstract 010-PP: From Scarcity to Socio-Ecological Resilience: A Policy-Oriented Synthesis of Gadaa-Based Climate Adaptation in Changing Agri-food Systems	Ayalew Abdissa Amenu Mettu University, Ethiopia
10:30–10:40	Abstract 011-PP: Examining Climate Change and Food Security Disparities through a Gender-Specific Lens: An Agroforestry Systems Analysis in Multiple Countries of Africa	Mekonen Getachew Abebe Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia
10:40–10:50	Abstract 012-PP: Scaling Climate-Smart Agriculture for Food Security and Rural Livelihoods in Nigeria: Pathways for Adaptation and Mitigation	Davis Simiyu Masibo Egerton University, Kenya
10:50–11:05	Questions, Answers and Poster Evaluation Feedback	Webinar Chair and Poster Evaluation Committee
11:05–11:15	Break	
11:15–11:25	Abstract 013-PP: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Climate-Smart Agriculture: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Enhancing Resilience among Smallholder Farmers in Zambia	Edward Alolo Maasai Mara University, Kenya
11:25–11:35	Abstract 014-PP: Climate Monitoring Essentials for Sustainable Development Goal Success	Yinusa Babatunde Federal College of Agriculture, Akure, Nigeria
11:35–11:45	Abstract 015-PP: Integrating Climate Change into East Africa's Agricultural Trade Policies	Aisha Namirembe Makerere University, Uganda
11:45–11:55	Abstract 016-PP: Toward Resilient Agrifood Systems: A Climate-Smart Integrative Framework for Smallholder Transformation in Africa	Edith Matema Women's University in Africa, Zimbabwe
11:55–12:10	Questions, Answers and Poster Evaluation Feedback	Webinar Chair and Poster Evaluation Committee
12:10–12:20	Closing Remarks and Key Messages of the Day	Webinar Chair

DAY THREE:

WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2026 (10:00–12:30 CAT)

Session 3: Food, Nutrition, Health and Livestock

Co-opted Member: Mr. Gaius Vihowanou, National University of Agriculture, Benin

Time (CAT)	Session / Presentation	Presenter / Responsible
10:00–10:10	Welcome Remarks and Introduction of the Webinar	Webinar Chair
10:10–10:20	Abstract 017-PP: Development and Evaluation of a Health-Oriented Beverage Derived from Garcinia kola (Bitter Kola)	Forcha Gail Amin Food Development and Innovation Scientist, Buea, Cameroon
10:20–10:30	Abstract 018-PP: Development and Evaluation of a Milk-Based Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) for Management of Moderate Acute Malnutrition	Lwiza Khisa Wabukhonyi University of Eldoret, Kenya
10:30–10:40	Abstract 019-PP: Nutritional Status, Dietary Adequacy, and Factors Associated with Thinness among School-Aged Children Living with HIV Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy in Rural Malawi	Liyali Libonda and Chifundo Makwinja Eden University, Zambia / AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Malawi
10:40–10:50	Abstract 020-PP: Antioxidant Profiling of Gongronema latifolium Leaf Fractions and Prospects for Machine Learning-Driven Nutraceutical Development in Nigeria	Jonathan Achika Ilemona Federal University Lokoja, Nigeria
10:50–11:05	Questions, Answers and Poster Evaluation Feedback	Webinar Chair and Poster Evaluation Committee
11:05–11:15	Break	
11:15–11:25	Abstract 021-PP: Biochemical Evaluation of the Antidiabetic Properties of Brassica oleracea var. italica Extracts: Implications for Functional Food Value Chains in Zimbabwe	Nyasha Sibanda University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
11:25–11:35	Abstract 022-PP: In Vitro Acaricidal Evaluation of Solanum incanum against the Ticks Rhipicephalus decoloratus and Rhipicephalus appendiculatus	Kiprono Jeremiah University of Eldoret, Kenya
11:35–11:45	Abstract 023-PP: A Review of Climate Adaptation Forage Systems: Implications for Sustainable Livestock Production	Yonela Maziko University of South Africa, South Africa
11:45–11:55	Abstract 024-PP: Nutritional and Bioactive Potential of Tree Lucerne (Chamaecytisus palmensis) as a Climate-Resilient Feed Resource for Livestock in South Africa	Mokolopi, B. G. University of South Africa, South Africa
11:55–12:05	Abstract 025-PP: Tracing the Translational Pipeline of Ethnoveterinary Plant Products for Livestock Health in Africa: A Systematic Review	Tinotenda Blessing Kaseke Chinhoyi University of Technology, Zimbabwe
12:05–12:20	Questions, Answers and Poster Evaluation Feedback	Webinar Chair and Poster Evaluation Committee
12:20–12:30	Closing Remarks and Key Messages of the Day	Webinar Chair

DAY FOUR:

THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2026 (10:00–12:20 CAT)

Session 4: Agribusiness, Digital Agriculture and Agri-Food Innovation

Co-opted Member: Professor Grivin Chipula, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi

Time (CAT)	Session / Presentation	Presenter / Responsible
10:00–10:10	Welcome Remarks and Introduction of the Webinar	Webinar Chair
10:10–10:20	Abstract 026-PP: Identifying Determinant Factors of Rural Saving and Credit Cooperatives Membership Status in Northwestern Ethiopia	Ayinadis Eneyew Woldia University, Ethiopia
10:20–10:30	Abstract 027-PP: Leveraging Social Media for the Adoption of Improved Farming Practices among Smallholder Farmers: Evidence from Orlu Agricultural Zone, Imo State, Nigeria	Okoronkwo, Ifeanyi Ernest Federal University of Technology Owerri, Nigeria
10:30–10:40	Abstract 028-PP: Bridging the Bio-Digital Divide through Precision Agriculture to Enhance Global Food Security	Azmeraw Goshu Debark University, Ethiopia
10:40–10:50	Abstract 029-PP: The Bio-Digital Nexus: Integrating Genomics and Artificial Intelligence to Accelerate the Breeding of Climate-Smart Crops	Temesgen Asmare Vellore Institute of Technology, India / Ethiopia
10:50–11:05	Questions, Answers and Poster Evaluation Feedback	Webinar Chair and Poster Evaluation Committee
11:05–11:15	Break	
11:15–11:25	Abstract 030-PP: Advancing Sustainable Urban Agriculture: Enhancing Food System Resilience through Wicking Bed Irrigation Technology	Yosherbell Anesu Chindomu University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
11:25–11:35	Abstract 031-PP: Food Waste Valorization: Green-Synthesized TiO_2/Ni Photocatalysis for Hydrogen Production and Leachate Remediation	Evaline W. Gacheru University of Eldoret, Kenya
11:35–11:45	Abstract 032-PP: Assessing the Potential of Honey Production for Rural Livelihoods and Economic Development in South Sudan	Kut Aluong Joseph Gulu University, Uganda
11:45–11:55	Abstract 033-PP: Inclusive Wealth Creation through Youth- and Women-Owned Agribusinesses in Resilient Agrifood Value Chains in Goromonzi District, Zimbabwe	Peter Manyoni and Winnie Bakili Women's University in Africa, Zimbabwe
11:55–12:10	Questions, Answers and Poster Evaluation Feedback	Webinar Chair and Poster Evaluation Committee
12:10–12:20	Closing Remarks and Key Messages of the Day	Webinar Chair

DAY FIVE:

FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2026 (10:00–12:20 CAT)

Session 5: Human Capital, Education and Capacity Sharing

Co-opted Member: Dr. Sarah Akello, Makerere University, Uganda

Time (CAT)	Session / Presentation	Presenter / Responsible
10:00–10:10	Welcome Remarks and Introduction of the Webinar	Webinar Chair
10:10–10:20	Abstract 034-PP: Credentialing the Uncredentialed: Validation of Work-Embedded Technical Skills for Career Advancement in Africa	Anthony Kamau Egerton University, Kenya
10:20–10:30	Abstract 035-PP: Assessing the Consent of the Young Generation on Learning Agricultural Skills and Knowledge	Jima Biel Nguen Dr. John Garang Memorial University of Science and Technology, South Sudan
10:30–10:40	Abstract 036-PP: An Afrocentric Framework for the Integration of Critical Thinking into Geography Higher Education	Gracious Zinyeka Bindura University of Science Education, Zimbabwe
10:40–10:50	Abstract 037-PP: Community-Led Early Childhood Education in Windhoek's Informal Settlements: Decolonising Learning and Building Human Capital	Kevin Wessels New Elementary Namibia
10:50–11:05	Questions, Answers and Poster Evaluation Feedback	Webinar Chair and Poster Evaluation Committee
11:05–11:15	Break	
11:15–11:25	Abstract 038-PP: Strengthening Community Participation in Health Research and Community Health Improvement	Francis Keya African Alliance for Health, Research and Economic Development (AAHRED), Kenya
11:25–11:35	Abstract 039-PP: Scaling Capacity Development in African Universities through Digital Networks and Open Science Platforms	Rinwi Mark Bonzum University of Bamenda, Cameroon
11:35–11:45	Abstract 040-PP: Digital Innovation and Civic Inclusion: Pathways to a Resilient and Productive Sahelian Economy	Bokossa Eude Kaltani Network of Youth and Women Leaders for Active Citizenship (RJFL), Niger
11:45–11:55	Abstract 041-PP: From Knowledge to Market: Intellectual Property Governance and Research Commercialization Pathways in African Universities	Makanzwa Mercy Masunda Harare Institute of Technology, Zimbabwe
11:55–12:10	Questions, Answers and Poster Evaluation Feedback	Webinar Chair and Poster Evaluation Committee
12:10–12:20	Closing Remarks and Key Messages of the Day	Webinar Chair