

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION AGENCY

# NEWSLETTER

## RAE BOARD APPROVES STRATEGIC THRUSTS FOR 2025

The Research and Education Agency (RAE) Board during its Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on the 4th December 2024 reviewed RAE 2024 Annual Report, and approved the 2025 Budget estimates

The same meeting approved the following strategic thrusts: Strengthening operational capacity of the RAE Coordinating Unit; enhancing access to education and skills development for rural youth especially for the girl child and other disadvantaged students including refugees; Digitalization in both operations and interventions; Implementation of at least three initiatives; Resource Mobilization for RAE operations and partnership with collaborating institutions; and Networking and Strengthening Strategic Partnerships for enhanced delivery and quality of RAE services. During the Board meeting the External Audit report for the Financial Year 2024 was also reviewed and approved. Furthermore, the Board identified priority action areas that were appropriate and urgent and agreed that efforts be made to implement at least three projects so that RAE has a footprint on its operations and becomes more visible. The need for RAE to keep its focus on enhancing access to Education and skill development for marginalized groups was emphasized by the Board.

## RAE 2024-2030 Strategic Plan

### Ambition

Transforming Lives through Inclusive Education and Skill Development for Job Creation

### Vision

Vibrant inclusive rural communities that have improved access to good quality information and are employed in generating sustainable livelihoods from agriculture.

### Mission

To ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and job opportunities for underserved, marginalized and vulnerable communities especially in rural Uganda and other parts of Africa, as enablers of human development.

### Strategic Objectives

1. Narrowing the access to education gap (especially for young girls and women and other excluded demography).
2. Addressing the issue of youth unemployment, especially since a vast majority of the youth will not attain university education so as to enhance youth integration into the cash economy as workers and employers of all types.
3. Turning technologies into innovations that improve livelihoods (science in action).
4. Enhancing access to digital technologies and learning for rural schools and communities

### Key thrusts for 2024-2030

**Focus Area 1:** Providing remote populations with greater access to basic education

**Focus Area 2:** Implementing and improving digital learning in communities and schools in remote areas

**Focus Area 3:** Advancing agricultural education through learning labs and school gardens

**Focus Area 4:** Enhancing rural communities access to information for improved agricultural and business innovations

**Focus Area 5:** Boosting rural youth and women's groups participation to harness agricultural value streams' entrepreneurship potential

**Focus Area 6:** Boosting rural communities' ability to withstand climate shocks and encourage the sustainability of the rural environment

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## **Dr. Hatim Elamin appointed to RAE Technical Advisory Committee**

During the RAE Annual Board meeting held on 4th December, 2024, Dr. Hatim Elamin was appointed by the Board as member of the RAE Technical Advisory Committee, a responsibility he accepted to undertake for the achievement of RAE goals.



**Dr. Hatim Elamin**

Dr. Hatim M. A. Elamin currently works at Islamic University in Uganda as the Director for Endowment and a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Agribusiness and Natural Resource Sciences at the same University. Previously, he worked with the Institute of Gum Arabic Research and Desertification Studies at the University of Kordofan in Elobeid, Sudan. He also served as a Technical Specialist: Youth Development and community Engagement in RUFORUM from 2019 – 2022.

## **Research and Education Agency (RAE) and Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for joint undertakings**

On 9th Dec 2024, an MOU was signed between RAE and RUFORUM that is valid for a period of five years. The MOU aims to define the general scope for the cooperation between the two institutions which include collaborative undertaking in the fields of Agricultural Development, Education and Youth skill development, strengthening Research and Community Outreach, joint resource mobilization,

and joint learning. Both parties acknowledged that particular efforts should be made to support human capital development at basic, tertiary and Higher Education levels.

## Forty Institutions sign an MOU with RAE for joint undertaking to foster rural transformation in Africa

Efforts to address challenges limiting rural transformation in Africa require collaborative undertaking amongst a diversity of actors. Africa currently faces a number of challenges including ensuring food and nutritional security and building its capacity to respond to current and future challenges such as in the areas of climate change, environmental health and declining natural resource base. This requires collaborative action among different partner institutions to support initiatives that enhance resilience and productivity of rural communities especially in the agricultural sector. As such RAE and 40 institutions in Benin, Cameroon, DR. Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, and Zimbabwe have signed an MOU for collaborative undertakings in Africa. This MOU specifically aims to support Education of Africa's children and youth at all levels that is from basic, tertiary and higher education as well as strengthening Africa's Science capacity to respond to current and emerging challenges such as climate change. It further aims to strengthen community-based organizations such as women and youth groups for supporting community transformation, and increasing the pool of women scientists in Africa.



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