



## **Transformative Learning and Student Leadership Development Workshop:27-29<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at The University of Nairobi (UoN).**

*Concept note: Transformational learning and student leadership development in undergraduate universities at the global level is a key focus area of GFAR for the years 2018-2021.*

*Agricultural and life science universities and departments around the world are keen to continuously review their programmes to adapt to changes in their dynamic environments. Still, a gap exists in producing the right caliber of university graduates that fits the existing market and societal demands. This is demonstrated by the challenges that meet the new graduates in integrating into their professional and decision making environment, and in finding channels to impact the change processes of their societies and the world.*

*Comprehensive **transformative learning and student leadership development** schemes are needed in our agricultural and life science schools, to develop not only academic skills, but also intellectual, professional, spiritual and emotional aspects of the students. The schemes should inspire, guide and equip the students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to meet their aspirations, access resources and grow into qualified knowledgeable graduates capable of realizing their targeted future through entrepreneurship, leadership, agility, appropriate employability and agri-business venturing, and the ability to innovate and lead the progress of their societies and of research and knowledge in their domains and realize the targeted developmental impact.*

*The aim of the **GFAR** collective action on **transformational learning and student leadership development** is to advise and facilitate the reform led by higher education institutions that are partners in **GFAR** through adopting a holistic reform model to be developed by higher education stakeholders. The model that will be developed by the*

*different stakeholders will look into the visions, strategies, governance structures, curricula, learning practices and student life programmes of the participating universities in relation to the outcome they want to achieve of ensuring that their graduates meet the identified demands and expectations and perform as recognized value-added in their environments.*

*This **GFAR** initiative is currently in partnership with RUFORUM, the University of Nairobi, a representative number of universities in Africa, private sector, civil society, farmer organizations, rural youth and women associations and agricultural students associations. The initiative aims at scaling out this reform to other regions – in its second phase – building on the experience gained in Africa and the expertise available there.*

*This **GFAR** collective action aims at:*

- ❖ Establishing a representative platform of stakeholders of higher education from among the different constituencies of **GFAR** and RUFORUM who are willing to join hands on this initiative*
- ❖ Identifying the reform to be undertaken by the participating universities based on representative and equitable dialogue – innovation platform style - of the stakeholders*
- ❖ Formulating a shared framework/roadmap of reform that allows for sharing experiences, stories, challenges and opportunities experienced by each university*
- ❖ Fundraising for the initiative through a joint proposal of this collective action*
- ❖ Working together towards an established and jointly agreed results framework with timelines and milestones to achieve the agreed reform in the participating universities, taking into consideration their different local environments and their specificities.*
- ❖ Documenting the experience and the expertise developed to scale out to other GFAR partners in other regions in the near future.*

*You are invited to join **GFAR** in its initiative on [Transformational Learning and Student Leadership Development](#) in the Schools of Agriculture and Life Sciences.*

*For more information, contact **GFAR** Secretariat at [GFAR-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:GFAR-Secretariat@fao.org) or write to: [Iman.Elkafas@fao.org](mailto:Iman.Elkafas@fao.org)*

Photos courtesy of Professor Agnes Mwang'ombe

