Awakening the sleeping genius in each of us

# AFRICAN RURAL UNIVERSITY
# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - JULY ISSUE 2026





**African Rural University (ARU) successfully conducted elections for its Students' Guild leadership, resulting in the election of a new 14-member Guild Cabinet**

**VISIONARY APPROACH**

Explore how ARU's transformative "Visionary Approach to education and transformation is attracting nominations from global entities

## IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

### MoES Commends ARU for Exemplary Leadership in Competence Based Education and Training (CBET) and Indigenous Knowledge



The Ministry of Education and Sports praised African Rural University (ARU) for its leadership in Competence-Based Education and Training (CBET) and its efforts in preserving African Indigenous Knowledge, recommending that other universities benchmark ARU's model.

## GLOBAL & REGIONAL RECOGNITION



### ARU Shortlisted for Global Award of Excellence in Disruptive Education

The Zairi International Awards recognize institutions redefining higher education through innovation, quality, and lasting impact.

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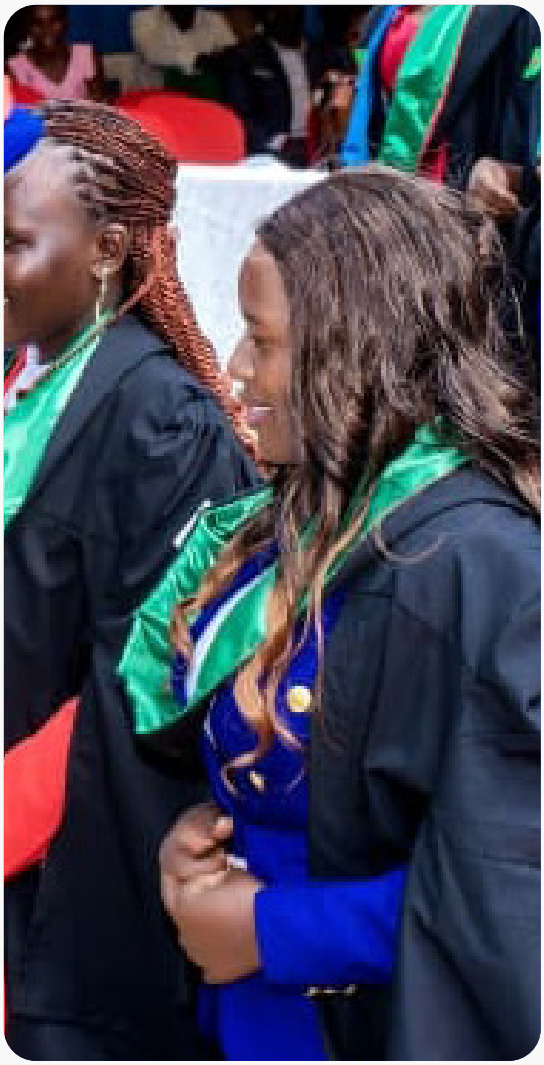
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# A University Rooted in Rural Transformation



Welcome to the First Issue of the African Rural University Newsletter (2026)! The mission of ARU is to create effective change agents within the African context development. ARU education blends theory (60%) and practical application (40%), engaging students in real-life community projects thus fostering the direct link between academic learning and rural transformation

In the first issue of 2026, we spotlight the latest developments and initiatives that embody our vision and mission We also showcase the impactful work of our dedicated faculty, staff, updates on alumnae; rural transformation specialists, and students' life. Looking Ahead, we are excited to share more stories of innovation, learning, and community engagement in future issues. Stay connected with ARU as we continue our journey of transformation.



*ARU STUDENTS DURING FEATURE DAY*



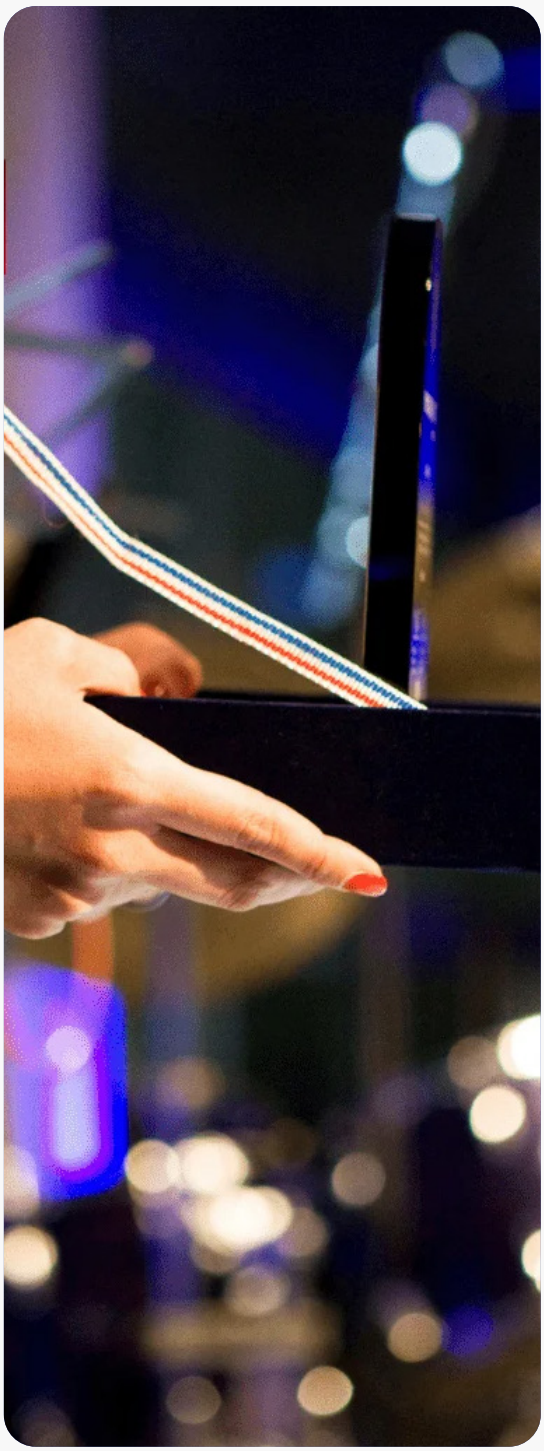
# GLOBAL AND REGIONAL RECOGNITION

## African Rural University Nominated for the Future of Education in Africa Impact Awards 2026

African Rural University (ARU) has been nominated for recognition at the Future of Education in Africa Impact Awards 2026, a prestigious continental platform that celebrates outstanding contributions to education, skills development, innovation, workforce readiness, entrepreneurship, youth empowerment, policy development, and sustainable socio-economic transformation across Africa.

The awards will be presented during the 5th Future of Education in Africa Conference, scheduled to take place on 12–13 November 2026 in Kampala, Uganda. The conference is expected to convene distinguished leaders from government, academia, development organizations, the private sector, and civil society to explore innovative approaches shaping the future of education and workforce development on the continent.

# African Rural University Shortlisted for Global Award of Excellence in Disruptive Education



African Rural University (ARU) has been shortlisted for the prestigious Award of Excellence for Disruptive Education under the 5th Cycle (2025–2026) of the Zairi International Awards, a globally recognized platform that celebrates excellence and transformative impact in higher education.

The announcement was made by The Zairi International Awards, organizers of the international awards programme that recognizes institutions demonstrating innovation, quality, and sustainable impact in advancing higher education across the world.

ARU's shortlisting places the University among a select group of institutions whose educational models are challenging conventional approaches and creating meaningful change in society. The recognition is particularly significant given the highly competitive nature of this year's awards cycle, which attracted submissions from institutions across 31 countries.

According to the awards organizers, the selection process involved a rigorous and independent assessment conducted by the International Assessment Committee. Following this comprehensive review, African Rural University emerged among the top institutions demonstrating strong, measurable, and sustainable impact.




The Zairi International Awards celebrate higher education institutions that demonstrate

excellence and innovation across six key categories. ARU has been recognized alongside top

institutions worldwide for its transformative role in rural development and community

empowerment. Other nominees in our category include Beirut Arab University (BAU), Lebanon

and American International University, Kuwait



# ARU's Milly Muhindo Showcases Visionary Approach to Community Engagement at Groningen University, Netherlands



*Left to right: Alette, International Relations Officer, Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences, University of Groningen; Dr. Dianah Nampija, Makerere University; Milly Muhindo Desire; and Dr. Josje van der Linden, UNESCO Chair Holder for Lifelong Learning, Youth and Work.*

On 25th Thursday, 2026, African Rural University (ARU)'s Ms. Milly Muhindo Desire, Administrator in the Head of Department's Office and Coordinator of the UNESCO Chair Summer School, joined a public academic dialogue at Groningen University in the Netherlands focused on strengthening community-oriented research and education.

The dialogue, themed "Experiences in Community-Oriented Research and Education in Uganda," brought together scholars and practitioners to reflect on how universities can design learning systems that are deeply connected to community realities and development needs.

During the engagement, Ms. Muhindo shared insights from African Rural University's innovative education model, which is anchored in the Visionary Approach.

The session also featured Dr. Dianah Nampija of Makerere University, who contributed perspectives on community-oriented research and the role of African universities in shaping inclusive and locally relevant knowledge systems.

The dialogue provided a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and reinforced the importance of strengthening higher education models that are rooted in community engagement and sustainable development.



# MoES Commends ARU for Exemplary Leadership in Competence Based Education and Training (CBET) and Indigenous Knowledge

The Ministry of Education and Sports has commended African Rural University (ARU) for its leadership in Competence Based Education and Training (CBET) and for preserving African Indigenous Knowledge, adding that other universities should benchmark ARU in this area.

The commendation was made today Friday during a working visit to ARU by Dr. Eric Gitta and Mr. Ochira John Pakony from The Ministry of Education and Sports

The Vice Chancellor, Dr. Mwalimu Musheshe, Senior Ashoka Fellow, received the delegation and briefed them on ARU's background and its unique visionary approach in higher education . He noted that ARU has implemented CBET since its inception through a unique model that blends theory and practice. ARU was also recognized as the first university in Uganda to draft a CBET policy.

> *"Higher education has to adopt a new model of learning. Here at ARU, you are far ahead."*
>
> ***Ministry of Education and Sports***



Dr. Eric Gitta sharing his remarks;

*"The African Union is trying to bring back African Indigenous Knowledge. It is the mandate of Africans to protect and preserve its culture with institutions having a great role to play."*

Addressing staff , Dr. Eric Gitta said ARU's model aligns with the future of higher education in Uganda:
"By 2027 there will be a directive on the kind of knowledge to be imparted to students. Higher education has to adopt a new model of learning. Here at ARU, you are far ahead."

He added that Competence Based Education will begin to take shape in Uganda with the 2027 directive, and ARU is already setting the pace.

The MoES officials also commended ARU's work with women and rural communities as a key contribution to national development.

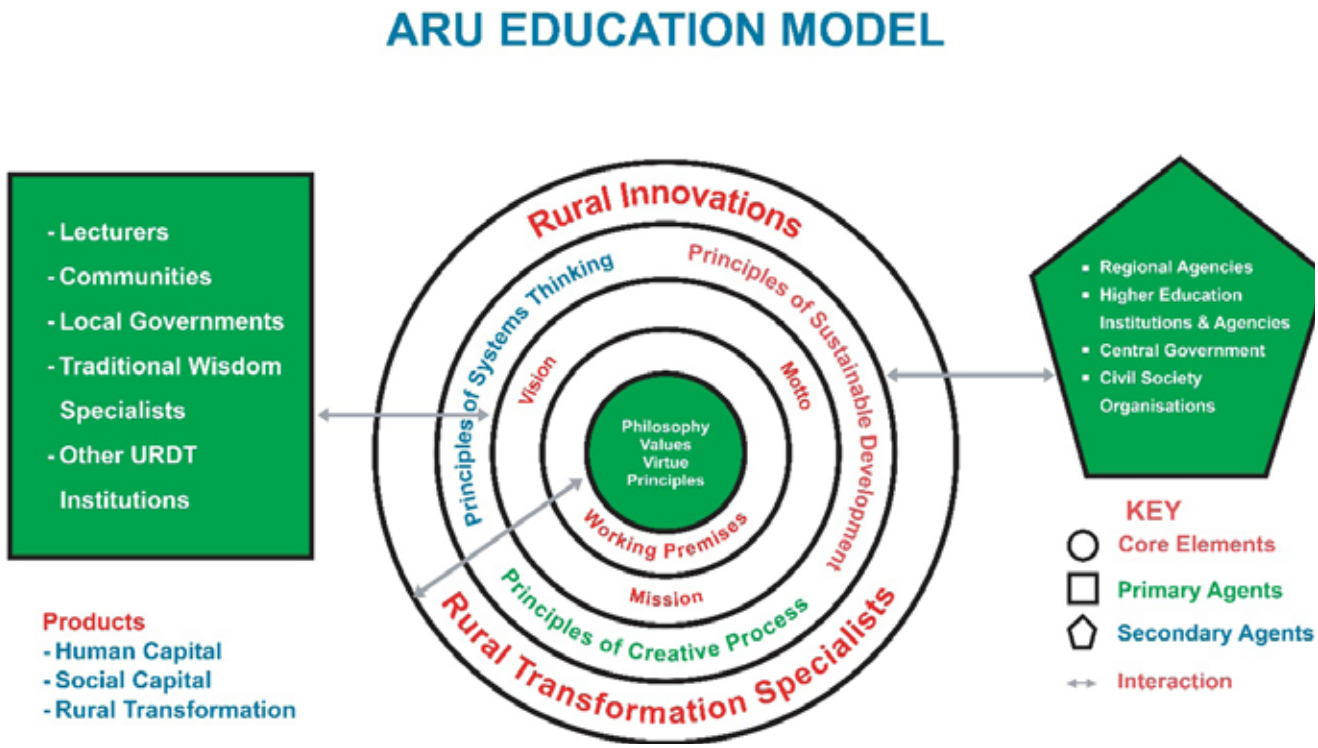
On African Indigenous Knowledge, Dr. Gitta noted "The African Union is trying to bring back African Indigenous Knowledge. It is the mandate of Africans to protect and preserve its culture with institutions having a great role to play."



Mr. Ochira John Pakony was impressed by ARU's work

Because of the unique work ARU is doing through its distinctive approach, Mr. Ochira John Pakony had this to say in summary of the visit.

"We are going to be ambassadors of African Rural University. You deviated from conventional education. We shall tell people to benchmark on how to integrate indigenous knowledge and current education systems. I am going back very happy."




# NCHE Delegation Commends ARU's Community Engagement Model as a Driver of Rural Transformation

The National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) has commended African Rural University (ARU) for its outstanding community engagement model, describing it as a practical demonstration of how higher education can directly contribute to societal transformation and sustainable development.

The recognition was made during a two-day compliance and progress assessment visit to ARU held from 10th–11th June 2026. The NCHE delegation comprised Rev. Dr. Cyrus Ssebugenyi, Dr. Vincent Byamukama, Dr. Kibiringe Ramadhan, and Dr. Emmanuel Ssetuba.

The NCHE team also noted a generally good working environment, high student satisfaction with campus life, and ARU's hands-on approach to learning, guided by a 60–40 competency-based model under the ARU Education Model.



The integration of indigenous knowledge systems and collaboration with traditional wisdom specialists was further highlighted as a distinctive feature of ARU's educational approach.

During the visit, the delegation engaged with ARU leadership, academic staff, students, members of Council, and other key stakeholders to assess the University's progress in implementing its mandate and quality assurance frameworks.



*The NCHE delegation alongside ARU staff touring ARU Graduate building*

The NCHE delegation further encouraged continued strengthening of the University's systems and approaches that promote innovation, quality assurance, and impactful community engagement.



# TEACHING AND LEARNING

# ACADEMIC PROGRESS



## ARU Year Two Students Complete End-of-Semester Examinations

Year Two students at African Rural University (ARU) have successfully completed their end-of-semester examinations, marking the conclusion of an intensive academic period characterized by learning, reflection, and practical engagement.



## ARU Students Finalize Community-Based Research Projects During Field Placements

As part of African Rural University's commitment to experiential learning and community transformation, year four students undertaking internship and field placements have successfully completed their curriculum. These now await graduation !

## The table below highlights the students, their placement areas, research topics, and locations where the studies were conducted.

| NO. | STUDENT NAME | PLACEMENT AREA | RESEARCH TOPIC | LOCATION | DISTRICT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Acirocan Patrisha | Kabasekende Sub County | Socio-economic factors affecting primary school retention | Kudukule Village, Kabasekende | Kibaale |
| 2 | Kunihira Natumanya | Kyeterekera Sub County | Strategies to enhance primary school completion rate | Kakoga Cell, Nyantonzi Ward, Kyeterekera Town Council | Kagadi |
| 3 | Atuhura Monica | Paacwa Sub County | Causes of youth unemployment | Buhumuriro Cell, Paacwa Town Council | Kagadi |
| 4 | Atujuna Ruth | Kabasekende Sub County | Improving access to clean and safe water | Kiruruma Village, Kabasekende | Kibaale |



*students during orientation on community engagement*

# ARU Links Education to Government Programming Through Practical Four-Acre Model Training

As part of 60% theory and 40% practical curriculum, this semester, students have been introduced to the Four Arce Model. The Four-Acre Model is a simple farming approach used in Uganda to help small farmers earn more money from limited land. It is part of Uganda's long-term development plan, Uganda Vision 2040, which aims to turn the country into a modern and prosperous economy. The Four-Acre Model gives students a real-life example of how national policies are implemented at household level. In understanding how smallholder farmers can turn limited land into profitable enterprises, students learn how development ideas move from policy into practice









*ARU staff during the CBET Workshop at the centre for reflection*

# ARU Strengthens Capacity in Competence-Based Education and Training

From 27th July 2026, African Rural University (ARU) conducted a four-day staff workshop on Competence-Based Education and Training (CBET) as part of its ongoing commitment to strengthening quality, relevant and transformative higher education.

ARU has been a fore-runner in promoting competence-based and transformative education, with a longstanding focus on linking academic learning with practical application, community engagement and rural transformation.

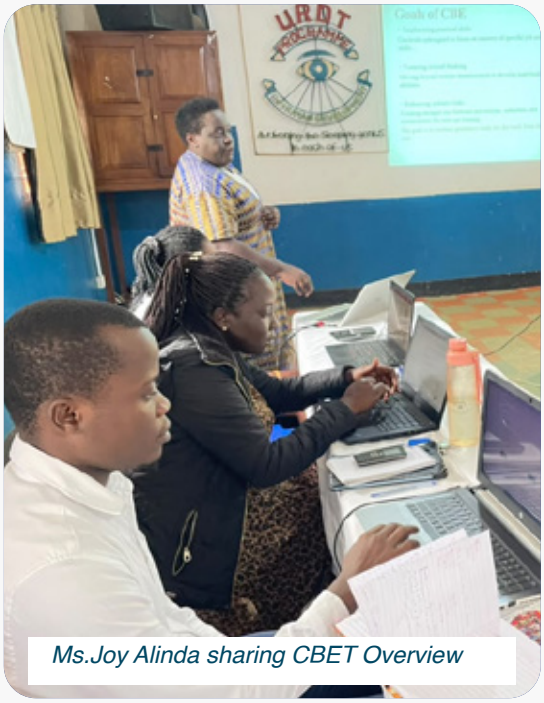
The workshop introduced staff to the foundations of CBET, with key sessions focusing on competence-based curriculum design, assessment approaches, quality assurance standards, and monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

*"Strengthening quality, relevant, and transformative higher education by directly linking academic learning with practical application and rural transformation."*

The engagement also provided an opportunity for staff to reflect on institutional readiness and the practical steps required to design, deliver and assess competence-based programmes

Presentations during the workshop were led by acting Academic Registrar Ms Joy Alinda and ARU Quality Assurance Officer Ms Doloka Namutosi, who guided participants through academic processes, curriculum alignment, quality assurance requirements and continuous improvement mechanisms.

The workshop was guided by the Minimum Standards for Implementing Competence-Based Education and Training (CBET), which provide a framework for higher education institutions to design, implement, assess and assure the quality of competence-based programmes.



*Ms.Joy Alinda sharing CBET Overview*




*Quality assurance officer making a presentation on standards around CBET*

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Immaculate Kyalikunda engaging Community members in a community action planning session in Muhorro Subcounty

# ARU Students Return from Practicum with Enhanced Skills for Rural Transformation



*ARU Student engaging community members on structural tension which involves working towards what you want*

African Rural University (ARU) has welcomed back 41 second-year students after successfully completing the One-Month Village Practicum, a flagship experiential learning programme under the University's competency-based education model, which combines 60% theory and 40% practical learning.

*For one month, 41 ARU students lived, learned, and worked alongside rural families across 19 sub-counties, bringing the Visionary Approach to life.*

The students were deployed on 28 June 2026 to 19 sub-counties across Kagadi, Kakumiro, and Kibaale districts, where they spent one month living with host families of Uganda Rural Development and Training (URDT) Girls School students. The field placement enabled them to bridge classroom learning with real community experience while gaining firsthand exposure to rural transformation.

During the practicum, students applied ARU's Visionary Approach by facilitating community visioning, supporting the

development of Community Action Plans, strengthening household Back Home Projects, and promoting participatory development. They also worked alongside host families, community leaders, and Epicentre Managers—ARU graduates who mentor students and champion the Visionary Approach in their communities.

The practicum strengthened students' competencies in community engagement, leadership, participatory development, and rural transformation while providing practical experience in implementing the Visionary Approach through Model Homes within the URDT Education Continuum.

The One-Month Village Practicum remains one of ARU's flagship programmes, preparing graduates with the practical knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes needed to become effective Rural Transformation Professionals and catalysts for sustainable community development.



*Through immersive community engagement, ARU students don't just study rural transformation—they actively lead it.*



By the end of the practicum, learners are expected would be able to:

To initiate change by working together with communities and groups to catalyze development.

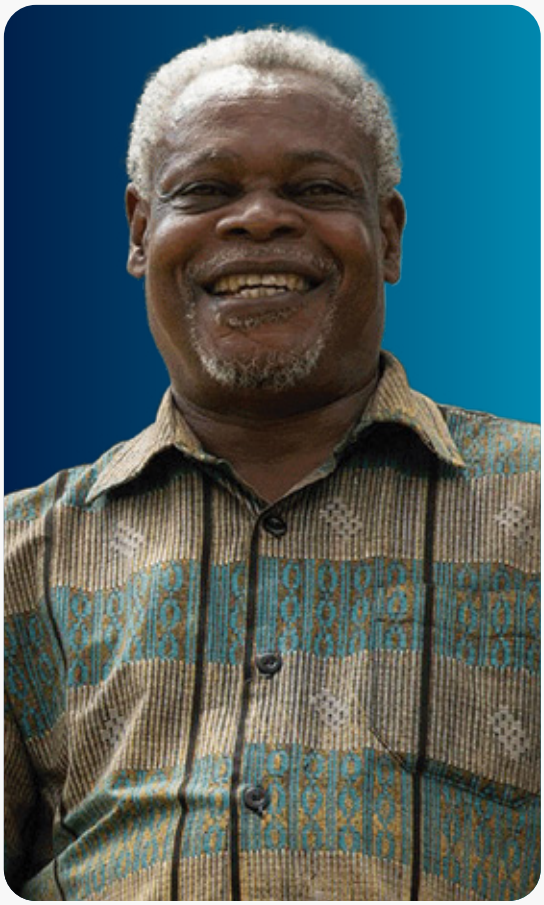
To enable the people, recognize and use the inter-relationship between development technologies, income generation and environment so that they have a holistic approach to Development.

Communicate effectively with individuals, families, groups and communities to influence Rural Transformation.

To facilitate the process of helping people articulate their visions, observe their current realities and recognize the discrepancy.

To facilitate the process of participatory Action Research (PAR) to carry out community projects and do the documentation.

# ARU Vice Chancellor Engages Staff on Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Agriculture During Capacity-Building Session



On Thursday, 25th June 2026, the Vice Chancellor of African Rural University (ARU), Dr. Mwalimu Musheshe, Senior Ashoka Fellow, engaged members of staff during the University's weekly Thursday capacity-building session held in the Senate Boardroom.

The engagement focused on the Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Agriculture (BSSA) programme and formed part of ARU's ongoing efforts to strengthen academic excellence, enhance programme delivery, and align learning with the University's mission of rural transformation.




*Dr Mwalimu facilitating on Sustainable Agriculture during thursday training at ARU Campus*




*A group photo of participants at the event*

## Dr Mwalimu Features on International Panel for Continetal Dialogue

On **27–29 May 2026**, African Rural University (ARU) Vice Chancellor Dr. Mwalimu Musheshe, Senior Ashoka Fellow, participated in the African Union STEM & TVET Pedagogical Innovation Bootcamp held in Kigali, Rwanda, bringing together over 200 educators, policymakers, and industry leaders .

The engagement strengthened continental dialogue on closing the TVET skills mismatch amid projections that Africa's youth population will reach 830 million by 2050. During a panel on *"Digital Tools and Simulation-Based Learning for TVET,"* Dr. Mwalimu shared about the role of ARU and URDT Institute's visionary, practical approach to youth skilling, emphasizing experiential and transformation-centered learning.

*"Closing the continental skills mismatch: Preparing Africa's youth through visionary, experiential, and transformation-centered education."*

# Bunyoro University Task Force Visits ARU for Benchmarking on Community Engagement



*At ARU, education goes beyond the classroom it empowers communities to drive their own transformation.*

African Rural University (ARU) hosted the Bunyoro University Task Force Management Committee for a four-day benchmarking visit from 9–12 March 2026, focusing on ARU's community engagement strategy and visionary education approach.

The delegation participated in meetings and field engagements in Kabasekende Sub-county, Kibaale District, and Masaka B in Katikara Sub-county, Kakumiro District, where they observed firsthand how ARU's education model is applied in community transformation through collective action and socio-economic development initiatives.



Masaka B Women's SACCO members sharing their experiences of the visionary approach during a field engagement with ARU, alongside ARU student Monica Atuhuura, who played a key role in mobilizing and enrolling the group into the approach.

# Community Engagement in Photos(Practicum)









# RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND PUBLICATION






## Arturo and the project initiator Alida Bakema Boon after a presentation on the Mycelium Learning Network

In March ,2026 ,African Rural University (ARU) successfully implemented the Mycelium Project, The Project was coordinated Arturo from the UCI University



During the engagement, capacity building sessions were held for staff and stories around agricultural regenerative pratices were documented in Rural communities where ARU continues to impact indirectly through the epicentre managers to showcase ARU's education model in practice.



*A farmer family learning group together with Epicentre Manager; Anakuya Mary Gorret*



*Arturo interviewing the family starting with the head with Epicentre manager offering support in translation*

Various community projects around Farmer Family Learning Groups were profiled, capturing transformation outcomes at household and community level.





*Mr Kassim showcasing organic manure from cassava peels and leaves which are then applied to the soil to improve soil fertility*



These documented stories have since been published on the Mycelium Project website, further amplifying ARU's contribution to community-led development and experiential learning.

On 12 May 2026, African Rural University (ARU) hosted Indigenous Knowledge Expert Eng. Anke Weisheit, Co-founder and Chair of Innovation and Business Management at PHARMBIOTRAC, alongside Dr. Meshach Ampwera Koshaba, Lecturer and Graduate Research Coordinator at Cavendish University Uganda, for collaboration around indigenous knowledge

The visitors commended ARU's innovative model and its potential for international benchmarking, with Eng. Anke Weisheit noting strong opportunities for institutional advancement. Subsequent discussions with ARU top management identified potential areas for collaboration in teaching, research, publication, innovation, value addition, and community engagement, strengthening ARU's position in the indigenous knowledge and transformation discourse




*Mrs Anke and Dr. Meshach Ampwera Koshaba receiving Annual Report 2025 from Dr Mwalimu Musheshe*

# ARU Engages Huawei Technical Team to Establish Smart Rural Digital Innovation and Training Hub at ARU

On April 17th ,2026, Kugonza Stephen, ARU Systems Administrator and ARU Senior Lecturer; Dr Allawi Ssemanda, made a presentation to the Huawei technical team in Kampala with the sole purpose of establishing a Huawei Smart Rural Digital Innovation & Training Hub at African Rural University, with an investment of USD 25,000.

In the team's presentation , the ARU team shared about the uniqueness of ARU and its work in digitally empowering rural women leaders, the existing digital capacity gaps, and the opportunity for Huawei to partner in building a high-impact, scalable model for rural digital transformation.




*Kugonza Stephen, ARU Systems Administrator with a HUAWEI official after presentation of the proposal*



# PARTNERSHIPS



On 10th April 2026, Makerere University visited African Rural University (ARU) to learn about its unique education model and its strong integration with community-based lifelong learning.

The engagement focused on understanding how ARU's education approach connects teaching, learning, research, and innovation directly to community transformation processes. The visit provided an opportunity for knowledge exchange on ARU's experiential learning model, which emphasizes practical engagement with communities as a core component of lifelong learning.



*Dr Mwalimu engaging the students on the Epicentre strategy and Visionary Approach*



*Makerere University students engaging artisans on field under URDT-I Skilling programme*

# ARU Facilitates Kyambogo University Students' Field Learning on the Visionary Approach



As part of its Community Engagement activities, African Rural University (ARU) supported the hosting and facilitation of field learning for students from Kyambogo University.

The students were taken into selected communities to observe and learn about the impact of the visionary approach in driving social and economic transformation.




*ARU Graduates posing with their certificates together with Participants of the FUE Capacity Building Initiative*

## ARU Graduates Equipped with Work Readiness Skills through FUE Training

African Rural University (ARU) graduates completed a work readiness skills training programme organized by the Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE) on 3 July 2026 at Bujumbura Business School in Hoima City.

The training equipped graduates with essential workplace competencies to enhance their employability and prepare them for successful transition into the labour market.

The skilling initiative is part of FUE's ongoing efforts to strengthen youth employability, promote private sector growth, and bridge the gap between education and industry needs through partnerships with universities, development partners, and employers' networks.

Through this engagement, ARU graduates gained valuable skills to complement their academic and professional training as they pursue opportunities for meaningful contribution to Uganda's workforce.




*From classroom to career, ARU graduates are building the confidence and competencies needed to thrive in the workplace.*



# Strengthening Local Synergies: ARU and Sub-County Leaders Collaborate for Student Field Practicum

As part of African Rural University's competency-based education model, which combines 60% theory and 40% practical learning, 41 ARU students were successfully deployed on Saturday, 28 June 2026, to 19 sub-counties across Kibaale, Kagadi, and Kakumiro districts for practicum and field attachment.

The practicum is a key component of ARU's unique education model, where students bridge classroom learning with real-community experience in rural communities. During the practicum, the students are placed in the homes of children from the Uganda Rural Development and Training (URDT) Girls School, where they live with host families and gain firsthand experience of community life and rural transformation. Throughout the one- month placement, the students are mentored by Epicentre Managers, who are graduates of African Rural University and experienced practitioners implementing the Visionary Approach in the sub counties.

The practicum enables students to apply classroom knowledge while developing practical competencies in community engagement, participatory development, and rural transformation. In addition to learning, the students will support the implementation of back-home projects initiated by URDT children and work closely with host families to strengthen and advance their family visions through the Visionary Approach.

By the end of the practicum, the students are expected to have gained practical knowledge of how the Visionary Approach is implemented in rural communities through Model Homes as part of the URDT Education Continuum. They will also have enhanced their skills in facilitating community development, supporting household transformation, and promoting sustainable rural development through vision-driven action



# PLANNING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION DEPARTMENT



# ARU Staff Form Thematic Groups to Develop Strategic Proposals

African Rural University (ARU) has organized its staff into thematic working groups to develop proposals across key institutional areas, including teaching and learning, community engagement, and traditional wisdom integration.



*Staff co-designing proposals at ARU*

*"ARU staff collaborate across key institutional areas to shape strategic proposals that bridge academic excellence with traditional wisdom."*

# STUDENT AFFAIRS

## ARU Students Elect New 14-Member Guild Cabinet, Inauguration Pending

African Rural University (ARU) successfully conducted elections for its Students' Guild leadership, resulting in the election of a new 14-member Guild Cabinet.

The election process provided students with an opportunity to exercise their democratic rights and choose representatives who will serve as a voice for the student body during their term of office.

The newly elected Guild Cabinet will provide leadership in promoting student engagement, welfare, and participation in university activities. The official inauguration of the new leaders is pending.



*Akampurira Peninah; 12th Guild President of African Rural in Students Workshop as minister of foreign affairs*



**Akampurira Peninah** was elected 12th Guild President of African Rural University



**Noelline Musimenta**; an alumnae from URDT Girls School was elected 12th ARU Vice Guild President

# ARU Student Farm Expands with Poultry and Piggery Enterprises

The African Rural University (ARU) student farm is experiencing massive expansion as part of the University's strong commitment to experiential learning and practical skills development in sustainable agriculture.

Students have successfully constructed a chicken house, which is already established and supporting poultry production activities within the farm.



*The chicken House constructed this semester by ARU students*

In addition to poultry production, students are actively engaged in piggery enterprises, with existing piggery units currently being expanded as part of ongoing student-led agricultural development initiatives.



*The newly enhanced piggery sty*

*Expanding student-led agriculture through hands-on poultry and piggery enterprises—where sustainable farming meets experiential learning.*



# ARU GRADUATES PROGRESS



## Rural Transformation Specialists Deployed as Epicenter Managers in 2026

Over 90 percent of ARU Graduates of 2025 by Uganda Rural Development Training Programme (URDT) to begin the next chapter of their lives as Epicenter Managers. These Rural Transformation Specialists possess key attributes that define an African Rural University (ARU) graduate, making them well-prepared to drive transformation in rural communities.

*These Rural Transformation Specialists possess key attributes that define an African Rural University graduate, making them well-prepared to drive transformation in rural communities.*

# ARU Graduates Lead Implementation of SIYEP Programme After Skilling Over 70,000 Youth



*Moureen Mounida from the SIYEP Programme alongside ARU alumna and Kagadi Epicentre Manager, Grace Kobugenyi (centre), alongside trainees during a SIYEP exhibition showcasing skills, innovations, and entrepreneurship outcomes.*

## ARU Graduates Driving Youth Employment through SIYEP Programme

Following their contribution to skilling more than 70,000 youth under the Young Africa Works Programme, graduates of African Rural University (ARU), known as Rural Transformation Specialists, are now playing a key role in implementing the Sustainable Inclusive Youth Employment Pathways (SIYEP) Programme across Uganda.

Implemented by the Uganda Rural Development and Training Institute (URDT-I) in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, Agency for Accelerated Regional Development (AFARD), and other consortium partners, SIYEP aims to improve

*From skilling 70,000+ youth to supporting 50,000 young women through SIYEP, ARU graduates are driving skills development, mentorship, and community transformation.*

employment opportunities for 50,000 young women aged 18–35 years across 20 districts and four refugee settlements.

Through their roles as Epicentre Managers and Rural Transformation Specialists, ARU graduates support community mobilization, facilitate soft-skills training, provide mentorship, and guide young women in developing sustainable enterprises.

The programme uses URDT-I's Satellite Approach Model, which brings skills training closer to communities through decentralized learning hubs. This approach reduces barriers to participation and ensures that more young women, including those in rural and refugee communities, can access relevant skills and employment pathways.

Combining practical and entrepreneurial training, SIYEP equips participants with market-driven skills in areas such as agribusiness, value addition, climate-smart agriculture, tailoring, catering, construction, hairdressing, and electronics.

Through SIYEP, ARU graduates continue to demonstrate the power of the Visionary Approach in transforming communities and creating pathways for dignified employment among young people



*Trainees and artisan and examiner engaging agri-business trainees in an assessment at ARU Campus*



*Groningen university visit*


















# AFRICAN RURAL UNIVERSITY

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