



Awakening the sleeping
genius in each of us

AFRICAN RURAL UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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PREAMBLE

African Rural University (ARU) is delighted to present its Annual Report for the year 2023. This comprehensive document offers a detailed overview of the university's accomplishments, obstacles faced, and strides made in the advancement of rural transformation through higher education.

The report begins by illuminating the University Governance structure, examining the various levels of governance, and shedding light on activities within administrative units such as the staff association and guild union. Some of these activities are visually documented, providing tangible evidence of their occurrence.

The core section of this report delves into essential University activities. Central to any institution of higher learning is the endeavor of teaching and learning. As such, the report encompasses aspects such as academic programs, student enrollment statistics, available teaching facilities, library resources, provision of e-library resources, computer and internet facilities, and a comprehensive list of graduating students.

Community engagement holds a pivotal role in the ARU mission, and this annual report spotlights the University's community engagement initiatives undertaken by students, as well as research consultancies conducted by African Rural University.

In its concluding segment, the report offers a detailed financial overview. It includes information on partnerships, sources of university income, expenditure, and outlines plans for ARU's trajectory in 2024.

THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD



**Professor
Kyamanywa Samuel**

Dear Members of the ARU Community and Stakeholders,

It is with a deep sense of pride and gratitude that I present the foreword for the African Rural University's (ARU) Annual Report for the year 2023. As the Chairman of ARU, I am honored to reflect on the remarkable journey we have undertaken in the pursuit of women led rural transformation and development within the African context.

Before I go any further, I wish to thank and acknowledge the tremendous contribution of our Chairman of Council the Late Hon Joyce Mpanga to the development of ARU. Hon Mpanga was forerunner for women empowerment and for that, we dedicate this report to her memory. Let me take this opportunity to thank all our friends for standing with us and the family following the passing of our Chairman

ARU, as a value-based all-women university, continues to stand at the forefront of driving positive change in rural communities. The commitment to empowering women and fostering sustainable development is evident in the outcomes of our programs. I am pleased to report that seven students successfully graduated after an intensive nine-month internship in communities, where they demonstrated their dedication to community action planning.

One of the notable achievements of our graduates is their strong role in enabling communities to know that they are key to their own development. Additionally, through participatory action research, our students have played a pivotal role in shaping policies and initiatives that directly benefit the communities they serve.

The impact of ARU extends beyond the academic realm, as evidenced by the outstanding work of our Epicentre Managers. In the past year, they facilitated the skilling of over 40,000 youth for dignified work, significantly contributing to the economic empowerment of the next generation. This accomplishment underscores the practical and transformative nature of our educational model.

Moreover, the communities where ARU students are placed are experiencing tangible results, with articulated visions turning into realized projects. This success poses a new challenge for us – the question of "What next?" in the sustainable practice of development.

It is heartening to see the positive ripple effect of ARU's education model and the growing momentum toward creating lasting change.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, I extend my gratitude to the faculty, staff, students, and all stakeholders who have contributed to the success of ARU. Your dedication and tireless efforts have positioned ARU as a cradle of learning and catalyst for positive change in rural Africa.

I look forward to another year of growth, innovation, and impactful contributions as we continue to shape the future of rural communities through education and empowerment.

Sincerely,

Professor Kyamanywa Samuel

Chairman, African Rural University

VICE CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE



**Dr. Mwalimu Musheshe,
PhD, Senior Ashoka Fellow**

Dear Friends and Stakeholders,

It is with great pleasure and a sense of shared accomplishment that I present to you the Annual Report 2023. Within these pages, you will discover a comprehensive account of the remarkable strides, updates, and advancements made by the African Rural University (ARU).

Before I go further, let me take this moment to thank all of you for standing with us recently upon the passing of our Council Chairman- The late Joyce Mpanga. Her untimely departure leaves a profound void, but her legacy of transformative leadership at ARU will forever be remembered and celebrated.

In this academic year, ARU welcomed 21 new students, with orientations focused on instilling the ARU Philosophy.

ARU students actively participated in practicum, seven students successfully graduated with a Bachelor of Rural Development and 11 were deployed to work which underline our commitment to hands-on learning and community impact.

The Research Unit's continues to grow and our students and educational model continues to be recognized . While progress is evident, challenges persist, such as comprehension of ARU Education model that is unconventional. Efforts have been made to continue orienting staff in the the African Rural University Philosophy.

Looking ahead, the completion of the Multipurpose Resource Centre is a crucial for our Development Work and we invite all stakeholders to continue supporting this transformative endeavor

I extend my gratitude to the entire ARU community, our dedicated staff, partners, and well-wishers for their unwavering commitment to our shared vision. Together, we embark on a journey towards excellence, innovation, and transformative education.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mwalimu Musheshe
Vice Chancellor
African Rural University

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

APB - Appointments and Promotions Board
ARU - African Rural University
AU - African Union
AFPF - African Food and Peace Foundation
CDO - Community Development Officer
COVID-19 - Coronavirus Disease of 2019
DREP - Diploma in Rural Entrepreneurship
DVC - Deputy Vice Chancellor
EAQAN - East African Universities Quality Assurance Network
EM - Epicenter Manager
ICT - Information and Communications Technology
IUCEA - Inter-University Council for East Africa
ODEL - Open Distance e-Learning
PELUM - Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PPP - Public Private Partnership
PMO - Private Motor Omnibus
RENU - Research Network for Universities
SOPs - Standard Operating Procedures
STC - Structural Tension Chart
TRT - Technologies in Rural Transformation
UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UUQAF - Ugandan Universities Quality Assurance Forum
URDT - Uganda Rural Development and Training Programme
UVCF - Uganda Vice Chancellors Forum
KKCR-Kagadi Kibaale Community Radio

GOVERNANCE

1.1 Council Members

The Council is the principal executive and policy-making body of the University, and its members have various duties and responsibilities as stewards of the University.

Table 1: Council Members

S/N	Name	Position	Gender
1.	Prof. Kyamanywa Samuel	Academia (Acting Chairperson)	Male
2.	Dr. Magunda Mathias	Member (Bunyoro Representative)	Male
3.	Dr. Zuula Namubiru	Member (Representative Sister Institution)	Female
4.	Dr. Sengonzi Jerome Bagenda	Member (Senate Representative)	Male
5.	Bishop Kyamanywa Nathan	Member (Bunyoro Representative)	Male
6.	Mr. Kyaboona John	Member (Representative of the Department of Education of the Local Government)	Male
7.	Mrs. Patty Seybold	Member (Founding Body)	Female
8.	Mrs. Alida Bakema Boon	Member (Founding Body)	Female
9.	Sr. Nakanwagi Daisy	Member (Bunyoro Representative)	Female
10.	Mr. Fred Musisi Kabuye	Member (Representative of the URDT Board of Directors)	Male
11.	Mr. Ssempala Patrick	Member	Male
12.	Ms. Ategeka Kasfa	Member (Staff Representative)	Female
13.	Ms Alinda Joy	Member (Alumnae Representative)	Female
14.	Ms. Jackline Katusabe	Member (Students' Guild)	Female
15.	Dr. Mwalimu Musheshe	Vice Chancellor (ex-officio)	Male
16.	Ms. Keishanyu Rose	University Secretary	Female



Some of the Council Members after a meeting in December 2023

1.2 Senate/Academic Board

The Senate is the academic authority of the University, tasked with overseeing the teaching, learning, community engagement and research endeavors. It holds responsibility for maintaining academic quality and standards, as well as managing the admission and regulation of students. These functions operate under the overall control of the Council.

Table 2: Members of the Senate

SN	NAME	TITLE	POSITION
1.	Mwalimu Musheshe- (PhD Ashoka Fellow)	Vice Chancellor	Chairman
2.	Lwanga Anthony Claret	Academic Registrar	Secretary
3.	Dr. Ferdinand Kaddu Mukasa	Deputy Vice Chancellor	Member
4.	Keishanyu Rose Nyamakuru	University Secretary	Member
5.	Tumukunde Patience	University Librarian	Member
6.	Baleke Vincent	University Bursar	Member
7.	Namutosi Doloka	Quality Assurance Officer	Member
8.	Dr. Sengonzi Jerome Bagenda	Dean of Faculty	Member
9.	Odoi Joseph	Communications Officer	Member
10.	Tusiime John	Head of Community Engagement	Member
11.	Kevin Atuhaire	Students Representative	Member
12.	Ategeka Kasfa	Administrator and Ag Dean of Students	Member
13.	Twesiime Paolino	TWS Representative	Member
14.	Dr. Maali Chrispus	Head of Research Unit	Member



Some members of the Senate in a meeting 2023

1.3 Top Management Committee

Table 4: Members of the Management Committee

S/N	NAME	TITLE
1.	Mwalimu Musheshe (PhD. Ashoka Fellow)	Vice Chancellor
2.	Dr. Ferdinand Kaddu Mukasa	Deputy Vice Chancellor
3.	Mr. Lwanga Anthony Claret	Academic Registrar
4.	Ms. Keishanyu Rose	University Secretary
5.	Dr. Sengonzi Bagenda	Faculty Dean
6.	Ms. Tumukunde Patience	University Librarian
7.	Mr. Vincent Baleke	University Bursar
8.	Ategeka Kasfa	Dean of Students



2022/2023 IN NUMBERS



2,000,000

Community Based
Programming



70,000

Youth skilled by
ARU Graduates
in 22 Districts



6

Participatory
Action Research



67

People trained in
Skilling programmes
with Professors
without Borders



50

Foundation
Courses Held



5000

People introduced to
Visionary Approach to
Development and
Human Rights
Sensitization



2,000,000

Community Based Radio
Programming Reach



2800 Members

Community Action
Planning Engagement

2.1 Teaching And Learning

In the domain of Teaching and Learning at African Rural University (ARU), Our Programmes remain hands-on deeply rooted in participatory and experiential learning which empowers them to be visionary leaders.

Twenty-Five (25) new students enrolled at African Rural University for the academic year 2023-2024

New Student Enrollment per Program (Academic Year 2023-2024)

S/N	Programme	Number of Students	Academic Year
1	Bachelor of Rural Development	15	2023-2024
2	Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Agriculture	5	2023-2024

Total Number of Students at ARU

S/N Programme	Number of Students				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
1. Bachelor of Rural Development	15	11	08	07	
2. Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Agriculture	05	06	00	00	
Total	20	17	08	07	52

Academic Programmes 2022/2023

No.	Programmes	Duration	Status
1.	Bachelor of Rural Development-BRD	4 Years	Launched
2.	Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Agriculture-BSSA	4 Years	Launched
3.	Bachelor of Science in Technologies for Rural Transformation (BScTRT)	4 Years	Accredited
4.	Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development (PGD RD)	2 Years	Accredited
5.	Diploma in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management (DESBM)	2 Years	Accredited

Products from practice goals of year one students

Twenty (20) year one students created their practice goals. The year one students under a course fundamental of the creative process require them to do a practice goal as a way of learning to be creators rather than problem solvers.

Student's Demonstration Garden

ARU students have a demonstration garden where they demonstrate different technologies as part of 40% practical and they transfer the knowledge gained during teaching and learning to the communities during one month practicum, internship and when they become Epicenter Managers



ARU Student demonstrating agroecological practices in the demonstration garden



ARU students of sustainable Agriculture making silage using a machine as one of the hard technologies

2.2 ARU Graduation

On 1st December 2023, African Rural University held its 9th graduation at ARU Campus in Kagadi District. Seven (07) exceptional students were conferred with Bachelor's degrees in Rural Development. The ceremony commenced with a solemn moment of silence in honor of the late Joyce Mpanga, former ARU Council Chairman, who passed away just a week before the graduation.

These graduates are now Rural Transformation Specialists with capacity to;

- (i) Enable the technical and political leadership shift from the orientation of reactive/problem-solving to the creative orientation. That way, they can develop plans in concert with Uganda Vision 2040 and improve service delivery;
- (ii) Enable the rural communities live in the visionary orientation, hence becoming progressively self-reliant;
- (iii) Cause a system-wide change in sectors related to rural transformation as they work collaboratively with government technical staff, civil society organizations, and cultural and faith-based institutions.



Left to Right: Sasira Bless, Nakayiza Grace, Nuwamanya Ustine, The ARU Chancellor, Emeritus Justice Ezekiel Muhanguzi, Musiimenta Annet, Ainebyona Ritah, KoKoi Christine, Barungi Juliet and The Chief Guest, Dr. Babikwa Jonathan Daniel, the Director of District Support Coordination and Public Education at the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)

Success story of Barungi Juliet a graduate of ARU

ARU has profoundly transformed my thought process through the Visionary Approach to education. Prior to joining ARU, I found myself merely reacting to problems; during my internship, I had the privilege to make a positive impact on communities.

Notable highlights include spearheading Community Action Planning that engaged 100 community members and providing training to 7 teachers and 48 pupils at Mutumba United Parents School on efficient tomato management at a Pupil-Managed School Farm project. ARU has empowered me to not only envision change but actively contribute to it.



Juliet graduated with 1st class degree December 2023

2.3 Vice Chancellor's Forum

The Vice-Chancellor of the African Rural University (ARU) on 5th day of October 2023 participated in the Vice-Chancellors Forum held in Kampala. The VC played a pivotal role by coordinating the question-and-answer session under critical theme; “The search for Equity and Inclusivity in Funding University Education in Uganda”.



2.4 Reflection Workshop: Aru's Last Meeting With Its Late Chairman Joyce Mpanga

On Saturday of November 18, 2023, a collective wave of sorrow swept across Uganda and the world at large with the unexpected departure of Hon Joyce Rovincer Mpanga. The news of her passing resonated deeply within the hearts of many people prompting an outpouring of tributes across social media and various platforms.

Within the hallowed halls of the African Rural University (ARU), Joyce Mpanga was not merely a legacy but an embodiment of wisdom and rural transformation, holding the esteemed position of University Chairman

In the waning days of September 2023, during the annual reflection meeting of ARU, she graced the occasion with her presence. A meeting that could have transpired over the impersonal channels of Zoom saw her insistence on attending face to face. Clad in the vibrant hues of African print, she entered Jevine Hotel where the reflection meeting unfolded. Swiftly, she orchestrated introductions and steered the discourse, emphasizing the paramount importance of research in higher education. In a candid moment captured in pixels, her radiant smile illuminated a group photo, a snapshot frozen in time. Little did she know that this seemingly ordinary moment would become a farewell to ARU Family. A month and weeks later, the echoes of her laughter and the warmth of her presence would linger only in memories, for she would be no more.

During her tenure, Ninety-One Rural Transformation Specialists graduated under her tenure.

Collaborations with prestigious organizations such as Professors Without Borders, Mustard Seed Trust, UNESCO, and the Elimu Foundation elevated ARU's stature on the global stage.

In her direction, a Summer School was introduced, broadening educational horizons, and five innovative programs were launched. ARU's reach extended to 22 districts in Uganda, impacting diverse communities. More than 43,000 youths, mentored by ARU graduates, seamlessly transitioned into the workforce, while over 100,000 individuals embraced ARU's Visionary Approach to Development.

Hon. Joyce Mpanga's commitment extended beyond academic realms. She spearheaded fundraising endeavors for the ARU Multi-purpose Resource Centre, securing \$250,000 by September 2023. Under her watch, ARU applied for Charter Status, formulated a robust Research Policy, and innovatively enlisted Traditional Wisdom Specialists as lecturers; an unprecedented move in Higher Learning in Uganda. The African Rural University extends its deepest condolences to her family, friends, and all touched by her indomitable legacy.



The Late ARU Chairman-Joyce Mpanga (Centre) with ARU Council Members and Staff during Annual

2.4 African Rural University Welcomes Prof. Samuel Kyamanywa as Acting Chairman for Council

In a notable step of filling a leadership void, Professor. Samuel Kyamanywa has assumed the role of Acting Chairman for the Council at African Rural University (ARU). This move follows the passing of the esteemed ARU Chairman, Hon. Joyce Mpanga, on November 18, 2023.

Prof. Samuel Kyamanywa brings a wealth of experience to his new role, having been a longstanding member and also Vice Chairman of the ARU Council.



About Prof. Samuel Kyamanywa

Prof. Samuel Kyamanywa is currently serving as a professor in the Department of Crop Science within the Faculty of Agriculture at Makerere University, Uganda. Prof. Kyamanywa brings extensive academic and research expertise to his new position. He holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural Entomology from Makerere University, earned under the African Regional Postgraduate Programme in Insect Science (ARPPIS) at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe). Additionally, he holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Makerere University.

With over 30 years of experience in teaching and research, specializing in Agricultural Entomology and Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Prof. Kyamanywa has played a pivotal role in academia. He also currently serves as the Chairman of the Agricultural Chemicals Technical Committee of the Uganda Agricultural Chemicals Board, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries. Furthermore, he holds the position of Chairman of the Advisory Committee of Uganda National Coffee Resources Research Institute.

2.5 Multipurpose Resource Centre Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony

On 1st December, 2023, ARU Chancellor Emeritus Justice Ezekiel Muhanguzi laid the foundation stone for African Rural University Multipurpose Resource Centre. The multipurpose is poised to be a hub for rural innovation, research and Knowledge exchange in Bunyoro Region.



ARU Chancellor Emeritus Justice Ezekiel Muhanguzi carefully reads writings engraved on the Multipurpose Resource Centre's foundation stone during its historic laying ceremony.

2.6 Traditional Wisdom Specialists in teaching and learning

This year, Traditional Wisdom Specialists have documented articles on Food Preservation, Traditional Education and Social Life in Pre-colonial Bunyoro Kingdom, traditional communication in the African context and traditional Technologies for food preparation and preservation.



Traditional Wisdom Specialists in a practical teaching session on Traditional Herbs at ARU

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



a. Students deployed for Practicum (Year 2)

S/N	Programme	No. of students	Start	End	Impact created
1	Bachelor of Rural Development (continuing students)	11	25th October 2023	25th November 2023	557 Community Members gained Knowledge in Community Action Planning
2	Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Agriculture (continuing students)	6	25th October 2023	25th November 2023	A total of 1000 Farmers gained Knowledge on Advantages of Organic Farming Practices

3.1 Students who completed Internship and Graduation (4th Year)

S/N	Programme	No. of students	Start	End	Impact created
1	Bachelor of Rural Development	7	June 2023	October 2023	7 Participatory Action Research conducted with Communities in Kagadi, Kakumiro and Kibaale District

Summary of Internship Impact

A total number of 715 Community members gained knowledge on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in sub counties of Muhorro, Kagadi, Nalweyo, KyanaISOKE, Kasimbi and Kabamba in the districts of Kagadi, Kibaale and Kakumiro.

Community Action Plan Engagement: 2800 community members Engaged;

- Visionary Approach to Development Training and Human Rights Sensitization: 5000 individuals.
- Participatory Action Research Conducted by Graduates: 7 projects.
- Total Number of People Reached by Students during Internship and Practicum: 10,230 people.



Barungi Juliet now Epicentre Manager engaging Community Members on importance of having shared vision in Kenga, Kagadi Subcounty (September 2023)

Intern Success Story

During my internship, I discovered that approximately most of the farmers held negative views about organic farming, citing concerns about labour intensity and the time it requires, among other factors. thus, at the Seeds of Gold event at Bulindi ZARDI Hoima that brought together 1000 Framers, I discussed with them benefits of organic farming, including climate control, soil health improvement, soil conservation, and the production of non-toxic my trainer agricultural products.



Jackline Katusabe, an ARU Student spraying goats as part of Livestock Management at her field attachment at Bulindi Zonal Agricultural and Research Development Institute, Hoima City

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The University research unit has continued to be vibrant and active.

A Concept Note to conduct baseline Survey for community asset vouchers in five Sub-counties of Kagadi district was finalized

In 2023, 6 Participatory Action Research was successfully Conducted

Six Participatory Action Research and internship programmes were implemented in the six sub counties of Kagadi (3), Bwikara (1) Kabamba (2) and Muhorro (1).

They include the following:

1. The impact of access to clean water on the health of the communities of Bugaramba Village, Kabamba Sub County.
2. The impact of guided reading on Children's Literacy Skills in Primary Schools in Karambi Village, Bwikara Sub County.
3. Factors associated with high dropout rate of Primary School Pupils in Kagadi District
4. Community participation Strategies in Security of Property in Kisara Village, Kagadi Subcounty.
5. The impact of domestic violence on the household income of Kiryanjagi Trading Centre, Kabamba Subcounty.
6. The impact of poor Waste disposal on peoples' health in Rugando Village, Kagadi Sub-County.

4.1 Research Consultancies

- ARU research team conducted research by evaluating the pupil Managed School Farm Project (PMSFP).
- A Tracer Study on Skilling 70,000 Young people for Entrepreneurship and Dignified employment in Mid-Western and Central Uganda by 2025 (Young Africa Works Uganda Strategy).

4.2 ARU Research Plans for 2024

- (i) Enhance research capacity of ARU staff, students and communities
- (ii) Increase volume of multidisciplinary research at ARU
- (iii) Train staff on grant writing and application
- (iv) Increase accessibility of research findings to all ARU stakeholders through effective dissemination strategies

LIBRARY FACILITIES



In an effort to enhance staff capabilities, the library staff participated in various online webinars organized by the Consortium of Uganda University Libraries (CUUL), of which ARU is a proud member institution. This capacity-building initiative aimed to empower our staff to better support lecturers, students, and community members in accessing both physical and digital library resources.

The Librarian actively participated in professional development by attending meetings, including the EBSCO webinar in 2023 and the CUUL Annual General Meeting in 2023, conducted on Zoom. Furthermore, the Librarian attended an online extraordinary CUUL Annual General Meeting.

Assistance and User Demographics

The library assisted a total of 512 users, with 284 males, 229 females, and 171 community members accessed resources. Additionally, ten year-one students were oriented on the utilization of the physical library.



Donations and Restocking

The library received 59 information materials (book copies) as donations from various stakeholders. Furthermore, 31 student reports were added to the library's collection.

PARTNERSHIP

This year, ARU has been forging partnerships through seminars, meetings, exchange programs conferences, summer schools involving our staff and students, partners, academic institutions and the wider community.

ARU Students Showcase ARU Education Model at Summer School

In May 2023, ARU participated in the Summer School at Gulu University, Uganda, focused on 'Sustainable entrepreneurship and youth employment within an interdisciplinary setting.' The event, attended by over 400 students and staff from various universities, including ARU, Gulu University, Makerere University, University College London, University of Groningen, and Victoria University, was a success. ARU students showcased the visionary approach and ARU Education Model, generating interest from the diverse cohort of 2023. Participants expressed a desire for ARU to host the event annually, impressed by the presentation of ARU's unique model..



Participants of the Summer School with their Certificates

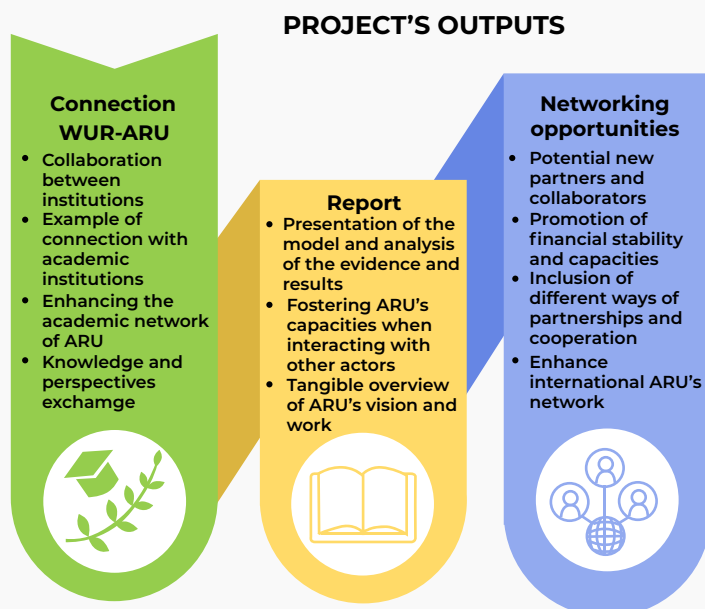
6.1 ARU Partners with Wageningen University in Fostering Rural Transformation

In partnerships geared towards ARU sustainability, ARU and Wageningen University on August-September 2023 November collaborated on a project titled “Empowering the African Rural University in fostering Rural Transformation” to promote ARU Education Model.

In this project, ARU and WUR worked on three vital initiatives: establishing academic connections with Weighmen (WUR) for knowledge exchange, identifying supportive development partners, and creating an impactful report to showcase ARU's vision and success for international recognition and support.



Left -Right Wageningen University Team consisting of Rodrigo Lima , Tessa Marseille (2nd Right) and Julia Noorlander (1st Right) with ARU Vice Guild President- Patricia Achan (2nd Right) and Eva Murora of ARU Research Unit (Centre) during a tour of ARU Forest to understand the Eco-Friendly Initiatives



Empowering Communities through Education and Innovation Program

In August 2023, African Rural University (ARU), in collaboration with Professors Without Borders, successfully concluded the Empowering Communities through Education and Innovation Program. This two-week program engaged 65 participants, including ARU students, staff, and the URDT Community.

In terms of outcomes from this engagement, Students, Staff and URDT Community Members were able to learn Photovoice and Community Asset Mapping, research proposal writing, publication, identification of the research topic with the community, data analysis and dissemination

The Professors without Borders and ARU have also applied for a grant titled; “the impact of Visionary approach on community transformation” and will develop a Community Participatory Action Research model led by Faculty Dean-Dr. Jerome Sengonzi Bagenda.





Some of the Participants with their certificates

6.1 Summary Of Aru Partners 2023

Branding Workshop In Partnership With Mustard Seed Trust And Moonatic Agency

In June 2023, African Rural University (ARU), in collaboration with Moonatic Agency and Mustard Seed Trust, organized a branding and fundraising workshop with 60+ participants, including students, staff, and alumni. The workshop aimed to enhance branding and fundraising efforts for ARU. It covered foundational branding concepts, advanced elements, audience analysis, and encouraged creative thinking through an exercise envisioning ARU as a superhero and traits it



Participants working on an assignment as part of the creative process at the Workshop



Some of the participants of the Workshop in a group photo

ARU Hosts Uganda Agri-business Alliance Chair - Dr. Sekitoleko Victoria

In a significant and impactful event spanning from the 27th to the 28th of August 2023, Dr. Sekitoleko Victoria, Chairman of Uganda Agri-Business Alliance and a member of the Private Sector Foundation, paid a momentous visit to African Rural University (ARU). The objective of this visit was to witness first-hand the profound impact that ARU has made in rural transformation. During this visit, Dr. Sekitoleko introduced different grants and funding Initiatives in Uganda and encouraged students and staff to seize the opportunity.



Dr. Sekitoleko Victoria at the ARU Students Farm witnessing Irrigation Technology by Students

Uganda National NGO Forum's Moses Isooba Commends ARU Education Model

On November 18, 2023, Mr. Moses Isooba, the Director of the Uganda National NGO Forum, visited African Rural University (ARU). During a Foundational Course, he took the opportunity to commend ARU for its distinctive approach to development and education, engaging in discussions and exchanging reports with ARU's Librarian and the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Mwalimu Musheshe.

A fruitful collaboration has been established between Makerere University and African Rural University

On Monday 11th December 2023, a delegation from Makerere University visited African Rural University to acquaint itself with ARU educational model and establish possible areas of collaboration between the two institutions

The visiting delegation of Makerere University consisted of Associate Professor Justine Namaalwa, the Program Coordinator of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at Makerere, Dr. Patrick Byakagaba and Mr Anthony Tuyagainayo all from the Department of Environment, Makerere University.

In a special acknowledgment, Professor Namaalwa lauded the impactful contributions of ARU, particularly in the realms of community engagement and its visionary approach.



A Group Photo of ARU and Makerere University Team



Associate Professor Justine Namaalwa receiving ARU Education Model Booklet from ARU Vice Chancellor, Dr. Mwalimu Musheshe Ashoka Fellow

Table showing Summary of ARU Partners 2023

Funding Partners	Academic Partners	Other Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mustardseed Trust • African Food and Peace Foundation (AFPF) • Carnegie Social Initiatives URDT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RENU • TEEAL, • URDT, • UVCF, • IUCEA, • CUUL, • NCHE, • EAQAN, • PROWIBO, • UNESCO chair • ASHOKA • Makerere University • Wageningen University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African UniNet, • Ministry of education and sports) • Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development. • National Planning Authority • Kibaale, Kagadi and Kakumiro Local Governments. • KCSO • Rotary Club Ntungamo and Hoima Kitara Rotary Club

ARU HUMAN RESOURCE

7.1 Appointment



Mr. Joseph Odoi

African Rural University is delighted to announce the appointment of Mr. Joseph Odoi as the new Communication Officer. With a rich background in multidisciplinary communication, Mr. Odoi joins us from his previous role as Assistant Communication Officer at Makerere University School of Public Health.

Mr. Odoi brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his role as Communication Officer. His distinguished career is marked by significant contributions to communication strategies and a strong research background, with over 40 articles in multidisciplinary research including Agriculture, Sustainable Development, Social Sciences, One Health, and Public Health among others.

ICT AND COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

The ICT and Communication Team of ARU has the mandate to enhance the School's ICT systems and support the public relations function within University. With the support of the University, the IT and Communications offices have achieved several tasks, including the development of a Communication Strategy, production of annual reports, creation of branded products, planning of University events, supporting ARU visibility through media, maintaining the University's website and opening a social media page on LinkedIn, and promoting student activities.

Two significant website developments have taken place. First, the African Rural University's official website (aru.ac.ug) underwent a redesign, enhancing its overall functionality and user experience. Simultaneously, a new partnership website, grassrootsgenius.aru.ac.ug, was created and is now fully operational.

Video Links

To provide a visual insight into promoting ARU Education Model, 9 Videos were produced

- ARU's Visionary Approach to Education
- African Reissuance
- PAR Research at ARU
- Women Empowerment under ARU
- Traditional Wisdom Specialists
- Multipurpose Resource Centre Overview
- Epicentre Strategy
- Chief Guest David Babikwa Speech
- ARU Education Impact

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Section 12:7:8 of the Human Resource policy provides for staff development, and the University recommends staff to upgrade through relevant training programs. In 2023, the following five (6) staff members were undergoing self-sponsored training /graduated in different programmes.

- a) Mr. Kusiima Jackson, a Lecturer successfully completed a Master's degree in Agribusiness at Mountains of the Moon University and will graduate in 2024.
- b) Ms. Namutosi Doloka, an Assistant to the DVC successfully completed a Master's degree in Public Administration at Mountains of the Moon University.
- c) Ms. Tumukunde Patience, the Ag. Librarian successfully completed an online Master's degree in Business Administration, majoring in Information Management.
- d) Muhindo Milly Desire, an Assistant to the Dean, is undertaking a Master's degree in Public Health at Uganda Christian University.
- e) Alinda Joy, a Research Assistant has embarked on research phase of her Master's degree in Business Administration at Mountains of the Moon University.
- f) Murora Eva, a Research Assistant is undertaking a Master's degree in Business Administration.

Staff Capacity Building

- a) Capacity building on the ARU education model and other thought processes has been done every Thursday from 2:00pm to 5:00pm.

STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ALUMNAE ACTIVITIES

At African Rural University, the well-being of our students is a top priority. We recognize that a conducive and supportive environment is essential for their academic success and personal development

The 2023 elections for the Student Leadership including Guild President and Guild Representative were held and saw 99% of the student population voting. This is the most expansive voting turnout ever experienced at African Rural University. Jackline Katusabe emerged winner with 90% of the votes cast for Guild President.



Current ARU Guild President -Jackline Katusabe (Right) handing over to Aciro Patricia who becomes Assistant Guild President

10.1 Aru Students Sensitize Communities Through Community Based Radio Programming

As Part of Guild Activities, Students have so held over 50 Radio Programmes at Kagadi Kibaale Community Radio (KKCR). These programs are a vital component of our community engagement efforts. Students have taken the initiative to actively participate in radio broadcasts, which air every Saturday at 6:00 pm.

These programs cover a wide array of topics, with a particular focus on issues related to Sustainable Agriculture, Human Rights, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), in addition to exploring various fields of interest.

KKCR has a broad reach, being listened to in over 22 districts, and boasts a weekly listenership of 2 million people.



Students in a Radio Program

10.2 ARU Alumnae Association Launched

On April 16, 2023, the African Rural University Alumnae Association was officially launched, marking a significant milestone in the rural transformation journey of ARU alumnae. During this historic event held at Reflection Centre at ARU Campus. Patricia Seybold, ARU Council Member and the Chief Guest, generously provided a seed fund of 300 USD (approximately 1.5 million Ugx) to boost the African Rural University Alumnae SACCO. The seed fund was handed over to the Alumnae Association team. The launch was attended by over 80 alumnae



Pictorial of Participants during the Launch

10.3 ARU Alumnae Honored by Kyankwanzi District for Change Making



Ms. Phiona Atugonza an ARU Graduate who is currently sector lead tourism at Young Africa Works Uganda has been honored for her tremendous work by Kyankwanzi District Officials. This recognition comes after her tremendous work as Epic-Centre Manager at Kyankwanzi District and Kibaale districts. During her time as Epicenter manager, she was able to work with 739 youth in 3 cohorts, and 200 of them have successfully transitioned to work as entrepreneurs or been employed elsewhere.

Ms. Nampewo Josephine, an alumna of African Rural University (ARU), has successfully implemented the Forest Fauna Populations Balance in Uganda (FoFauPopU) Project in Kabarole and Kyenjojo districts. The project aimed to enhance collective and participatory governance in areas surrounding Kibaale National Park, mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, and promote sustainable crop production and value addition for development.

Under Josephine's leadership, 500 young individuals were mobilized and received vocational skills training from URDTI, leading to successful graduations. Additionally, she facilitated formation of a Saving and Credit Group in Mugusu. The group consisting of 42 members has made remarkable progress by saving 8 million Uganda shillings by the end of 2023.

10.4 7 Graduates were deployed to work at Sub County Level

On 3rd of November, 2023, URDT deployed eight African Rural University (ARU) graduates as Epicenter Managers, strategically placing them in Kagadi, Kibaale, and Kakumiro districts in western Uganda. This strategic deployment aligns with ARU's commitment to sustainable rural development and contributing to Uganda Vision 2040.



EMs during orientation together with the local government stakeholders.



Group photo of EMs and Local Government stakeholders.

/ INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

This year, ARU Guest House was equipped with solar. Utensils were bought that is used by part time staff and other clients that hire the facility. ARU Complex washroom and classes was repaired. New lights were installed in ARU Lecture rooms. The vans and land cruisers have been repaired and serviced.

The ARU Sick Bay remains Well equipped and stocked to meet the student Capacity

11.1 Multi-resource Centre Progress

The Multipurpose Resource Centre is making significant strides. The Centre holds immense potential to become a transformative hub for education, entrepreneurship, innovation, and community development.



Snap shot of the ground floor of the Multipurpose Resource Centre ground



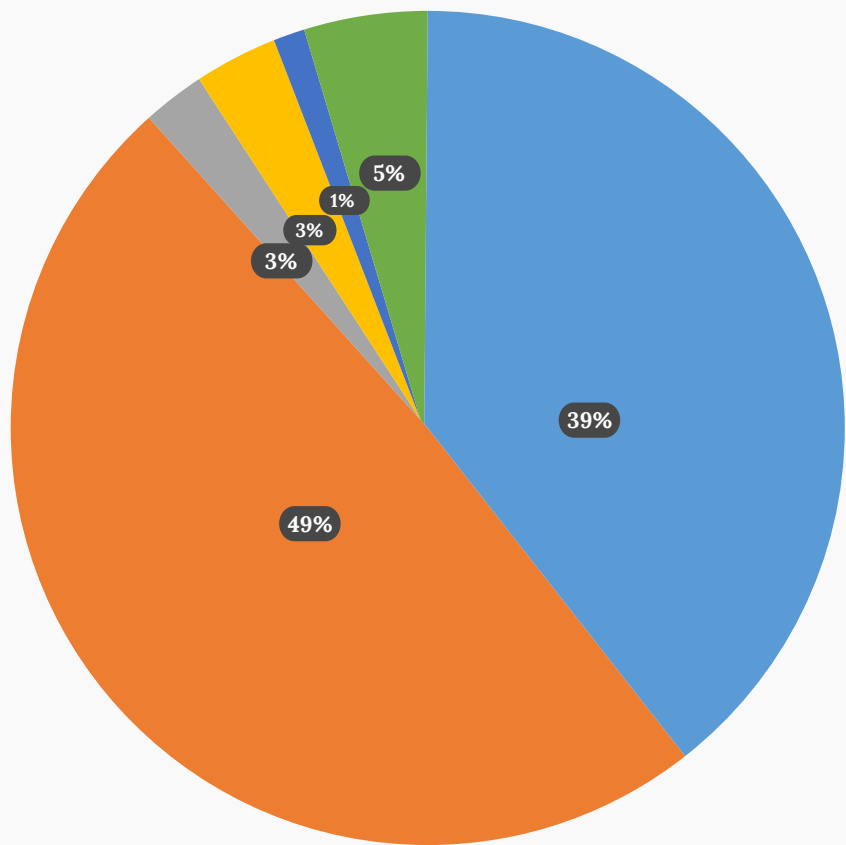
Current Reality of the Multipurpose Resource Centre





Architectural Design of the Multipurpose Resource Centre



ARU FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Pie-Chart below shows contribution during the period per partner.



-  African Food and Peace Foundation
-  Mustard Seed Trust
-  Carnegie Social Initiative
-  URDT Girls School
-  URDT
-  Students

/2023 IN GALLERY

9th ARU Graduation



Annual Reflection Meeting



The Vice Chancellor-African Rural University giving his remarks t the reflection Meeting



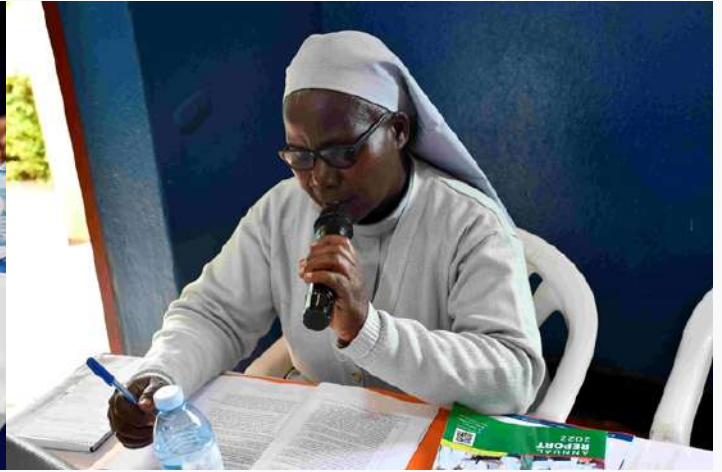
ARU Academic Registrar giving remarks at the Reflection Meeting



Bishop Kyamanywa contributing at the meeting



Council Meeting In November



FEATURE DAY



Wagenigen University and ARU Staff and Students on an ARU Forest Tour

Photo Showcasing Impact Of The Visionary Approach To Education Continuum (Before And After)





ARU Student Ahumuza Melodious with her parents and brother with current reality of their home

Foundation Stone Laying For Aru Multipurpose Resource Centre



Practicum



A Community member with her family vision formulated with the help of ARU Graduates and interns



ARU Students sensitizing a community group on the importance of having a shared vision during Practicum





Awakening the sleeping
genius in each of us

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