# TAGDev
# E–NEWS

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A monthly bulletin of the TAGDev program @Egerton

# TAGDev 2.0

Transforming African Agricultural Universities to meaningfully contribute to Africa's Growth and Development

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**TAGDev 1.0 Milestones: A Path to Growth and Development**

In an ambitious effort to enhance agricultural education across Africa, the Program "Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development," spearheaded by Prof. Nancy W. Mungai, is making significant strides. Launched in 2016 and the first phase ended in June 2024 paving way for TAGDev 2.0. This initiative focuses on experiential learning, community engagement, and entrepreneurship, aiming to modernize curricula and strengthen industry linkages to better serve smallholder farmers.

The Program has four key objectives; piloting a new model of agricultural education that connects tertiary institutions to rural communities, strengthening agribusiness and entrepreneurship, and scaling successful educational models to other universities and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions across Africa.

Since its inception, the Program has achieved remarkable milestones including; offering scholarship to 188 students and capacity building 504 students with various skills. The program surpassed the target of training 110 students by 2024.Additionaly the program facilitated staff development whereby 210 staff members participated in retooling workshops, enhancing their skills in various areas. It also conducted Community Action Research an initiative which has reached over 12,000 farmers, significantly impacting local agricultural practices and productivity.

In the field of Research, the Program contributed to the publication of 70 research papers, 6 case studies and 3 book chapters enriching the academic landscape of agricultural education.

A Program has been keen on curricula review and across various agricultural programs to align to the market needs. Eight (8) undergraduate programs in faculty of Agriculture have been reviewed. A curriculum design workshop aligned 58 course units with the Competence-Based Curriculum guidelines set by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development.

The TAGDev program has also significantly enhanced students' skills through field attachment opportunities. Through additional support to undergraduate students at the end of their second year of study, the program has engaged 231 undergraduate students in relevant farms and industries for a minimum of 8 weeks. This hands-on experience is crucial for bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application in agricultural settings.

To safeguard on unforeseen personal and institutional issues that may delay timely completion of studies, the Program has implemented strategies such as; academic advising, psychosocial support and mentorship mentorship, regular meetings with students and academic supervisors among others.

The TAGDev program has also contributed to the development of a robust policy framework in various areas, including the Egerton University Community Engagement Strategy (2022-2027), aimed at enhancing collaboration between the university and local communities, the Gender Policy (2021); Addressing gender-based violence and promoting gender equality within the university environment and Policy Papers; Several policy papers have been developed, focusing on enhancing agricultural productivity, nutrition, and addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on agriculture.

In the eight years of implementation, the program has stood as a testament to the transformative power of education and community engagement in driving sustainable development across Africa. The collaborative efforts of stakeholders, continuous support from university management, and the dedication of students and staff have been pivotal in achieving these outcomes.

The TAGDev Program exemplifies how targeted interventions in education can lead to meaningful change, empowering individuals and communities to thrive in an ever-evolving agricultural landscape. With the lessons learnt and best practices established through this initiative, the Program is poised to leave a lasting impact on the agricultural sector in Africa, ultimately contributing to economic growth and societal development. As the Program continues to unfold and as it transitions to the TAGDev 2.0, it serves as a model for future agricultural education programs, demonstrating the importance of collaboration, innovation, youth empowerment, job creation and community engagement in achieving sustainable development goals.



*Plate 1: TAGDev Program Coordinator Prof Nancy Mungai makes her address as the program celebrates the achievements of TAGDev 1.0*

# Program Updates

**TAGD*ev* 2.0**

Transforming African Agricultural Universities to meaningfully contribute to Africa's Growth and Development

1. End of program writeshop
2. Graduate school supervisors training
3. Internship assessment
4. Home validation for TAGDev 2.0 scholars

## 1. END OF PROGRAM WRITESHOP

TAGDev program held the end-of-Program writeshop for TAGDev 1.0 at the Grand Royal City Hotel Kisumu on July 7th –9th, 2024. This writeshop brought together the program coordinator, assistant, program coordinator, Cassava CARP+ PI, and the secretariat was important in documenting the achievements, challenges faced in the 1st phase of the program's implementation, and future areas of improvement towards the transition to TAGDev 2.0. The members reviewed the Egerton Incubation Framework, policy briefs, the Agri-Food System Community Action Research and Entrepreneurship Program (ASEC) from different partners, narrative reports and annexes. It was noted that there was a need to track the program activities and develop reports for documentation of Program impact.



*Plate 2: TAGDev team @Egerton University in Kisumu for the end of program Writeshop*



*Plate 3: TAGDev program Coordinator Prof Nancy Mungai takes note during the end of program writeshop.*

## 2. GRADUATE SCHOOL SUPERVISORS TRAINING

In order to enhance timely and effective completion rate of Postgraduate students, the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies organized and held a Supervision and Mentorship Workshop on 2nd July 2024 to 4th July 2024. The workshop was geared towards sharing postgraduate students' supervision challenges, importance of supervisor and commitment of supervisor to enhancement intake and completion rate of Postgraduate students. TAGDev sponsored the three days program to graduate students' supervisors aimed to capacity build the staff on necessary skills ideal for supporting timely completion of Postgraduate studies.

The supervisors' workshop was a success due to the huge attendance that exceeded the target of One Hundred and Five (105) participants. Day one recorded One Hundred and Fifty (150), day Two, One Hundred and Thirty-Four (134) and day three, One Hundred and Five (105). An average of One Hundred and Thirty (130) participants per day. The supervisors' participation and presence in the workshop for the three days was enormous.



*Plate 4: the team of supervisors having a light moment during the Supervisors training organized by Graduate School*



*Plate 5: The team of supervisors equipped with supervision skills throughout the three days training.*

## 3. INTERNSHIP ASSESMENT

TAGDev, Egerton University conducted assessment for students on internship in various organizations. The assessment is important in ensuring that students are gaining the requisite skills to prepare them for the job market. It also gives an opportunity to engage with their organizational supervisors to receive feedback on the students' progress.



*Plate 6: Assessment of students on internship*



*Plate 7: Our students on internship engaging with the community*

## 4. VALIDATION FOR TAGDEV 2.0 SCHOLARS

The selection process of the scholarship applicants for the academic year 2024 is ongoing. The home validation process has just been finalized. This exercise is important in ensuring that the scholarships is awarded to deserving candidates.



*Plate 8: At Cyrus Rono's home in Bomet conducting an interview with her mother. Our driver had to help in interpretation.*

*Plate 9:* *Home validation of TAGDev 2.0 scholars*

## 1. Harvesting of potatoes at field 7



One of the workers at field 7 showcasing the high yields of potatoes harvested this season



A demonstration of proper transportation of potatoes harvested using well aerated bags to reduce post harvest loses



A sample of the potato harvest this season at field 7

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## 2. Training on solar plant installation and irrigation



Water drips installation at field 7



Field demonstrations during the solar and drip irrigation training held at Egerton University

# 3. VC tree planting



The Vice Chancellor Prof. Isaac Kibwage planting a tree to commemorate the achievements of TAGDev 1.0 as the program comes to an end.



Cassava value chain production is a key focus area for TAGDev program

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## VOICES OF IMPACT

### " Touching lives, Creating Opportunities"

Touching lives and creating opportunities is a documentation of the voices of impact that the TAGDev program has made in the lives of students that have been participants in the program through scholarships, research, entrepreneurship, and other wrap-up services. The TAGDev program invests in individuals who become change agents in society. In this series of voices of impact, RUFORUM is profiling personal stories of young women and men who are emerging as agents of hope and change. They are undertaking their studies at various universities and deploying skills acquired to create opportunities for themselves and others through entrepreneurship and giveback initiatives.

We hope these stories inspire you as you read.

# OUR SOCIAL PLATFORMSS

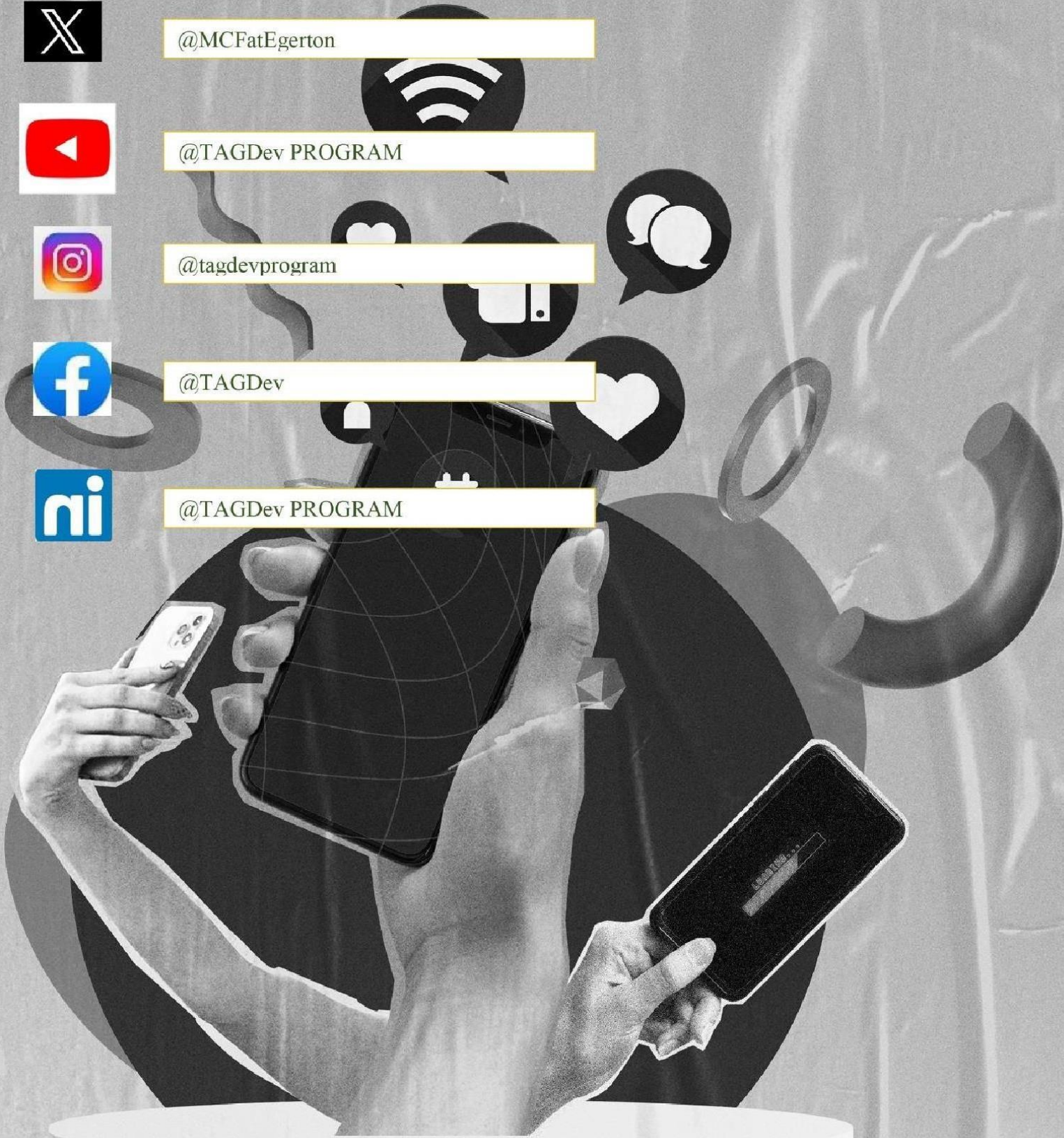| | |
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# Upcoming Events

## 01
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RUFORUM 2nd Triennial Conference and 20th AGM (12th – 16th August 2024, Windhoek, Namibia)

## 02
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Admission of TAGDev 2.0 cohort 1 scholarship students

## 03
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Monitoring and evaluation visit for enterprises

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