Community engagement
Policy framework
Community of practice
Challenges

Way forward
The process of knowledge exchange between universities and communities (interdisciplinary) through:

- co-inquiry (*joint research*),
- co-learning (*co-creation*), and
- knowledge is used to benefit to academia (*teaching & further res.*) while solving real world problems
CE – WHERE/HOW

HEIs and communities: Activities

locality - interest on specific outputs

national - geographic location, industry

regional/international - Common purpose

.......formal & informal.......
WHY UNIVERSITIES?
1. Training *(teaching & learning)*
2. Research *(capacity, quality, innovation)*
3. Outreach *(advisory & community services)*
4. Consultancy *(advisory & community services)*
Universities – who and why

◆ Agents of change
◆ Knowledge hubs (specialized studies)
◆ Resource mobilization (financial,
◆ Blend in with local communities, and
◆ Varied expertise – solving societal challenges
◆ Specific assigned roles
◆ +……..
Policy framework
WHERE ARE WE??

◆ Specific policies generally lacking; INSTEAD, many guided by “proxy” Policies; eg.

➢ Outreach Policy
➢ Research Policy
➢ Civic Engagement Policy
➢ Gender Policy, etc

Status quo??

……from RUFORUM study report:

……there is a wide variation of CE activities by Universities – generally implemented under different frameworks rather than dedicated policies on community engagement.
Community of practice
4 U-CE
U-CE (TRAINING)

◆ Manpower needs assessment
◆ Prog. Dev ➔ stakeholder participation
◆ Attachments (Field/industrial/teaching)
◆ Tracer studies
◆ MoUs (Govt Inst., NGO, other Univs, etc)
◆ Informal collaborations – villages/groups
◆ Scholarships
◆ + others
U-CE (RESEARCH)

- Demand driven research to solve a specific problem (e.g., manufacturing/processing/marketing)

- Joint on site research (farm, hospital, school, +..)

- National priorities (Problem identification/solving res. → solutions)

- Socially responsive research
Consultancy units

On request/competitive bidding

Clients: Govt., NGOs, Companies, Embassies, individuals
University outreach stations
Short term tailored training
Shows: Local/national/international
Show-casing (Open days)
Incubators (innovation, industrial, etc)
Formal industrial/Univ dialogue
Conventional/Social media
U-CE (SPECIAL PROGRAMMES)

Examples:

◆ ACE II (World Bank)
◆ SEP
Challenges
CHALLENGES

◆ Documentation (scattered)
◆ Funding
◆ Staffing levels
◆ IPR & Patents
◆ Structured U-CE programmes
◆ Alumni records and engagement
Way forward
RUFORUM-University Community Engagement (2017) report:

1. Increasingly, HEI and research organizations are being required to make strategic commitments to engaging with the public (= REQUIRED: policies; guidelines; procedures), and
2. Researchers & academic staff must be recognized and valued for their CE activities

.....break or overturn the glass sealing for promotions..........
WAY FORWARD

- Institutionalize CE in curriculum (for credit)
- Branding of CE efforts - adopt an area/issue
- Enhance C. engagement across boarders: EA & beyond
  - MoU
  - Resource mobilization
- CE for projects with high impact (…in Agric., educ, power, water, health)
- Network of Univ-CE Networks (2014)
Way forward cont’d

◆ Establishment/adoption of more centres for CE activities,

◆ Enhanced partnerships with local and international stakeholders,

◆ Increased fund mobilization from external donors to enhance partnerships with international stakeholders
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