

OPENING OF THE NUTRITION LABORATORY

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION

30TH AUGUST 1972

The Department of Animal Production has been supported by NORAD in terms of personnel, equipment and direct annual research grant since September 1965, when the signing of an agreement of cooperation between the Kenya Government and the Royal Norwegian Government took place. The University is very grateful for this support, without which the tremendous progress made in the Department would not have been possible.

When NORAD aid started there were only two members of staff in the Department serving the faculty of veterinary medicine. The student numbers were also small. During the current academic year, however, due partly to natural growth of the faculty of veterinary medicine and partly due to the new faculty of Agriculture, the Department has now 13 established posts and 118 students taking the major animal production courses, excluding several service courses offered by the Department. It is this increase in staff and student numbers that called for the erection of the modern Nutrition Laboratory about to be opened, at a value of sh.620,000.

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I would like also to take this opportunity to thank NORAD for supporting the building of the Cow and Pig Research Unit at \$165,000, the Poultry Unit at \$200,000 and undertaking modifications to the Old Building at \$70,000. These facilities have helped a great deal research and teaching in the Department. For example, several research projects have been, or are being, carried out at the farm into management and feeding systems of pigs and dairy cattle, while at the poultry unit investigations are under way into the management and hatchability differences of local and exotic breeds of birds. As a result of the modifications to the Old Building, the Department has been able to set up instrumentation and mechanical workshops. These workshops will help to keep in good working order, not only the many complex instruments within the Department, but also those of other Departments on this Campus, where these facilities do not exist, such as Soil Science. Apart from establishing the physical facilities mentioned, NORAD also provides the Department direct research grant which for the period 1971 to 1973 will amount to \$580,000.

In these new laboratories we are doing everything we can to offer the best possible facilities for training our students in this most vital field so that they in turn can help in the development of our agricultural and veterinary services when they graduate.