

CROP SCIENCE SECTION NEWS (CSSN)

Remarks by Chairman

Welcome to the inaugural Issue of the Crop Science Section News (CSSN), a newsletter that will provide information on the activities of the Crop Science Section of the Department of Plant Science and Crop Protection, University of Nairobi, and other topical issues concerning crop agriculture. Administratively, the Department of Plant Science and Crop Protection comprises two sections: Crop Science and Crop Protection. Crop Science section consists of four units namely Agronomy, Biometry, Horticulture, and Plant Breeding and Biotechnology. Members of the Crop Science Section service over 70 courses at undergraduate and Postgraduate levels for the programmes in the Faculty of Agriculture and other Faculties in the University of Nairobi. It hosts the B.Sc. Horticulture programmes. The section runs M.Sc. Agronomy, M.Sc. Horticulture and M.Sc. Plant Breeding and Biotechnology.

It is worth noting that this inaugural issue of the CSSN newsletter focuses on introducing you to the Crop Science Section. The Crop Protection Section Newsletter will be out in due course. We welcome you to be a regular reader of our newsletter.

Dr. George N. Chemining'wa

Chairman, Department of Plant Science and Crop Protection

Academic Staff in Crop Science Section

1. Dr. Margaret Hutchinson, Senior Lecturer, Horticulturalist and Crop Science Section Head, B.Sc. Agric (UoN), M.Sc. (UoN), PhD (Guelph)
2. Prof. Paul M. Kimani, Professor of Plant Breeding and Plant Breeding Unit Head, B.Sc. Agric. (UoN), M.Sc. and PhD (Wisconsin)
3. Dr. Josiah Kinama, Senior Lecturer, Agrometeorologist and Agronomy Unit Head, B.Sc. Agric. (UoN), M.Sc. and PhD (UoN)
4. Dr. Jane Ambuko, Lecturer, Postharvest Specialist and Horticulture Unit Head, B.Sc. Agric (UoN), M.Sc. and PhD (Tsubuka)
5. Mrs. Parin Kurji, Lecturer, Biometrician and Head Biometry Unit, B.Sc. And M.Sc. (UoN)
6. Prof. Kimani Waithaka, Professor of Horticulture and former Dean Faculty of Agriculture, B.Sc., M.Sc., PhD (Wisconsin)
7. Prof. Patrick Ayiecho Olweny, Professor of Plant Breeding,
8. Prof. Solomon Shibairo, Professor of Horticulture and Dean Faculty of Agriculture, B.Sc. Agric. (UoN), M.Sc.(UoN), PhD (British Columbia)
9. Prof. Levi Akundabweni, Professor of Forage Agronomy and Associate Dean Faculty of Agriculture, B.Sc., M.Sc., PhD (South Dakota)
10. Dr. George N. Chemining'wa, Senior Lecturer and Chairman of Department of Plant Science and Crop Protection, B.Sc. Agric (UoN), M.Sc. Agronomy (UoN) and PhD (Manitoba)
11. Dr. Richard O. Nyankanga, Senior Lecturer, Horticulturalist and Farm Manager, B.Sc. (Egerton), M.Sc. And PhD (Cornell)
12. Dr. Kiarie Njoroge, Senior Lecturer and Plant Breeder, B.Sc. (UoN), M.Sc. PhD.
13. Dr. Eluid Kahi Ngugi, Senior Lecturer and Molecular Breeder, B.Sc., M.Sc. PhD
14. Dr. Cecilia Onyango, Lecturer and Horticulturalist, B.Sc. (UoN), M.Sc. (UoN), PhD (Wageningen)
15. Elias O. Obudho, Lecturer and Biometrician, B.Sc. (UoN), M.Sc. (UoN) and PhD candidate (UoN)
16. Peter Mong'are, Lecturer and Biometrician, B.Sc. (UoN), M.Sc. (UoN) and PhD candidate (UoN)
17. Titus O. Magomere, TF and Molecular Plant breeder, B.Sc. Agric., M.Sc., PhD candidate (UoN)
18. Felister M. Nzuve, TF and Molecular Plant breeder, B.Sc. Agric., M.Sc., PhD candidate (Makerere)
19. Nicodemus N. Musembi, TF and Molecular Plant breeder, B.Sc. Agric., M.Sc., PhD candidate (UoN)



Figure 1: Snap breeding activities

Selected new Projects in Crop Science

1. Snap bean integrated Crop Management project, sponsored by ASARECA. Project Team: Dr. George N. Chemining'wa, Prof. John Nderitu and Dr. Jane Ambuko. Project duration-1 year. Partners: NARO (Uganda), SARI (Tanzania), Mount Kenya University and Ministry of Agriculture
2. Snap bean breeding project sponsored by ASARECA. Project Team: Dr. Prof P.M. Kimani, Dr. Cecilia Moraaa and George N. Chemining'wa, Prof. John Nderitu and Dr. Jane Ambuko. Project duration (1 year). Partners: NARO (Uganda), RAB (Rwanda) and KEPHIS.
3. Food Security in Kenya sponsored by Government of Kenya, Dr. Margaret Hutchinson collaborating
4. Cleome diversity project sponsored by the National Council of Science and Technology: Dr. Jane Ambuko and partners from South Africa

Distance Learning Programmes

The Crop Science Section runs M.Sc. Horticulture and M.Sc. Agronomy in Open distance and e-Learning mode. This is particularly useful for potential students who are working and cannot get time off their busy schedules to attend classes on full-time basis. M.Sc. Horticulture has been offered in the ODeL mode for one year now and M.Sc. Agronomy ODeL will be launched in September 2013. The Department also offers M.Sc. Crop Protection and M.Sc. Agricultural Resource Management in ODeL mode.

Admission Requirements into M.Sc. Programs in the Department

- i. A holder of a degree with at least Upper Second Class Honours in Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Horticulture, Botany and Zoology, Environmental Sciences, Forestry, or related plant science degree or Bachelor of Education in Science with Botany and Zoology option and any other relevant subject from the University of Nairobi or any other institution recognized by Senate.
- ii. Holders of a degree with at least Lower Second Class Honours in any of the degrees specified in (i) above with two years of relevant experience or a postgraduate diploma in (i) above or equivalent qualification from the University of Nairobi or any other institution recognised by Senate.
- iii. Holders of a pass Bachelor's degree in disciplines specified in (i) above and a postgraduate diploma or its equivalent from the University of Nairobi or any other institution recognized by the senate.
- iv. A holder of a pass degree in the disciplines specified in (i) above with at least five years relevant work experience

Announcement of September 2013 Intake

Applications for September intake for M.Sc. Agronomy, Plant Breeding and Biotechnology, Crop Protection, Agricultural Resource Management, and Seed Technology and Business Management are being received. M.Sc. Agronomy ODL programme will be launched in September 2013 and those interested are encouraged to apply. M.Sc. Horticulture, Crop Protection and Agricultural Resource Management are already being offered in ODL mode. Forms can be picked from the Chairman's Office or downloaded from the University website: www.uonbi.ac.ke

Enquiries:

Chairman

Department of Plant Science and Crop Protection

University of Nairobi

P.O. Box 29053-00625, Nairobi

Office Tel. no. 020-2055129/254202055129

Email: dept-pscp@uonbi.ac.ke

Website: www.uonbi.ac.ke