

OPENING ADDRESS BY THE HON. MR. J.J. NYAGAH, MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE TO THE KENYA AGRICULTURAL TEACHERS FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE – KABETE ON 23RD AUGUST, 1975

Addressing the first Annual General Meeting of the Kenya Agricultural Teachers Association; the Minister said that in order to be able to improve agricultural production in this country we need to do research into new farming methods. In this regard we need basic as well as applied research. Basic research is needed to keep ahead of applied research since the latter is much more fundamental than the former and it is also the basic on which applied research depends. The Ministry of Agriculture therefore, at its various research stations is under pressure to produce more applied research for the farmers. As such officers at various Agricultural Education Institutions throughout the country, especially at the University can contribute in terms of basic research in two ways. Firstly, by the very fact that teaching requires involvement in research, and the fact that everyone is placed in doing research in basic aspects. Secondly, at the University for example we have the necessary personnel and equipment to carry out research of this nature. This does not, however mean that researchers should divorce themselves from applied research.

The association is very young having been established on 4th January 1975. Its main aims are:-

1. To promote the development of the Agricultural Industry in Kenya through Education at all levels, and
2. to encourage practices and activities which are designed to improve the professional capabilities of

members of the association such as conferences, seminars and workshops on specific topics of agricultural interest.

The membership of the association is very wide, covering agricultural teachers and institutions at all levels of education. Participants in the first conference had come from the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Nairobi, Moiben, Tambach, Kisii, Kajiado, Embu, Mombasa, and Egerton College.