

## **CAVS NEWS: No 1.**

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**July to December 2013**

### **Message from the Principal:**

#### **Prof. Agnes W. Mwang'ombe, EBS**

CAVS NEWS provides briefs and highlights on what the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences is up to. Thus, just keep yourself informed.

The College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences started the new financial year 2013-2014 on a high note. CAVS Strategic plan period 2008-2013 had just ended. Prior to this, the College under the guidance of Prof. E. Aosa, Associate Dean, Business School, University of Nairobi had just realigned its Strategic Plan 2013-2018 to that of University of Nairobi.

The College vision is to be a Centre of excellence in Agriculture, Human nutrition, Veterinary, Environment and related Sciences. While the Mission is to pursue and maintain a leadership role in quality teaching, research, outreach and consultancy in agricultural, human nutrition, veterinary, environmental and related sciences for secure livelihoods.

In summary, CAVS is the place to be for both capacity building and research in Agriculture, human nutrition, Veterinary, Environmental and related sciences.

## **CMB Members Training**

In August 2013, the College engaged a consultant to further support CMB members in understanding their roles in the Strategic plan and its implementation.



*CMB Members in a group photograph during the training*

The training of the CMB members was anchored on four objectives:

- ✘ Performance Enhancement
- ✘ Intellectual Stimulation
- ✘ Acquire fresh perspectives
- ✘ Enhance team spirit.



a) CMB Members pose for a group photo

b) CMB Members in a team building activity

The continued to attract Research grants through the strong commitment by the Academic Staff Members. CAVS generates several technologies, practices and products through research activities and to ensure societal impact, the college actively participates in shows and exhibition within Kenya and in Sub Saharan Africa and also in outreach activities. To be able to leave up to its core value of nurture and conserve the environment, the college has clearly planned tree planting events which have become a great attraction to all stakeholders.

Through CAVS student Leaders, the college continues to support various social, professional and service based activities which allow participation by all students leading to a more informed student and finally a more holistic graduate. Professional mentorship is well embedded in the college calendar of events. Sports and games have become an integral part of CAVS and end of year fun day which culminates in all students sharing a meal is an event which indeed is unique to CAVS.

### **Academic Issues**

The College received the continuing students in September 2013. These students started their first Semester which overlapped with the 2012 first years' second Semester 2013. These First years had joined the University in May 2013 to undertake various undergraduate degree programs offered at CAVS.

## **Research/ Collaboration/linkages**

The College remains active in responding to research grant calls. This has resulted in ten new grants in the first half of 2013-2014.

## **Conferences/Seminars/Workshops**

CAVS staff continue to actively participate in conferences, seminars and workshops. The college also hosts similar activities which attracts other stake holders. Prof. A. W. Mwang'ombe, Principal CAVS, equally travels and actively participates in such conferences. She attended the Rockefeller Foundation 100 years celebrations/ conference in 8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> July 2013 in Abuja, Nigeria, a conference addressed by the Nigerian Head of State.

Attended 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Science week and FARA General Assembly and served as a key note speaker during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa wide women and young professionals in Science competitions: "Feeding 1 Billion in Africa in a changing world" . Her presentation was entitled " A shared Vision: Women championing Women". This is in addition to several other engagements which mobilize partners who focus on the same key issues in food and nutrition security and poverty alleviation in rural areas through sustainable agriculture activities.

## **Outreach Activities/ Exhibitions**

In the first six months of 2013-2014, CAVS carried several outreach activities and participated in exhibitions both within and outside Kenya. These activities allow the college to share and promote the knowledge and practices developed through research. The year 2013 was special to CAVS as it marked very intensive efforts in marketing its academic programs and technology transfer to its diversity of clients. This involved carrying out exhibitions within the country but also moving to other parts of Africa with special reference to participating in Ghana and Rwanda respectively.

CAVS participated in the sixth Africa Agriculture Science Week (AASW) and FARA General Assembly held at Accra International Conference Centre, Ghana in July 14-20<sup>th</sup>

2013. The theme for Conference was Africa feeding Africa through Agricultural Science and innovations. The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) brought, International Research institutions, National and regional Research institutions, Universities, governments particularly ministries of Agriculture and environment, the private sector, NGOs, development partners, the African union commission on Agriculture and Rural Development to evaluate agricultural development over the last 3years. The aim was for African state governments to talk on the way to change production in Africa and draw agenda for agriculture research and development.

UON was the only Kenyan university exhibiting apart from Makerere and Malawi. The University of Nairobi was hence very visible and conspicuous and took advantage of this opportunity to market its programmes and innovations. A large number of participants from Kenyan institutions as well as regional and international institutions visited the stand as well as the UON ALUMNI making the exhibition an exciting event.

On 17.7.2013, Africa Agriculture Science week coincided with Ghana Science day. This was opened by Ghana minister of food and Agriculture in company of and speeches from African countries ministers for Agriculture. He noted that most countries have not been faithful in committing 10% of their budgets to agriculture sector. The president of Ghana was given excellence award for meeting millennium goal no 1 on food security and poverty reduction.

There was a very big demand for brochures particularly from for agriculture related courses. The mode of exhibition was through talking to interested parties on courses displayed on banners from FVM and Agriculture and WMIPES. SEMIS attracted a lot of attention from institutions aspiring to establish capacities in seed production, processing and marketing and sought assistance of how they can gain training and establish their seed units in their countries, or even get trained on the same.





*Prof. Adipala visits CAVS, UON Exhibition stand and pauses for a photograph with Principal CAVS, Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe, Dr Kinama and Dr Kiarie at ACCRA International Conference Centre Ghana July 2014, during the Africa Agriculture Science week.*

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*The Principal CAVS Professor Agnes Mwang'ombe explains to the delegates about the seed enterprises unit (SEMIS) and CAVS programs at ACRA International Conference Centre, Ghana during the Africa, Agriculture Science week*

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*Dr Kinama and Dr Kiarie shares information on CAVS academic programs to an international delegate seeking guidance on the emerging issues on biotechnology, environment, agribusiness, seed science and food safety and quality studies during the Agriculture Science week at ACCRA International Conference Centre, Ghana in June 2013.*

CAVS participated in the Kigali Exhibition at Ruforum 9<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) held from 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> sept, 2013. The Regional Universities forum for capacity building in Agriculture Research was hosted by Rwanda National University at the SERENA Hotel Kigali.

The occasion brought together 25 vice chancellors, principals of Colleges and deans of Agriculture from regional universities to chart the way forward for capacity building in universities to enhance food and nutrition security in Africa. At the same time, The UON stand had the opportunity to be visited by the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony, The Hon Rt. Prime minister of Rwanda in the company of minister of education for Rwanda.



The Prime minister took keen interest at the university stand and engaged Dr. Kinama, the exhibitor on a fruitful debate on the role played by the UON in research, training and outreach. He was taken through the design of many courses tailored to address the development issues including agriculture and socio-economic aspects of the countries in the region. He expressed interest on getting more students come to study at the University of Nairobi in solving development challenges facing Rwanda in not only in Agriculture but also in other sectors of the Economy. In the company of the Rwandan Prime Minister was Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe and Prof. E. Adipala who further explained to the Prime minister on the important role played by RUFORUM in East and Central Africa in agricultural Capacity building in Universities.



*Dr. J. Kinama (CAVS) University of Nairobi CAVS explains to the Prime minister and the Minister for Education Republic of Rwanda at UON stand on the role of University in capacity building for Regional development during RUFORUM Annual general meeting at Kigali in September, 2013. The Prime*

*Minister wanted to know how his country can benefit from University of Nairobi courses in particular and RUFORUM in general.*

CAVS participated in the Agribusiness Education Fair held at World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) from 10-12<sup>th</sup> October, 2013. The theme was Making Tertiary education and Research more relevant to business Development in Africa. The participation of CAVS was facilitated by the Principal CAVs through ANAFE whose Secretariat is housed at ICRAF, Gigiri, Nairobi. The occasion was graced by none other than The Executive Director FARA Dr. Yemi Akinbamiyo.



*Dr Kinama engages participants on the diverse nature of Faculty of Agriculture academic programs designed to meet the emerging needs of self-employment, job and wealth creation as provided for in*

*agribusiness studies, value addition and food safety and quality in Kenya today at the Agribusiness Trade Fair in World Agroforestry Centre, Nairobi.*

### **Nairobi International Trade Fair (NITF) October 2013:**

CAVS did it again at NITF where the exhibitions scooped 125 awards and 25 trophies in various categories.

### **Farming /Value addition Activities: CAVS WINS TOP PRIZES WHILE HOSTING THE 2013 PLOUGHING CONTESTS AND EXHIBITIONS**

The 2013 Nairobi branch ploughing contests and exhibitions took place on 26<sup>th</sup> October at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) Veterinary Farm, Kanyariri. The annual event is organized by the Kenya Ploughing Organisation (KPO), a sub-committee of the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Nairobi branch, in partnership with the University of Nairobi, through CAVS working in collaboration with the Department of Environmental and Biosystems Engineering (EBE). The chief guest was Prof. L. Irungu, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (RPE), University of Nairobi. The Principal (CAVS), Prof Agnes Mwangombe, was represented by the Associate Dean, Faculty of Agriculture (Prof. M. W. Okoth). Also present was the Vet. farm manager (Kanyariri), Dr O. Abuom. Preparations for the event was co-ordinated by the KPO Nairobi branch chairman, Dr. J .P. O. Obiero also a lecturer in the department EBE.

The event involved competitions in tractor ploughing, hand digging as well as exhibitions in which the participants included University of Nairobi staff and students, Brookside dairy, Ministry of Agriculture, Sustainet (conservation agriculture), IRRICO international, Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Nairobi branch, individual farmers and a number of secondary schools and a Teachers Training College. Tractor operators in CAVS, staff and some students participated in tractor ploughing competition.

The CAVS staff at field station and Vet. Farm (Kanyariri) as well as students also participated in hand digging. EBE staff participated in providing training and preparing machinery for tractor ploughmen (Martin Macharia), survey and preparation of site for the competition site (Martin Macharia, Anne Rose, Elkana Kirwa), and as instructor for

the young farmers tractor driving competitions (Martin Macharia) for secondary school students. EBE Staff also participated as judges during the event (Stephen Ondieki). The Chairman, EBE (Dr. A. N. Gitau), provided the necessary support in provision of machinery (tractors and ploughs) for use during the event.

Among the prizes won by the University staff at CAVS included: Best finisher (Peter Maina) who also emerged 2<sup>nd</sup> best in ploughing using the Mouldboard. Robert Irungu clinched top position in ploughing using the mould board and also was declared best opener. Joel N. Komu and Peter Ngeno took 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> positions in mouldboard and disc plough categories respectively. Muindi Benson of the University of Nairobi took 1<sup>st</sup> position in hand digging (men's category). Three winners in tractor ploughing from UoN qualified to represent the Nairobi branch in the national ploughing contest scheduled to take place end of November 2013 in Nakuru.

### **Student Activities/Events**

Sports at the college are offered for both recreational and competition to enable all the Students to participate in sports. To achieve this college has the state of the art and well maintained Sports equipment and facilities. The college appreciates and values the importance of Sports and recreation; hence it has made Sports and recreation an integral part of the college activities. Below are highlight of some of the major events participated by our college teams.

### **College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences Fun Day**

CAVS fun and Sports day was held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013. The event created an opportunity for the Students and staff to play various sports, socialize and have fun together in our excellent Sports complex. The event also created awareness on the importance of fitness among our staff and students, as a way of preventive medicine and management of most health problems. After the successful fun day the students



and staff were treated to a grand luncheon of with three huge bulls slaughtered to crown to event.



*College recreational and sports facilities*

### **CAVS teams participant in the Rapid Results Initiative (RRI) Inter – Campus Sport Tournament**

The rapid results initiative (RRI) inters – campus sport tournament was held at the main campus on 20<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2013. Our College was represented by both students and staff teams in football (men& women), Volleyball (men & women) and Basketball (men & women). Our college football men team won the football match and was awarded the first position trophy, while our football women and volleyball men teams were awarded the second position trophies. Our college teams scooped a total of three trophies and were declared the best overall college. The teams were treated with a dinner to congratulate their excellent performance.



*Prof. P.F.M.Mbithi, DVC(A&F) poses with CAVS team during Constitution of Kenya 2010 Sensitization program which incorporated sports and games as a way of reaching out to UoN staff.*

### **Environmental Activities**

CAVS in fulfilling one of her core values of nurturing and caring for the environment plants trees twice per year at the farms under the College mandate and care. These include upper Kabete campus, Kanyariri Veterinary Farm, Ngong forest and Kibwezi field station. CAVS does proactively engage with neighboring communities and other stakeholders in tree planting.





*CAVS staff and students having fun as they prepare to plant seedlings in November 2013 at Kanyariri Veterinary Farm.*

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*Mrs E. Ngunga, the Ag. Registrar is ready to put the seedlings into the ground as the team keep watch during the tree planting in November 2013 at Kanyariri Veterinary Farm.*

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