

REPORT ON MEETING BETWEEN THE PRINCIPAL CAES AND A TEAM FROM NETHERLANDS HELD ON THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2013.

1. Preamble:

On the morning of Thursday November 21, 2013, the Principal CAES Prof. Bernard Bashaasha met two visitors from Netherlands namely Astrid Mastebroek (the Chief of Party Integrated Seed Sector Development(ISSD) Uganda and Dr. Co Verdaas (the Director CDI Wageningen University) in his office. The meeting started at 9: 00 a.m and was also attended by Chair, Department of Extension and Innovation Studies Dr. Paul Kibwika.

ISSD is a project implemented by CDI based in Uganda funded by the Government of Netherlands through the Dutch embassy. The project aims at improving seed systems by focusing on streamlining non formal sector to enable small scale farmers access better quality seeds. Astrid Mastebroek is the Project Coordinator.

2. Remarks by the visiting team

The two visitors, Astrid Mastebroek and Dr. Co Verdaas:

a) Said:

- i) they had visited Uganda and paid a courtesy call to CAES to familiarise with programs undertaken in the college and explore opportunities for further collaboration and funding;
- ii) the centre would like to book in CAES by especially interesting student at MSc level to do research in areas to be identified including but not limited to value chains , environmental issues, innovation and change among others;
- iii) they had been doing some work in Northern and Western Uganda with farmers groups on crops like sweet potatoes, irish potatoes and beans which can help them get higher yields;
- iv) their work was basically complementary formal seed systems but would like to move to the national level to engage governments in quality assurance system;
- v) in the implementation of these programs a Public Private Patnership model has been used because they use public funds to support public sectors.

b) observed that:

- i) small scale farmers needed to be monitored and were discussing ways of doing this like linking with District officers;
- ii) there was a shortage of breeders in country and would like to work with institutions like NARO and interest students to do research on new varieties;
- iii) there were issues to do with seed companies e.g the quality of seeds and lack of interest in vegetatively propagated seeds hence the need to look at formal and informal distribution.

- c) informed members that:
 - i) the centre has money and was looking for ways to attract more business within a public private partnership arrangement;
 - ii) Dutch companies would like to do businesses with SMEs, share information and form networks;
- d) requested the Principal and other members of CAES to brainstorm on different areas of collaboration and write correspondences to help them plan to kick start the programs.

3. Remarks by Chair Department of Extension and Innovations Studies

Dr. Paul Kibwika:

- a) informed members that:
 - i) the department was partnering with the University of Wageningen on Climate Change Smart program and in a regional PhD program ARI;
 - ii) through ISSD, the college had a collaboration with the School of Agricultural Sciences to support graduate MSc. Research on seed sector related topics;
 - iii) there were specific areas of the ISSD project the department would like MSc. students to undertake and that;
 - iv) the department was looking at modalities of the cooperation and would come up with topics, advertise, and call for applications on a competitive basis.

4. Remarks by the Principal - CAES

Prof. Bernard Bashaasha:

- i) welcomed the team to Makerere and CAES in particular;
- ii) briefly the team on the college structure and its mergers, schools departments, research institutes and centres;
- iii) commended the Climate Change Smart Project for its mix bringing on board students from different continents of Africa, South America and Asia among others adding that Makerere was able to establish the Climate Change centre as a result of skills attained from such multinational programs;
- iv) appreciated the projects business model of a public private partnership as interesting;
- v) identified some areas of interest for collaboration as including Food production, logistics, post harvest losses, food handling and warehousing;
- vi) emphasised the need to build networks with right people;
- vii) informed visitors of CAES units dealing with aspects of rural planning, water management and irrigation to be notified on this opportunity;
- viii) assured the team of the available structures and personnel to deliver and continued dialogue on possible areas of collaboration.
- ix) observed that Africa and Europe had had long term engagements but this relationship had failed to yield tangible gains for Africa in terms of marketing

her products to Europe, an issue that would require evidence based on research to address the problem.

5. Discussion and way forward:

Members:

- a) explored possible opportunities for further funding and collaboration. The following areas were identified:
 - i) Post harvest where it was observed that 30-40% of the farmers produce in Uganda is lost due to poor handling and that, this was one of the top aspects on the political agenda in the Netherlands;
 - ii) Water Management in relation to agriculture where Netherlands was said to be advanced in this area;
 - iii) Dairy development and;
 - iv) Food value chain (food security and food quality) taking care of supermarkets.

- b) agreed that the Principal and the Chair present would interest other units in the college of the available opportunities, and share the views by correspondence with the visitors. Another visit would be organised to present to the students and staff.

The meeting ended at 10:15 am