

**REPORT OF THE MEETING WITH A TEAM FROM SIDA HELD ON  
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2013 IN SAS CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Preamble**

On Thursday November 21, 2013 a team from the Swedish International Aid (SIDA) visited the college to attend the Annual General Meeting to get progress reports of Graduate PhD students sponsored under SIDA. The meeting that started at 11:35 a.m was attended by the Principal CAES, SIDA officials, an official from the Directorate of Graduate Research and Training, CAES program coordinators and student supervisors among others.

## **Acronyms**

<b>CAES</b>	College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
<b>SIDA</b>	Swedish International Aid
<b>SAS</b>	School of Agricultural Sciences
<b>SFEGs</b>	School of Forestry, Environmental & Geographical Sciences
<b>DABE</b>	Department of Agricultural Biosystems engineering
<b>DAP</b>	Department of Agricultural Production
<b>DGRT</b>	Directorate of Graduate Research & Training
<b>SLU</b>	
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>KCCA</b>	Kampala Capital City Authority

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### Attendance

No.	Name	Designation
1.	Prof. Bernard. Bashaasha	Principal CAES/Supervisor
2.	Prof. Elly Sabiiti	Program Coordinator CAES
3	Dr. Katrina	Director SIDA
3.	Prof. Lars Drake	Supervisor SIDA
4	Dr. Eva	Supervisor SIDA
5	Maria Nakyewa	Project Accountant SIDA
6	Prof. Johnny Mugisha	Dean SAS/ Supervisor
7	Prof. Mnason Tweheyo	Dean SFEGS
8	Prof. Noble Banadda	Chair DABE/ Supervisor
9	Dr. Denis Mpairwe	Chair DAP/ Supervisor
10	Dr. Jeninah Karungi	Assist Coordinator/Lecturer DAP
11	Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi	Deputy Director, DGRT
12		
13	Jane. Anyango	Communication Officer CAES
14	Alice Turinawe	Student
15	Mary Tibeziinda	Student

### Agenda

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Introduction
- 3) Welcome remarks by the Principal CAES
- 4) Communication from CAES Coordinator
- 5) Communication from Swedish coordinator
- 6) General Discussion
- 7) Student presentations
- 8) A. O.B

## **Prayer**

The prayer was led by Prof. Mnason Tweheyo.

## **Introductions**

Members introduced themselves (see attendance list above)

## **Welcome remarks from the Principal CAES**

The Principal:

- i) welcomed members to the college and expressed gratitude for the effort by SIDA officials to attend the meeting;
- ii) described SIDA as one of the big supporters of Makerere University;
- iii) appreciated SIDA for the support in capacity building efforts, research and infrastructure development imploring the team to feel free to discuss with CAES staff;
- iv) commended the quality of students and research output coming out as good and associated these to the funding provided by SIDA;
- v) said SIDA funding started way back during the faculty system adding that with the collegiate system, more disciplines have come on board;
- vi) gave a brief on the college structure ie its mergers, current schools, departments , research institutes and centres and;
- vii) expressed happiness for another phase of SIDA where the college had put in its bid.

## **Remarks from Project Coordinator, CAES**

The Project Coordinator CAES:

- i) welcomed the Principal on SIDA program saying this was the first time for him to chair SIDA's Annual General Meeting to give progress reports;
- ii) congratulated the Principal upon his appointment as first elected Principal CAES;
- iii) welcome Catrina as the first directly elected Director following her rise from the rank of Deputy Director;
- iv) reported that before SIDA comes to assess the student reports, the coordinator produces Annual Reports which are assessed against proposals and that things were moving on well;
- v) explained that the day's event would be largely run by students as it was time to discuss their progress reports;
- vi) hailed Dr. Eva for coordinating and taking care of students and staff who go to Sweden;
- vii) expressed happiness that since Dr. Johnny came, there has been strong relationship with SLU university describing this as a social achievement;

- viii) pledged to take the Principal to Sweden next year to have feel of the environment there;
- ix) thanked members who have been working on this program;
- x) reported that one of the program objective was to build capacity and that this has been achieved with staff who started as students to senior scientists and supervisors;
- xi) introduced the three PhD students due to present their reports as Alice Turinawe, Mary Tibeziinda and Allan Komakech;
- xii) said the program came up with an innovation where MSc. Students were helping supervisors to do research but previously the focus was on PhD students;
- xiii) reported that the program had been running since 2010- 2014 and was about research, establishment of the waste management centre; increasing research culture where a pool of money was set aside to benefit others through small grants of about 5000USD;
- xiv) the objectives had been clear and based on proposals to enhance soil fertility, water management, help farmers through integrated pest management technologies, commercial nutraceuticals among others;
- xv) thanked Dr. Catri for the guidance, personal effort to make sure that the program succeeds;
- xvi) assured members that the program was the best because the students were advancing well and 3 students will be completing soon;
- xvii) hailed the program for a clean record of meeting the targets and completion rates and;
- xviii) thanked Maria the project accountant for the money, support, coordination pushing for timely accountabilities.

#### **Remarks from Director SIDA**

The coordinator:

- i) agreed that the program was successful and well coordinated;
- ii) said all meetings were always well prepared and whoever attended would feel at ease;
- iii) expressed happiness that the college had strong relationship with SIDA and;
- iv) looked forward to hearing science reports.

#### **Remarks from Deputy Director, DGRT**

The Director:

- i) thanked SIDA, colleagues in administration, scientists in CAES for the good work;

- ii) reported that the centre was grateful for the help to reach out to Makerere's vision;
- iii) explained that research was not a new phenomenon but now people were doing focused research and that university was moving into thematic research so that people do not do everything but deepen their specialities and outputs;
- iv) expressed gratitude that CAES was a one stop centre in science, technology and innovation;
- v) reported that during the recent conference on post doc presentations, 6 out of 9 presentations came from CAES indicating the amount of work and research activity going on in the college and ;
- vi) expressed pride to be associated with CAES on grounds that the college was on the right course of the research agenda.

## **Reactions**

Members;

- i) thanked the Swedish people and taxpayers for the support extended to Uganda and the entire region with citations from personal assistance of funding up to 60%;
- ii) said they had also benefited through networking and getting other grants from among others EU and VICRES projects;
- iii) expressed gratitude for SIDA's result based management, being good and regular in scientific writings and proposals;
- iv) expressed the need to focus more on students publishing papers rather than thesis completion as the culture dictates nowadays;
- v) proposed that the program should think of establishing a coordinating centre in the next phase;
- vi) observed that the program had 20 graduate MSc. students and more emphasis should be put on Post Doc training in the upcoming phases;
- vii) suggested that other infant public universities be brought on board to enhance capacity building;
- viii) were informed that public universities such as Mbarara and Gulu had good partners and had already embarked on developing research, policy and curriculum, setting up laboratories and building capacity;
- ix) expressed the need to find better synergies in SIDA funded programs which was already in the draft concept;

- x) suggested that there was need to bridge the gap between research and policy on reason that science that remains on shelf does not improve people's livelihoods. Members were informed that the Directorate of Graduate Training and Research had embarked on training makerere students on writing policy briefs and would inform staff when the next training would be due and;
- xi) requested the Directorate Graduate Research and Training to provide guidelines on Post doc training i.e how they are registered and regularised in the system, whether they get appointments or admission, when they are supposed to come as these were not clear.

### **Student presentations**

Three PhD students presented their reports particularly the findings and policy implications. Two of the students namely Alice Turinawe and Mary Tibeziinda presented their work while Prof. Noble Banadda presented on behalf of Allan Komakech as his supervisor because he was in Sweden doing his fourth paper.

#### **11.1 Alice Turinawe from (Department of Agribusiness and Natural Resources Economics )**

Presented on enhancement of sustainable agricultural production from soil and water conservation technologies in South Western Uganda Kabaale district.

##### **11.1.1 Major observations included:**

- she was on a good path and had gone ahead to write four papers instead of two;
- should give a policy link for the papers and arrange to attend policy brief training;
- her paper would have had an input from the Department of Agricultural Bio systems engineering but this would have had an engineering view;
- the title insinuates that the study was taken in the whole SW Uganda which was not the case hence the need to mention Kazo as a case study;

- should ensure that she has done cross cutting courses;
- need to put scientific results in the report and;
- submit RBM matrix.

### **1.2 Allan Komakech presentation (Department of Agricultural Bio systems engineering):**

- ❖ was represented by supervisor Prof. Noble Banadda;
- ❖ Paper 1 on mapping animals around Kampala had already been published and had received 20 inquiries on Google scholar and had been shared with KCCA to help map animals in Kampala;
- ❖ Paper 2 on the study of dumping sites found out that the biggest part of the garbage was bio degradable and had been also been published and would fit into the next concept;
- ❖ Paper 3 was on vermin compost, a new idea from SLU on how to decompose waste using worms had also been published, shared with KCCA. Farmers want it shared with them during a breakfast meeting;
- ❖ the last paper was being worked on from Sweden while a pre - defence had been scheduled for December 18, 2013;
- ❖ had done cross cutting courses, included scientific results in the report and submitted RBM matrix;
- ❖ a double degree award was being organized and would love to have a video link but were limited poor band width;
- ❖ student deserves an award for excellent work and his project had been selected by the Swedish Coordinator for presentation at the Swedish embassy.

### **1.3 Presentation from Mary Tibeziinda (Department of Agricultural Production):**

Presented her work on pasture in pastoral communities:

- there was little progress due to some issues such as lack of funds to conduct grazing study on farms;
- was destined to go to Sweden between April and August;
- said had now received the funding and hoped to complete the study by December 2014;
- asked to document her workplan that by March 2014 her field work would be complete; April- March would be in Sweden; Thesis writing would take about 2 months and then defend in December 2014;

- should ensure that has done cross cutting courses;
- need to put scientific results in the report and;
- submit RBM matrix and;
- the study should indicate that because of climate change and need for pasture, farmers cannot withstand these conditions and therefore require pastures that are tolerant to stress.

**A.O.B : Structure for Waste Management Centre**

CAES Program Coordinator:

- i) informed members that all the money acquired to procure equipment for the Waste management center was still stuck due to lack of a complete structure to keep the equipment if procured;
- ii) inquired if money under this phase could be rechanneled for that purpose;
- iii) was advised to look at the activities to be carried out in the extension period and include it there.

The meeting ended at 01: 40pm