

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
(CAES)

PRINCIPAL'S 4TH QUARTELY REPORT
JANUARY- MARCH, 2015

Foreword

This is the Principal's 4th Quarterly report that highlights the major activities and achievements in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) between January – March 2015.

The college successfully conducted the major academic activities including 65th graduation in January 2015.

A number of staff won awards and some promoted in their academic ranks. The report also outlines some of the efforts by staff and students to reach out to the communities and strengthening collaboration both at national and international scene.

The report highlights some efforts geared towards improving on the training, research, resource mobilization and knowledge transfer to society.

Abbreviations

AGRA	Alliance for the Green Revolution in Africa
CAES	College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
CHS	College of Health Sciences
CEES	College of Education and External Studies
CEDAT	College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology
CoBAMS	College of Business and Management Sciences
CoVAB	College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources & Bio security
CSRL	Centre for Sustainable and Rural Livelihoods
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organisation
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NEMA	National Environmental Management Authority
SAS	School of Agricultural Sciences
SFTNB	School of Food Technology, Nutrition and Bio engineering
SFEGS	School of Forestry, Environmental and Geographical Sciences
ACE	African Centre of Excellence
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
AWF	Africa Wildlife Foundation
CAPSNAC	Regional Capacity building for Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Agricultural productivity under climate change
DRGT	Directorate of Research and Graduate Training
ELISA	Linked Immuno Sombet Assay Machine
MAK	Makerere University
MUARIK	Makerere University Research Institute Kabanyolo
MUBFS	Makerere University Biology Field Station (MUBFS).
MUIENR	Makerere University Institute of Environment and Natural Resources
NBDB	National Biodiversity Data Bank
NEF	Next Einstein Fellowship

NOKS	Norwegian Koner
IMCDA	<i>The Improved Masters Project In Caltivar Development</i>
PCR	Polimeris Chain Reaction Enzyme Machine
SEE	Solve the Equation East Africa
SUA	Sokoine University of Agriculture
SAPRC	Senate Academic Programs Restructuring Committee
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority

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Introduction

Makerere University College of Agricultural and Environmental sciences (CAES), is one of the nine colleges of Makerere University. It was formed by the integration of the Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation, Makerere University Institute of Environment and Natural Resources (MUIENR) and the Department of Geography.

Currently, CAES comprises three schools, i.e. School of Agricultural Sciences (SAS), School of Food Technology, Nutrition and Bioengineering (SFTNB) and the School of Forestry, Environmental and Geographical Sciences (SFECS).

Each of the Schools is made up of departments which administer and deliver academic programmes at undergraduate and graduate level as tabulated below:

CAES schools and departments

College	Schools	Departments
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES)	School of Agricultural Sciences	Agricultural Production Agribusiness and Natural Resource Economics Extension & Innovations
	School of Forestry, Environmental and Geographical Sciences	Forestry, Bio-Diversity and Tourism Environmental Management Geography, Geo Informatics and Climatic Sciences
	School of Food Technology, Nutrition and Bio-engineering	Agricultural & Bio systems Engineering Food Technology and Human Nutrition

The college has two institutes that handle research. These are Makerere University Research Institute Kabanyolo (MUARIK) and Makerere University Biology Field Station (MUBFS). The college has 14 centers serving as a base for knowledge transfer partnerships.

Vision: “To be a leading institution of academic excellence and innovations in Africa ”

Mission: “To advance training, knowledge generation and service delivery in order to enhance agricultural development, sustainable natural resource utilization and environmental management.”

1.0: TEACHING AND LEARNING

1.1: Over 600 graduate at 65th Graduation ceremony

CAES students graduated on 21st January, 2015. The college had a total of 617 graduands. Of these 12 were awarded Doctorates, out of the University total of 67 representing 18 percent. 100 students were awarded Masters and 505 graduated with Bachelor's degrees in different disciplines. The ceremony was presided over by the Chancellor Makerere University Prof. Mondo Kagonyera at the Freedom Square. Members of staff from CAES also graduated with PhDs. These include Lwasa Stephen, Allan Komakech John, Jalia Kigozi and Kambugu Robert Kyeyune.

1.2: Progress on the University wide programme restructuring

On 2nd February, 2015 a meeting between CAES and the Senate Academic Programs Restructuring Committee (SAPRC) was held at the School of Agricultural Sciences. CAES was honoured for receiving the team and being the first of all colleges to be received.

The Chairperson SAPRC gave a brief background to the formation of the Senate Academic Restructuring Committee, its membership and mandate, the Terms of Reference, the principles adopted for the harmonization of the academic programs and committee resolutions.

Generally, the call to restructure academic programmes was welcome as an opportunity to avoid duplication. Departmental and School level meetings to synthesize and finalise the revisions have been held. The College Academic Board is to receive the School reports for further input.

1.3: The Students' Entrepreneurship Club under the project Solve the Equation East Africa (SEE) Launched

The Makerere University Students' Entrepreneurship Club was on 7th March, 2015 launched at the School of Agricultural Sciences. The club is an initiative under the project, "Solve the Equation East Africa (SEE). SEE is a collaborative project within the member universities in East Africa trying to change the mindset of University graduates from thinking about job seeking to job creation by imparting several skills including entrepreneurship.

Basing on the success projects in Rwanda, SEE philosophy of change is to conduct training for innovation entrepreneurship, supporting business skills, pilot innovative ideas, commercialise successive piloted ideas and follow up teams in the field.

The launch of the Makerere University Students' Entrepreneurship Club and SEE project activities was spearheaded by the Project Coordinator for East Africa Mr. Paul Serumaga who is also a lecturer at the University of Rwanda. Mr. Serumaga is also a college Alumni who graduated with a BSc. Food Science and Technology in 2001. He is being assisted by Makerere University SEE project coordinators Prof. Felix Bareeba

and Dr. Peter Walekhwa. The function was presided over by the Dean, School of Agricultural Sciences, Prof. Johnny Mugisha.

The project is being implemented in four countries of Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda with plans to extend to Ethiopia, South Sudan and Burundi. The participating universities in the four East African countries are the University of Rwanda, University of Nairobi, Muhimbiri University and Makerere University.

The major project funder is Master Card in the United States. The preliminary stage of the project (2014-2016) has a budget of \$ 350, 000 and \$ 21,000,000 for the next eight years for follow up activities. The project structure involves a training component, curriculum development and linkages with banks to give start up loans to students. Other activities include mentoring activities which are paid for by the project for all students who would have started a business and outreach programs to different people within their localities.

1.4: College interest to apply for a African Centre of Excellence (ACE)

A series of meetings have been held to discuss the College application for the African Centres of Excellence. An interim Steering Committee has been constituted comprising Prof. Rubaihayo (Chair), Prof. Bashaasha, Prof. Muyonga, Prof. Mugisha, Prof. Tweheyo, Prof. Kyamanywa, Assoc. Prof. Margaret Mangheni, Assoc. Prof. Paul Kibwika and Assoc. Prof. David Tumusiime. The committee held its maiden meeting on 28th January, 2015.

The meeting identified 5 areas of focus as follows (1)Climate Smart Agriculture and risk management, (2)Biotechnology and seed System, (3)Agribusiness and value Chain Development, (4) Experiential Learning and learning methods and (5)Statistics and ICT.

ACE is an initiative of World Bank and Uganda Government. The Program is intended to meet Uganda's growing skills challenges and promote required specialization. Uganda has already accessed \$ 27m for Nutrition from World Bank. Each successful proposed project will receive US\$ 6 – 8 million. This money is a loan from the World Bank to Uganda and is available. The motivation is to boost human capital and the demand for specialized skills and knowledge critical for African development (In this case Eastern and Southern Africa).

2.0: INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

2.1: MUARIK Microbiology Laboratory equipped

The college acquired the modern state-of-the-art equipment for the Microbiology laboratory at MUARIK under the new project dubbed, “**The Improved Masters Project In Caltivar Development (IMCDA)**” funded by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) is coordinated by Dr. Richard Edema.

The acquired equipment includes the *Geno grinder* worth USD 21,000. This is an automated system to study genetics and DNA. It has a capacity to grind 380 plant samples in three minutes. Previously, lab scientists used a manual motor to grind and this would take 3weeks to grind the same amount of plants. The other equipment acquired are the *Polimeris Chain Reaction (PCR)* that allows the multiplicity of DNA and the *Enzyme Linked Immuno Sombet Assay (ELISA)* for routine detection of pathogens that affect plants like bacteria, fungi and viruses.

2.2: Students’ Entrepreneurship Club under the SEE project acquires computers and TV screens

The Makerere University Students’ Entrepreneurship Club in the School of Agricultural Sciences got computers and two TV screens to show successful entrepreneurs. An incubation centre will be set up at Makerere and a stall at Wandegeya market for students

SEE is a collaborative project within the member universities in East Africa trying to change the mindset of University graduates from thinking about job seeking to job creation by imparting several skills including entrepreneurship. It is funded by Master Card in the United States with a e budget of \$ 350, 000 (2014-2016) and \$21,000,000 for next 8 years. Students will be trained and supported to commercialise ideas and linked to banks to get loans

3.0: HUMAN RESOURCE AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

3.1: Staff promotions

A number of staff were promoted in their academic ranks

No.	Name of staff	promotion	Department
1	Dr. Vincent Muwanika	Assoc. Professor	Environmental Management
2	Dr. David Mwesigye Tumusiime	Assoc. Professor	Environmental Management
3	Dr. Lawrence Justus B Orikiriza	Senior Lecturer.	Forestry Biodiversity and Tourism
4	Prof. Abwoli Yabezi Banana	Contract renewed	Forestry Biodiversity and Tourism
5	Dr. Bob Nakileza	Senior Lecturer	Geography, Geo informatics and Climatic Sciences
6	Dr. Swaibu Lwasa	Assoc. Professor	Geography, Geo informatics and Climatic Sciences
7	Dr. Fred Kabi	Assoc. Professor	Agricultural Production
8	Dr. Alice Amoding	Senior Lecturer.	Agricultural Production
9	Dr. Sadhat Sula Walusimbi	Lecturer	Agricultural Production
10	Ms. Rebecca Mukebezi	Appointed Assistant Lecturer	Extension and Innovation Studies
11	Dr. Prossy Isubikalulu	Senior Lecture	Extension and Innovation Studies
12	Dr. Florence Kyazze	Senior Lecturer	Extension and Innovation Studies

3.2: Prof. Elly N. Sabiiti recognised for his service to the Mak - Sida Collaborative research program

Prof. Elly N. Sabiiti was recognised for his service to the Mak - Sida Collaborative research program. This was during the end of the Mak-Sida International Research and Innovations Dissemination Conference that took place from 20th - 21st April , 2015 at Hotel Africana, Kampala, Uganda under the theme: "Community Transformation through Research, Innovations and Knowledge Translation"

Prof. Sabiiti initiated the program in 2000. He was appointed program coordinator by the School of Agricultural Sciences. The program will be ending in August 2015. By the end of this program ten (10) members of staff would have graduated with PhDs. Already eight (8) have completed. A number of computers and laboratory equipment have been secured under Mak - Sida collaborative program.

A centre for Waste Management at Makerere University Research Institute Kabanyolo (MUARIK) is also coming up as a result of this collaboration. Sida has injected 100 million shilling towards buying the equipment for this Waste Management centre.

Similarly Makerere University during its 3rd Management meeting held on 25th February approved the release of 35.2 million shillings as top up towards the rehabilitation of the centre of excellence in Waste Management at MUARIK.

3.3: Prof. Noble Banadda wins the NEF Award 2015.

Prof. Noble Banadda won the Next Einstein Fellowship (NEF) Award 2015. Prof. Banadda is the Chair, Department of Agricultural and Bio systems engineering under the School of Food Technology, Nutrition and Bio engineering.

The Professor received the award letter dated 28th February, 2015 from the Executive Curator, NEF Dr. Nkem Khumbah. The NEF Scientific Program Committee SPC was particularly impressed by Prof. Banadda's scientific achievements and his potential for leadership. The other achievement that also merited attention for the scientific committee was the number of scientific publications he has had.

Prior to the NEF award he had been recognised with several awards for his outstanding performance. By the end of his doctorate he had nine (9) journal papers in peer reviewed scientific papers and currently has 65 scientific papers. He was the first black African to get a PhD in Chemical engineering in Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium) in 600 years of its existence opening the door to blacks recognition and entrance into that field.

He became professor at the age of 37, one among the rear cases at Makerere University. By Google scholar rankings, Prof. Banadda has 616 citations, ranked 35th and 2nd in the world and Africa in his field.

Prof. Banadda will be announced during the African Higher Education Summit in Dakar, Senegal, in March 2016. He will mentor, inspire and promote a positive global view of Science in Africa.

3.4: Prof. Elly N. Sabiiti appointed Co-ordinator towards the operationalisation of the Memorandum of Academic Cooperation between Makerere and University of Western Sydney, Australia

The Vice Chancellor, Makerere University Prof. John Ddumba - Ssentamu appointed Prof. Elly N. Sabiiti as coordinator towards the operationalisation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of Academic cooperation between Makerere University and University of Western Sydney, Australia.

This was contained in the letter written to the Ag. Vice Chancellor and President, University of Western Sydney Prof. Scott Holmes, dated February 17, 2015. In the letter the Vice Chancellor reiterated Makerere University's great interest in this cooperation which will strengthen the research and training capacity in the CAES in the fields of peri-urban water management, peri - urban food production, liveability of outer urban areas, sanitation and waste management.

According to this agreement, staff from University of Western Sydney who are specialised in certain areas lacking at Makerere will be coming here. Makerere staff

will also be going to Australia. A similar arrangement will apply for PhD students. As coordinator, Prof. Sabiiti will ensure that what is written in the MoU is operationalised university wide. There is part for CAES, CEDAT CHUSS, CoVAB, CoBAMS and CEES all embracing.

Makerere University and University of Western Sydney on 2nd February, 2015, signed an MoU of the Academic Cooperation for the next three years. The MoU was signed by Makerere University's Vice Chancellor Prof. John Ddumba -Ssentamu on behalf of Makerere and witnessed by the Legal officer Goddy Muhangizi Muhumuza. Prof. Scott Holmes signed for and on behalf of University of Western Sydney witnessed by the Senior Project and Strategy Officer, Tanya Adoson.

3.5: Election of School Senate Representatives

The college successfully nominated and held free and fair elections for the School Senate representatives. In the School of Agricultural Sciences three candidates namely; the incumbent Prof. Elly Sabiiti, Prof. Jacob Agea and Associate Prof. Margaret Mangheni expressed willingness to serve. Prof. Agea won the elections.

In the School of Forestry, Environmental and Geographical Sciences, the incumbent Assoc. Prof. John Bosco Okullo retained the seat while in the School of Food Technology, Nutrition and Bio engineering Prof. Noble Banadda also retained the post.

3.6: Election of Departmental Chairs

The Department of Extension and Innovation studies nominated a new Chair Prof. Agea Jacob unopposed. He replaces Assoc. Prof. Paul Kibwika who stepped down after serving for one term.

Elections were held in the Department of Agricultural Production between the incumbent Chair Dr. Denis Mpairwe and Dr. Herbert Talwana. Dr. Denis Mpairwe got higher votes.

In the Department of Geography Geo informatics and Climatic sciences, Dr. Yazidhi Bamutaze was nominated unopposed as new Chair replacing Dr. Fredrick Tumwine.

Elections were also held in the Department of Environment Management where the incumbent Dr. Okot Okumu won his opponent Dr. Vincent Muwanika.

Prof. Philip Nyeko was retained unopposed as Chair Department of Forestry, Biodiversity and Tourism.

Prof. Achileo Kaaya was also retained Chair Department of Food Technology and Nutrition.

Chairs in the Departments of Agribusiness and Natural Resources Economics,
Department of Agricultural and Bio systems engineering were not affected because
their terms had not expired.

4.0: OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

4.1: The 2015 CAES Students Exhibition held

The 2015 CAES Students' exhibition was on 9th April, 2015 opened at the Makerere University Freedom Square by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs (DVC AA) Dr. Okello Ogwang. This year's exhibitions sought to disseminate and showcase the different research and innovation products of the students and inspire the youth to take on agriculture as a business under the theme, "*Youth Innovations in Agricultural and Environmental Management: A Panacea to Food Insecurity and Expansion of Small and Medium size Enterprises in the Agricultural Sector*".

Students from the School of Forestry, Environmental and Geographical Sciences exhibited less utilized timber products such as bamboo products and handmade paper and clean energy utilization. In tourism, they exhibited Gorilla conservation and Cultural tourism while in environment, they showcased the recycling and reuse of polythene bags to enhance solid waste management.

From the School of Agricultural Sciences, students exhibited mushroom production and products, Beetroot production and juice making, urea molasses mineral blocks for livestock, fish farming and modern packing for smoked fish and pumpkin products.

A variety of value added products were showcased from the School of Food Technology, Nutrition and Bioengineering. The students also set and demonstrated various nutritional practices, diets and practically carried out tests and raised awareness on obesity, diabetes and blood pressure.

4.2: The first Research Dissemination Workshop for the CAPSNAC project held

The first research dissemination workshop for the CAPSNAC project was held in the Senate building at Makerere University on 31st March, 2015. The four years project entitled, "Regional Capacity building for Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Agricultural productivity under climate change (CAPSNAC)", started in January 2014 and is funded through the NORAD program, NORHED at cost of over 17million Norwegian Kroner (about shs. 5.6bn)

The money is channelled through Makerere University (Uganda) as the lead university in collaboration with other three universities of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), University of Juba (Southern Sudan) and the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (Norway).

The project aim is to strengthen the capacity of universities to address issues to do with climate change, environment and natural resource management. The training is being conducted at Masters and PhD level. At masters level a total 12 students will be enrolled, and 5 of them have been recruited and 7 remaining. 5 PhDs will be from Southern Sudan, 3 from Uganda and 2 from Addis Ababa..

The main focus of the project is to build capacity for Southern Sudan through training people who can have the capacity to handle issues of climate change and natural resource management. The other aspect is to prepare farmers through predicting to them the changing weather patterns and designing cropping systems that are resilient to climate change. The project is also supposed to conduct short term trainings on environmental impact assessment and social environmental safeguards for all and adjust the curriculum to incorporate climate sciences.

4.3: MAK valley tank in the water stressed communities of Nakasongola register success

Residents of Kanyonyi village, Wanzogi – Subcounty, Kalungi Parish in Nakasongola district had all reasons to celebrate following a successful project that relieved several households from shifting in search for water for their animals and domestic use. No animal deaths resulting from water scarcity has been recorded.

Kanyonyi village is one of the villages in Kalungi parish that is always severely hit by drought from November to March. The parish is composed of seven villages including Kabandi, Kanyonyi, Wanzogi, Kaombe, Katugo and Iremya with over 30, 000 animals affected every dry season. Residents used to trek for 13 km to Lake Kyoga to get water for their animals and human use. During this movement, 40 animals in a herd of 100, used to die, calves not counted.

The first dam in this area was constructed by government in 1960's to help residents access water for domestic use but the water reservoir was filled with mud and eventually closed due to poor management practices. In 2011 Makerere University dons from the Department of Extension and Innovation studies embarked on a three year project aimed at harnessing water and its use especially production in water stressed areas. Makerere University collaborated with Egerton University (Kenya), RUFORUM which is an umbrella organization for African Universities and Bok University in Austria.

The project titled, “ strengthening Universities Capacities for Mitigating Climate Induced Vulnerabilities in East Africa (WATERCAP) was an initiative from RUFORUM an umbrella where different Universities in Africa come together to do training and research at an estimated cost of 150,000 Euros.

The project was led by Makerere University Dr. Paul Kibwika as the Principal Investigator and Dr. Florence Kyazze from the Department of Extensions and Innovation studies assisted by Eng. Nicholas Kiggundu from the Department of Agricultural and Bio systems engineering.

WATERCAP trained residents good management practices, desilted, reconstructed and widened the animal dam that was built by government in 1967 with a capacity of drawing 1500 animals. A water pump with the capacity of pumping 4000 litres on 0.6 Litres of petrol was procured. A 70 ft wide water trough with the capacity of 4000 litres of water was also constructed.

In June 2013, the project ended and was handed over to the residents. Dr. Kibwika and Dr. Kyazze visited the site at the end of February 2015 to assess not only the progress made by the communities in maintaining and utilising the water resource but also see whether the initiative served the intended purpose to provide water during the dry season.

The dons were impressed by the capability of the communities to organise themselves to manage the water resources that had taken them throughout the dry season and could serve the communities for more three months of the dry season. The community committees were also able to hire a labourer to operate the water to ensure that both animals and people get the water. Over 1000 animals draw water from the valley tank. Seven parishes draw water from this same resource for domestic use.

4.4: The Department of Geography, Geo informatics and Climatic Sciences holds public lecture

On 18th March, 2015, the Department of Geography, Geo informatics and Climatic Sciences in collaboration with the Department of Human Geography, Lund University- Sweden organized a Public Lecture titled: *“Regional Economic Dynamics and Labour Mobility: An Economic Geography Perspective”*.

The lecture was delivered by Mikhail Martynovich, a Visiting Lecturer to DGGCS under the Linnaeus-Palme Exchange programme at the SFECS Conference Hall.

5.0: RESOURCE MOBILISATION AND COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

5.1: AGRA funded program worth USD 2.6 million towards training of Plant Breeders for Uganda and other countries Launched

A five year project worth USD 2.6 Million was on 10th April, 2015 launched by the Deputy Director, Directorate of Research and Graduate Training (DRGT) Prof. David Owinyi Okello at Makerere University Research Institute Kabanyolo. Also present was AGRA Program Officer Dr. Rufaro M Madakadze, the Principal CAES Prof. Bernard Bashaasha, staff and students.

The new project dubbed, “ *The Improved Masters Project In Caltivar Development (IMCDA)*” funded by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) is coordinated by Dr. Richard Edema and implemented in the Department of Agricultural Production. The goal is to train (30) scientists at a Masters level in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology and /or Seed Systems and Technology and Business from Rwanda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

The other goal is to provide shorter term skills enhancement course for staff, support visiting instructors in specialised programs, review the curriculum for wide scale use and accessibility for improving post BSc. training in breeding, establish a cow pea breeding program and manage an internship program for completing students in reputable seed companies.

The project will also focus on development of e-learning materials in cooperation with IOWA State University, Kwame Nkuruma University of Science and Technology (Ghana) and KwaZulu Natal University (S. Africa)

The project has secured the modern state-of –the - art equipment for the Microbiology laboratory at MUARIK. This includes the Geno grinder worth USD 21,000, the Polimeris Chain Reaction (PCR) that allows the multiplicity of DNA and the Enzyme Linked Immuno Sombet Assay (ELISA) for routine detection of pathogens that affect plants.

5.2: Norwegian Government injects Noks 17million into climate change research.

Norwegian Government injected over NOKS 17million (about UGX 5.6bn) into the training of climate change experts in four universities as a measure to mitigate climate change through research.

The money is channelled through Makerere as coordinating university in collaboration with other three universities to build their capacities in climate change through research and training.

The four years research project entitled, “Regional Capacity building for Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Agricultural productivity under climate change (CAPSNAC)”, is funded through the NORAD program NORHED and implemented in universities of Makerere, Addis Ababa, University of Juba and the Norwegian University of Life Sciences.

The project aim is to strengthen the capacity of universities to address issues to do with climate change, environmental management and agricultural productivity. The training is being conducted at Masters and PhD level. At masters level a total 12 students will be enrolled, and 5 of them have been recruited and 7 remaining 5Phds will come from South Sudan, 3 from Uganda and 2 from Addis Ababa” he said.

5.3: NBDB Stakeholders hold Consultative Meeting.

The meeting held on 9th April, 2015 at Protea Hotel Kampala, jointly sponsored by USAID together with the Government of Uganda was aimed at reviewing the challenges facing the National Bio-Data Bank (NBDB), proposing strategies for revitalising its operation. The bio-data bank paused its operations for over a year due to inconsistent funding and management issues.

The meeting attracted various key players in the biodiversity and nature conservation sector, members from various organisations such as Makerere University, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), Total E&P, Nature Uganda, National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO). USAID TETRA-TECH project among others.

The Principal – CAES, Prof. Bernard Bashaasha underscored the importance of the meeting as a timely act to review and strengthen the centre’s position and usefulness in the wake of global climatic challenge and biodiversity loss calling for renewed support and corporation from partner organisations as the university moves to resolve the issues that led to the halting of its operations.

Stakeholders expressed the need for standards to check for accuracy and regulate the quality of data gathered for biodiversity data bank and to recruit skilled and qualified staff .The meeting resolved to form a board and a committee with the role of overseeing and advising on the operations of the bio-data bank to ensure its sustainability and growth. Representatives from several organisations pledged their organisations’ support

5.4: Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and USAID -Uganda Biodiversity Program donate 300 National Park Information books to the School of Forestry, Environmental and Geographical Sciences (SFEGS)

The SFEGS received 300 National Park Educational and Informational Guide books. The books were handed over by the Executive Director Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Dr. Andrew Seguya to the Dean SFEGS on 11th February 2015. The handover ceremony was held at the SFEGS conference room and attended by the Chief of Party of the United States Agency for International Development USAID - Uganda Biodiversity Program, Kaddu Sebunya.

The information materials were produced by the Uganda Wild life Authority (UWA) with funding from the USAID - Uganda Biodiversity Program, implemented by Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF). The publications came in four packages providing information for Lake Mburo, Murchison Falls, and Kidepo Valley National Parks and the Uganda Bird Checklist.

These books provide useful information about the Parks and create awareness of the attractions and biodiversity importance and will help in strengthening knowledge of over 8000 students trained by the school in environment, forestry, tourism and environment and conservation management.

The Chief of Party of the United States Agency for International Development USAID - Uganda Biodiversity Program Kaddu Sebunya pledged that UWA and USAID/Uganda Biodiversity Program would partner with the school to promote conservation and establish memorandum of understanding to run internship and mentoring programs for students with more bias on the females.

5.5: A team from Sokoine University of Agriculture visit Makerere to benchmark the operationalisation of the collegiate system.

A seven- man team from Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) made a three days visit to Makerere to study how the University was fairing following her transition from Faculty based to a Collegiate system. SUA is in the process of restructuring with special emphasis on the proposed School of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness.

The SUA team members included Damian Gabagambi, Charles Malaki, Emmanuel Mbiha, Sebastian Chenyambuga, Caroline Nombo, David Kraybill and Isaac Minde. The lessons picked from Makerere would help them make informed decisions. The team arrived in Uganda on 29th March, 2015 and was on campus from 30th March to 1st April. They first visited the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and interacted with the Principal Prof. Bernard Bashaasha and other staff.

At the University, they had interactions with senior members of staff and Management including the Vice Chancellor and his Deputies, Directors in the Departments of Planning and Development, Quality Assurance, Research and Graduate training, long serving professors and members of staff who have served on

different university committees, Deans, Heads of Departments, and RUFORUM.

The key issues and questions revolved around the rationale of restructuring Makerere University, the motives and what the situation was before. Other generic issues were how the exercise was conducted and the processes, the challenges faced during the implementation and how they were resolved. Also key were questions on the outcomes of the collegiate system and the role of different stakeholders in the restructuring process and how they would redo it if asked to repeat.

5.6: Building the CAES Alumni data base

In a bid to tap into the college Alumni, the Principal's office funded an advert in both the *New Vision* and the *Daily Monitor* requesting old alumni under faculties and new alumni under the collegiate system to register with the college. An online registration link and email were created. Over 300 alumni have so far registered. The college plans to hold a stakeholders meeting to brainstorm on the successes, challenges and way forward on how to improve on teaching research, outreach and resource mobilisation.

5.7: Team from Iowa State visits, hold seminar and launches book documenting the lessons learned from collaborations

On 18th March, 2015 a team from Iowa State University visited CAES. The purpose of the visit was to know about the transition and international recruitments, learn about Uganda and get the background to the working relationship in the area of social sciences and education.

The other reason was to introduce the new Director, Centre for Sustainable and Rural Livelihoods (CSRL) Patricia Hipple who was three months old in office and to follow up on the book launch on 19th March, 2015 at Serena Hotel Kampala. The team was also here to discuss ways they can partner in different initiatives such as training graduates, research and to solicit ideas on research programs where they can work together and write for grants.

The book titled "Tapping Philanthropy for Development: Lessons Learned from a Public-Private Partnership in Rural Uganda" Published by Kumarian Press was launched on 19 March 2015, at Kampala Serena Hotel. Prior to this a seminar was held at the school of agricultural sciences.

The book gives an insight into an innovative program. The story begins when the College of Agriculture and Life Science at IOWA State University (ISU) received gifts from alumni and friends with a strong interest in Africa. They established the Centre for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods and entered into a collaborative long term relationship with Makerere University and an NGO in Uganda. It gives a roadmap for effectively navigating challenges involved in obtaining non - traditional funding and in using it well.

The day's event was marked by a welcome speech by Prof. Bernard Bashaasha, Principal, CAES, an overview of the book by the editors who included Dr. Lorna Michael Butler and Dr. Della McMillan and highlights from some of the book's chapters by the authors. Authors from both Makerere University and Iowa State University included. Dr. David Acker, Dr. Lorna Michael Butler, Dr. Donald Kugonza, Dr. Dorothy Masinde, Dr. Della McMillan, Mr. Henry Kizito Musoke and Dr. Haroon Sseguya.

Iowa State University and Makerere University started a school garden and feeding program in Uganda in 2005 and it has been implemented at the Namasagali Primary School (NPS) in Kamuli district since 2006. The program consists of school gardens covering an area of about 5 acres and other projects that address issues of nutrition, health, hygiene, sanitation and environmental conservation. The NPS school garden and feeding program activities include poultry production, agro forestry, beekeeping, hygiene and sanitation and school feeding.