

## The Joint ClimSMART-NORHED II CSA Summer School Second Edition 2024 Kicks Off at Mak

Written by Brian Ogenrwoth

Makerere University, in collaboration with Gulu University, has inaugurated the 2024 edition of the ClimSMART-NORHEDII CSA Summer School. Funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and the Norwegian Research Council, the program began with a series of theory sessions from May 27th to 28th, 2024. This year's event has drawn 23 postgraduate students (MSc and PhDs) from 7 countries studying at 5 African universities namely; Makerere University, Gulu University, University of Zambia, Hawassa University and University of Juba, and the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU). Additionally, 16 scientists and three postdoctoral researchers from the participating institutions have joined the initiative.

Prof. Jackline Bonabana, the Principal Investigator of the ClimSMART project and Co-Principal Investigator of the NORHED II CSA project who coordinated the Summer School, emphasized the comprehensive and multifaceted nature of the program. She highlighted that the sessions would cover critical topics in climate-smart agriculture, biochar, climate change, and food security. Prof. Samuel Kyamanywa, the Principal Investigator of the NORHED II CSA project, applauded the collaborative efforts of the Climsmart/NORHED II partners and delivered an engaging presentation on insect pests and their management in the context of climate change.

Prof. Vegard Martinsen from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) underscored the vast research opportunities in climate-smart agriculture on the African continent. He noted the region's unique context and the increasing impact of climate change as pivotal factors for continued need for meaningful research and empirical evidence.

Prof. Gorettie Nabanoga, Principal of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) at Makerere University, presented on critical thinking and officially welcomed participants, stressing the urgent need to upscale such collaborative efforts to tackle food insecurity and climate change. She affirmed that such programmes align to the Makerere university agenda and strategic direction.

The sessions also featured a variety of expert presentations, including:

- **Food Security in SSA** by Prof. Jan Mulder (Norwegian University of Life Sciences)
- **Site Assessment and Sampling for Agriculture** by Prof. Lydia Chabala (University of Zambia)
- **Aqua Crop Model for Land Management** by Prof. Elijah Phiri (University of Zambia)
- **Understanding Basic Concepts in Soil Fertility** by Dr. Patrick Musinguzi and Prof. Twaha Basamba Ali (Makerere University)
- **Weed Management** by Dr. Sylvester Katurumunda (Makerere University)
- **Co-Composting Organic Wastes with Biochar** by Prof. Fantaw Yimer (Hawassa University)

- **Socio-Economic Topics** like personal branding and marketing by Prof. Basil Mugonola and Dr. Walter Odongo, climate resilience governance and management practice by Dr. Patrick Byakagaba (Makerere University), and communication and presentation skills by Mr. Edward Gita (Rural Enterprise Development Solutions). Very insightful presentations were made by the Post Doc and PhD students as well.

The practical sessions, scheduled from May 29th to June 9th, 2024, will include farmer field visits, laboratory sessions, group discussions, data analysis, and presentations at Gulu University.