

## **CENTRE HOLDS FIRST PUBLIC LECTURE IN 2014**

In its bid to promote a vibrant think tank at the University of Nairobi (UoN), the Center for Sustainable Dryland Ecosystems and Societies (CSDES) recently hosted a thought provoking public lecture on the topic "Land for Livelihoods: Sustainable Land Management in the Drylands of Kenya". Dr. Zeinabu Khalif, the National Project Manager for Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management in Agro-Pastoral Production Systems of Kenya gave the lecture.

The lecture was held in room 206 at the Department of Land Resources Management and Agricultural Technology (LARMAT), College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS). More than 100 UoN students and faculty members attended the public lecture.

During her presentation, Dr. Zeinabu explained the reasons why despite the enormous social-economic potential available in the drylands of Kenya, there is slow adoption of sustainable land management (SLM) practices and technology. Among the reasons she highlighted include: Weak farmer- research- extension linkages, Inappropriate development models, high illiteracy levels, impacts of climate change and erosion of indigenous knowledge.

Dr. Zeinabu underscored the need to create national forums that brings together researchers, policy makers, CSOs, Donors, County representatives for knowledge exchange. She also emphasized the importance of developing a compendium of actors on SLM technologies and practices to map who is doing what and where.

The culmination of her presentation was a twenty six minutes documentary on what the SLM project is undertaking to address the issues of sustainable land management practices in four Counties in Kenya; Embu (Mbeere- North), Garissa (Dadaab), Kitui (Kyuso) and Narok (Narok North).

Making his remarks, Prof. J.T.Njoka, CSDES Director, acknowledged the participants for taking time to attend the event. He appreciated the guest speaker for the eye opening lecture.