



Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe, Principal, CAVS hands over bean seed varieties to representatives of Kenya Seed Company.

CAVS hands over high yielding bean variety to Kenya Seed Company

THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE HANDED OVER WHITE LABEL BREEDERS SEED of the Kenya sugar bean variety to the Kenya Seed Company.

The Kenya Sugar bean variety is an invention of the University of Nairobi (UoN), through the University of Nairobi's Seed Company (UNISEED) in collaboration with the Seed Enterprise Management Institute (SEMI) project. The project has embarked on breeder seed production of bean varieties bred by scientists at the University. The project seeks to

address one of the greatest challenges faced by seed companies in Kenya and Africa which is accessing breeders or foundation seed for certified seed production.

Through the Plant Science and Crop Protection Department, several high yielding bean varieties have been bred and released for certified seed production for farmers in Kenya. Six of these bean varieties are licensed to the Kenya Seed Company which has entered into a memorandum of agreement with UON to commercialize the bean varieties. Last year, the University handed over

800 kilograms of white label breeders seed of two bean varieties, Kenya Red Kidney and Miezi Mbili.

Breeder's seed production is the first stage in the production of certified seed and involves rigorous quality checks by the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS). Once KEPHIS is satisfied that the seed bean crop conforms to the varieties specifications, then the crop is issued with a white label certificate which allows for further production of the seed to the next stage in the process of certified seed production.