

UoN PARTNERS WITH AUSTRALIAN AND COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITIES IN AUSTRALIA AFRICA UNIVERSITY NETWORK (AAUN) PROJECT



Members of the AAUN project led by its two coordinators Prof. Inakwu Odeh (Second Left) and Prof. Nancy Karanja (third Left) in a group photo taken during the AAUN PRDF workshop held at CHAK Guest House, Nairobi.

In a show of commitment to scholarly excellence through partnership, the University of Nairobi participated in Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN) workshop under the topic *“Enhancing Community-based farming systems by integrated and efficient soil-water-nutrient management regimes in sub-Saharan Africa: from research to farm business enterprises”*.

Through its coordinators, Prof Nancy Karanja from College of Agriculture and Veterinary Science, University of Nairobi, and Prof. Inakwu Odeh from University of Sidney, Australia, the workshop had the attendance of various agriculture research scholars and representatives of respective Universities that are part of AAUN.

In his speech, the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. John Wangai Kimenju, congratulated the coordinators and considered the initiative as one that is encouraging since it delivers research answers to top business enterprises, facilitates job creation, wealth creation, food and nutritional security.

As a coordinator, Prof. Karanja assured all the stakeholders of the project’s perennial and permanent shelf-life since the AAUN project is geared towards diversified activities and focuses on ideas that answer questions of food security in Africa as a continent.

Prof. Inakwu Odeh, also the project’s coordinator, echoed her sentiments and added that the project brings together scientists for purposes of research, adoption and utility of existing research based knowledge.

AAUN promotes and encourages research and education collaboration and leadership in priority areas of food security, public health, higher education, sector reforms and natural resources.

This project was motivated by low agricultural yield, declining soil fertility resulting from fragmented farming systems, small scale farm investments leading to weak commercialization of agricultural produce, agricultural enterprise and slow uptake of land reforms across sub-Saharan Africa.

Being a consortium of 10 Australian Universities and 9 African Universities, mostly from the Commonwealth nations, AAUN delves into research to seek answers to questions concerning major challenges facing the two continents; Australia and Africa. It nurtures partnership and networking for research, support and planning through AAUN Partnership and Research Development Fund (PRDF).

Some of its research interest areas are; water management, small scale mechanization (introducing new technologies), waste management (post-harvest and food storage), climate change variability, land rights as a major issue in Africa, integrated small farms, agritechnology systems and malnutrition through the life course.

It offers fellowship opportunities, especially for women, AAUN fora and conferences like the AAUN International forum and AAUN Australia African Conference.