

Research Findings Dissemination Workshop Held At Marsabit County

The Center for Sustainable Dryland Ecosystems and Societies (CSDES) in partnership with the African Development Solutions (ADESO) project on Resilience and Economic Growth in the Arid Lands (REGAL-IR) held a one day workshop on 11th March 2013 in Marsabit County. The purpose of the workshop was to provide a platform for dissemination of findings of CSDES-supported participatory research carried out in arid and semi-arid areas (ASALs), as well as an opportunity to gather feedback from stakeholders in Marsabit County.

The overall theme of the workshop was *Empowering communities through participatory research for building resilience and economic growth in Northern Kenya*. Among those targeted for the workshop were: county officials, Non- governmental organizations (NGOs), traders and community members in Marsabit.

Making his opening remarks, Prof. J.T. Njoka, CSDES Director welcomed participants and gave a key note address on empowering communities through participatory research for building resilience and economic growth in Northern Kenya. The Director highlighted on the various dryland opportunities, challenges, myths and misconceptions about dryland ecosystems and societies and what needs to be done to change the current status.

Giving his remarks, Dr. James Dokhe, Marsabit County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development voiced his support for research in livestock industry but noted that farmers were not able to adopt and utilize the technologies from research. He decried the major gaps between research and extension, extension and livestock keepers and policy and research. Dr. Dokhe called for concerted efforts to fill these gaps.

Hon. Omar Abdi Ali, the Deputy Governor, Marsabit County also attended the workshop. The Deputy Governor acknowledged that the workshop objectives were consistent with the first pillar of Kenya Vision 2030 geared towards food security and second pillar of Millennium Development Goals that aims at equal opportunities for all groups. He expressed his optimism that findings from the research will provide a road map to empower the communities in resilience.

Hon. Ali highlighted the possible areas of research in the County which include: natural resource management especially water, irrigation farming, protection of rangeland and proper land use, livestock development including market access, freedom from pest and diseases, livestock disease surveillance and promotion of camel milk production. This he noted will transform lives of the people and improve economic standards.