UoN to Partner with Yatta Community

The University of Nairobi (UoN) through the Centre for Sustainable Dryland Ecosystems and Societies (CSDES) will collaborate with Yatta communityôs *Operation Mwolyo Out (OMO)* project with an aim of strengthening action research and outreach components for effective delivery of technologies to the community. This was revealed during a one day field visit to the OMO Project in Yatta on 1st November 2013.

The field visit was organized by CSDES in line with the objective that seeks to increase the impact of higher education, research and outreach on the sustainability of Kenyan drylands. Those who attended the trip were: Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice- Chancellor Research, Production and Extension at UoN; Profs. R. Reid and K. Galvin from Colorado State University; PhD, MSc. undergraduate students from UoN; and CSDES staff.

The OMO project was initiated in 2009 after the long drought that hit many parts of Kenya between 2006 and 2009. The aim of the project was to address the issues of climate change and attain food security hence eradicate dependency on relief. It was expected to embrace an integrated community transformation approach that touched on various human dimensions including religious, social, economic, technological, environmental and political dimensions.

Speaking at the event, Prof. Irungu, highlighted the objective of UoN that ensures research across all disciplines remains relevant by positively impacting the community and the region. She specifically underscored the contribution of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) in poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods in Kenya through the well-designed training and research programs.

The DVC promised to initiate the process of formalizing partnership with the Yatta community through signing a memorandum of understanding between UoN and Yatta OMO Project that will aim at enhancing effective delivery of agricultural technologies to the community in order to improve their livelihoods.