

MSc student shines at the Horticultural Association of Kenya (HAK) Annual Workshop (Conference)



Ms Baroness Omwenga (pictured), a second year Msc Agronomy student was awarded a book prize for best oral presentation as the HAK conference held at Meru University of Science and Technology on 3rd to 6th December, 2013. The workshop is an annual event that brings together researchers, academia, students and other Horticulture sector players. Approximately 100 papers were presented in this year's workshop. Ms Omwenga beat 37 other students to scoop the 3rd best oral presentation for her paper titled 'Effect of Nutrient management on growth, yield and quality of snap bean in Central Kenya'. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the main sponsors of the workshop award book prizes to the top 3 oral presentations and the best poster. The purpose of these awards is to spur excellence among the students participating in the workshop.

Ms Omwenga's win follows in the footsteps of sterling performance by students from our department at previous HAK workshops. In 2012, at the HAK workshop held in Bondo University College (now Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology), two Msc Horticulture students from the department won book prizes.



Ms Nancy Kemunto Onsongo (pictured) won the 1st prize for her oral presentation titled 'Effect of 1-Methylcyclopropene (1-MCP) Concentration on the Postharvest Characteristics of 'Apple' Mango Fruits Harvested at Different Maturity Stages'. At the same workshop



Ms Lilian Atieno Ouma, (pictured) won a prize for the best poster titled 'Effect of Harvest Maturity on the Shelf Life and Sensory Attributes of Purple Passion Fruits (*Passiflora edulis* Sims)'.



In the year 2011, at the HAK workshop held hosted by Pwani University, Ms Penina Mueni Yumbya won a book prize for the best poster titled 'Effects of 1-Methylcyclopropene (1-MCP) and Active Modified Atmosphere Packaging on the Post Harvest Shelf Life of Tomatoes'.

Msc Yumbya and Ms Onsongo have since graduated with Msc Horticulture degrees in 2012 and 2013 respectively. All these students were mentored by Dr. Jane Ambuko who is a Lecturer in the Department and a member of the HAK executive committee.

Other students are encouraged to participate in future forums to share their research findings.