



**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY SCIENCES**

## **Field Station Newsletter**

Welcome to the second edition of the Field Station Newsletter!

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## Word from Manager, Field Station



I am delighted to welcome our esteemed readers to the second edition of our Newsletter covering the period of September 2013 to June 2014. During this period Field Station continued its expansion of its activities and managed to mount two short courses in Greenhouse Crop Production and Indigenous Production. The College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) started a UniBioPark to be based at the Field Station. The park is for recreation and conservation purposes. We also continued with our production activities and now we are selling indigenous chicken chicks, green produce, milk and fish. We had a good crop of organic macadamia nuts and coffee. With our irrigation up and running, we hope to keep increasing productivity at the farm.

This is an exciting time here at the Field Station with many wonderful activities and initiatives underway, and lots of new ones on the horizon. In this newsletter we will highlight some these activities. I trust you will enjoy reading the interesting articles in this issue. I look forward to interacting with you in this forum.



## Current activities

### Uni Bio Park

The College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences has started a park at the Field station. The park is for recreational conservation purposes. On 28th May, 2014 planted two thousand (2,000) indigenous medicinal trees at the Uni-Biopark located at the Field Station.



Prof Jumba watering an indigenous tree after planting



Prof Mwangombe planting a tree

The event was graced by Prof. Isaac Jumba, Principal in the College of Education and External Studies who represented the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Agnes W. Mwang'ombe, Principal College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Representatives from Standard Chartered Bank – Ukay Branch, Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), staff and students.

### **Sale of Indigenous chicken, breeding cocks and chicks**

Field Station has started sale of indigenous chicks. The chicks are available at one (1) day, one (1) week old and two weeks. Traditionally, CAVS has been keeping poultry for eggs and meat and has been a winner in this aspect during the Nairobi International Trade Fair. In furthering its mission in dealing with food and nutrition challenges in the country, the College has initiated an indigenous chicken project to support its teaching, research and outreach activities. The Farm also sells eggs to farmers to hatch and improve on their stock and cockerels for breeding.



## **Short courses in Greenhouse and Indigenous Chicken Production**

The Field Station successfully conducted three day trainings for women from all parts of the country on various aspects of greenhouse and indigenous chicken production. The training was supported by the Kenya Women Enterprise Fund.

### **Horticulture**

We have been selling courgettes, green maize, spinach kales, tomatoes, beetroots capsicums and other assorted indigenous vegetables regularly throughout the year. We have also limited quantities of avocados.

We are also moving to use of drip irrigation in order to increase water efficiency. We currently have sweet pepper under drip. We hope to expand the area under drip in the coming months. We are aggressively pursuing production of other high products such as cherry tomatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, strawberries, and fruits to add to our product diversity.



Capsicum at the Field Station Sales Kiosk

### **Fish production**

The project is on course. We have constructed ten small ponds for teaching . Some fingerlings were sourced from Lake Baringo and two of the teaching ponds have been stocked. The project enabled the college train students, members of staff as well as farmers in fish farming for purposes of addressing food security and nutrition challenges in Kenya. It is particularly important for Bsc students in Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Department of Animal Production.



**Task force present during the 2nd phase stocking**

## **Livestock Production**

The unit continues to improve with improved conditions for the animals after the completion of the cattle boma. We have improved on milk production and beef. The project on bull calves is ongoing.

Pasture has been planted in two fields over the last one year with variety of pastures and fodder crops to improve and help in supplementation of the dairy herd and bull calf fattening, which are kept under semi zero-grazing Unit.

## **Coffee**

Efforts are underway to improve coffee production through better fertility management, mulching and improved canopy management. The pulping plant was renovated to improve on fresh berry processing. The main objective is to improve production per tree while also improving the cup-quality.

## **Announcements**

### **Performance at the Nairobi International Trade Fare**

In 2013 Nairobi International trade fair, the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences again had an excellent performance that exceed last year. A total of 125 prizes and 19 trophies were won in the livestock, Poultry, Farm produce and rabbits that were exhibited in the trade fair. This performance was exceptional as we won trophies for the rabbits and indigenous chicken for the first time

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