

## **Training on Data Science**

### *Harnessing Data for Social Economic Development in Africa*

The School of Computing and Informatics held a two-day training on Data Science that aims to Harnessing Data for Social Economic Development in Africa. The training took place in the SCI Labs from 12 to 13 October 2015 and was attended by over 30 participants from various institutions that included universities and government institutions.

The development agenda of many policy frameworks such as Economic Commission for Africa, African Union Commission, African Development Bank and Vision 2030 have established the need to strength data production and the use of better data in policymaking and monitoring. Initiatives such as the Kenya Open Data are making key government data freely available to the public through a single online portal. Despite such endeavors, baseline data for various targets remain unavailable. There is need for increased support to strengthen data collection and capacity building in African Union Member States, to develop national and global baselines where they do not yet exist.

It is in this context that the African Centre of Technology Studies (ACTS) have collaborated with the School of Computing and Informatics in offering the training that aims to train data experts to facilitate leveraging the data revolution for sustainable development at all levels including the County Governments. The applications of data science will include Water management, Resource allocation, Smart City Planning, Waste Management, Disaster and Risk Management, Climate Change, Natural resource management, Energy use and Management, Improving educational outcomes, and Climate Smart Agriculture.

The resource persons were drawn from the African Centre of Technology Studies, the Artificial Intelligence Research Laboratory at Makerere University and the School of Computing and Informatics.