

CAVS and Murdoch University Explore areas of Research linkages

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The Ag. Principal CAVS and the CMB today hosted a team from Murdoch University in Australia led by Dr. David Doepel who is the chair of Africa Research Group at Murdoch University to discuss possible areas for collaborative research. The meeting was chaired by the Ag. Principal, Prof. Charles Matiku Mulei and attended by heads of departments from the Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine.

A briefing to have a background on the teaching and research programmes in the two Universities was followed with discussions on the possible collaboration entry points. The main discussions were on the linkages with African researchers especially through the Murdoch University's trans-disciplinary Africa Research Group, with a focus on African research questions. The group has strong ties with African-based researchers and hosts a number of research forums, notably the African Australian Research Forum, associated with the annual Africa Down Under. The Africa Research Group is interested in possible joint research especially in animal science, crop science, veterinary medicine and land resource management.

Dr. David Doepel who is also the chair of Africa Australia Research Forum stressed the need for multidisciplinary approach that will bring on board various disciplines within CAVS and Murdoch University. Some of the areas of interest to the guests were use of modern geospatial analysis such use of drones to monitor dynamics in land resources; soil microbiology, especially the production of the nitrogen fixing rhizobia (currently done by University of Nairobi in partnership with MEA limited); value chain analysis in food systems; and veterinary medicine.

Further engagement that is intended to lead to a formal understanding on the partnership will be spearheaded by the principal CAVS in conjunction with focal persons from the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine. Representatives from the two Faculties will coordinate brainstorming to come up with a research concept note for further discussion with Murdoch University, with a possibility of developing a joint multidisciplinary research proposal. Also discussed was the possibility of academic staff members from CAVS visiting Murdoch University to forge linkages with scholars there.