



Speech by

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Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

during

The 4th JKUAT Annual Open Day

Friday, September 6, 2013

JKUAT Pavilion

The Chief Guest, Mr. Felix Koskei

Cabinet Secretary, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

Deputy Vice Chancellors

Campus Principals

Deans of Faculties

Students and innovators

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to welcome all the participants to Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, and to this year's 4th Edition of the Annual JKUAT Annual University Open Day.

The event now in its fourth year of implementation has become a permanent fixture on the university calendar. This forum is a partial fulfillment of our mandate of conducting research and dissemination of the outputs.

Bearing in mind that Agriculture is the backbone of our nation, JKUAT plays an effective role in the development of Agriculture and Technology in conjunction with the industry and to provide extension services so as to contribute to the social and economic development of Kenya and Vision 2030.

Our research, technology and innovation in the area of Agriculture have led to a new society based on information and knowledge.

It is important to remember that in order to assist in the achievements of the national development goals, universities are required to progressively increase gross enrollment rate while respecting diversity of students; improving quality and relevance of university education and research for social economic transformation of our nation. JKUAT has continued to increase its student base spread across a number of campuses and constituent colleges; pursuing various degrees.

In an effort to play an active role in socio-economic development in the country, the University provides a need-based community extension services

and transfer of appropriate technologies for industrialization. The extension services provided by the University are derived from community surveys conducted from time to time.

It is for these reasons that JKUAT as a university of Agriculture and Technology has a rich and growing technological skills and information base that if properly harnessed can transform subsistence agriculture and cottage industries into competitive sectors both locally and globally. As a result, there is, therefore, an urgent need for innovative, diversified and pluralistic technological transfer and innovation systems involving all stakeholders. This will enhance the capacity of our institution to provide extension and technology services to the agricultural and industrial sectors and fast track the transformation of agriculture and industrialization in Kenya.

As part of its commitment to contribute to national industrialization, JKUAT anticipates to promote at least ten (10) of its current innovation project outputs into prototypes and then commercialize the same through incubation in collaboration with industry in our newly established Nairobi Industrial and Technology. Further, the University desires to increase the use of its research outputs and innovations by industry and other stakeholders in order to create socio-economic benefits, while generating income to support research and training.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The University has over the years funded her extension and technology programmes while JICA has been funding some of the community

programmes especially training of rural women for socio-economic development. The innovations which have been transferred to the community range from food processing equipment such as a juice extractor to horticultural and biotechnological products namely fruit seedlings and tissue culture banana seedlings, agro-processing equipment which includes walking tractors, chaff cutters, honey extractors, chemistry products such as herbal beauty products (lotions, creams, shampoo, air conditioners and soap) and disinfectants among others.

You will be interested to learn that the University operates two demonstration farms at its Juja Main Campus and Kabiruini Extension Centre in Nyeri. Community groups and students learn and practice modern farming techniques in these demonstration farms. In order to make the University's technologies and innovations accessible to the community and industry, the

University targets training of groups with unique needs, rural women, those living with disabilities and youth groups. To enhance dissemination of technologies, use of radio and TV has recently been intensified with impressive results.

Further, JKUAT is also engaged in linkages and partnerships with a number of national and international research and development institutions, industry, community organizations, and institutions of higher learning, middle level colleges and centres. Currently, the university has 130 national and international partnerships and linkages with industry. The University plans to grow the number of collaborations at a rate of 10% annually over the next five years.

In conclusion, Ladies and gentlemen, let me reiterate that the university will continue to offer its expertise, where appropriate, in helping to address social or other community issues. In particular, it will work with the community to advance environmental stewardship, sustainability, and smart growth in the surrounding community.

Thank you.