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PRESS RELEASE

Makerere University College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences Wins Annual Agricultural Show

Makerere University has emerged as overall best in a week - long Source of the Nile Agricultural and Trade show that was organized by Uganda Farmers Federation in Jinja from the 18th to 24th July 2011. The show comprised large to small scale show cases staged by government bodies, private companies and NGOs.

The college scooped two trophies; one for best overall in all categories and two; for winning in the first positions in Crop and Value addition categories among government institutions at the closing ceremony presided over by H. E the president of Uganda, Yoweri K. Museveni.

Makerere University show coordinator Dr. Phinehas Tukamuhabwa described the victory as a big vote of confidence by the stakeholders in Agricultural Research and Development " *A good comment was made at awarding of trophies to the effect that the stakeholders are now sure students are getting good training at Makerere*".

The college victory is attributed to the originality of its ideas and staff expertise, "*Most of our products were made from local foods and materials and whoever visited our stalls would receive satisfactory information. Therefore the originality and level of professionalism in terms of innovativeness explains why we won in crops and value addition.* One of the and Masters student exhibitor, Tonny Obua said.

The show was also characterized by a very wide range of show cases that addressed the complete value chain of Agricultural commodity enterprises.

The exhibition attracted over 100 competitors including Madhivan Group of Companies, BATU, NARO, Ministry of Agriculture, NAADS, UWA, Heifer International, JICA, Uganda Coffee Development Authority, Balton, Uganda Prisons and all private seed companies.

Over 30 participants representing Makerere University came from the School of Food Technology, Nutrition and Bio engineering, Makerere University Agricultural Research Institute Kabanyolo and the School of Agricultural Sciences.

Over 50 products including fruit juices, wines, amaranths flour, soy milk, soy meat, bottled *tonto* and *malwa*, health boosting tea, ready to cook frozen vegetable, agricultural machinery were showcased by the School of Food Technology, Nutrition and Bio engineering (SFTNB).

The Exhibitors from SFTNB included 11 incubatees supported by the Food Technology and Business Incubation Centre (FTBIC), one of the 3 Presidential Initiatives projects at Makerere University. The FTBIC was set up to facilitate commercialization of research outputs. It has facilitated creation of enterprises by recent University graduates, contributing to job creation and economic development of the Country. The Centre coordinates development of novel products and offers skills development training, technological support and access to modern processing technologies. His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni is the Patron of the Centre.

Exhibitions from the School of Agricultural Sciences included organic piggery, Soybean varieties, soil conservation model, tissue culture, crop diseases, mushroom productions and agricultural text books. Show goers had an opportunity to see that well maintained gardens of soya beans, rice, cucumber and other vegetables could lead to high yields.

Makerere University has a permanent exhibition house in Jinja and has been participating in the Annual National Agricultural and trade shows since 2006 to show case her technologies and services to the community. The good performance of the college has always been recognized and awarded by the National Farmers' Federation.

The college will therefore continue supporting the National Agricultural show as a way of bringing new ideas and technologies in agriculture to the people of Uganda.

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