

**MAKERERE**



**UNIVERSITY**

**WELCOME REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR,  
PROFESSOR JOHN DDUMBA-SSENTAMU**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE WELCOME CEREMONY FOR  
THE SENIOR UPDF OFFICERS' AGRICULTURE INDUCTION  
TRAINING**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2014, 3:00 PM, MAIN HALL,  
MAIN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

- **The Honourable Minister of State for Luwero Triangle, Hon. Sarah Kataike**
  - **Hon. Zerubabel Mijumbi Nyiira, Minister of State for Agriculture**
  - **Chief of Defence Forces, Gen. Katumba Wamala**
  - **The Representative of the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF)**
  - **Colleagues in the University Management**
  - **Principals, Deans and Directors**
  - **Senior UPDF Officers**
  - **Members of Staff and Students of Makerere University**
  - **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:**
- .....

I am privileged to welcome you all to Makerere University this afternoon. I recognize the presence of each one of you in your various distinguished capacities and thank you for your dedicated service to this Nation and Continent. Allow me to welcome in a special way, Hon. Sarah Kataike, Minister of State for Luwero Triangle. We are most honoured by your presence at this event and thank you for being part of this initiative.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as you are aware, Makerere University is a strategic pillar to the Government of Uganda in terms of human resource capacity building. We are therefore privileged to host and offer this Agriculture Induction Training course on behalf of the Government of Uganda, for a team of over 250 Senior UPDF Officers.

Partnerships and networking is one of our core functions. Our goal is to create an enabling environment for public and private interface in the promotion of education and knowledge transfer. Through such avenues, we are able to provide a partnership framework for assessment and utilization of university products in the value chain. We therefore wish to thank Gen (Rtd). Caleb Akandwanaho, the Senior Presidential Adviser on Defense and Security, for his exceptional support and initiative leading to this training. We thank Gen. Katumba Wamala for accepting to partner with Makerere University.

We assure you that we shall give you nothing but the best. Makerere University is happy to collaborate with the UPDF as we together work towards transformation of our society.

Makerere University is a major source of various home-grown innovations and technologies that are contributing to the transformation of our society. There are important technological innovations across the 10 colleges of Makerere University.

Over the years, the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) has distinguished itself as a Centre of Excellence in Crop and Animal production technologies as well as forestry, environmental and geographical sciences.

According to the Food and Agricultural Organisation's Economic and Social Development Department and indeed our own Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), agriculture is the main source of livelihood and employment for over 60 percent of the population in Uganda. It also contributes over 70 percent of Uganda's export earnings and provides the bulk of the raw materials for most of the industries that are predominantly agro-based.

Mindful of this, the Government of Uganda has put in place several strategies and programmes to help transform the lives of Ugandans. There is however more to be done to ensure that these strategies and programmes achieve the desired results. This Agriculture Induction Training for Senior UPDF Officers is therefore an expression of Government's dedicated efforts to ensure achievement of the Uganda Vision 2040 aimed at **“A Transformed Ugandan Society from a Peasant to a Modern and Prosperous Country within 30 years”**.

Over the next weeks, participants in the Agriculture Induction Training will have the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the relevant skills to help achieve this much-needed intervention. Our colleagues in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) have put together a modular training programme aimed at helping you achieve this National objective. We appeal to you to not only unreservedly participate in the sessions but also provide the necessary feedback on how best we can further refine such training.

I humbly request the Honourable Minister of State for Luwero Triangle, Hon. Sarah Kataike, to extend our sincere gratitude to the Government of Uganda for this vote of confidence. I thank the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) led by the Principal, Prof. Bernard Bashaasha, for timely preparation of all instructional materials. I also thank our Wardens in the respective Halls of Residence for ensuring that our participants' accommodation is well catered for.

It is my sincere hope that we will achieve more than we have set out to do by 20<sup>th</sup> August 2014. I wish all participants a successful induction training as *We Build for the Future*.

Thank you.