



SPEECH BY

VICE CHANCELLOR MAKERERE UNIVERSITY
ON THE OCCASION OF OPENING THE 2015 CAES STUDENTS' EXHIBITION

ON

9TH APRIL, 2015

AT

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY FREEDOM SQUARE

- ❖ The Hon. Minister for Tourism , Wildlife and Antiquities,
- ❖ The Hon. Minister for the Youth and Children's Affairs,
- ❖ Colleagues from Makerere University,
- ❖ Distinguished Guests, participants and researchers,
- ❖ Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of Makerere University, I would like to sincerely thank you for honoring our invitation to attend this exhibition. I welcome you all to Makerere University and in particular to the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES).

Ladies and gentlemen, we are here today to see and share the different research and innovations in Agricultural and Environmental fields organised by students from CAES. I do hope that this platform, which is focused on "***Youth Innovations in Agricultural and Environmental Management: A Panacea to Food Insecurity and Expansion of Small and Medium size Enterprises in the Agricultural Sector***", will create and stimulate the interest of the youth in agriculture, sustainable natural resource utilisation and environmental management. I do hope that at the end of this exhibition, there will be improved and shared understanding of what needs to be done to strengthen Africa's ability for agricultural production and sustainable natural resource utilization that will lead to economic growth.

Our Distinguished Guests, as we gather here for this exhibition, we are reminded of three major development challenges that plague development processes in our country and the continent. These are: the weak and degraded human resources running our various public and private sector enterprises; An increasing population largely composed of unemployed youth that is prone to poverty, hunger and various natural and humanly instigated calamities and; a weak innovation capacity to support the transformation of our economies into knowledge based ones which could play more significant roles in global economy.

I recognize the need for an education system focused on improving agriculture and sustainable natural resource use as part of the special pillars that can deliver a better Africa. As a University, our vision is to be the leading institution for academic excellence and innovations in Africa destined to fill the gaps and supply needed skills and competencies that our country's human capital require to be more effective and efficient.

Through the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the University has transformed its research and development agenda for client-responsiveness and shifted from outreach that portrays knowledge transfer to engagement and partnership with communities in Uganda to enhance agricultural development and sustainable use of natural resources. This includes farming communities for research and innovation, government and other public policy, Research and Development bodies, students, private sector, business and industrialists, civil society, regional and global knowledge centers and development partners.

Our students and staff have linked with farmers, processors, and others who have adopted new technologies in areas of agro processing, animal and crop production, environment and human health, agricultural mechanisation, extension and outreach services and the promotion of sustainable use of the natural resources.

I am happy to note that the Ugandan Government is aware that the youth make up a great percentage of our population and has endeavored to create special programmes for them focusing on agriculture and entrepreneurship. The Uganda Government recognizes that it is crucial to actively and appropriately engage the youth for a better Uganda.

Our Dear Guests, a science led economic growth, driven by innovations is the critical engine that has the potential to end hunger and eventually poverty in sub-Saharan

Africa. Exhibitions such as this one are the medium through which scientists and innovators present tested possibilities for the desired better Africa.

As I end my speech, I would like to bring it to your attention, that Makerere University is open and willing to enter into a Public Private Partnership to transform the agricultural sector and cause it to stimulate development in our country and the region. Our doors and facilities are at your disposal and we kindly look forward to working with you.

It is therefore my pleasure to be here at the opening of the CAES 2015 students' exhibition. I thank all those who have made this show possible especially the organizing committee, researchers, sponsors and all participants who have spared time to be with us. Once again you are most welcome.

It is now my pleasure and duty to invite you Hon. Minister to address this gathering.

We build for the future.