

## **THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI HOSTS TECHNICAL/TECHNOLOGIST TRAINING FUNDED BY AGRA**

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The alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) advanced Crop Nutrition Laboratory services (CropNUT) a grant to train technicians/Technologists drawn from The University of Nairobi (UoN), Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (now KALRO) and Kenyatta University. The training (of 10 technical staff) took place at CropNut laboratories from February 20, 2012 to March 2, 2012.

Following the success of the said training, there was need to upscale and cover more technicians. AGRA, once again funded CropNut to hold laboratory technician training at the UoN – between 25<sup>th</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015 to further strength technician resource and knowledge base.

Crop Nutrition sent its trainer to the University of Nairobi for 2 weeks to help train a larger group of twenty one laboratory technicians; Seven (7) technicians each from UoN, Kenyatta University and KALRO respectively. The participant of the initial training held at Crop Nutrition Laboratory Ltd also attended and acted as resource persons in the training.

The training was officially opened by Prof. Michael Okoth (Associate Dean) and graced by Prof. G. Kironchi (Chairman Department of LARMAT) and Dr. Richard Onwonga (AGRA project Coordinator). Prof. Okoth in his opening speech emphasized on the importance of retooling Technical staff to keep pace with the ever changing technology. He also lauded the tripartite partnership involving AGRA, CropNut and the UoN and advised that other avenues should be explored to maintain and strengthen the partnerships.

The technicians received training on soil, plant and water analysis with emphasis on modern methods and approaches of analysis in place. The participants also had an opportunity to be taken round the Department of LARMAT laboratories, Modern Green Houses and experimental fields to have a feel and appreciate the strides the UoN has made in equipping its laboratories for quality research within and without the region. They also visited modern Incinerator at the Dept. of Veterinary Pathology, Microbiology and Parasitology and the University Field Station Dam.

The training came to an end on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015, and was officially closed by Prof. J. W. Kimenju (Dean – Faculty of Agriculture) on behalf of the Principal of college of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences(CAVS). In his closing remarks he thanked the organizers of the training for their foresight and choosing the UoN as the host for the training. He further congratulated the participants for their time and commitment to the training and noted that after the training, they can now compete with fellow technicians from within the region and outside. This, he said, was in line with the University's vision of being a world Class University committed to scholarly excellence.



Participant pose for a photo during the opening ceremony of the Training



Participant pose for a photo after the Training