

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI JOINS MERCATOR-FUNDED INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL COURSE (IVC):
“TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH GLOBAL LEARNING”**

The IVC is a 5-year project (2021 to 2025), led by Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), Switzerland in collaboration with the Universidade Federal de Grande Dourados (UFGD), Brazil; University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore (UASB), India; and the Department of Land Resource Management & Agricultural Technology, University of Nairobi (UoN).

At the University of Nairobi, the course was anchored in the Department of Land Resource Management and Agricultural Technology, and was led by **Prof. Nancy Karanja** and coordinated by **Dr. Oliver Vivian Wasonga** and **Prof. Moses Nyangito**.

UoN Facilitators of IVC

	
<p>Prof. Nancy Karanja, Project Leader (Soil Ecology, Microbiology and Fertility Management) Department of Land Resource Management & Agricultural Technology, University of Nairobi</p>	<p>Dr. Oliver Vivian Wasonga, Project Coordinator (Dryland Ecology & Pastoral Production Systems); Department of Land Resource Management & Agricultural Technology, University of Nairobi.</p>

The course took four (4) weeks, and was organized into four (4) phases that include: Understanding Climate Change in our Environment; Virtual Classroom; Virtual Teamwork; and Reflections by Participants. Each partner University recruits at least 10 students each year to participate in the course. The students were located in their home Universities throughout the entire course.

Expected Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the participants were expected to:

1. Describe the impacts of climate change focusing on agro-foodsystems and to develop innovative solution strategies;
2. Correctly apply various virtual collaboration tools (Zoom, Moodle, Whatsapp, Miro, etc.) and use them according to the situation;
3. Collaborate effectively across cultural borders via virtual channels.
4. Understand the challenges of intercultural and virtual cooperation and have appropriate strategies at their disposal to tackle possible difficulties;
5. Feel empowered and motivated to contribute to sustainable development with their acquired skills;
6. Have expanded their international networks (both for students and the project team of facilitators);
7. Have strengthened their skills in virtual and intercultural cooperation, especially among the members of project team (facilitators);
8. Develop competencies and experience in virtual cooperation and digital teaching among the partner Universities; and
9. Have created new cooperation projects in research and teaching between the partner Universities.

UoN PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL COURSE (IVC), 2021

Department of Land Resource Management & Agricultural Technology, University of Nairobi (UoN) in collaboration with Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), Switzerland, Universidade Federal de Grande Dourados (UFGD), Brazil; and University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore (UASB), India offers IVC 2021. This year, UoN recruited **13 students** from various Departments including Department of Land Resource Management and Agricultural Technology; Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environment; and Department of Agricultural Economics to participate in IVC 2021. The course was conducted between **July and August, 2021**, and was facilitated by **Prof. Nancy Karanja** and **Dr. Oliver Vivian Wasonga** from the Department of Land Resource Management and Technology.

UoN Students who participated in IVC 2021



Bernice Sainepo,
LARMAT/University
of Bonn



Kevin Makere,
LARMAT



Linda Alila,
LARMAT



Brian Muchina,
WMI



Priscilla Kanza,
LARMAT



Dennis Wanjohi,
WMI



Angela Marende,
Agricultural
Economics



Erick Omollo,
LARMAT



Edwin Wafula,
Agricultural
Economics



Mercy Kamau,
WMI



Josphat Ongeso,
LARMAT



Divina
Onwonga, WMI

The course was delivered through FAO e-learning modules; interactive group work; panel discussions on climate change mitigation and adaption; workshop on virtual collaboration; coaching on video making and development of proposals for selected climate adaptation strategies. The main learning management system used was Moodle, in addition to other virtual collaboration tools such as zoom, google meet, google drive, Miro board, and WhatsApp.



IVC-2021 Session in Progress

At the end of the course a reflection and participatory evaluation, exercise was conducted to inform planning for future courses. Although the course officially ended on August 20, 2021, UoN team remains active on virtual platforms and plans for an excursion, social interaction, presentation of certificates, and further reflection on the course.