Overcoming the Challenges in Higher Education and Keeping Agricultural Science Relevant and Focused in African Universities

JAMES B. KUNG’U
KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
Out Line

• Introduction
• Potential of Agriculture in Job Creation
• Challenges in Higher Education in some African Universities
• Way forward for African Universities
• Success Stories
• Acknowledgement
Introduction

- Africa’s economic outlook is bright.
- Five of the world’s top ten countries in GDP growth are in the region,
- There is increased foreign direct investment, inflation has slowed and remittances are at record high.
- A major challenge for the region is creating enough jobs for its growing population.
- World Bank estimates that as many as 11 million young people in SSA will be joining the job market every year for the next decade.
18 to 23 age group population and tertiary enrolment in Sub-Saharan Africa (thousands)

Potential of Agriculture in Job Creation in Africa

- Agriculture has untapped potential to create jobs, both directly and indirectly.
- Most young people are born in farming communities.
- Rapid urbanization has created booming markets for food (Urban, regional and global).
- The value of food markets is projected to increase from US $313 billion in 2010 to US $1,000 billion in 2030 (World Bank 2013).
Challenges facing Higher Education in some African Universities

• Low quality of training and research due to:
  ✷ Rapid enrollment expansion,
  ✷ Low public funding as well as foreign aid
  ✷ Overcrowded lecturer rooms
  ✷ Deteriorating physical facilities and research infrastructure,
  ✷ Loss of qualified faculty
  ✷ A shrinking proportion of post-graduate enrolments.
  ✷ Too much dependency on government for funding (Narrow income stream)
Way forward for African Universities

• There is need for Higher education to harvest the “youth dividend” by:
  – Accelerating the transformative change in agriculture
  – Promoting technologies that boosts rural incomes and creates jobs.
  – Making agriculture education more dynamic and appealing to young people.

• Develop and review the curricula to capture the emerging needs.

• Identify how best to incorporate a global outlook into the current education strategies.
Continuation....

• Promote exchanges and strategic learning partnerships.
• Invest in infrastructure, teaching and career support to attract students.
• Promote use of modern technologies.
• Attract participation from the private sector
• Diversify the income streams.
Success Stories

• Good jobs are those that command good pay and respect.
• This features are not typically associated with farming under the conditions most familiar to young Africans.
• There is need for African universities to look for means to raise funds and improve infrastructure and training.
• Case for ANAFE SASACID project in Africa *(Workshop for university Managers, MSC Training, Curriculum review)*, RUFORUM.
• Kenyatta University; Creating other means for income generation, Business Innovation and Incubation Centre.
Kenyatta University Central Administration Block and the Library (Build with self generated funds)
Thank You
Asante Sana