

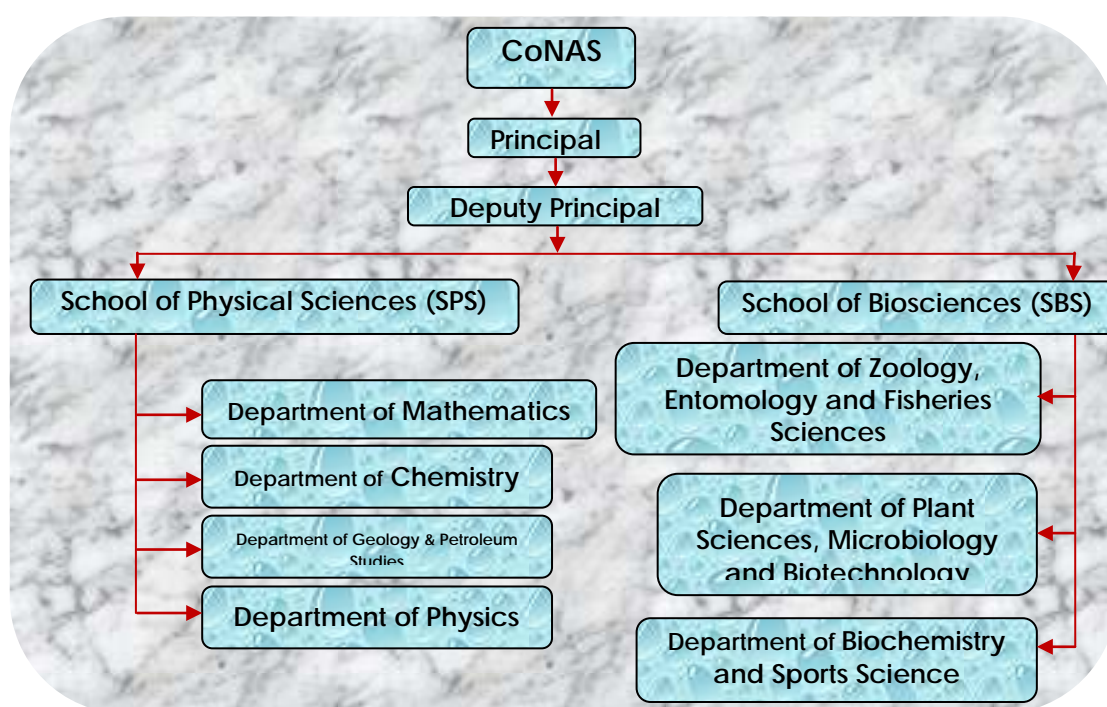
Vice Chancellor's Media Briefing – 27th November 2017

Brief by Principal - College of Natural Sciences (CoNAS)

The College of Natural Sciences (CoNAS) as one of the constituent colleges of Makerere University has the mandate to teach and research in the basic sciences, namely biochemistry, botany, chemistry, geology and petroleum studies, mathematics, physics, zoology, fisheries and sports science, which are foundations for the applied sciences. The College also undertakes the teaching and research in some aspects of applied sciences and renders service to other colleges.

The College of Natural Sciences Structure

The College has two schools, which have been further divided into departments as seen from the illustration below.



Strategic Goals of CoNAS

CoNAS developed its strategic plan 2012-2022 against which all our developments and achievements are based. The figure below highlights the seven (7) strategic goals of CoNAS as defined and detailed in the college strategic plan:

CoNAS Strategic Goals 2012 - 2022			
Goal 1	COLLEGE CAPACITY :To Increase the capacity of the College to train scientists for the country and the region	Goal 5	ACADEMICS: Provide a conducive academic environment for students and staff

CoNAS Strategic Goals 2012 - 2022			
Goal 2	SCIENCE PROGRAMMES: To Increase the variety of demand driven high quality science programmes	Goal 6	NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS: Make the College more relevant to national development
Goal 3	RESEARCH-PATENTS-PUBLICATIONS: Strengthen demand driven scientific research.	Goal 7	QUALITY ASSURANCE: To create and maintain high academic standards that are recognized internationally.
Goal 4	OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY OF THE COLLEGE: Improve the operational efficiency of the College		

The College for purposes of furthering knowledge undertakes research in various areas under the individual departments. Cognizant of the fact that our mandate centres on basic sciences, however, to support national development inroads have been made into applied science projects that contribute to incomes/livelihoods of Uganda's population. Research is jointly handled by staff and students at graduate (Masters and PhD) level.

At today's briefing, I have the pleasure to introduce to you two flagship projects in CoNAS:

1. Banana Research Programme: that we are implementing in partnership with the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) to scale up banana productivity in East Africa for small scale farmers following a decade of devastating impact of the deadly banana wilt disease on the banana industry in the region. (**Presenter:** Dr. Arthur Tugume – Department of Plant Sciences, Microbiology and Biotechnology).
2. BeeHealth Project: is a project that aims to address the pest challenges of honeybees. The project is the first of its kind for Uganda with respect to identify the main pests afflicting honeybee colonies in Uganda, develop solutions to these pests and improve the capacity of beekeepers to identify and manage these pests. (**Presenter:** Dr. Anne Margaret Akol – Department of Zoology, Entomology and Fisheries Sciences).