

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

**SPEECH BY THE PRINCIPAL
PROFESSOR GORETTIE NABANOGA**

**DURING THE (CAES) INNOVATION SCHOLARS
PROGRAM (ISP) INNOVATION SHOWCASE**

HELD ON 10TH AUGUST 2022

**AT YUSUF LULE CENTRAL TEACHING FACILITY
AUDITORIUM (CTF 2), MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

- The Guest of Honor, Hon. Min. of Science & Technology Dr. Monica Musenero
- The USAID Director, Mr. Richard Nelson
- The Vice Chancellor Makerere University, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe
- The Vice Chancellor, LUANAR, ^{UNIV. OF MALAWI} Prof. Emmanuel Kaunda
- Our Colleagues from Michigan State University Led by Prof. John Bonnell
- Professors, faculty and the student fraternity here present,
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

A very very Good morning to you all.

It is indeed a wonderful day to be hosting the 1st ever Innovations Scholars' Showcase in collaboration with MSU in Uganda.

On behalf of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES), as the organizer of this event, I warmly welcome you to Makerere University.

It is indeed an honor to host The Hon Minister of Science & Technology, Dr. Monica Musenero, the USAID Mission Director, Mr. Richard Nelson and the team from MSU, led by Prof. John Bonnell, at the time when Makerere University is commemorating its 100 year of Excellence.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a delightful moment to be sitting in the same room with eminent innovators from the African and American continents. Thank you for sparing the time to participate in today's Innovations Scholars' Showcase event.

The Makerere University strategic direction is intentional on improving our innovation culture more so as we leverage 100 years of excellency in Research and Innovation.

The collage of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences is one of the **Key innovation hubs at Makerere University**. Our aspiration at CAES is to be the leading innovators and entrepreneurs in the Agricultural and Environmental sectors.

With that in mind, we asked ourselves, how might we invigorate the Culture of Innovation and entrepreneurship in CAES?

For that, we embarked on an innovations Journey, under the Innovation Scholars Program (ISP) sponsored by Michigan State University's Borlaug Higher Education Agricultural and Research for Development (BHEARD) program, to invigorate the Innovation Culture. ^{Since 2020} This has been a journey of learning, un-learning and re-learning.

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from differen. Depts of the college

Under this program, the scholars ^{across} were offered an opportunity to **work in interdisciplinary teams** to solve food system problems that are relevant to the food systems in Uganda, while at the same time the **CAES leadership team** was supported to invigorate the innovation culture within the college.

Through this process, scholars' innovation mindsets were developed and an opportunity to practice innovation to improve the value, efficiency and effectiveness of their teaching, research and outreach engagements were provided.

The scholars were trained in the human-centered design thinking approach, which helped in spearheading the institutionalization of the innovation culture in CAES.

Each scholar team was privileged to be supported by innovation Coaches with wide experience in Human Centered Design (HCD). I was privileged to be Coached by Prof John Bonnell and the VC of LUANAR Prof. Emmanuel Kaunda, What an opportunity!

The innovation journey with the Scholars' projects using the HCD introduced different ways of how to generate innovations with high adoption probability.

A number of questions arose during our journeys and we often found it important to stop, reflect, review and devise a worthwhile campus to better navigate our innovation journeys. This required moving back and forth during the design processes.

Hon. Min, ladies and gentlemen, the scholars were further treated to an innovation excursion where the Innovation Ecosystem in Ghana was explored.

This was an exciting and priceless experience to the scholars who returned with “Fire in their Bellies” to implement some of the lessons learnt.

We have since become innovation-intentional at CAES to the extent that yesterday the 9th August 2022, CEAS unveiled its co-created Transformational Change Pact that is innovation-intentional.

We affirm that, the ISP has greatly contributed to reforming the innovation culture at CAES and each scholar can testify to this fact. The CAES-ISP Scholars are now our champions in spearheading the institutionalization to the innovation-intentional agenda that will transform the innovation culture in CAES and possible the entire Makerere University.

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The Innovations Showcase today is a testimony on how far we have come on the innovations journey.

Ladies and gentlemen, join to appreciate

1. **Prof. John Bonell, the Team leader, of the Innovation Scholars Program (ISP) and the Sponsor-Michigan State University's Borlaug Higher Education Agricultural and Research for Development (BHEARD) program,** without your support, we would never have started this journey and gotten this far
2. **USAID, the Mission Director Mr. Richard Nelson,** kindly convey our heartfelt gratitude to your team, for without your funding and goodwill we wouldn't have achieved this much.
3. **The Government of Uganda, Hon. Min.** we appreciate your support and commitment to move science, technology and innovation to the forefront of the Government priority list.
4. **Makerere University, Mr. VC,** thank you for providing an enabling environment for your staff and students to engage in research and innovation.

5. **To CAES**, thank you for supporting the scholars and CAES management team to pilot the new innovative approaches
6. **The CAES-ISP Scholars**, thank you for committing time to the program and generating the results that have brought us here today, **You have made CEAS proud!**
7. **Last but not least**, the **CAES-ISP program facilitation team** led by **Prof. Jackie Bonabana**, your empathy, commitment and efficiency in supporting the Scholars brought the success we celebrate today. **Bravo Jackie, Fredrick and Racheal.**

In my culture, we say that, **whenever and wherever you meet the King**, ask for whater you want, as you may never get another chance.

My ask today, will make me, A Tom Sawyer. – To Have Some More! Mr. Richard Sir, as you convey our gratitude to USAID, kindly let them know that the support rendered under the ISP helped us take great strides into the innovation journey.

We would appreciate another round to take us even further and create an Innovations Hub at CAES, specific for Agricultural and Environmental Innovations. We have had great lessons, which must be taken, to the next level.

Hon. Min., we are grateful for Government's support this for and, we pray that an innovations fund specific for Agricultural and Environmental innovations at Makerere University be ring-fenced.

As I conclude, Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for gracing this occasion. We continue to commit to being Innovation-Intentional at CAES as we Leverage the 100 Years of Excellence in Building a Transformed Society.

Our, Motto truly speaks to our core purpose as a University, let us continue Building for the future,
For God and My Country.