

Policy makers, Academia and stakeholders discuss reforms in agricultural courses

Date and time: Fri, 2017-09-29 13:57

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A team from Global Forum on Agriculture Research (GFAR) and Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building (RUFORUM) paid a courtesy call on the University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi and discussed ways of impacting experiential learning among students.

The meeting was held today, September, 29, 2017.

Speaking during the courtesy call, Mark Hoderness, the head of the delegation observed that students pursuing agriculture oriented courses, need transformational learning, student mentorship and a revamped curriculum that will help in getting market ready students.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, observed that students need experiential learning. “Students need fieldwork, extension, research,” he said. Graduates with production or processing knowledge alone will not fit in the current or future job markets as other skill sets including leadership and managerial skills are being demanded by employers handling either local or international markets. These new demands are influencing the characteristics of the current agriculture activities and this will also determine the future of agriculture and allied sectors.

Prof. Stephen Kiama, Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, CAVS, noted that over 43 experts drawn from the academia, policy makers, have been meeting at the CAVS to see how to reform agriculture curriculum. To ensure that graduates released to the market are “Change Agents”. The workshop, currently being held at Seed Enterprise Management Institute (SEMI), in partnership with Global Forum on Agriculture Research (GFAR) and Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building (RUFORUM) is working on Collective Action on Transformational Learning & Student Leadership Development. With the main objectives being strengthening organizational and

individual capacities and establishing the role of local Universities in producing holistic graduates to respond effectively to the current global, regional and national agriculture-related challenges, the workshop provided an opening for students to meet with agriculture-related value chain stakeholders and major researchers.

Also present during the meeting were: Prof. Isaac Mbeche, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs and Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Production and Extension among others.

Expiry Date: Sun, 2018-09-30 13:57

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