



## **THE 2<sup>ND</sup> NATIONAL FORUM FOR UNIVERSITIES, TVETS AND INDUSTRY PLAYERS IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

**THEME: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INNOVATIVE  
AGRICULTURAL TRAINING**

**ORGANIZER: EGERTON UNIVERSITY**

**DATES: 12-13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**

**VENUE: LAKE NAIVASHA PANORAMA PARK HOTEL**

### **Background information**

Egerton University is keen to contribute to the Big Four Agenda on Food and Nutrition Security. As a premier agricultural university that has been at the forefront of generating numerous technologies and innovations for use by farmers, Egerton has continued to generate skilled manpower in the agricultural sector since 1939. The university in partnership with the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and Gulu University in Uganda with support from MasterCard Foundation is implementing a Program titled “**Transforming African Agricultural Universities to meaningfully contribute to Africa’s Growth and Development (TAGDev)**”. This eight year program (2016-2024) seeks to transform African agricultural universities and their graduates to better respond to developmental challenges through enhanced application of science, technology, business and innovation for rural agricultural transformation. The program is focused on transformation at individual, community, institutional, national and regional levels.

The program has four broad objectives: i) Pilot a new model of agricultural education at early adopter universities that connects tertiary agricultural education to rural communities, with an emphasis on smallholder farmers; ii) Strengthen agribusiness/entrepreneurship at two universities and selected TVET institutions; iii) Scale the new model for agricultural education to other agricultural universities and TVET institutions; and, iv) Increase collaboration and mutual learning among institutions and agencies implementing and influencing innovative Tertiary Agricultural Education for rural transformation in Africa.

TAGDev has special focus on agriculture as a massifier of opportunities for youth and as a mechanism to achieve financial independence and moving millions of poor smallholder farmers out of poverty. It therefore aims at training competent and highly skilled African youths and to develop the capacity of African universities and technical vocational training institutions to effectively train and nurture graduates with relevant skills that match societal needs. The program also aims at facilitating students' transitions to livelihoods with a special focus on strengthening linkage between training institutions, small-scale farmers, agricultural industry players and other partners. A forum for universities, TVETs, agricultural stakeholders in both private and public sector is therefore key in achieving the program's objectives.

### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> National forum meeting**

Egerton University through TAGDev program has organized a National Forum bringing together key stakeholders from the **12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> of March, 2019** in Naivasha with the theme: “*Sustainable Development through Innovative Agricultural Training*”. The goal of the forum is to contribute to strengthening of public-private partnerships to enhance agricultural productivity. The one and half day meeting will involve interesting keynote speeches, presentations from private and public institutions and various break up sessions each with a specific topic of discussion. In addition, several universities, research institutions, TVETs, and private companies will showcase available and ready to use technologies and innovations to boost agricultural productivity in Kenya. The Cabinet Secretary, Agriculture **Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri** has been invited as the Chief Guest. The Permanent Secretary, Technical Education and Training, CEC agriculture Nakuru County, Senior Program Officers at Mastercard foundation and RUFORUM, Directors from various public and private organizations, Egerton University management Board are among invited dignitaries. Over 120 participants are expected to benefit from this meeting.

### **Expected output**

It is expected that the meeting will provide an opportunity to foster partnerships for innovative approaches in agricultural training at Universities and TVETs, showcase available technologies to boost food security, and to contribute to policy issues relevant for sustainable development