

**SPEECH BY THE PRINCIPAL**

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES (CAES)**

**MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

**DURING THE LAUNCH OF**

**THE CONSORTIUM FOR ENHANCING UNIVERSITY RESPONSIVENESS TO  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (CURAD)**

**AT**

**THE CURAD PREMISES AT MUARIK**

**ON**

**FRIDAY MAY 09, 2014**

- The Guest of Honour,
- Ambassador Royal Danish Embassy,
- Directors and Heads of Government Institutions,
- The Chancellor Makerere University,
- Professors,
- Colleagues in CAES,
- Chairman Board of Management of CURAD,
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Makerere University and in particular to the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES) which is hosting the Consortium for enhancing University Responsiveness to Agribusiness Development (CURAD). I am indeed happy that we are launching CURAD.

We in the College are very excited about the activities of CURAD which include

Mainstreaming entrepreneurship in B.Sc. programs to produce young innovative entrepreneurs and agribusiness leaders and supporting students' start-ups among other things.

These activities are going along way in fulfilling the strategic objective of the College in generating innovative and well-targeted development solution and proactively support the development of relevant national policies. Through CURAD, the college is addressing issues of value addition along the coffee value chain, unemployment and increasing diversity of products from our agricultural product.

But perhaps the most important is that unlike other projects in the college which have a start and end date, CURAD is supposed to be self-sustainable. Therefore, what we are launching today should be around until the promoters feel that there is no more need of incubating business.

I therefore wish to thank the PI of the project (Prof. Samuel Kyamanywa), Executive Director of NUCAFE Mr. Joseph Nkaddu, and the team that has been responsible for originating the idea and ensuring its establishment. I also thank the other partners namely NARO and NUCAFE who are promoting CURAD. In a special way, I would like to thank FARA for coming up to support the University to ensure that products of Universities are relevant to African development.

As an Economist, I know that business incubation is fast becoming one of the world's foremost job creators. I also know that the successful completion of a business incubation program increases the likelihood that a start-up company will stay in business for the long term. Studies have shown that 87% of incubator graduates stayed in business.

I therefore wish to request other development partners to give more support to CURAD, and Food Technology Incubator to help them handle more incubates. What you are seeing today is good beginning. In the same way, I would like to thank the Government of Uganda, which has been supporting the Food Technology and Business Incubation Centre in my college. We need more support because we have demonstrated that the returns to investment are great.

With those few remarks, I once again thank you all for honoring our invitation to this launch.

**We build for the Future.**