



## **UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

### **OFFICE OF DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR, RESEARCH, PRODUCTION AND EXTENSION**

**TALKING POINTS BY PROF. LUCY W. IRUNGU,  
DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR, RESEARCH,  
PRODUCTION AND EXTENSION, DURING THE  
BRANCH PLOUGHING CONTESTS AND EXHIBITIONS  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI VET. FARM,  
KANYARIRI, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND  
VETERINARY SCIENCES ON AUGUST 26, 2013.**

#### **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I am glad to join you all in participating at the 2013 Nairobi branch ploughing competitions and exhibition of agricultural technologies.

Agricultural development is important to the Kenyan economy providing employment to a significant proportion of the population and contributing to the country's GDP. In addition, food security is dependent on agriculture. The growth of agricultural production has not kept pace with the population growth forcing the country to rely on food imports. The key to economic development and

food security therefore lies heavily on improvement of agricultural production.

To realize better crop yields through improved agricultural production, there is need to adopt better and more efficient farming practices. Ploughing is a primary tillage activity intended to prepare an appropriate soil environment for crop development from seed germination and crop growth to maturity. The crop yield is dependent on how well the seed bed is prepared. Appropriate ploughing techniques produces a good seedbed necessary to achieve the maximum possible yield.

The ploughing contest contributes significantly to improvement in efficiency of agricultural production as it enables ploughmen/women acquire essential skills needed for good quality ploughing. As the participants practise in preparation for the competitions, they develop better techniques in ploughing.

The inclusion of exhibitors in this event is commendable to facilitate dissemination of agricultural technologies. Interaction between the participants will facilitate exchange of information and ideas useful not only to themselves but also to the country as a whole as they proceed to make contribution to improvement in agricultural production. I wish to recognize the exhibition of

conservation agriculture which is becoming a preferred form of farming practice in the recent past.

I recognize the participation of the youth especially the university and secondary school students. The interest they have shown in this event is a reflection of the bright future the country has in agriculture which relies heavily on the future generation constituted mainly by this age group. They have demonstrated that farming is not to be left to the elderly but is meant for the youth for it to be successful.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Nairobi branch for partnering with us in this important event which is also a form of extension that falls in my docket which covers extension. Through this event, the university is also fulfilling part of its mandate that covers participation in community development activities.

Finally, I sincerely appreciate participation of all the institutions that have participated to enable this event to be a success. I look forward to future partnerships with your institutions as we work together to develop our great country, Kenya.

Thank you.