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KENYA METHODIST UNIVERSITY

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BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

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2.0 THE CURRICULUM FOR BSc AGRICULTURE

2.1 PHILOSOPHY OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE

2.1.1. Philosophy of the Curriculum

Developing countries have recently experienced steady population growth which in many cases has been accompanied by various forms of food shortages and encroachment of vulnerable environments. To meet the challenges of the 21st Century, countries have to develop strategies for meeting their food requirements without causing environmental degradation.

The Agriculture sector forms the backbone for economic development. In addition to satisfying food needs, Agriculture provides employment and raw materials for the industry. Increasing farm productivity is thus the key to addressing the problem of rural poverty and improving the standard of living. Farming has traditionally been viewed as a culture, an art, a science and a business. The traditional association of land ownership for settlement and subsistence of households has maintained the impression that agriculture is, naturally, a way of life. Despite a lot of efforts at the national level to develop agriculture, few individuals have invested in farming as a business in the same way as in other sectors. To keep pace with trends in the global economy, the sector has to be reformed to operate efficiently like any other business. Farm productivity has to be increased through efficient economic use of resources, application of appropriate technologies, entrepreneurship and adequate investment

2.1.2. Programme Objectives

The Agriculture programme at Kenya Methodist University is designed to train agricultural specialists equipped with the basic tools for business innovation in agriculture. It aims at developing practitioners who will be committed to development of sustainable agriculture practices and who view agricultural production, processing, marketing and provision of technical services as a sustainable business. Students are adequately prepared to engage in production as self-employed entrepreneurs, to take up jobs in agricultural advisory services, to establish consultancy services, to invest in production, processing or marketing and to carry out research in any aspect of the sector. The programme is designed to train graduates to gain an understanding of the physical, biological, socio-economic and business potentials, opportunities and constraints in the agriculture sector.

Specific Objectives of the programme

are:

- a) To inculcate in the students a sound knowledge of agriculture sciences and natural resource management
- b) To prepare the student to become a competent agricultural manager or entrepreneur in private and public sectors
- c) To equip students with moral aptitudes for environmental conservation and management e) to prepare students for advanced studies and research

2.1.3 Programme Structure

The programme is designed to cover four academic years (a total of eight semesters). In the first year students are introduced to foundation courses that form the base for agricultural sciences, business and general education. General agricultural and business principles are offered in the second year. In the third and fourth years students are exposed to production and management courses, practical application courses, research and internship. The programme offers two options: Agricultural Production and Agricultural Business. The Agricultural Production option focuses on agricultural sciences and production practices. The Agricultural Business option focuses on management and development of business in agriculture. The Programme incorporates flexibility to enable students to strengthen their biases and meet their needs in various disciplines. Students may select additional courses, on the recommendation of the Academic Advisor, to build their strengths in any of the agricultural disciplines as well as satisfy other professional biases.

Each student undertakes a research project or investigative study in a special area of interest and writes a report or a research paper. This may begin any time in the second or third years. The research project facilitates strengthening the student's investigative capacity as well as deepening knowledge in the selected areas. Students are also exposed to the real world training through participation in fa.an activities, practicals, field trips, internship and field attachment during vacations.

2.2 ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

2.2.1 Admission Requirements

a) *Pre-service Candidates/ Beginners*

Candidates must meet the minimum University requirements of a mean grade of C+ (C plus) in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) or equivalent qualification. In addition; the candidate should attain a grade of C+ (C plus) in Biology at Biological Sciences and C (C plain) in Mathematics and Chemistry or Physical Sciences. Candidates with passes in Agriculture will have an added advantage.

b) *In-service/ Upgrade Candidates*

- i) In-service candidates should have a Diploma in an agricultural discipline or equivalent qualification from a recognized tertiary institution
- ii) Candidates who have a diploma in a profession related to agriculture and are actively involved in an agricultural activity are considered
- iii) Candidates wishing to study through distance learning should have basic agricultural training obtained from a recognized tertiary institution that offers theoretical and practical programmes. In addition they are required to be actively involved in an agricultural activity during the course of study

c) *Foreign candidates*

Foreign candidates who have not taken the above examinations will be expected to produce acceptable documentary evidence that they have passed an examination of equivalent standards, supported by a signed statement of attainment from the head of the last school attended or from the respective education authority.