



KENYA METHODIST UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES

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MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

JULY, 2008



2.0. CURRICULUM FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

2.1. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is a broad-based profession which encompasses the natural sciences, applied sciences, social sciences, technology studies, economics and business. It is also a culture and a way of life. In the undergraduate degree, students gain an understanding of the physical, biological, technological, socio-economic and business aspects of agriculture. They are equipped with the basic 'theoretical and practical tools for agricultural production and management of agricultural business enterprises.

The Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources offers Postgraduate Programmes leading to the award of Master's Degree. The programme is designed to enhance professional competence in the agricultural discipline-and to facilitate attainment of integrated knowledge and development of specialist skills beyond the bachelor's degree.

2.2. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The Master of Science in Agricultural and Rural Development Programme offers advanced studies in developmental agriculture. The programme provides graduates with specific training in development and management of resources for agriculture and rural development. It leads to enhancement of research capacity and specialization in various agricultural systems and integrated technologies. It offers in depth knowledge in various agricultural and rural development disciplines enabling the graduates to plan, implement and monitor agricultural based programmes. The skills so acquired will empower the graduates to apply the gained knowledge in every situation and time for accelerated agricultural and rural development programmes. The programme will therefore enable the graduate students to:

1. Acquire broad and in-depth knowledge and skills in agricultural and rural development.
2. Apply concepts, principles and practices in agriculture and rural development

3. Comprehend the current and future issues in agriculture and rural development as they affect the general economy.
4. Recognize and describe those factors affecting agricultural development adversely and suggest the necessary measure to avert this trend

Broad Areas to be covered.

The following are the broad areas to be covered:

- Concepts and principles related to agriculture and rural development.
- Types of agricultural and rural development programmes
- Participatory oriented approach in teaching, research and outreach programmes and services in agriculture and rural development.
- Innovative process of planning, designing and implementation of agriculture and rural development programmes.

2.3 ADMISSION REQUIREMENT FOR MSc. IN AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

For admission into the programme, a candidate must satisfy any of the following minimum requirements,

- a) Be a holder of a Bachelor's of science degree in an agriculture or a bachelor's degree in agricultural related discipline with a GPA of 3.0 (B average) or upper second class honours,
- b) Be a holder of any other bachelor degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized university. In addition a candidate requires to present evidence of potential to successfully pursue postgraduate studies.
- c) A candidate whose undergraduate degree was not in agriculture and natural resources may be considered for admission on provisional basis. Such a candidate may be required to take the relevant undergraduate courses to keep up any deficiencies in Agriculture and Rural development in order to prepare adequately for the programme courses.
- d) Possession of the minimum requirements does not guarantee automatic admission to the degree of Masters of Science in

Agriculture and Rural Development In addition to academic qualification the report from three Academic referees will be considered.