

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR



It gives me much pleasure to witness a major milestone for us all - the publication of the Proceedings Book for the 6th Global Consortium of Higher Education and Research for Agriculture Conference, which was hosted by Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) on 23rd to 27th November 2009. The success realised in organising and hosting the conference went a long way to not only showcase JKUAT as a major centre of agricultural research and technology, but also the continent of Africa as a rich reservoir for agricultural activity.

I wish, on behalf of the entire JKUAT Community, to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed in one way or another towards the success of the conference. I particularly note the role of the various paper presenters who tabled well-researched and highly relevant presentations, and the GCHERA Executive Committee together with the Conference Local Organising Committee for the long hours spent to ensure the success of the conference. My sincere thanks also go to the conference sponsors, namely the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Alliance for Green Revolution (AGRA), the German Academic Exchange (DAAD) and the Kenya Institute of Management, for the very generous assistance towards the organisation of the forum. Our institution is also grateful to the Government of Kenya, through the Ministries of Higher Education Science and Technology, and Ministry of Agriculture for much logistical support that saw the conference proceed without hitches. I in this regard particularly thank His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Mwai Kibaki for finding time to open the conference.

Continued consultations and cooperation of all parties mentioned above ensured that at the close of the day, the first GCHERA conference in the continent of Africa was indeed a remarkable success. Thank you once again and maintain this working spirit.

For all participants, I wish to reiterate the oft-repeated reminder that this and other similar conferences should rise above being mere talk-shops. It is now time for us to consolidate the various findings with a view to making the ordinary farmer – and indeed the entire agricultural sector – more useful to humanity through ensuring food security and therefore reduction of poverty. It is we researchers and professors in institutions of higher learning that will provide the ultimate solution to the myriad of problems that continue afflicting the agricultural sector day after day.