

Launch of the First Annual Rainwater Harvesting Campaign

The University of Nairobi has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and Kenya Rainwater Association.

The MoU signing took place alongside the launch of First Annual Rainwater Harvesting Campaign whose aim is to bring up primary stakeholders in up-scaling rainwater harvesting and management in Kenya on Tuesday, April 11, 2017

The memorandum seeks to upscale research, training, innovation, science and technology transfer in the Water and Environment sector in Kenya and any other areas of mutual interests to the parties involved.

Speaking during the forum in International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) Conference Hall, World Agro forestry, the guest of honor, Hon. Eugene Wamalwa, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, welcomed the move terming it as one that has come in the right time to nip Kenya's drought and flood threat in the bud. He recognized that Universities as corporate entities have a role to play in supporting government institutions through collaborative research, training, innovation, science and technology.

"I challenge all of us invited here, that rain water harvesting and management campaign can be sustained. There are possible options to fight the twin challenge of frequent droughts and floods," he added.

While representing the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Prof. Kiama expressed the University's support in the noble undertaking. He further pointed out that the collaboration will enhance scholarly interaction, research excellence and other forms of academic and development collaborations based on mutual understanding, reciprocity and equal partnership.

Parties signing the MoU pledged to cooperate and provide research capacity, technical and policy support to facilitate catchment protection, restoration and management, legal and regulatory frameworks on water harvesting, storage and land reclamation, infrastructure development, assessments, water for agriculture (irrigation, drainage, rainwater harvesting, water and soil conservation, recycling of waste water, pollution control) water resources monitoring and climate change issues.