

The Africa Center of Excellence in Sustainable Use of Insects as Food and Feeds (INSEFOODS)

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST) has established the *Africa Center of Excellence in Sustainable Use of Insects as Food and Feeds (INSEFOODS)* with funding from the World Bank. INSEFOODS is one of the 24 competitively selected centers at Universities in Eastern and Southern Africa under the World Bank's *Eastern and Southern Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence Project II (ACE II)*. The overall objective of INSEFOODS is to achieve long-term food and nutritional security by using insects as a cost-effective, reliable and sustainable source of protein and other nutrients for food and feeds. To achieve this objective, INSEFOODS' strategy is to develop and offer high quality regional and internationally accredited masters, doctoral and short courses programs in food security and sustainable agriculture with insects for food and feeds as the entry point. The educational programs will involve teaching, research, product development and commercialization, and student and staff exchanges in different disciplines related to insects as food and feeds across Africa.

INSEFOODS is funded by the World Bank to the tune of US\$ 6 million over a five year period 2017-2022. The Bank has disbursed US\$ 1.1 million following the achievement of the Disbursement Linked Indicator (DLI) number 1 in terms of US\$ 600,000 for DLI#1.1 and US\$ 500,000 for DLI#1.2. The funds were accredited into the JOOUST Bank Account at the Equity Bank, Bondo Branch, for the ACE II Project on 9th June 2017. The amount received in Kenya shillings was 111,595,000 (one hundred and eleven million, five hundred and ninety five thousand only).

A Masters Program and a Doctoral Program in Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture to be offered through the Centre have been developed and approved by the JOOUST Senate during the 1st Quarter 2017. The programs were submitted to the Commission for University Education (CUE) for national accreditation. The CUE has provided comments for the revision of the programs. INSEFOODS and the JOOUST School of Agricultural and Food Sciences (SAFS) in which the programs reside are currently addressing those comments for resubmission of the program to CUE by 31st July 2017. It is only after the national accreditation that students will be enrolled into the programs. Student enrollment is expected from the 3rd Quarter 2017. The Programs will subsequently be submitted for International accreditation as per World Bank requirements. Other relevant JOOUST programs will be identified and new programs will be developed for accreditation.

A proposal has been approved by the Senate for the establishment of INSEFOODS in accordance with JOOUST Statues. In addition, a Strategic Plan for the Centre has also been prepared.

Several documents have been prepared for the implementation of INSEFOODS activities. They include:

- a) The Project Proposal for INSEFOODS
- b) The Five Year Implementation Plan

c) Year 1 (2017) Work Plan

The administrative structure of INSEFOODS is being established based on the University Statute XXXV of 2013, beginning at the level of University Council through the University Management Board to respective committees as outlined in Schedule VI of the Statutes.

The Centre is headed by a Centre Director (CD) appointed by the Vice-Chancellor as stipulated in the rules and regulations governing appointments of senior management staff. The CD is responsible for day to day operations of the Centre and answerable to the Vice Chancellor through the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Outreach (RIO). The CD is supported by a Deputy Centre Director (DCD) appointed by the Vice Chancellor, a Project Manager recruited by the Centre, and 5 (five) Task Leaders initially appointed by the Vice Chancellor from JOOUST staff, but subsequently hired as fulltime employees of the Centre when resources permit, are in-charge of the following technical sections (1) Research and Technology, (2) Training and Mentorship, (3) Innovation, Business Incubation and Outreach (4) Partnerships and Collaboration, and (5) Monitoring and Evaluation. The CD is further supported by the following staff recruited by the Centre: Accountant, Procurement Officer, Farm Manager, 5 Project Assistants (one for each technical section), an Administrative Assistant, a Secretary, a Driver and an Office Assistant.

The constitution of the Centre structure and staff recruitment for INSEFOODS are underway for the implementation of the Centre. Only some staff (Project Manager, Accountant, Procurement Officer and Admin Assistant) will be hired initially to kick start the Centre, and other staff recruited subsequently as the Centre workload warrants it. There are 100 qualified (with Ph.D.) JOOUST staff (23% female) in the various schools of the University available to serve as lecturers and student research supervisors for the academic programs to be offered through the Centre. The Centre will also utilize exchange lecturers from partner universities in Kenya, across Africa and internationally as needed.