

VIRTUAL ROUND TABLE SERIES:Kenya: Transforming Agricultural Research funding towards sustainability 23rd June 2021. Welcome Remarks

- 1. Gratitude to the organizers of the Virtual Roundtable Series JKUAT (Prof Daniel Sila and Dr Robert Mbeche) and BioVision and funded by STIFTUNG MERCATOR SCHWEIZ**
- 2. This is the second in a series of three virtual round table series, the first one having been held on 14th of April 2021, for those who did not attend they can still watch it, the organizers can still share the link and you will also have the opportunity to get hear the summary in this session, however I encourage all of us to get the link and listen**
- 3. In the first round table held on the 14th of April 2021 we had panelists from JKUAT, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, the NRF, NACOSTI, KALRO, Bio-Vision articulating pertinent issues relating to Agricultural funding and a number of challenges were also highlighted.**
- 4. I want believe that in today's round table discussions we shall come up with possible solutions, opportunities and strategies to transform the Agricultural research funding towards sustainability**
- 5. On behalf of the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology Management (JKUAT) I want to formally welcome you to the second Round table session on Transforming Agricultural research funding towards sustainability.**
- 6. As one of the public universities in Kenya we have a crucial part to play in ensuring that the objectives of the virtual round table series are met and I would expect that all of us as individuals and institutions in Kenya, Africa and globally will make this happen**
- 7. JKUAT's Vision is to a University of global excellence in Training, Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Development**
- 8. We have three Divisions, five colleges, five research centres/Institutes and a large pool of researchers**
- 9. Research is taken very serious such that till recently the University had internal research and innovation grants but due to financial constraints this has been suspended. Our major funding comes from NRF and international development partners**
- 10. Agriculture is a key area of focus as it is engraved in the name of the university and as such we a strong pool of researchers in Agricultural thematic areas, and as such a large proportion of Research funding received by the university is in the Agricultural and related areas.**
- 11. Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security is one of the Big 4 Agenda**