

REMARKS BY PROF. AGNES MWANG'OMBE, PRINCIPAL, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY SCIENCES DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE BORLAUG LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT IN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM (LEAP) ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE ON 4TH MARCH 2014 AT UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be part of this occasion of the official launch of the Borlaug Leap chapter in Kenya. I am aware that this event celebrates the life and legacy of Dr. Norman Borlaug whose distinguished career illustrated the qualities of leadership, scholarship, scientific achievement, international cooperation, mentoring and passion. Allow me to take this early opportunity to sincerely appreciate the Borlaug LEAP team for choosing to convene this event at the University of Nairobi and for choosing to co-host the event with the CSDS.

This event whose theme is *higher education for development and food security* is very timely because it provides an avenue for a collaborative engagement in finding sustainable solutions to the developmental and food security challenges facing our societies. It is my hope that the event will provide a fertile ground for fresh ideas aimed at improving livelihoods. It is important for me to note that the CAVS remains committed to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods in Kenya and the region through well-designed training and research programmes. The college, through the various departments continues to partner with communities, development agencies and knowledge-based institutions taking into consideration emerging global and regional trends to improve livelihoods. I specifically wish to acknowledge the long standing collaboration between the college and the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute in research activities.

My sincere thanks go to all participating universities, CGIAR, KARI and NGOs. I trust that this collaboration will continue and I call upon other developmental partners to continue supporting us especially in our efforts to achieve food security and prosperity in Kenya and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Finally, I want to recognise the great effort of the CSDS in promoting action research and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students in sustainable utilization of dryland resources among other activities within the college.