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Relevance of Private Sector-Academia Linkages: Experience of Makerere University in Floriculture industry of Uganda

- Taking MU to flower farms a case of Irrigation principles and practices at Wagagai farm
- The continuing Agricultural Education centre (CAEC) is one of the 8 Dpts under the FA ,MU
- Conceived in 1993 with joint funding from The WB and GoU under the Agricultural Research and Training Project (ARTP) through the National Agricultural Research Organization
- Was institutionalized in 2002 as an arm of FA to take the University to communities
Skills in Fertilizer mixing and fertigation for floriculture

- A Private Sector Facility Used by Makerere University to make Floriculture more competitive

- CAEC is responsible for enhancing the capacity of professionals and practitioners, disseminating knowledge and technology development for sustainable Agric. Sector

- This empowerment is done through mounting courses using CAEC’s “proactive” and “reactive” approaches
Participants of the Applied Tropical Floriculture (ATF) course during a field session at Wagagai flower farm

Reactive approach

- Organizations such as Uganda Flowers Exporters Association (UFEA) funded by Agricultural Productivity Enhancement Program (APEP) have demanded for ATF course to improve competitiveness of Uganda flowers exporters in the global mkt

- CAEC, therefore, offers a platform for learning alliances in a public private sector approach
Proactive approach

Proactive approach:

• Include Identifying a training need within the Faculty of Agriculture departments, Local Government (LG), Non Government Organisations (NGOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and Private Sector.

• Then a course is organized and funding sought from available training budget such as under the NORAD/MUARIK/CAEC project
The “hands on” training by CAEC on Vegetative propagation of flowers to ATF participants

- CAEC has contributed to the private sector dev’t thru improving on the distinctive competence of flower farms in the globalized flower market.

- Participants have been introduced to modern methods of flower production, post-harvest handling and marketing.
The “hands on” training by CAEC Contd.

- Flowers farms are the lecture rooms as well as laboratory

- Students also go to the Netherlands, the destination of flowers from Uganda, to appreciate the market needs and how to improve on the competitiveness of their produce
Studies the floriculture market demands using the collaborative approach

Cut flowers ready for market

- Therefore, CAEC acts as a link between MU, the private sector (UFEA) and the donor community (APEP) in a complementary manner to implement the collaborative training.

- The nine year engagement of the private sector with CAEC has led to capacity building of staff for not only Flower farms but also for Makerere University, NARO and horticultural programs in Ministry of Agriculture Animal industry and Fisheries (MAAIF).
Implications

• This is a classical public private linkage that creates a potential relationship between the private sector (flower exporters) and the University

• The trained practitioners will in future help the University to train our internship students attached to such flower farms.

• There is also a possibility of private sector getting involved in financial contribution to demand driven research as a result of interaction with our students.

• This is envisaged to be the case provided the outcome of the research will improve on the competitiveness of such firms in the flower industry