Studying in Wageningen University: Wealth of personal and cooperate benefits

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Agro Environ Symposium, Wageningen University
1-5th May 2012.
1. Approach: Integrating socio-economic and land management processes to derive solution options
2. Benefits – improved professionalism
3. Thesis publication based on journal papers
4. Benefits to my country – example of developed land management Strategy for triple wins
Integrated approach in understanding of the common landscape management challenges

= Involving land users to assess underlying degradation issues - perceptions
= Clearly identifying causes of land degradation – using science
Benefits – improved professionalism

- **This framework** benefits enhances both social and biophysical skills thus improving better understanding of the farming challenges/farming systems.

- **Group discussions – PhDs** - creates self confidence in a student, but also more insights and information during research proposal writing, data collection and reporting.

- **Policy of having MSc join PhD students in the field research** - removes variance in the research results. Besides that it enriches both students in understanding the differences between the “North and South” circumstances; enhancing cross culture integrations.

  “Many have found their spouses in this model”
PhD theses based on refereed publication system:

- Through this systems, writing skills are improved to a great extent.
- Because of the many manuscripts in refereed journals -my visibility has been enhanced: thus getting contacts for collaborative proposal writing, paper reviewing and invitations for participating in scientific forums.
- Superior education system I achieved at WU-LDD is linked to promotions and recognition I continue to experience. E.g. work ethics and working in cross-cultural environment
- Positions/tasks include- head of SWM research programmes, member of various task forces, official of professional bodies, etc
Benefits to my country

- Contact person for development of Climate Change Strategy- to address the increasing challenges of food insecurity and environmental degradation
- Taskforce member to various government initiatives: Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor on agricultural development potential, Kenya Conservation Agriculture With Trees Development, Climate Change Adaptation Initiative, Development of Agriculture Climate Change Policy and Strategy, etc, etc
- Lead consultant to FAO and EU programmes/research projects on Conservation Agriculture Research
Benefits to my country

- Recognized partner, on behalf of my government, to International Research Institutes – IFPRI, ILRI, WU, EU, ACT, ICRAF, Sida, etc on various subjects related to Land and water management studies.
- Supporting PhD and MSc students in their research – WU, Ghent University, University of Bonn, Nairobi, Kenyatta, JKKUAT, etc, etc.
- Committed to reviewing of manuscripts from international journals.
- Membership to professional bodies: Soil Science Society of Africa (current Treasurer), Soil Science Society of E. Africa (member, former secretary), Friends of Nairobi Arboretum, Ecological Society of East Africa, etc, etc.
Example: support to my country

Development of climate change adaptation and mitigation Strategy
Synergies and Tradeoffs between Mitigation and Food Security

- Integrated soil fertility management
- Improved seed
- Irrigation (low energy using..)
- Conservation tillage/residue management
- Improved fallow

Overgrazing
Soil nutrient mining
Bare fallow

GW pumping
Mechanized farming

Source: Adapted from FAO (2009)
Synergies and Tradeoffs

- Profitability
- Adaptation
- Mitigation
- Given the threat of CC to Agri production and livelihood, the decision makers need to consider promotion of practices that provide greatest benefits in terms of A, P/P and M strategy.
- Given the positive correlation between Soil carbon and crop yields, Agricultural practices that improves soil fertility and enhance carbon sequestration also improves crop yields.
Management Strategies for increased productivity and SOC Sequestration
Wayforwards

- The cross-culture exposure needs to be enhanced.
- Need to consider maintaining contacts with past alumni even in development of post-doc opportunities,
- Encourage inter-county development of research proposals to benefit future MSc/PhD students
- To encourage cross-institutional visits - guest lectures, testing of models, …..
Thank you

Asante saana – KARIBU KENYA