6 July 2015

Deputy Director General-RC
Deputy Director General-TPIS
Directors
Directors of Research-PARIs
All Staff

GOODWILL MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (NARO)

I wish to thank all of you in your various capacities for all the prayers, support, congratulatory messages and commitments you unreservedly expressed on my appointment as the substantive Director General. Although a lot of anxieties, to a point of “fear”, were felt as a result of the protracted duration of the due diligence/vetting process by the rightful authorities prior to the appointment, this is the time to put all the counter-productive thoughts in the past and march on with pride and determination. I strongly believe a lot of rigours and professionalism were used to determine a thorough and conclusive decision by the appointing authority. The final outcome makes me strongly believe that a lot of trust and hope has been vested in you and me. Therefore, what can we give back to the Nation?

I am delighted by the inexpressible, steadfast and desirous support the NARO Governing Council provided to enable the Organisation remain focused and move in the right direction. Similarly, I pay tribute to all the Directors at NAROSEC and in the PARIs, and all the staff within the NARO fraternity in your various capacities for all the support and achievements made in fulfilment of our noble Mission. I am cognisant of the role played by our collaborators in Agricultural Research for Development at national, regional and international levels; and all the development partners for the investments made. I am very grateful.
I seize this opportunity to pay tribute to the former Directors General: Prof Joseph Mukibi, Dr Denis Kyetere and the late Dr Emily Kabushenga Twinamasiko for the foresight, foundation laid and exceptional roles they played in enabling NARO to be what it is today, and particularly in spurring me on to my present capacity.

Visioning on the future scenarios, I strongly believe that the fundamental challenge that we stand to face as an Organisation is achieving a shared understanding of the contribution and value of AR4D that positively impacts on food and nutrition security, economic, social and cultural transformation for sustainable development. This is by no means an easy task. Many obstacles lie in the path - for instance lack of predictable and committed funding, declining funding level, pestilence, asymmetric flow of info, declining soil fertility, climate change and variability, inadequate staffing, staff turnover and real time commitment.

Colleagues and Well-wishers, permit me to confirm that NARO has some of the most intelligent, capable, determined, committed, passionate and results-oriented staff I have ever met. What they need however, is a winning strategy and to be part of a winning team. During my tenureship, I promise, once again, to put a human face and elements of collective ownership and responsibility in all that is done in the name of the Organisation, as long as it does not compromise our Core Values.

While driving the Short-term Results, I would like to confirm that NARO has invested heavily in infrastructure, systems and training to lay foundation for long-term sustainable growth. While looking at the opportunities to exploit Today, we will look at Tomorrow to capture the imagination and needs of target clientele.

Special emphasis will be placed on the promotion of technical and management excellence. In fact, results-based and evidence-based management and accountability that cascade all layers right from the Council to the lowest segment in the PARIs will be emphasised. Our strategic goals and objectives will be re-aligned to ensure maximum performance.
I am counting on all of you, in your various capacities, to form a formidable team, work together and lead NARO to greater heights to the benefit of our Nation. I pray we remain steadfast and focused in doing what we always do best: *Generation and promotion of technologies, innovations and management practices in all aspects of crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry and natural resources.*

Finally, I wish to end by quoting The Book of Proverbs Chapter 11:1 "The Lord abhors dishonest scales, accurate weights and measures are His delights". With the Good Lord on our side, who can defeat us?

I thank you.

[Signature]

Dr Ambrose Agona
DIRECTOR GENERAL