



Meru University

Meru University of Science and Technology (MUST) is a public university in Tigania West Constituency Meru Kenya, 15 kilometres northeast of Meru Town, along the Meru-Makutano-Maua Highway.

- Vision: of the University is *'A world class University of excellence in Science and Technology'*
- Mission: *'to provide quality university education, training and a research in science and technology and innovation'*.

MUST offers various academic programs at Ph.D., Masters, Bachelors, Diploma and Certificate level distributed across the following 8 (eight) schools and three directorates:

1. School of Agriculture & Food Science
2. School of Business & Economics
3. School of Computing & Informatics
4. School of Education
5. School of Engineering & Architecture
6. School of Health Sciences
7. School of Nursing
8. School of Pure & Applied Sciences
9. Directorate of Open Distance and e-Learning (ODEL)
10. Directorate of Sanitation
11. Directorate of innovation and entrepreneurship

Meru University is proud to be a partner in the Food Waste Reduction and Food Quality Living LAB (FORQLAB). In this project, MUST is focusing mainly on food losses in the Avocado value chain working directly with four cooperative societies namely:

1. Mt. Kenya Avocado Growers' Cooperative
2. Mt. Kenya Abogeta East Avocado Growers' Cooperative
3. Abothuguchi Avocado Growers' Cooperative
4. Nandi Cooperative Society

MUST has received several students from Van Hall Larenstein University who have carried out various research studies in these four cooperative societies. Masters students from the MUST have also been incorporated into the project and are mainly from the School of Agriculture and Food Science. We also hope to bring in some students from the School of Business and Economics.

The team members working in the FORQLAB project from MUST are:



Professor Odhiambo who is the Vice chancellor of the institution, is also the director of the project at MUST. He is a professor of statistics and brings years of experience and research to the project. Professor Peter Masinde is the technical advisor together with Dr. Eric Mworia. Both hold doctorate degrees in Horticulture and bring to the project the requisite knowledge and expertise to work with the avocado value chain. Dr. Beatrice Owiti is the project's communication officer. She holds a PhD in Linguistics and is the link between the partners working in Kenya and the ones working in the Netherlands.

Meru University has previously participated in two NUFFIC funded projects with other stakeholders from the Netherlands. These two projects are:

1. Enhancing Partnerships for Industry-Led Vocational Training and Education in the Horticulture Value Chains of Kenya and,
2. Enhancing Partnerships for Industry-Led Vocational Education and Training in Water for Agriculture.

It is through these two projects that MUST got linked to FORQLAB.

This project uses an innovative approach in identifying research and business problems through the industry. These are discussed in an open forum and the agreed on problems are picked up by the postgraduate students for their projects. This enhances partnerships with industry and results in research with higher impact to development.

Contact person for FORQLAB:

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