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University launches bio-farm system project

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Bio-farming approach is a science and evidence based approach to sustainable livelihood, built up on indigenous knowledge and skills.

The Addis Ababa University launched a bio-farm system project to mainstream and disseminate it through out the nation by applying advanced methodologies in the area of bio-farming to further boost agricultural productivity and ensure green resilient economy.

Opening a day-long workshop which was jointly organized by AAU and Bio-economy Africa at Akaki Campus yesterday, Development Studies Collage Dean Dr. Degefa Tolossa said that the bio-farming approach is a science and evidence based approach to sustainable livelihood, built up on indigenous knowledge and skills, continuously integrated and implemented with recent scientific advances and relies on holistic restorative and environmental friendly methods to improve ecosystem service provision. The establishment of Bio-farm is of particular interest in areas where resources are scarce diversification of production activities are required and positive impact on the eco-system need to be insured, he added.

He also said that Mainstreaming the Bio- farming system in Ethiopia and Uganda n higher education institutions (MAINBIOSYS) is an European union funded project which offers Ethiopia and Ugandan higher institutions with the necessary competences to efficiently apply advanced research methodologies in the arena of bio-farming. Fostering capacity building and regional integration in higher education institutions of Ethiopian and Uganda through networking, supporting higher institutions to ensure education quality are among the main objective of the MAINBIOSYS, he added.

“University students, people with poor well being and disadvantaged who are living in rural areas of Ethiopia and Uganda who mainly rely on agriculture for their livelihoods are expected to be the final beneficiaries of MAINBIOSYS”, he added.

University Research Office Director prof. Teketel Yohanes for his part said that the over all direction of research at AAU is thematic. As thematic research undertaken to address an over arching goal addressing a priority national problem, currently, the university has identified 26 potential research areas in line with the growth and transformation plan of the country and the research priority areas identified by the various government ministries.

The identified research priorities are promising areas where a substantial nucleus of interest and experts are present. Each priority is structured to address major problems of the society and practice related issues as well as challenges and opportunities in its particular field. Even though the thematic research is a work in progress, it is indeed a breakthrough in the history of the university. The fact that the research is intertwined with graduate education leading to the training of hundreds of masters with graduate education leading to the training of hundreds of masters and PhD trainees makes the research initiative more useful to national development.

“Because the objective of bio-farm project are inline with vision and mission of the AAU, it is committed to provide any possible assistance to the project,” he added.

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