

**Bridging the gap between theory and practice- SLUSE 2017 successfully implemented by the Wangari Maathai Institute, University of Copenhagen and University of Roskilde  
March 2-13, 2017**



***Salad Tuatana, MSc. student, Wangari Maathai Institute and his group presenting their preliminary findings on crop farming technologies, crop processing and value addition***

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, University of Nairobi continues to bridge the gap between theory and practice just as Prof. Wangari Maathai hoped. The institute in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen and University of Roskilde, Denmark successfully implemented the 2017 experiential field exercise. This prolific experiential field learning course dubbed, “Sustainable land use management system – (SLUSE),” is the 5<sup>th</sup> in series after the SLUSE 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2016. It was held in Embu County, Kibugu Location from March 2-13, 2017. It is founded on the fact that land and other natural resource management issues cannot be adequately addressed by any one discipline. The program incorporated students from a variety of disciplines that included agriculture, sociology, anthropology, economics, forestry and livestock production and law. The course was attended by a total of thirty four (34) students, twenty two (22) international students from both University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University and twelve (12) from the University of Nairobi-Wangari Maathai Institute. These students were hosted by the local communities for the entire period (12 days). The SLUSE research areas were clustered into five (5) thematic areas that included, crop farming technologies, crop processing and value addition, gender and agribusiness dynamics, pest and disease management practices and livestock production. The students were supervised

***By Lilian Namuma Sarah Kong’ani, BSc, MSc.***

by the faculty from the Wangari Maathai Institute, including Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Dr. Thuita Thenya, Dr. Karatu Kiemo, Dr. Jane Mutune, Dr. Cecilia Onyango, Dr. Catherine Kunyanga, Dr. Maina Muiru and Mr. Abdimajid Nunow Abdi. The supervisors from the University of Copenhagen and Roskilde University included Prof. Christian Pilegaard Hansen and Prof. Ebbe Prag. The field exercise was concluded with a community feedback meeting during which students presented their preliminary findings and recommendations. The feedback meeting involved the host families, government officers, pupils from Kibugu primary school and the general public. The community appreciated and highly rated the program the research outputs from the program will help the community to improve in their land use management. The program impacted lives of about 12, 000 people in the area of study in Embu.

The institute appreciates Prof. S. G. Kiama, Principal, College of Agriculture and veterinary Sciences who graced the community feedback meeting and who also continue give to his support to the Institute and all that made this year's experiential learning program a success!

*By Lilian Namuma Sarah Kong'ani, BSc, MSc.*